

## Traditional Arts Apprenticeship: Sustaining Cultural Heritage through Collaboration



**Bala Devi Chandrasheka** | *Princeton, New Jersey*

Bala Devi Chandrashekar is an internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam exponent, research scholar, and professor of practice in Asian performing arts. Based in New Jersey, she has spent more than two decades presenting lectures, masterclasses, and residencies at leading universities in the United States, including Princeton, Columbia, Yale, Rutgers, and Emory, where her scholarship bridges Indian temple traditions with contemporary academic inquiry. She has performed and presented more than 300 shows across more than 35 countries, and she holds the unique distinction of being the only Bharatanatyam artist to perform at the UNESCO Headquarters and the India House in Paris during the city's 2024 Olympic cultural celebrations. As artistic director of Shree Padma Nrityam Academy of Performing Arts (SPNAPA), she produces acclaimed thematic works—such as Brihadeeswara, Karna, Padmavati, Mauli, FujiHima—regularly staged across the U.S. Her work brings Indian classical heritage to diverse audiences.



**Cary Hulin** | *Big Prairie, Ohio*

Cary Hulin has been working as a professional potter for the last 40 years. He received a BFA from Bradley University, with a four-year apprenticeship at Cornwall Bridge Pottery in Connecticut. He was a production potter and head potter for Rockdale Union Stoneware in Cambridge, Wisconsin, and for Westerwald pottery in Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. He established Holmes County Pottery in Big Prairie, Ohio, in 1995. Working in stoneware making utilitarian pottery in large wood burning kiln, he now exhibits in numerous exhibitions and presents at the Functional Ceramics Workshop in Wooster, Ohio. He has hosted multiple apprentices over a 30-year period. His open workshops offer opportunities to educate the public and share experiences with the next generation of makers.



**Terrence Roberts** | *Meridian, Mississippi*

Da Terrence Roberts is a jali/griot/storyteller in the West African tradition of Jaliyaa. As a teaching artist/storyteller within this tradition, Roberts embraces the teaching power of words and music, which fascinates students with the culture, stories, and musical instruments of Africa. Roberts' performances, workshops, and residencies are filled with teaching moments, both in West African culture, and also in science, history, and language arts. Known as "Da Story Weaver," his moniker employs the language of the Bamanakan people of West Africa; the ancient title "Da" represents one who connected people to their past and escorted them into their future. Roberts is a master storyteller and emerging puppeteer who draws the interest of both children and adults with his animated and interactive style.