

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE
ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE**

Deadline: 30 April 2023
**for examination by the Committee in 2023 and accreditation by the
General Assembly in 2024**

File may be downloaded at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information and supporting documentation requested below.
Annexes cannot be accepted.*

A. Identification of the organization

A.1. Name of the organization submitting this request

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. below).*

American Folklore Society

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

American Folklore Society

A.2. Address of the organization

Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, provide the address of the headquarters.

Organization: American Folklore Society

Address: 800 East 3rd Street

Telephone number: 812-856-2346

Email address: Jturner@afsnet.org

Website: <https://americanfolkloresociety.org>

Other relevant

information:

A.3. Contact person for the correspondence

Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request.

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Dr.
Family name: Turner
Given name: Jessica
Institution/position: Executive Director
Address: 800 E 3rd Street
Telephone number: 812-856-2346
Email address: jturner@afsnet.org
Other relevant information:

A.4. Country or countries in which the organization is active (Paragraph 91(b) of the Operational Directives)

Identify the country or countries in which your organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, indicate which country. If its activities are international, indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and list the primary countries in which it carries out its activities.

- local
 national
 international (please specify)
 worldwide
 Africa
 Arab States
 Asia and the Pacific
 Europe and North America
 Latin America and the Caribbean

Please list the primary country(ies) in which it is active:

United States

B. Organization’s competence, expertise, and experience in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91(a) and (c) of the Operational Directives)

B.1. Objectives of the organization

Describe the objectives for which your organization was established, which should be in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. If the organization’s primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.

Not to exceed 300 words

The American Folklore Society (AFS) is the U.S.-based academic, professional, and service organization supporting the field of folk and traditional arts through convenings, publications, research, and advocacy for the study, teaching, and practice of expressive traditions in the U.S. and throughout the world. AFS has published the *Journal of American Folklore* since its founding in 1888, convenes the largest annual meeting of our field, and manages programs to advance the field, all to underscore the centrality of folklife and expressive culture to individual and community life. AFS embraces an inclusive view of cultural creativity, advocates for respect across cultures, and educates the public and policymakers by amplifying the significance of folklife in our lives. AFS values a deep and engaged connection with the communities with which we collaborate to preserve, document, and promote folk and traditional arts.

The objectives of the American Folklore Society are to stimulate and encourage interest and research in folklore in all its aspects; to aid in the dissemination of the results of such research; to promote responsible application of such research in the broad variety of settings in which folklorists work; to publish and distribute publications, reports and journals; to serve as a bond among those interested in the study of folklore; to advocate for and assist the teaching of folklore and the establishment of folklore curricula and programs at all age levels in all educational contexts; to enhance the professional well-being of the Society's members; and to engage in such other activities as are consonant with the foregoing purposes.

B.2. Domain(s) in which the organization is active

Tick one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, tick ‘other domains’ and indicate which domains are concerned.

- oral traditions and expressions
- performing arts
- social practices, rituals and festive events
- knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- traditional craftsmanship
- other domains - please specify:

Briefly describe below your organization’s work in relation to the domains chosen (if your organization cuts all domains, explain how).

Not to exceed 250 words

Our flagship publication, the Journal of American Folklore, began in 1888 and is one of the oldest and most respected folklore journals in the world, publishing widely on research topics that span the breadth of traditional arts, performance, ritual, and festival all as parts of cultural expression or folklife. We also publish five other journals (Children’s Folklore Review, Digest, The Folklore Historian, Jewish Cultural Studies, and New Directions in Folklore) as well as the AFS Review online newsletter and opinion/essay venue, embedded in the AFS website.

In addition to the quarterly Journal of American Folklore (now including a multimedia site for audio and visual supplements to JAF articles and reviews), AFS publishes 5 additional journals or annuals (Children’s Folklore Review, Digest, The Folklore Historian, Jewish Cultural Studies, New Directions in Folklore); the AFS Review newsletter and opinion/essay venue, embedded in the AFS web site; and the AFS Annual Report. AFS also maintains (in partnership with other institutions in the field) several scholarly communications web sites and tools, including the AFS Ethnographic Thesaurus, the H-Folk listserv for international folklore scholarship, the folklore volume of the MLA International Bibliography, and the Open Folklore portal to open-access materials in the field.

B.3. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved

Tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization’s primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, tick ‘other safeguarding measures’ and specify which ones are concerned.

- identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)
- preservation, protection
- promotion, enhancement
- transmission, formal or non-formal education
- revitalization
- other safeguarding measures – please specify:

B.4. Description of the organization’s activities

Briefly describe the organization’s recent activities and relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including those demonstrating the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee. Relevant documentation may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 550 words

The American Folklore Society:

1. Publishes the quarterly Journal of American Folklore, begun in 1888 and one of the oldest and most respected folklore journals in the world, which publishes the results of folklore research conducted throughout the world
2. Produces an annual meeting each October that brings together more than 700 folklorists from around the world to exchange work and ideas, and to create and strengthen friendships and working relationships
3. Maintains the AFS web site as a means for communication among Society members and between folklorists and the world at large
4. Serves as the hub of our diverse field, developing means of communication and offering professional development opportunities not offered by other organizations
5. Prepares position statements and policy documents on a variety of cultural, educational, and professional issues, as part of an ongoing program of advocacy for traditional cultural expression and the work of folklorists
6. Supports the work of several committees and some 35 interest-group sections

7. Awards prizes, travel stipends, and other forms of recognition and support for outstanding work and best practices
8. Maintains active partnerships with other societies in the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Humanities Alliance
9. Takes a leading role in national and international folklore projects, such as the H-Folk international folklore scholarship listserv and the development of an ethnographic thesaurus, and in international deliberations concerning folklore, intellectual property, and intangible cultural heritage

B.5. Description of the organization's competence and expertise

Provide information on the personnel and members of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those that demonstrate the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee, and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such competences may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.

Not to exceed 200 words

The American Folklore Society (AFS) is an established professional community that unites those doing the work in and beyond the field of folklore to strengthen, support, and improve the understanding of the folk and traditional arts. As the national and international organization networking the folk and traditional arts, AFS is uniquely positioned to access a broad professional network of scholars, educators, and librarians at colleges and universities; professionals in arts and cultural organizations; and community members involved in cultural heritage work. As a convener across disciplines, practices, and areas of study as well as interfacing with the public at large, the organization strengthens its membership and the field and through publications, advocacy for the field, and consultation on issues of cultural policy and documentation best practices.

AFS encourages and disseminates research, promotes the responsible application of research, issues publications, and advocates for the continued study and teaching of expressive culture. AFS embraces an inclusive view of cultural creativity, advocates for respect across cultures, and educates the public and policymakers by amplifying the significance of traditional culture.

C. Organization's experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners (Paragraph 91(d) of the Operational Directives)

Briefly describe below how your organization collaborates with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practise and transmit intangible cultural heritage.

Not to exceed 350 words

Our members, whether they work in academic institutions or in the public sector, cooperate with communities, groups, and intangible cultural heritage protectors on a daily basis, both in their ethnographic fieldwork and their work to communicate knowledge about folklore through teaching and publications. Much of the proceedings of our annual conferences and the contents of our quarterly journal are directly based in these cooperations. The Society itself has served since 2002 as an accredited NGO member of the World Intellectual Property Organization's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore. For more information, please see the Society's web site at www.afsnet.org.

D. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization (Paragraph 91(e) of the Operational Directives)

D.1. Members and personnel

Provide proof of the participation of the members of your organization. It may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, a list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of the members; a comprehensive membership roster usually need not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.1.'

D.2. Recognized legal personality

If your organization has a charter, articles of incorporation, by-laws or similar establishing documents, a copy should be attached. If, under the applicable domestic law, your organization has a legal personality recognized through some means other than an establishing document (for instance, through a published notice in an official gazette or journal), please provide documentation showing how that legal personality was established.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.2.'

D.3. Duration of existence and activities

State your organization's date of founding as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. above).

Founded in 1888; incorporated in 1978

If it is not already clearly indicated in the documentation provided under section D.2., submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section B.4. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs, DVDs or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.3.'

E. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to join the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the accreditation of your organization by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

Yes

No

F. Signature

The request must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Jessica Turner

Title: Executive Director

Date: 4/29/2023

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Turner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "Signature:" label.

D.1

The American Folklore Society is a membership organization of nearly 1500 members dedicated to supporting the individuals and organizations engaged in the study and advancement of folklore and expressive cultural traditions throughout the world. AFS serves its members and the general public by providing programming, publications, policies, and resources examining and affirming the diversity of human creativity across time, heritages, and places.

2023 Executive Board, American Folklore Society

President: Marilyn White, Kean University, retired

President-Elect: Amy E. Skillman (Goucher College)

Executive Board:

Karen Abdul-Malik, National Association of Black Storytellers

Maribel Alvarez, University of Arizona, Southwest Folklife Alliance

Junious Brickhouse, Urban Artistry

Ann K. Ferrell, Western Kentucky University

Tim Frandy, University of British Columbia

Rossina Zamora Liu, University of Maryland

Mintzi Martinez-Rivera, Providence College

Jerrilyn McGregory, Florida State University

Fernando Orejuela, Indiana University

Meltem Türköz, Bogazici University, Istanbul |

Langston Collin Wilkins, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jessica A. Turner, Executive Director, American Folklore Society

Biographies of Key Leadership:

[President Marilyn M. White \(https://americanfolkloresociety.org/about/board/marilyn-white/\)](https://americanfolkloresociety.org/about/board/marilyn-white/)

Dr. Marilyn M. White is a retired Professor of Anthropology at Kean University in NJ, where she taught from 1985 to 2011. She previously taught at Western Kentucky University for eight years.

For the American Folklore Society, she served on the Executive Board and was an early member and then Chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee. She also served on the following committees: Nominating, Zora Neale Hurston Prize, Gerald L. Davis Travel Stipend, Américo Paredes Prize. She is the long-term President of the Association of African and African American Folklorists. She is on the board of the New Jersey Folklore Society and of City Lore (NYC). She is also a member of the Middle Atlantic Folklife Association and previously served on its board and as Vice President. She has served on folk arts panels for the NEA, as well as for a number of

state arts agencies, and as an evaluator for folk arts apprenticeships or programs in New Jersey and Kentucky.

Dr. White received her Ph.D. in Anthropology (Folklore) from The University of Texas at Austin, her MA in Folklore from Indiana University, and her BA in English from Hampton University.

She has several publications and has presented papers and organized panels and forums at numerous annual meetings of the American Folklore Society. She served on the Editorial Board of the *Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife* (2008). She has given a number of lectures for various community, university, and school groups in the United States and abroad.

Her research interests include African American folklore, family folklore, stratification, jokes and humor, and she has been conducting long-term research in Little Cayman.

President-Elect Amy Skillman (<https://americanfolkloresociety.org/about/board/amy-skillman/>)
Amy Skillman is the Academic Director of the MA in Cultural Sustainability at Goucher College. Throughout her career, she has worked in non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and government agencies to design programs that sustain artistic traditions while striving for cultural equity. Highlights of her work include a 20-year initiative with newcomer women using theater and story circles to foster leadership and break down barriers caused by prejudices and inequities; a Grammy-nominated recording of Old Time fiddlers in Missouri; and a co-curated traveling exhibition examining the role of folk arts as a catalyst for social change. An avid participant in AFS since 1978, Amy served on the Executive Board (2009-2011), the Nominating Committee, several prize and travel committees, and was co-convenor of the Public Programs Section and co-founder of the Creative Writing Section. She is a recipient of the Botkin Prize and a member of the AFS Fellows. Amy received her MA in Folklore from UCLA and a self-designed BA in Cultural Minorities and the Immigrant Experience from St. Lawrence University.

Executive Director Jessica A. Turner (<https://americanfolkloresociety.org/about/afs-staff/jessica-turner/>)

As Executive Director of the American Folklore Society, Jessica A. Turner nurtures a broad network of folklorists working in universities, public institutions, and nonprofit organizations. She raises funds for and coordinates the Society's initiatives to benefit the field and manages the work of the Society's Executive Board. Turner works with national organizations such as the American Council of Learned Societies, American Folklife Center, National Council for Traditional Arts, National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, National Humanities Alliance, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Turner conducts fieldwork in Appalachia and China bridging academic and public folklore, ethnomusicology, museums, and heritage studies; she previously served as director of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum (Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia) where she helped secure decisive funding for the Smithsonian-affiliate Museum and led the museum's interpretive

design and development. She cultivated the Museum's initiatives in collections and interpretation, helped to create partnerships with the Smithsonian and other institutions, and was a key advocate for the Museum's work within its local community. Turner's fieldwork-based projects have resulted in public programs including written works, exhibitions, media productions, workshops, festivals, presentations and a wide variety of community programs. Turner's work centers around the exploration of creative expression, identity and place, and the multifaceted dimensions of heritage. Turner received her PhD from Indiana University's Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology in 2010 with a dissertation focused on ethnic minority performances and heritage tourism in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southwestern China

Fellows of the American Folklore Society (<https://americanfolkloresociety.org/our-community/afs-fellows/>)

Current officers of the Fellows:

Mary Hufford (The Ohio State University and LiKEN), President
Robert Baron (Goucher College), Vice-President
Solimar Otero (Indiana University), Secretary

Established in 1960, the Fellows of the American Folklore Society is an honorary body of folklorists, whose election to the Fellows signifies their outstanding contributions to the field. Members of the Fellows have produced a significant number of important articles, books, and other scholarly productions or exhibitions on folklore, and have provided meritorious service to the Society and the discipline of folklore studies. In addition to its honorary function, the Fellows sponsor activities to advance folklore studies, including mentoring programs for students, plenary sessions at the annual meeting, and special awards. The Fellows meet annually during the AFS annual meeting, usually inducting new members at that time.

AFS COMMITTEES FOR 2022-2023

1. Standing (Permanent) Committees

Cultural Diversity Committee

Purpose: To undertake research and other activities regarding priorities and strategies to diversify the Society's membership and to keep the Society engaged with diverse communities, and, based on those activities, to recommend policies and actions to the Executive Board

Chairs: Mintzi Martinez-Rivera (2021) and Junious Brickhouse (2022)

Members: Mintzi Martinez-Rivera (2021), Guillermo De Los Reyes (2021), Maria Lewis (2021), Junius Brickhouse (2022); Todd Lawrence (2022), Naomi Sturm-Wijesinghe (2022); Eric Cesar Morales (2022); Solimar Otero (2023); Camila Bryce-Laporte (2023); Lamont Jack Pearley (2023)

International Issues Committee

Purpose: To undertake research and other activities regarding priorities and strategies to keep the Society engaged with folklorists and folklore organizations worldwide and, based on those activities, to recommend policies and actions to the Executive Board

Chair: Luisa Del Giudice (2022)

Members: Ülo Valk (2020), Tom DuBois (2023), Kurt Dewhurst (2024)

Membership Committee

Purpose: To undertake research and other activities regarding the growth and development of the Society's membership and of the services the Society provides to its members, and, based on those activities, to recommend policies and actions to the Executive Board

Members: Amanda Dargan, Norma Cantu, Meredith McGriff, Danille Christensen, Carrie Hertz

Mentoring Committee

Purpose: To undertake research and other activities regarding priorities and strategies to serve the mentoring and professional development needs of Society members, and, based on those activities, to recommend policies and actions to the Executive Board

Chairs: Wanda Addison (2020)

Members: Patricia Atkinson, Ian B. Brodie, Nancy Groce, Thomas A. McKean, Mike Knoll, Rachel Gonzalez, Todd L, Ann Ferrell, Maribel Alvarez

Nominating Committee

Purpose: To make nominations for elected offices, and suggestions to the Executive Board for appointed positions

NOTE: Except for the Board representative, who is appointed by the Board as necessary, members of this committee are elected by the AFS membership each fall.

Chair: Lisa Rathje (2021)

Members: Lisa Rathje (2021); Luisa Del Giudice (2021); Anika Wilson (2022); Sarah Gordon (2023)

Publications Committee

Purpose: To recruit and recommend to the Executive Board the appointment of Society editors and to monitor the state of all Society publications in all media and suggest publication-related policies or actions to the Executive Board

Chair: Moira Marsh

Members: Danille Christensen, Michael Dylan Foster, Jason Jackson, Jim Leary, Tom Mould

2. Ad Hoc (Temporary) Committees

AFS-MLA Liaison Committee

Purpose: To build the relationship between AFS and MLA and to program folklore activities at the MLA Annual Convention

Chair: Jim Deutsch

Members: Shelley Ingram, John Laudun, Norma Cantu

Contingent Workforce Concerns

Purpose: To make recommendations to the Board in April 2018 for policies and actions to support adjunct, freelance, independent, and alt-ac members of the Society

Chair: Martha Sims

Members: Danille Christensen, Susan Eleuterio, Lisa L. Higgins, Mark Y. Miyake, Patricia Sawin, Nancy Yan

Development Committee

Purpose: To advise the Executive Board and Executive Director on development matters

Chair: Diane E. Goldstein

Members: Kurt Dewhurst, Bill Ivey, Wolfgang Mieder, Maida Owens, Patricia A. Turner, Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt, Simon Bronner, John Price, Tim Lloyd

Media and Public Outreach Committee

Chair: Tom Mould

Members: Maribel Alvarez, Lorraine Walsh Cashman, Andrea Kitta, Andy Kolovos, Chris Mulé, Debra Lattanzi Shutika, TJ Smith, Virginia Siegel, Langston Colin Wilkins, Daisy Alstone

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY

To: The Recorder of Deeds, D. C.
Washington, D. C.

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more, acting as incorporators of a corporation, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation pursuant to the District of Columbia Non-Profit Corporation Act:

FIRST: The name of the corporation is the American Folklore Society.

SECOND: The period of duration is perpetual.

THIRD: The purposes for which the corporation is formed are as follows:

- (a) To promote, advance, stimulate and encourage interest, research and study of folklore in all its aspects;
- (b) To aid in the dissemination of the results of such research;
- (c) To publish and distribute publications, reports and journals;
- (d) To serve as a bond among those interested in the study of folklore;
- (e) To engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes, except as restricted herein.

FOURTH: The corporation is to have members.

FIFTH: The corporation is to be divided into at least six (6) classes of members. The Society shall include Individual, Joint Husband and Wife, Student, Institutional, Honorary and Life Members. The qualifications and rights of the members, including the right to vote, shall be established and set out in the Constitution and By-Laws.

FILED OCT 5 1978

BY

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SIXTH: The members of the Executive Board shall be elected and appointed as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

SEVENTH: The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted under the supervision of the officers and the Executive Board, and as provided in the By-Laws, by their appointees and delegates.

The following provisions are hereby adopted for the purpose of defining, limiting and regulating the powers of the corporation, of the officers and the Executive Board, and of the members:

(a) No part of the net receipts of the Society shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, officers, committee members, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of the Society as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws;

(b) Except as permitted for organizations described in (c) below, the Society shall not attempt to influence legislation, and it shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office;

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, the Society shall not carry on any other activities which are proscribed for organizations exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future Internal Revenue Code) or which are proscribed for organizations to which contributions are deductible under 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Internal Revenue Code);

Upon the dissolution of the American Folklore Society, whether voluntary or involuntary, after paying all of the liabilities of the Society, the Society shall dispose of all its assets exclusively for purposes consistent with the aims of the Society set forth in the purpose clause by donating them to an institution or organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provision of such future Internal Revenue Code as may then be in effect.

EIGHTH: The address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., 20009. The name of the initial registered agent of the corporation at such address is Edward J. Lehman.

NINTH: The number of members constituting the initial Board of Directors is ten (10) and the names and addresses of the persons who are members of the initial Board of Directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors be elected and qualified are:

Barre Toelken
2059 Sunrise Boulevard
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Roger Abrahams
Department of English
University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712

Ellen J. Stekart
Department of English
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

David J. Hufford
Department of Behavioral Science
M.S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

Dan Ben-Amos
Folklore & Folklife Program
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Camilla Collins
Intercultural & Folk Studies
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

