

2026 BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKET VENDOR AND PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

The Baltimore Farmers' Market (BFM), produced by The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, Inc. (BOPA), is Maryland's largest farmers' market.

The 2026 season of the BFM operates on Sundays from **April 12th - December 20th** from 7 AM to 12 PM. *(Contracts are for the complete season or selected schedule, and it is at the discretion of BOPA and the City to cancel a Market day if it is unsafe or untenable to attend.)*

The Market takes place rain or shine under the Jones Falls Expressway (JFX).

BOPA reserves the right to photograph and videotape the BFM to use said images for city promotions, sponsorships, and/or fundraising.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Vendors selected to participate in the BFM must have applied by the application deadline listed each year to be considered. Participation in previous seasons does not guarantee acceptance for future season(s) or a specific booth location. Additionally, applicants must be in good financial standing with BOPA.

GENERAL RULES:

- Must comply and operate within the guidelines of this document, the application, and the signed contract.
- Must meet both the Health Department and Fire Department codes, as applicable.
- It is the responsibility of the individual business owner to ensure that they are communicating with their staff on the guidelines and procedures, special events, updates to their booth location, etc., as well as communicate to Market Management any changes in their staffing with contact information for onsite coordination
- Must have a working email account that they check regularly for BFM-related communications

SET-UP | HOURS OF OPERATION:

- Vendors must arrive between 5:30 AM and 6:30 AM to set up their space.
- Streets are closed at 5:30 AM and reopen at 1:30 PM.
- Vendors must be operational from 7 AM until the Market closes at 12 PM.
- Vehicles are *not allowed to drive on-site from 6:45 AM to 12:15 PM.* If your booth does not include space for a vehicle, you must either walk in your kit or unload and re-park before 6:45 AM.
- Be cautious of pedestrian traffic and other vendors. Vendors must vacate the BFM footprint by 1:30 PM when streets reopen. *There are no exceptions to this rule.*

TARDINESS | NO-SHOW:

- If a vendor is unable to attend Sunday's Market, the Market management team must be notified by Wednesday prior via email. An attendance email will be sent each week, separate from general vendor updates. Reply inline to the attendance email if you will be *absent* the following Sunday.
- Vendors who arrive after 7 AM will be given a verbal or written notice.
- Vendors who do not show up on scheduled dates without notification before Sunday's Market will be given a verbal or written notice.
- After three notices in either instance, the vendor may be disqualified from continuing to participate in the 2026 BFM season and their agreement will be terminated.

PARKING:

Parking is not guaranteed or available at all booth locations.

Acceptable parking at the BFM includes- street parking on surrounding streets, surface parking lots off of Guilford Ave. and Saratoga, or complimentary parking in the Bunting Garage at Mercy Hospital located at Pleasant St. and Guilford Ave.

Non-acceptable parking includes- unassigned or unused spaces, walkways, driveways, grassy areas, handicap entrances, or anywhere on the Hollywood Diner footprint. Vehicles will be ticketed and towed if parked in these areas. The BFM is not held accountable for parking tickets during Market hours.

CLEANLINESS:

-The BFM arranges cleaning services before and after Market operating hours. We encourage all individuals involved at the Market to recycle; at this juncture, we do not offer on-site recycling collection.

-Vendors must maintain the upkeep of their surrounding area. There should be no trash and debris before, during, or after Market hours in or around your area.

-Vendors using grease/ cooking oil must remove it from the footprint and dispose of it properly. You must use grease-absorbing mats under any frying or cooking stations.

-Trash must be bagged and placed at designated locations for DPW to retrieve after each Market day. You may not leave propane canisters, bulk trash, oil and cooking grease, chemicals, etc., in these areas.

VENDOR SPACES & RATES:

BOPA has a one-season contract (April – December) with Farm / Alcohol, Food, and Artisan Vendors. Farm and Food Vendors must be present every Sunday from opening day until the last day of the Market, or in compliance with the schedule agreed to on their contract. Artisans have pre-selected their schedules from the schedule options. (*Full season, Trimester(s), and Rotating/Occasional)

-The Farmers' Market management team decides pre-determined space locations. Vendor locations are subject to change as deemed necessary by Market management. Vendors from previous seasons are not guaranteed the same space.

-The vendor's entire setup should not protrude into the walkways and must line up consistently, leaving a 8-foot or 92-inch walkway to conform to Baltimore City Fire Department regulations and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

-Vendors are responsible for supplying their tent(s), tent weights, tables, chairs, décor, power cords, etc. for their area and must remain within the parameters as designated by BOPA.

-Booths must be free of trip and safety hazards

-Line management: vendors must, to the best of their ability, manage customer lines to ensure egress and access to neighboring booths (stanchions, ropes, etc.). *Market Management may require you to procure stanchions or similar items to manage your wait line if it becomes a consistent spacing issue.*

-Weather preparedness: It is required that vendors be prepared to vend in all weather conditions, for both staff and their booth set up. All products, tents, sidewalls, signs, tables, chairs, decor, etc., must be installed so that they are secure in wind, rain, snow, etc.

-Electricity/ generators: Only applicable for specific vendor categories, all cords must be secured to avoid trip hazards, all extension cords and powerstrips must be rated for outdoor use ("home cords" are not allowed), and correctly sized for the use of your equipment to avoid electrical issues, generators must be "quiet rated" and may not be used directly under the bridge due to reverberating noise and off-gassing. *All generators must be positioned in a way that the exhaust or noise does not interfere with neighboring businesses and communication with customers.*

- All vendors must have clear signage to indicate products and ingredients that contain common allergens. The most common 9 include- milk, eggs, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, sesame, and soybeans
- Vendor fees are based on the individual vendor, schedule, and the type of merchandise sold. Farm / Alcohol, Food, and Artisan seasonal fees are collected in four or fewer installments. Payments must be received within the schedule outlined in your contract.
- It's preferred that all vendors pay with Credit/Debit Cards via the invoices emailed to them from our Finance Department.
- Other accepted payment methods are checks and money orders made payable to BOPA. *Cash is not accepted.*
- Each vendor is responsible for maintaining records and receipts of payments
- Each vendor is solely responsible for complying with federal, state, and local tax requirements.

VENDOR DECORUM:

- It is highly encouraged that vendors get to know and communicate with their booth neighbors to ensure a smooth load-in. Some vendors have large trailers or trucks that require placement before surrounding tents can be installed.
- Booth spaces and products should be attractively and safely displayed, and business conducted orderly and appropriately.
- Shouting or other objectionable means of soliciting trade will not be tolerated.
- No profanity, abusive conduct, racism, homophobia, sexism, or related behavior will be permitted
- No booth /space sharing or resale of space (unless approved by the Farmers' Market management team before participation at the Market).
- Radios may be played for your personal use before 6:45 am and after 9:00 am, but not in a manner that disturbs neighbors or patrons during Market hours. All music must be "radio-friendly" (If nearby vendors cannot communicate with patrons, it's too loud.)
- Quiet shopping hours will be implemented between 7 am -9:00 am (to include Buskers)
- As with the public, no smoking or pets are allowed during Market hours
- No solicitation or promotions of or for political candidates or parties will be allowed

FARM:

- The Farms accepted are those that grow/raise their products locally, with Maryland farms vetted first.
- Products sold must be grown or produced by the farm and land(s) listed on the application. All items must be approved by BOPA, and limitations will be set.
- Farm vendors may not sell Artisan items
- Produce growers must grow/produce their items. You must relay any crop failure, WITH A WRITTEN NOTICE, to the Market Manager for permission to supplement from an approved source.
- Any "holiday" items must be listed on your application and approved.
- *NOTE: If you are selling ready-made items for consumption (i.e., muffins, salads, etc.) you need a health permit. See <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/OFPCHS/pages/cottagefoods.aspx> for more information on Cottage Food policies.
- No Styrofoam containers allowed.

FOOD + ALCOHOL VENDORS:

- Product offerings listed on applications must be made by the Food / Alcohol Vendor and/or their company facility and be approved by the Farmers' Market. No Reselling. Please note that greater consideration is given to Maryland applicants utilizing local farms and/or locally-made ingredients in their retail products.
- No Styrofoam containers allowed.

- Any “holiday” items must be listed on your application and approved.
- The product must be prepared and sold within the guidelines of the Baltimore City Fire and Health Departments, and have a Food Permit / required licensing if it is to be sampled or consumed on-site. Please go to their websites for complete guidelines. Highlights are listed below:

*A Baltimore City Health Department Food Permit must be obtained before vending at the Market. Applications can be found at <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/environmental-health/food-facilities> or by calling the Health Department at 410-396-4424.

*All food cooked on the premises must have a “tagged” fire-resistant tent and a 2A-10BC Portable Fire Extinguisher. Deep Fryers need a Class K extinguisher.

ARTISANS:

- Artisans are producers and vintage/antique sellers, with preference given to Maryland businesses.
- Artisan vendors are accepted based on creativity, uniqueness, variety, space availability, and branding.
- Occasional Sunday (OS) vendors may sign up for 2 Sundays maximum per month (unless previously communicated and negotiated with Market Management) via the provided links. OS vendors are not guaranteed a specific location on the footprint each time they vend.
- Items sold by Artisan vendors must be listed on applications and approved by the Farmers Market before participation.
- Any “holiday” items must be listed on your application and approved. Artisan vendors should not be selling edible/ food items.
- Business insurance is not required but highly encouraged.

BUSKERS / PERFORMERS:

- Must check in with Market Management to be placed in designated locations
- Performances must be “radio-friendly” and cannot begin until after 9 am
- No amplification will be allowed; all performances must be acoustic
- Performers are not permitted to set prices or require a set donation fee
- Performances cannot interfere with the communication or sales of vendors (including volume level, crowd formation, etc.)
- No electricity or parking will be provided or reserved
- Set up must be walked in (a small cart or wagon is recommended), tents are not allowed, but an umbrella for shade is permitted
- Performers are responsible for preparing themselves and their equipment for a variety of weather conditions
- A busking license that does not override the rules set forth by the BFM or the permits related to the operation of the Market. It is at the sole discretion of the Market Management to determine placement or attendance at the Market.

PROHIBITED MERCHANDISE:

BOPA reserves the right to approve the contents of all exhibits and reserves the right to prohibit or expel any merchandise that is out of keeping with the character of the BFM.

The list of prohibited items includes, but is not limited to: weapons, tobacco products, pornography, counterfeit merchandise, live animals, fireworks, store/name-brand cosmetics, and general resale items (CDs, tube socks, etc.).

COMPLIANCE:

- Complaints against a vendor, regardless of the matter, must be directed to the attention of the Farmers Market Manager, preferably in writing via email.

-If the Baltimore Farmers' Market or BOPA determines, in its sole discretion, that a vendor has violated any provision of these guidelines, it will issue a written warning.

-Failing to comply with the BFM guidelines may result in expulsion.

BOPA reserves the right to 1.) Cancel a vendor's application at any time if and when BOPA finds a vendor in violation of any of the aforementioned guidelines and eligibility requirements, including the City Health Codes. 2) Revise guidelines at any time as it deems appropriate. 3.) Approve or disapprove any item brought to the BFM.

INSURANCE:

Business Insurance is required for Farmers' and Food Vendors and is recommended for Artisans. Merchants will list the *Baltimore Office Of Promotion And The Arts, Inc.*, as well as the *Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, as Additional Insured on their Certificate of Commercial Liability Insurance for the 2026 BFM season.

BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKET CONTACT:

The BFM Welcome Tent is located at the Hillen St. entrance on the east side of the Market. For more information or questions, please contact:

Delaney Cate, Sr. Event & Farmers' Market Manager
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