



MICHIGAN TRADITIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

***Sustaining and Celebrating Michigan's
Living Cultural Traditions***

The Michigan Traditional Arts Program (MTAP) advances cross-cultural understanding through the documentation, preservation, support, and presentation of traditional arts, folklife, and everyday culture across Michigan

About MTAP

MTAP collaborates with artists, cultural practitioners, and communities statewide to recognize, sustain, and share the traditions that connect generations and contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities.

Based in Michigan State University's Office of University Outreach and Engagement, MTAP conducts research, works with MSU and community partners, develops public programs and exhibitions, supports traditional artists, and builds, maintains, and creates access to collections and archives of Michigan's rich cultural heritage.



Project Highlights

Michigan Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program

Supports the transmission of traditional knowledge from experienced mentor artists to apprentices through one-on-one learning experiences.

Michigan Heritage Awards

Recognizes outstanding traditional artists, cultural practitioners, and community leaders whose work has made significant contributions to Michigan's cultural heritage. Community-nominated awardees are honored through community celebrations and public recognition.

Michigan Quilt Project

Preserves the stories of Michigan quilts and quilters through documentation, including at community Quilt Documentation Days held in partnership with community organizations.

Michigan Stained Glass Census

Documents and preserves the history of architectural stained glass windows in public and private buildings throughout Michigan through community-engaged research.

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives

Documents and presents the arts, traditions, and stories of Michigan workers and occupational communities, in partnership with the Labor Education Program in MSU's School of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

Cultural Consultation and Professional Networks

- Advises on cultural programming for festivals, exhibitions, and educational programs; responds to queries about Michigan and Great Lakes culture; and works with campus and community partners to present folk and traditional arts and artists.
- Creates opportunities for folk and traditional arts and community organizations to gather, such as Michigan's folk schools, Anishinaabe basket makers, fiddlers, quilters, percussive dancers, and more.
- Maintains connections with local, state, regional, national, and international programs and organizations focused on traditional culture, including Michigan Humanities, Arts Midwest, Midwest Folklorists and Culture Workers Alliance, American Folklore Society, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and Living Traditions Network.

Collections for Research and Education

The MTAP collections constitute a unique resource on Michigan's cultural heritage. The MSU Museum serves as a public steward for MTAP's physical objects and archival materials (sound and video recordings, photographs, paper records). MSU's Matrix provides digital access to the collections generated by the Michigan Stained Glass Census and the Michigan Quilt Project through the Quilt Index, an international repository of quilt-related data. The MSU Library houses recordings of some ODW/ODL programs. These collections are used for research, education, and exhibitions.



traditionalarts.msu.edu



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