

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ST. ANTHONY PARK ARTS FESTIVAL

Q: What do you mean when you say this is a juried show? How do you assign spaces?

A: Applications to the Saint Anthony Park Arts Festival are accepted or rejected by a jury consisting of three to six members. There are two basic questions the jury asks about any application:

1. Do the goods offered for sale meet our minimum requirements? Are they handmade, and the artist's own work? Do they show some element of artistry and creativity? Do they agree with the image we want for the Arts Festival and the neighborhood? We rank applications on quality (no matter what the price, is it well-made?) and originality (how much artistry can we see in the design and choice of materials? How much of this piece is original content, as opposed to assembled from mass-produced parts? Is each piece unique?) This is why we ask for pictures—to compare and choose between many very good artists. **Please note: you may only sell merchandise that has been juried. If you were approved for pottery, do not add jewelry or other types of items to your booth.**

2. How many other things in this category have we already accepted? We accept no a limited number of vendors in any category. This means that the competition for some popular categories, such as jewelry, clothing, and pottery, is pretty fierce. It also means that some people whose work is certainly good enough for the Festival don't get in, because other applications either looked better or came in earlier. We expect that jewelry will fill up in March or April, pottery in March or April, and clothing in early April.

Space assignments are based on our own aesthetic considerations and written requests on applications. The earliest applications get the first choice of spots. We try to put attractive displays on corners to draw shoppers to that row, and we try not to put two vendors of the same type next to each other. If you ask for a specific spot, we will try to give it to you, unless it has already been given to someone with an earlier postmark. If you have asked for something like "shade," we try to find the best available spot with shade, which may be away from where you were last year. The best way to get the spot you want is to apply early, and spell out what you need, what you want, and what your priorities are. Use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary. Many vendors ask for the same spot year after year, and we are happy to oblige if we can.

In Summary: People exhibit at St. Anthony Park year after year know that they must get their applications in by March to be assured of getting the space they want. Because we try very hard to be both fair and flexible, space allocations are first-come-first-served.

Q: I need to be on grass so I can stake my canopy down.

A: If you absolutely must be on grass, tell us that this is a requirement, not a preference, when you apply.

Q: What are the two different areas, near the library and on the Seminary lawn?

A: Several years ago we expanded artist spaces along Como Avenue to Luther Seminary's lawn. This has worked very well. It relieved congestion, made loading/unloading easier, gave us more grass and shade, gave everyone better visibility, and made things calmer without decreasing shopping traffic. The boulevards and spaces along Como to Luther Place are filled with food, entertainment, and information booths, so that people are encouraged to walk the two blocks from one end to the other.

Q: Will I have to check in when I get there?

A: Please. We'll send or email you a map and your space number before the show. We send out notices as soon as we have made the final space assignments. We try to do that as soon as possible after May 1. You can also double-check your space assignment on the web site at: www.stanthonyparkartsfestival.org

Q: How soon can I arrive to set up?

A: Spaces are marked out Friday afternoon, but set up begins Saturday a.m. Some vendors arrive at sunrise; you won't see our volunteers until 6:30 or so. Remember, the Festival doesn't officially start until 9:30 a.m. Our permit, insurance, security, etc., is only effective the day of the festival.

Q: I applied and was accepted. I have a friend who would like to share my spot. Is this OK?

A: No. Booth-sharing is allowed only if BOTH artists have been approved by the jury. Bringing someone along who has not gone through the jury process will get you both kicked out. Everything you sell in your space must be handmade by the person who sent in the application. If you and your friend apply together you must send in one application that indicates everything you intend to sell, and pictures of every type of merchandise. You cannot add someone or unjuried merchandise after you have been accepted.

Q: Will I get a spot actually in the street right next to cars and busses? Will my booth straddle the sidewalk?

A: No. Some artist's spaces are in the street on Carter Avenue, but those sections of Carter Avenue are closed to traffic. No artist spaces are in the street along Como Avenue. There is ample room for pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk or street in front of your tent, and there should be no reason for anyone to cut through.

Q: How far will I need to carry my stuff?

A: You can drive up to most spaces and unload. If your merchandise is heavy, tell us, and we'll try to get one of these spots for you. After unloading, you'll need to move your car to a parking lot that is less than a block away. If you need handicapped parking, help unloading, or special arrangements, let us know.

Q: May I bring my dog or other pet?

A: Not unless it is a seeing-eye dog. The area is packed with small children and other dogs who may not be as well-behaved as your pet. There is a petting zoo and horse rides, animals that upset a dog not used to them. If you have a special situation, call –we try to be flexible.

Q: Why does the Festival last only one day?

A: Because we're all volunteers, and one day is all we can cope with. We love art, but enough is enough!