Sankofa Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is Sankofa?

Sankofa is a creative ecosystem composed of multiple interconnected programs, communities, and opportunities designed to support artists, storytellers, cultural workers, and veterans.

The Sankofa ecosystem includes:

- Veteran Film & Photography Programs
- Virtual Gallery Exhibitions
- Writers' Ciphers
- Music & Production Ciphers
- Fashion & Design Labs
- Artist Residencies
- Creative Incubators
- Cultural Exchange Programs
- Professional Development Workshops
- Community Arts Initiatives

Each component is designed to foster creativity, cultural preservation, artistic growth, collaboration, and community engagement.

2. How much is the Domestic Residency Fee?

The Domestic (U.S.) Residency Fee is **$1,000**.

This fee includes:

- Full residency programming and creative development support
- End-of-residency overnight closing ceremony
- Lodging during the closing ceremony experience

- Meals and refreshments
- Round-trip ground transportation from the airport to the ceremony location
- Residency-related logistics and participant support

There are no additional residency-related costs beyond personal expenses.

3. How much is the International Residency Fee?

The International Residency Fee is **$2,500**.

This fee supports participation in a **7-day artist residency in Africa** hosted in partnership with local arts councils, cultural institutions, and creative organizations in:

- Uganda
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Nigeria
- South Africa

The International Residency Fee Includes:

- 7 days of lodging and artist workspace
- Three meals per day
- Two cultural excursions and activities
- One community-based artist talk or cultural exchange event
- Round-trip ground transportation between the airport and residency site
- All residency-related local travel and logistics
- Residency programming, mentorship, and creative support

Not Included:

Participants are responsible for:

- Airfare
- Visa and travel document costs
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending money
- Gifts, souvenirs, and discretionary purchases

- Any expenses not specifically listed above

4. Does WLF/Sankofa provide funding for airfare, visas, spending money, or personal expenses?

No.

Artists are responsible for securing and covering the cost of:

- Airfare
- Visa fees
- Passport fees
- Travel insurance
- Personal spending money
- Gifts and souvenirs
- Any additional expenses not expressly included in the residency package

We encourage participants to explore personal fundraising, sponsorship opportunities, grants, and other funding resources prior to travel.

5. How large are residency cohorts?

Sankofa residency cohorts are intentionally small, typically consisting of **7 to 13 artists**.

Maintaining an intimate cohort size allows for:

- Personalized mentorship and support
- Meaningful cultural exchange
- Deep relationship-building among participants
- Collaborative learning and creative development
- High-quality residency experiences

6. Do you offer free events, workshops, or seminars?

Yes.

Throughout the year, Sankofa hosts a variety of free community events, creative workshops, seminars, artist talks, and open learning opportunities.

The best way to stay informed is by joining our **Discord community**, where we regularly share:

- Event announcements
- Residency opportunities
- Calls for artists
- Workshops and seminars
- Exhibition openings
- Funding and professional development resources

You can also follow our social media channels or contact us directly for updates.

7. Who can apply to Sankofa programs and residencies?

Sankofa welcomes artists, creatives, storytellers, cultural practitioners, and veterans from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds.

Eligibility requirements may vary by program, residency, fellowship, or cohort. Specific application criteria will be provided in each program announcement.

8. What artistic disciplines are accepted?

Sankofa supports interdisciplinary creativity and welcomes participants working in areas including, but not limited to:

- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Film & Video
- Writing & Poetry
- Music Production
- Performance Arts
- Fashion Design
- Creative Technology
- Cultural Preservation
- Community Arts Practice

Artists whose work spans multiple disciplines are especially encouraged to apply.

9. How can I stay connected with the Sankofa community?

You can stay connected by:

- Joining our Discord community
- Following Sankofa and WLF on social media
- Attending public events and exhibitions
- Participating in workshops and community programs
- Subscribing to our mailing list

Sankofa is more than a residency program. It is an ongoing creative community committed to fostering connection, collaboration, cultural exchange, and artistic growth.