



# Designer of the Year – Entry Form

**KFA Annual Convention – “Stayin’ Alive”**

July 31 – August 2, 2026

Belterra Casino & Resort | Florence, Indiana

The Kentucky Florists’ Association is hosting its annual Kentucky Designer of the Year Contest during the 2026 Annual Convention in Florence, Indiana. This contest is the premier floral design competition held in the state. This contest allows designers to showcase their talents through three popular floristry categories and, for the top four designers after the preliminary round, a live, on-stage surprise box challenge to determine the 2026 Kentucky Designer of the Year. Please consider being a part of this great KFA tradition.

## CONTEST RULES AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) The Kentucky Designer of the Year contest is open to all Kentucky Florists’ Association members, owners, and employees. Past winners of this contest may not compete. The winner of the contest must agree to use the Florist’s name under which they registered and in any representation that results from their win. If the participant chooses, they may register as an individual KFA member by paying the current KFA yearly dues, in which case the Designer of the Year will not represent any business. The participant must be registered for the 2026 KFA Convention and must attend the Gala on Saturday evening when the category winners and final four designers are announced.
- 2) Each participant is to create an arrangement fitting the categories/themes detailed below. One design per participant per category may be entered. There are no cost or size restrictions for the designs, but the participant must be able to pick up the design in one piece. All materials and supplies are the responsibility of the participant. The finished design must be checked-in on Saturday, August 01, 2026, between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. No designing may take place in the contest room.

The 2026 KFA Annual Convention theme is “Stayin’ Alive” and this year’s competitions are inspired by iconic songs, bringing energy, creativity, and a fun twist to each design challenge.

## DESIGNER OF THE YEAR CATEGORIES

<p><b>Sympathy Design</b></p> <p>“Stairway to Heaven” – Led Zeppelin Design a sympathy arrangement that reflects elegance, emotion, and tribute, inspired by this timeless classic.</p>	<p><b>Wedding Design</b></p> <p>“Band of Gold” – Freda Payne Participants will create: - Bridal Bouquet - Corsage - Boutonniere Designs should reflect romance, celebration, and cohesive wedding styling inspired by the theme.</p>	<p><b>Designer’s Choice</b></p> <p>“Funkytown” – Lipps Inc. Let your creativity shine with a bold, expressive design that captures the fun, vibrant spirit of this iconic track.</p>
---	--	--

3) All entries will be judged for category awards. It is not mandatory to enter every category but is recommended in order to be eligible for Designer of the Year. Each participant’s score from each of the categories in which they participate will be combined to determine the preliminary rankings.

Each design will be judged by a panel of judges using the following 100-point criteria:

Mechanics: 25 points

Originality: 15 points

Balance/Rhythm: 10 points

Color: 10 points

Focal Point: 10 points

Line: 10 points

Overall Design & Harmony: 10 points

Theme: 10 points

4) The top four participants will then compete in a final, live surprise box competition. Each participant will be provided with a surprise box containing the same flowers, foliage, containers, tools, etc. The participants will have twenty (20) minutes to complete their designs.

The designs will be judged using the same criteria from the preliminary round, the scores doubled, and added to the preliminary total. The designer with the highest overall total will be named Kentucky Designer of the Year and the participant with the second highest overall score will be named the Kentucky Designer of the Year Runner-Up.

## PRIZES:

Each category will have first, second, and third place finishers and two honorable mentions (fourth and fifth places) all of whom will receive ribbons. The first, second, and third place finishers also will receive monetary awards in the amounts of \$100 for first place, \$ 75 for second place, and \$50 for third place. Trophies will be awarded for the Designer of the Year and the Runner-Up.

The Designer of the Year will receive a scholarship to attend the Floral Education Program of Kentucky, be a featured designer at the next KFA Convention, and represent the KFA at the Mid America Cup Invitational during the Arkansas Floral Association Convention; all occurring during the next calendar year. If the winner chooses to not use the FEPK scholarship or has already been through the FEPK program, no additional compensation will be provided by KFA.

## REGISTRATION:

Advance registration is not mandatory, but it is encouraged. No registration fee is required for this contest. Entries will be registered and accepted on Saturday, August 01, 2026, between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

To register in advance please complete the form below and return to Harriette Miller, c/o In Bloom Again, 918 S 6th Street, Louisville, KY. 40203 Failure to comply with rules may lead to disqualification. Decisions of judges are final. For further information or questions contact Harriette Miller, Design Contest Chair at 502.592.5667 or by email at harriettemiller@bellsouth.net .

**Detach Form Here** - - - - -

\_\_\_\_\_ **YES, I WILL COMPETE IN THE 2026 KENTUCKY DESIGNER OF THE YEAR CONTEST**

Please indicate which categories you wish to enter. Please remember it is not mandatory to enter all categories, but it is strongly encouraged to be in the running for the title of Designer of the Year.

- Sympathy** – *“Stairway to Heaven” – Led Zeppelin*
- Wedding** – *“Band of Gold” – Freda Payne* (Bridal Bouquet, Corsage, Boutonniere)
- Designer’s Choice** – *“Funkytown” – Lipps Inc.*

**DESIGNER’S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SHOP NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DESIGNER’S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

### RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Harriette Miller c/o In Bloom Again, 918 S 6th Street, Louisville, KY 40203 or via email – harriettemiller@bellsouth.net