

## Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Columbus Arts Festival! Below are answers to some frequent questions artists ask.

- **When and where will the 2025 Columbus Arts Festival take place?**
  - Friday, June 6 from 11:00am-10:00pm (artists may close booths at 9:00pm)
  - Saturday, June 7 from 10:00am-10:00pm (artists may close booths at 9:00pm)
  - Sunday, June 8 from 10:00am-5:00pm
  - Location: Downtown Columbus riverfront
- **What are the important dates I should know?**
  - December 12: Applications close
  - January 18 & 19: Blind (anonymous) jury, open to the public
  - February 10: Notification to artists
  - March 10: Contracts & payments due
  - March 17: Deadline to cancel and receive guaranteed 100% refund (less \$40 admin. fee)
  - April 2: Deadline to cancel and receive guaranteed 50% refund (less \$40 admin. fee), artist insurance policies due
  - May 1: Booth assignments and other information available to artists
  - June 5: Artists load in
- **How many visual artists apply and how many are invited? What is the attendance?**
  - Between 500-900 visual artists apply, and between 200-275 are invited.
  - Around 500,000 arts patrons attend the Columbus Arts Festival over three days.

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- **When does the application close and how are artists selected? When do artists hear if they were invited?**
  - The visual artist application closes on December 12 at 5pm (EST). On the weekend of January 18 and 19, Columbus Arts Festival staff will hold a blind jury (open to the public) to determine artist scores, which decide who will receive an invitation to exhibit in June. Artists will hear if they are invited by February 10.
  
- **What is involved in applying?**
  - Beginning in September, artists apply online through a system called [ZAPApplication™](#). Through a blind jury process, five jurors review all the artists' applications and images. Artists submit four images of their artwork and one image of their booth setup. Artists are identified by number only, and no information or materials are considered aside from the work in the submitted images and a statement written by each artist. Artists with the highest scores are invited to the Festival.
  - A limited number of artists receive a prize onsite which includes an invitation onsite to return the following year while bypassing the next jury process.
  
- **What are the costs involved in applying and exhibiting?**
  - The application fee is \$40. Booth fees start at \$595 for a 10' x 10' booth. **Invited artists are provided with** one free parking spot, bagels, and coffee each morning, booth sitters and Artist market support when needed, free water and snacks. **Artists must provide** their own meals, travel, and lodging. Artists must either rent a tent or bring their own. Emerging Artists receive 50% off the booth fee and are provided with a free tent.
  
- **Are there prizes?**
  - Yes! A jury of three experts score the work of each artist on site at the Festival. These scores determine \$21,000 in cash prizes for the winning artists and which artists are invited back the following year without having to re-apply. 12 artists win prizes each year.
  
- **Where can I find more info about the rules of the Arts Festival and whether my work would be a good fit?**
  - Please read our [2025 Prospectus](#) for more information.
  
- **What is the Emerging Artist Program?**
  - This program is specifically for artists who have little or no experience exhibiting and selling their artwork at festival venues. Interested artists must be a resident of Franklin, Union, Delaware, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Fayette, or Madison counties in central Ohio.

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- Emerging Festival Artists will pay a booth fee discounted by 50%, have a tent provided and receive mentoring through the Emerging Festival Artist program. This mentoring is provided in part through two mandatory bootcamp trainings in preparation for the Arts Festival.
- Artists will follow the same process to apply as detailed above. However, “Emerging Festival Artist Program” should be selected as the medium. The fifth image should be a grouping of the artist’s work in place of a booth shot.
  
- **Are there other opportunities for artists and vendors at the Arts Festival?**
  - Yes! We welcome [musicians, dancers, theatre groups and spoken word artists](#), [portrait artists](#) and [food vendors](#) to apply before the deadlines in February.
  - Additionally, local artists can choose to apply for a shared space in the [Big Local Arts Village](#), instead of applying for a juried spot. These artists pay a commission to the Arts Festival, rather than a booth fee. We especially welcome makers who offer hands-on demonstrations for attendees! This application will be open in February.
  
- **Who do I contact for more information?**
  - Kenneth Eaddy, Festival Coordinator: [keaddy@gcac.org](mailto:keaddy@gcac.org), (614) 221-8531
  - General Festival inbox: [festival@gcac.org](mailto:festival@gcac.org)
  - For communication in Spanish/Para contacto en español:  
Ariel Peguero, Associate, Grants & Community Engagement: [apeguero@gcac.org](mailto:apeguero@gcac.org), (614) 221-8814

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