

Art in the Park 2026 Artist Guidelines

Fine Art Festival |Founders' Park | Elkader, Iowa

NEW FALL DATES!

Saturday, October 3 (10 am - 5 pm) & Sunday, October 4 (10 am - 3 pm)

EVENT SUMMARY

Art in the Park is brought to you by the Main Street Elkader Cultural and Entertainment District Committee. This community-supported event is held in Elkader, an eclectic riverside town with an established arts, historic, and outdoors scene in Northeast Iowa (the Driftless Region of the Midwest).

As a two-time Iowa Arts Council grant awardee and recipient of the Iowa Tourism Award, the festival continues to prosper and grow in prestige each year.

We take care of our artists. Art in the Park ensures the outstanding success of its artists by specifically maintaining the quantity and quality. With around 50 juried artists each year, artists' sales have amounted to **approximately \$450,000 since 2015**. Art in the Park also offers artists \$1,000 in artist awards, great volunteer hospitality, and overall, a *personable and unforgettable experience* in this gem of a town. Artists are also offered affordable and unique retreat lodging to ensure the rest of Elkader and its surroundings can be explored (Scenic By-Way, Turkey River, Historical Society, etc.) for inspiration.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Art in the Park 2026, Founders' Park, Elkader, Iowa

***Note: We have officially changed the dates of Art in the Park**

Saturday, October 3 (10 am - 5 pm)

Sunday, October 4 (10 am - 3 pm)

- Free to the public
- Community and volunteer-led

Alternative Entertainment:

- Live music
- Local cuisine (food trucks)

- Local wine sampling + craft beer sales
- Live artist workshops
- Youth activities
- Wellness opportunities in the park

Artist Perks:

- \$1,000 available in Artist Awards (judges will be visiting all vendors and making decisions based on the quality of the artwork, booth presentation, and the salesmanship of person staffing the booth)
- Hospitality
- Affordable and unique artist retreat lodging **Note: Retreat lodging has moved from the EWALU Stone Retreat Center to the EWALU Main Site for 2026 due to the date change and availability*
 - EWALU Main Site, 37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA 52076
 - Beautiful, clean and comfortable spaces
 - 23 minutes from park
 - \$75 per room includes both Friday and Saturday night
 - Rooms reserved on a first-come basis after jury process complete (details to come if juried in)

Artist Guidelines:

- We accept fine art in the following categories: drawing, painting, pastels, mixed media, photography, fiber, textiles, jewelry, metal, ceramics, glass, sculpture, printmaking, wood, other
- Each artist is allowed to show up to two mediums, only the medium(s) specified in the application can be displayed at the festival
- 4 artwork images & 1 professional and current booth image *required*
- \$15 Non-Refundable Application/Jury Fee, \$125 Booth Fee, \$250 Double Booth Fee

Lodging:

Available on website: ArtintheParkElkader.com/Artists (under lodging options)

Green Efforts:

Promoting and operating our event as "Green" and sustainable as possible is a priority for the Art in the Park Committee. This has been put into action by majorly reducing printing, recycling

stations, purchasing local, etc. We also award an eco-conscious artist with the “Green Award” each year.

RULES/REGULATIONS

Artwork: We accept fine art handmade by the exhibitor in the following categories: Drawing, painting, mixed media, photography, fiber, textiles, jewelry, metalworks, ceramics, glass, sculpture, wood, and more. Each artist is allowed to show up to two mediums. Only the artist application-specified medium(s) may be displayed at the festival. **If applying with more than one medium, images of both need to be included.** Policy on prints: All prints (lithographic, wood cut, giclee, inkjet, etc.) must be limited edition and numbered, excluding photography. The only other exception will be note cards. Photographers who have limited edition prints may be given preference (please indicate in your artist description). If prints of original artwork (watercolors, oils, pastels, etc.) are sold, the artist must also be selling a selection of original artwork. We do not accept imported, manufactured, or resale items. Policy on jewelry: Jewelry must be designed and handmade by the artist, using precious and non-precious metals, gemstones, enamel, glass, fiber, clay or other material. Beads are accepted with preference given to beadwork made or woven by the artist.

Sales Tax: Artists are responsible for collecting and reporting all appropriate taxes, including 7% Iowa sales tax, which includes the local option tax for Clayton County.

Cancellation: We appreciate your commitment to Art in the Park. Please contact us as soon as you can to make us aware of a cancellation—refunds are not guaranteed.

Shared Booth: Two artists may share a booth but both must be juried into the festival and submit individual applications (however, the booth fee may be paid by one artist *\$100 total).

Booth Safety: Artists must have suitable anchorage (weights and/or screw-in anchors necessary) to secure tent.

During the Event: Exhibitors will be required to keep their booths open until festival close each day. The artist must be present throughout the festival. Artwork displayed must reflect the medium, style, and be consistent with the quality of work submitted in artist application.

Late Applications:

In order to maintain a balanced show of media, late applications may be accepted and juried onto our waitlist.

BOOTH INFORMATION

- **Fees**
 - \$125 Booth Fee (10' x 10' w/ room for anchoring)
 - \$250 Double Booth Fee (10' x 20' w/ room for anchoring)
- **Details**
 - All exhibitors are required to exhibit under a tent space
 - Must have suitable anchorage (weights and/or screw-in anchors necessary)
 - All exhibitors are responsible for furnishing and setting up their own booths
 - Must not extend beyond the space provided by the festival
 - **Standard white tent w/ 3 sides recommended (if you have any other color besides white, a booth image is mandatory)**
 - All booth spaces are situated on grass and open toward an oversized accessible sidewalk that leisurely winds throughout the park
 - Booth Assignment: It is essential you include any special requests with your application, previous booth number, etc. The layout of the festival changes year to year, so we will do our best to honor requests but no location or placement is guaranteed

PAYMENTS & ARTIST TYPE

- **JURY FEE**
 - **\$15 Non-Refundable Application/Jury Fee**
 - EARLY BIRD Deadline: If applying by February 15, jury fee waived
 - Jury fee is due for artists applying after February 15, 2026
 - **APPLICATION DEADLINE**
 - Sunday, March 15, 2026
 - IF JURIED IN *will be notified of acceptance status and dues by April 1– Booth Fee due AFTER acceptance email
 - **\$125 Booth Fee (10' x 10' w/ room for anchoring)**
 - **\$250 Double Booth Fee (10' x 20' w/ room for anchoring)**

- Shared booth: Two artists may share a booth but both must be juried into the festival and submit individual applications (however, the booth fee may be paid by one artist)
- **PAY WITH CHECK**
 - \$15 Application/Jury fee due by March 15 if applying after February 15
 - To: MSE - Art in the Park
 - Memo line: Artist Jury Fee
 - Address: Main Street Elkader, P.O. Box 125, Elkader IA 52043
- **PAY ONLINE WITH STRIPE**
 - \$15 Application/Jury fee due by March 15 if applying after February 15
 - Click link and enter amount due
 - Complete payment process
 - *Jury fee payment link*