



2026 FESTIVAL IN THE PARK 62nd Anniversary

Charlotte's "Granddaddy" Arts and Crafts Show

FRIDAY	SEPTEMBER 25	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm
SATURDAY	SEPTEMBER 26	10:00 am – 9:00 pm
SUNDAY	SEPTEMBER 27	10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Since 1964, Festival in the Park has been bringing popular and eclectic music, arts and crafts, and family entertainment to Charlotteans and visitors from around the South. The sounds of singers, dancers, storytellers and more drift across Freedom Park while the lake reflects lights strung from Camelot exhibition tents. The smell of popcorn and festival-food fill the air as children with painted faces happily produce their first artwork. First time visitors are amazed by the variety of arts, crafts, and entertainment; old-timers marvel at the freshness combined with the tradition of each year's offerings.

It's family... it's art... it's free to the public.

We invite you to join the 62nd Festival in the Park on Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27, 2026. The Festival takes place at Freedom Park in Charlotte, where arts, crafts, entertainment, and family fun bring the community together. We hope to see you there!

Visit our web site - www.FESTIVALinthePARK.org
E-mail address: festival@FESTIVALinthePARK.org

Festival in the Park * 1409 East Boulevard * Charlotte, NC 28203
704.338.1060 * festival@FESTIVALinthePARK.org

2026 SEPTEMBER ARTIST/EXHIBITOR APPLICATION
(PLEASE TYPE IN OR PRINT)

Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: (Cell) _____ Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
E-Mail: **(PLEASE PRINT)** _____
Social Media: **(PLEASE PRINT)** Facebook: _____
Instagram: _____ Web Site: _____ Twitter: _____
NC Sales Tax #: (required) _____

Description of Medium/Craft (INCLUDE 3 SLIDES/PHOTOS – REQUIRED BY NEW AND RETURNING EXHIBITORS)

Check one:

☐ Clay	☐ Fiber & Leather	☐ Watercolor	☐ Metal
☐ Crafts: Decorative	☐ Glass	☐ Painting	☐ Sculpture
☐ Crafts: Wearable	☐ Jewelry	☐ Photography	☐ Wood
☐ Drawing & Graphics	☐ Mixed Media	☐ Other _____	

Special Needs: _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE SPACE BELOW:

ARTIST'S WALK*

Fine Arts and Crafts Area, Juried

No commercial venues, electronic music or other events will be in this special area

☐ 10x10 Space, \$465.00 Tent Specs: ☐ X ☐ X

Or ☐ \$475.00 – PayPal payable to Festival in the Park **pay online by PayPal**

(The \$45. non-refundable application fee is **included** (per 10x10 space and per medium entered))

If **not juried** into Artist's Walk, I am willing to be in Festival Lake Walk area, notification of Lake Walk decision will be **July 30**

☐ Yes ☐ No

FESTIVAL LAKE WALK**

Traditional Arts and Crafts Area, Juried

☐ 10x10 Space, \$465.00 Tent Specs: ☐ X ☐ X

Or ☐ \$475.00 – PayPal payable to Festival in the Park **pay online by PayPal**

(The \$45. non-refundable application fee is **included** (per 10x10 space and per medium entered))

Tent must be a WHITE professional tent, no larger than 10'x10'.

The Fire Marshall requires that each tent be secured at each corner with a minimum of 40-pound weights. Applicant shall ensure that tents are properly roped, braced, anchored and secured in a manner to ensure stability in light of weather conditions. Tents must also include a certificate certifying that tents are fire retardant or must have sewn-in labels indicating the same. Applicant shall be responsible for all damage caused by any tent, including personal injury or death or property damage, whether from a tent that collapses, blows away or is otherwise not secure or in some way unsafe.

ART BOARDS

☐ Two 4' x 8' double-sided panel boards \$295.00 (Art Board deadline: April 15)

How did you learn about the Festival? _____

Number of years you have exhibited at the Festival. _____ What was your tent number in 2025, if you exhibited? _____

AGREEMENT

By signing this agreement applicant agrees and understands that Festival is not liable for any damage to applicant's personal property while on the premises of Festival in the Park. It is each applicant's responsibility to safeguard their own personal property at all times. The Festival is not responsible for any damage or theft to property left unattended.

I, the undersigned, agree to abide by all Rules and Regulations set forth in this Event application. By signing below, I agree to consider this application a commitment and realize that no refunds will be made for cancellations after forty-five (45) days prior to the Event.

Applicant shall indemnify and save harmless the Festival (Event), its agents and employees and assigns from and against all losses, costs, damages, expense and liability caused by an accident or other occurrence in bodily injury, including death, sickness and disease to any persons, or damage or destruction to property, real or personal, arising directly or indirectly from operations, products or services rendered under this contract.

Signature

Date

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK APPLICATION PROCESS

PLEASE READ APPLICATION THOROUGHLY

Submit the completed application, along with 4 photographs of your medium/craft with a description of each on back, 1 photo of your work in progress, 1 photo of your art tent display, a biography of your talents and your certificate of insurance (if available). Please include all the awards you have received and a list of other festivals in which you have exhibited. Enclose a self-address stamped envelope for return of your photographs. ***Artist must send all information requested above and payment in **one mailing or one email** (if paying by PayPal), if not received complete your application will not be reviewed. ***

Artist's Walk application* deadline is June 14, 2026. Artist acceptance and rejection notifications will be mailed June 30, 2026.

Festival Lake Walk applications** deadline is July 15, 2026. Artist acceptance and rejection notifications will be mailed July 30, 2026.

A 50% deposit is required with the application and will be deposited upon receipt of your application. Your balance is due upon acceptance of the Festival in the Park. Make check payable to "Festival in the Park". A \$35 fee will be charged for all returned checks.

Invited Artists (2025 Festival "Best of Show" Award Winners)

Please return this application signed to confirm your space in the 2026 Festival. *Please do submit* photographs of your work for possible media purposes. No space or jury fees apply to 2025 "Best of Show" award winners in Artist Walk and Lake Walk.

ELIGIBILITY

Exhibit spaces are awarded based on the quality and variety of the exhibitor pool. The Festival values qualified previous exhibitors. Any exhibitor who commits to demonstrate their medium on a full-time basis will receive preferred location. Please specify the needs for a successful demonstration.

All work to be exhibited must be original and attributable solely to the demonstrating craftsperson or display artist. Only original artwork will be eligible for awards (prints, posters or reproductions can be displayed for purchase but will not be included in judging). Festival in the Park takes no commission for any art sales.

The Festival Exhibitor Committee will screen each artist/exhibitor during the Festival week, and if the work exhibited does not comply with the rules and regulations or the slides or photographs submitted, the artist/exhibitors would be required to leave the Festival. Judgment of the Committee on this matter will be final, and no refunds will be given.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ Tent location assignment (all locations are assigned at the Festival's discretion).
- ☐ One 110 electrical outlet per tent. Each outlet will pull a maximum of four (4) 100-watt spots. **NO MORE** than four (4) 100-watt spots are allowed. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Vendors will be required to lower wattage if not in compliance.
- ☐ Volunteer booth sitters, if available, may be requested during specified Festival hours.
- ☐ All booth locations are accessible by vehicles for set-up/tear down.
- ☐ Exhibitor parking.
- ☐ 24-hour security.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK DOES NOT PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ Electrical equipment (including drop cords, light bulbs, fixtures, etc.)
- ☐ Display equipment for the setting up of exhibit tents.
- ☐ Tables or chairs.

ART AWARDS

Artist's Walk Awards*

Artist's Walk is an area of the 2026 Festival in the Park, which consists of fine arts and crafts. No commercial venues, electronic music or other events will be in this special area. On-site judging will take place during the first two days.

The Best of Show award winner will be given a cash prize as well as a free tent space in the Artist's Walk area in 2027. Decisions of the judges shall be considered final. Honorable Mention Ribbons will also be awarded.

Awards are as follows:

Best of Show..... \$500

Two Judges' Choice

Two Dimensional Work..... \$200 each

Three Dimensional Work..... \$200 each

Three Merit Awards..... \$100 each

Honorable Mentions..... Ribbon

Festival Lake Walk Awards**

The Festival Lake Walk is an area of artists exhibiting at Festival in the Park consisting of traditional arts and crafts. Judging will take place during the first two days of the Festival. All decisions of the judges shall be considered final. Best of Lake Walk will be given a cash prize as well as a free tent space in the Festival Lake Walk area in 2027.

Best of Lake Walk..... \$300

Two Dimensional Work

First Place..... \$200

Second Place \$125

Third Place..... \$100

Three Dimensional Work

First Place..... \$200

Second Place \$125

Third Place..... \$100

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ❑ Festival in the Park's mission is to bring the community together through the arts. Consistent with this mission, the Festival values and celebrates diversity and strives to provide an inclusive community atmosphere built upon mutual respect, dignity, fairness, and equality where all people are valued regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. The Festival requires that all artists, vendors, concessionaires and other Festival participants treat others in attendance at the Festival, including attendees, staff, volunteers, vendors, artists and concessionaires, with courtesy and respect at all times. Failure to uphold these standards or to act in accordance with the Festival's commitment to a diverse and inclusive community shall be grounds for immediate dismissal from the Festival, at the sole discretion of Festival personnel.
- ❑ Awarded spaces are non-transferable. No one will be allowed to exhibit without first having juried into the Festival and having paid the exhibition fee to the Festival. Shared spaces are not permitted, and each exhibitor must jury separately. Displays must fit into designated spaces without infringing upon neighboring spaces.
- ❑ The opportunity to meet the artist and discuss their work in an informal setting attracts many visitors and increases sales. Artist should demonstrate their craft sometime during Festival hours for the benefit of those who attend unless prior approval has been secured in writing from the Director.
- ❑ Exhibitors must participate for the entire three days of the Festival. A signed application is a commitment to show. *No refunds will be made 45 days prior to the Festival.*
- ❑ Each exhibitor must realize this is an outdoor show; there is no level ground as in mall shows and weather can be uncooperative. There will be no refunds due to inclement weather.
- ❑ The Festival is family oriented. All exhibits must be in keeping with this atmosphere. The Director of the Festival shall have the sole discretion to require the removal of any work, which he or she determines violates the Festival's rules. Exhibitors shall not display or offer for sale any adulterated, misbranded or impure articles.
- ❑ Exhibitors are responsible for maintaining and leaving their assigned areas free of refuse, and in otherwise good condition. Park litter laws prohibit promotional material from being distributed unless approval is obtained in writing from the Director of the Festival.
- ❑ Only the Festival is permitted to sell T-shirts, sweat shirts, balloons and caps bearing the Festival logo. Any other similar item sold/given away by any other organization during the Festival may be confiscated.
- ❑ Although the Festival in the Park is a Charitable Organization [Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3)], exhibit fees are not charitable deductions. However, exhibit fees may qualify as tax-deductible business expenses. Please consult your tax advisor.
- ❑ Each exhibitor is responsible for the collection of North Carolina and County of Mecklenburg sales tax (8.25%) and payment thereof to the NC Department of Revenue. (Contact: Registration Info, 704-519-3000 ext. #2) The Festival in the Park does not act as an agent and will not be responsible for the collection or payment of any sales tax. There is no commission charge for any art sales.
- ❑ The Festival will not be responsible in any way (i) for any theft or damage to the exhibit or equipment or any other property belonging to Vendor or Vendor's employees who are participating in the Festival nor (ii) for any theft or other loss of Vendor's proceeds or receipts from his/her/its participation in the Festival. Since there is no way to insure the property of individuals attending or participating in the Festival, either as an exhibitor, an artist displaying artwork or photography on a panel board, or a person or group of persons performing on the stage, each individual must be entirely responsible for his/her own equipment, artwork, crafts, or the like, proceeds, receipts, or any other property of any kind whatsoever, and should plan accordingly, in order to prevent any theft or mysterious disappearance of any of same during the Festival.
- ❑ Registration will begin on Friday (first day of Festival) from 8:00am to 2:00pm. **No one will be allowed to check in after 2:00pm.** Early set up will be available on Thursday.
- ❑ All vehicles must be removed from the exhibit area by 2:00pm on opening day and two hours prior to opening on remaining days. *No parking will be allowed on grassy areas, and all vehicles will need to be removed from within the park as soon as unloaded.*
- ❑ On Sunday closing, vehicles will be allowed in the Park upon the announcement from security. This is for your safety and safety of your patrons.
- ❑ Pets **are not allowed** in the park during Festival week. (per city ordinance)
- ❑ Failure to abide by the rules and regulations set forth herein may be grounds for removal from the Festival. No refund shall be provided for such removal.
- ❑ Each exhibitor shall indemnify and hold harmless Festival for any damage, cost or liability caused by an act or omission of exhibitor during or related to the Festival.
- ❑ **The Fire Marshall requires that each tent be secured at each corner with a minimum of 40-pound weights. The applicant shall ensure that tents are properly roped, braced, anchored and secured in a manner to ensure stability in light of weather conditions. Tents must also include a certificate certifying that tents are fire retardant or must have sewn-in labels indicating the same. Applicant shall be responsible for all damage caused by any tent, including personal injury or death or property damage, whether from a tent that collapses, blows away or is otherwise not secure or in some way.**