



Prior to entering any kind of barter agreement, artists and students alike must prepare themselves for the on-site training experience. Successful apprenticeships rely on both parties' compliance with federal regulations and performance guidelines. They also depend on each party understanding the investment of time and resources required to foster creative growth. The following information will help orient both artists and students to the respective roles and responsibilities of a trade apprenticeship.

Preparing for the Application Process

Compensation for most craft apprenticeships is in the form of creative development. The artist or a third party may arrange for a small financial stipend to cover out-of-pocket expenses or hardship situations. The recognized reward of the on-site experience is access to the artist and the opportunity to expand creativity. If the student is not prepared to make this investment of time and potential reduction in wage earning in lieu of experience, perhaps an apprenticeship is not appropriate.

Financial Preparation

Depending on the type of apprenticeship selected, there may be monies available – through grants or third-party sources – to offset expenses and loss of traditional wages.

Identify how existing expenses will be paid. Be sure to budget for expenses incurred during the time of the apprenticeship as well as relocation and travel costs (if applicable). Outline ways to offset potential costs, such as complimentary studio time to make objects or recording out-of-pocket business related expenses on tax forms.

Create a budget and make a list of potential sources to solicit financial assistance. Seek out local and state arts organizations, community colleges and universities that offer apprenticeship programs and other non-profit or educational institutions for financial aid. Depending on the financial needs of the student, a part-time program (which permits time for other employment) may be more appropriate than a full-time apprenticeship.

Time Preparation

Students must be willing and able to make the time commitment necessary to complete the apprenticeship program. The true value of the on-site experience comes from building a relationship and mentoring with the artist. Create a calendar to schedule other commitments so that the training time can be juggled to accommodate all activities, and obtain the maximum benefit from the apprenticeship. This opportunity must be a priority.



Creating the Resume/Portfolio

To enhance “marketability” to potential artists, collect and compile the following items:

- Current resume highlighting both educational and work experience
- Minimum of three recommendations from teachers, employers, artists
- Photographs of work examples to attach to application

Preparing for the Interview

Once the application is submitted, the artist will request an interview with the top apprenticeship candidates. In preparation, select the most appropriate samples to demonstrate your creativity and skill. Be prepared to answer questions about:

- Why you want an apprenticeship?
- What you expect to learn during the program?
- Why you are interested in an apprenticeship with this particular artist?
- What you offer the artist, why you should be selected.

Prospective students may be asked to demonstrate basic creative skills as part of the application process.

Dexterity and **flexibility** are often key skill sets required for the making of handmade objects.

Sample application and preparation tools are provided in Section D.