



Smithsonian  
*Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage*

# RIGZIN

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage supports diversity and creativity of artists and tradition bearers around the world. We offer the Rigzin program for Tibetan artists to spend two to four weeks in residence in the United States.

“Rigzin” is a transliteration from Tibetan that refers to someone with knowledge of traditions. We believe everyone has the faculty and responsibility in safeguarding traditions for the well-being and wisdom of the next generation.

The goal of the Rigzin program is to facilitate the documentation and archiving of traditions, heighten Rigzin participants’ professional profiles, enrich their knowledge of both the content and role of their work, and garner increased support for their future projects. Participants will engage in activities designed to increase exposure to their work and provide them with knowledge and tools that they can bring back to their communities to help sustain their cultural heritage and that they can use to build their careers.

## **Broadly, the Rigzin program aims to support culture bearers in:**

- Increasing visibility of cultural traditions at international, national, and local levels
- Generating prestige for artists’ local communities and fellow tradition bearers
- Shaping ever-evolving tastes and aesthetics
- Increasing demand for cultural products such as music, craft, and artwork
- Encouraging intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge
- Stimulating the local economy
- Securing the existence and supporting growth and evolution of endangered languages and cultural heritage
- Attending cultural exhibitions, performances, and lectures in their field
- Giving presentations about their work at museums, universities, and cultural institutions
- Meeting with artists and artisans in their field
- Meeting with scholars and researchers in their field
- Meeting with cultural heritage professionals to discuss policy issues that affect cultural traditions

## **The Smithsonian covers the following costs:**

- International airfare
- Lodging
- Local transportation
- Per diem
- Honoraria

## **Eligibility**

The Rigzin program welcomes applications from Tibetans in China who are currently engaged in culture or the arts or those who are interested in sustaining cultural traditions

Applicants may be intellectuals, visual artists, filmmakers, program curators, dancers, musicians, craftspeople, or people who practice folk traditions like Tibetan medicine, debating, storytelling, riddles, speech giving, felting, tent making, herding, farming, weaving, embroidery, environmental knowledge, etc.

Participants are selected based on the level of their mastery of the tradition and their commitment to sustaining traditions.

No English, Chinese, or formal education is required.

**Submit the following application by March 30, 2017 to be considered for the program.**

## APPLICATION

### A. Applicant Profile

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Official Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

What languages do you speak?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you been abroad?

Yes

No

Have you been to the United States?

Yes

No

### B. Submissions

500-word/1-page text or 3- to 5-minute audio or video recording describing:

1. Your cultural tradition
2. The importance of your tradition to you and to others
3. How your participation would benefit your work
4. Examples of your work or CV

You may submit your application in Tibetan, English, or Chinese. Please email to [CFCH-STAR@si.edu](mailto:CFCH-STAR@si.edu).

For more information, please contact [CFCH-STAR@si.edu](mailto:CFCH-STAR@si.edu).