**2020 Ancestral Healing Practitioner Training:**

**Application Questions**

*Please take your time with these questions. You may answer them on this document and then upload this when complete to the application form at* [*www.ancestralmedicine.org/2020-practitioner-app*](http://www.ancestralmedicine.org/2020-practitioner-app)*.*

*Please save your document as:* ***LastName-2020Practitioner-Training-App***

*Some questions lend themselves to a brief answer of a sentence or two, others invite a more narrative reply. For questions that invite a longer reply, please keep the length to not more than three to four shorter paragraphs per question (more is not necessarily better, just be intentional and speak to the heart of the matter).*

**Your Name:**

**Help Us to Know Who You Are**

**Where in the world are your ancestors from?**

Formatting example -- it’s great to answer each question starting on following line in a way that looks distinct from the question (such as removing the bold style).

**How is your relationship with living family (blood and otherwise) and with your recent ancestors?**

**What are some of the ways in which you identify? (e.g., working class, Latinx, Indigenous, queer, Christian, disabled, German)**

**Have you lived in your current area for a long time? Do you plan to stay? Are there other places you’ve lived that hold a powerful place in your heart and sense of self?**

**What are you generally up to with your days? This can include what you do for income (if you do it that way) or just how you spend your time. What’s your life like?**

**Anything else by way of introducing yourself that you would like us to know?**

**Why Are You Applying for the Training?**

**To err on the side of being exceeding clear, are you clear that this training is not so much about personal/inner work but rather is primarily about how to guide this work for others (from a foundation of being personally well with your own ancestors)? Also, are you clear that this training empowers graduates to guide personal sessions and intro talks (\*not\* other kinds of public trainings in this work)? A simple yes and yes is fine.**

**Please tell us in a more personal, heart-aware way why you are applying for the practitioner training? What calls to you to learn to guide this type of work for others?**

**How do you envision the skills learned in the practitioner training fitting into your existing practice and service in the world? Tell us a little about your current practice and how they relate.**

**After having read the details/overview of the training on the website, do you have questions?**

**Ritual, Inner Work, and this Training**

**Please share briefly about your history with ritual/ceremony/spirit work (by whatever name). Include mention of time with teachers, communities of practice, and regular spiritual practice.**

**What does your personal practice look like now? How much is ancestor reverence and ritual a component of that overall practice/approach to life and the sacred?**

**In very basic terms, how easeful/loving or difficult/traumatic was your early life? And most importantly, share about any depth healing you have done around those challenges (if needed). Describe your experience with personal healing and growth work.**

**How would you describe your relationship with what we call nature or the natural world? Are the other-than-humans, the Earth, important in your approach to the sacred? Can you say a little about your framework (if you have one) for all that?**

**What is your experience interfacing with clients/students in any healing or ritual modality, or leadership role? If you have a practice in the healing arts or work as a teacher, share a little about the depth and duration of your experience and training in these areas.**

**Three related questions: Where do you source your personal power from? How do you work with conflict (and what feedback have others given you about that)? Who are the elders (human or otherwise) who support you in wielding power responsibly?**

**Is there anything else you would like us to know about your approach to ritual, personal healing and wellness or the sacred?**

**Ancestral Wellness and Lineage Healing**

**What is your experience with this specific modality of ancestral lineage healing (e.g., personal sessions with practitioners, in-person intensives, online classes, personal study)? If you have done personal session work with one of the practitioners, can you share who it is/was and is there any reason you wouldn’t want us to discuss with that practitioner your decision to apply?**

**What is the current state of wellness with your own ancestral lineages (meaning, based on this model how many of your lineages are already in a state of robust health)?**

**Have you completed the Ancestral Medicine Ancestral Lineage Healing online course? If not, are you able to enroll and take this course, Oct 2019 - February 2020? Link to the course is here: www.ancestralmedicine.org/online-course-ancestors**

**Do you have any concerns about training to guide this specific method of ancestral healing work? Anything about the underlying assumptions or approach that feels problematic to you?**

**Historical and Cross-Cultural Awareness**

**Are you fluent in English? Are you already fluent (meaning you could guide sessions) or working in a realistic way toward fluency in any languages besides English? Have you lived for considerable period of time outside of your country of origin? Are you already bicultural/multicultural (even if those cultures are also English-speaking)? If yes, how so?**

**How would you describe your level of knowledge about world history and cultures, including areas that are strong or less strong? Based on your self knowledge, will you proactively educate yourself on subjects not currently a part of your knowledge of world culture? This doesn’t mean all practitioners are going to be historians, only that we strive to uphold basic standards of cultural and ancestral literacy.**

**What is your experience and level of literacy discussing colonization, racism, sexism, and other forms of systemic and interpersonal oppression? Err on the side of saying a little more on this including your own lived experience and heart-level commitment to cultural healing.**

**How You Learn**

**This approach to training rests on a tripod of three interrelated ‘teachers’: your own wise and well ancestors, the larger community including your peers in the training, and the designated teachers (Dr. Foor and other mentors/supervisors).**

**Please share about how you see your ability to approach as a student, despite your expertise in other areas. Do you feel able to honor your life experience and what you already know while also emptying your cup enough to learn and be supported to refine your skills as a ritualist and practitioner of this work?**

**Based on your learning in other environments, what do you know to work well for your specific learning style? Is there anything about the training structure that causes you to feel concern based on what you know to work well for you?**

**Have you ever had a positive experience of a spiritual teacher/mentor? Have you ever had traumatic/downer experiences? What’s your best sense of how that could come into play here?**

**The founder of this method and primary teacher is a cis-gendered, middle-class American white guy (who also happens to practice a West African spiritual tradition without expecting anyone else to take any interest in that). Is there anything about learning from someone of this demographic that you worry could function as a substantial block or snag in your training?**

**Your Preparedness for Guiding Session Work for Others**

***Note: The intent of these questions is to help us to understand if there are concerns related to character or past actions that could hinder your success as a practitioner of this work. Honest answers are the way to go here. Being transparent at this point in the process is much better than omitting important information that comes to light later.***

**Are there harms you have caused (or others believe you have caused), interpersonal or community fallouts, or other past communication breakdowns that could impact either your ability to do this work or impact the fellowship of practitioners were they to come to light? Put another way, if everyone in your life and in the public sphere weighed in on whether or not you are fit to be a practitioner of this work, what are the objections that would arise?**

**Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If so, please be describe nature of the conviction and what you would like to share about the context. Applicants outside the United States please also answer in light of terminology local to the justice system in your nation. *Please know: We are not fans of the prison-industrial-complex or the often unjust criminal justice systems in the United States or elsewhere. If you have been convicted of a felony this won’t necessarily exclude you from this training, and we would still like to know.***

**If preliminarily accepted for this training, do you consent to personally conducting and sharing with Ancestral Medicine the results of a routine criminal background check (typical cost is $25-50 in the United States or Canada)?**