



2026 Nature Makers Market Guidelines + Information

Thank you for your interest in the Blandford Nature Center's Nature Makers Market. Our one-day markets take place in May and November and feature approximately 30 Great Lakes region artists and makers located in four buildings at Blandford Nature Center, including our modern Visitor Center and three of our historical buildings.

Artwork

The Nature Makers Market at Blandford Nature Center is a celebration of quality craftsmanship and artisan-made goods, inspired by nature and/or made of natural materials, and designed or crafted in the Great Lakes region. Items for sale may include original paintings, prints, textiles, jewelry, stationery, ceramics, glassworks, wool goods, stickers, pins, wood items, botanical skin care, dried flowers, resin crafts, and child and baby items. The market is free and open to the public.

Jury Process

Artists are chosen by a jury of Blandford Staff and Board members with the goal of offering a variety of high-quality goods of differing materials and aesthetics. The criteria used to jury the market include: interpretation of the theme (goods inspired by nature and/or made of natural materials), craftsmanship, detail, complexity, and originality. In recent years, with a large increase in the number of artists applying, we have also started considering whether particular goods are very seasonal and may be a better fit for our spring vs. fall/holiday market. As a result, if you are not selected for one market but feel your work may be a good fit for the following season, please consider reapplying for the next season's market.

All previous vendors and new applicants will be considered together for each market. Approximately 5 months before a market, we email all previous market participants a notification that the next market's application has opened. Artists who have not previously participated must keep an eye on our website for this application. It is up to all artists to then apply for the new market within the application window. We typically assign about 80% of our booths to previous participants, with the rest assigned to new artists. This allows for unique offerings from new artists, as well as showcasing new work from previous artists. Participation in one market does not guarantee participation in future markets.

Once the application window closes, the jury will decide who will be offered a booth at the next market. Notifications are sent out via email. Artists who are not selected for a market, will be notified, as well, via email.

****Please note that we do not solicit vendors via social media. We only use Blandford Nature Center email addresses to communicate. Once accepted to be a vendor, you will receive an invoice from our Quickbooks account with instructions and options for payment.**

Privacy Policy

Blandford Nature Center collects names, email addresses and mailing addresses for the sole purpose of informing members and vendors about upcoming events. If payments are made with a credit card, no account numbers are kept. Information is only obtained for payment of vendor booth fees, membership fees, and date of event participation.



Buildings, Tables + Booth Requirements

Each Nature Makers Market takes place in 4 different buildings at Blandford Nature Center. Due to the shapes, sizes and historic nature of these buildings, booth sizes and configurations are variable. There is no "standard" booth size. Our booths are described as large or small and generally fit one or two 8-foot banquet-style tables and possibly a few accessory display items (a wall rack, small display placed in front of or behind a table, etc.). Large walls and tents do not work in most of our indoor booth spaces. Most of our booth spaces do not allow for "walk in" style set-ups or tables placed end-to-end, but rather tables must be placed in "L" formations where shoppers may walk past your booth to shop but not necessarily step into your booth. If you receive a confirmation of acceptance into a market, we will do our best to communicate any space constraints for your booth. If you have any questions about this, please contact us ahead of the market. You will be notified of your building assignment and booth size approximately 2 weeks prior to the market.

One 8' banquet table may be rented for \$10, and will be placed at your booth, subject to availability. All booths also get 2 free chairs. You must supply your own tablecloths for all tables.

You may choose to bring your own tables, if you prefer. Any additional tables or displays should be 6' long or shorter. Please note that some booths are in the center of the room. You may note in your application if you have any special display structures or space requirements that you would like us to consider.

The following should also be considered when applying for a Nature Makers Market:

- No tents are allowed in any of our indoor spaces.
- You may not attach any items to painted walls. Some booths may have windows behind them where items may be hung. If this is a requirement for your booth, please specify in your application.
- Your entire display must be within the boundaries of the specific booth space provided. Booth spaces will be disclosed approximately 2 weeks before the market.
- All vendors should display their name and/or business name at their booth.
- Electricity is available at most but not all booths. If this is a requirement for your booth, please specify in your application.

Fees

Small booth: \$100

Large booth: \$120

Table rental (one 8' table): \$10

Invoices are sent to all artists shortly after acceptance letters are sent.

Cancellations & Refunds

You may cancel your booth up to 30 days prior to the event, minus a \$10 processing fee for both credit cards and check payments. Booth fees are non-refundable within 30 days prior to the event. No-shows forfeit their booth fees. If the market is officially cancelled due to inclement weather, you will be notified of your refund options.



Capacity Restrictions

In order to maximize the number of shoppers in each room, you are allowed a TOTAL of 2 people working your booth space at any given time during the day. You may, however, have more than this help you with set-up and tear-down. We will have staff and volunteers monitoring room capacities and asking shoppers to line up outside the doors if the rooms are deemed to be too crowded. We also ask you to be mindful of this if you have friends or family shopping who wish to stop and chat.

Artist Sales

Artists are responsible for processing their own sales. We will provide you with a password for connecting your sales device to our wifi or hotspot. Food sales are not allowed at artists' tables. Tables must be manned at all times. If you do not have a sales partner attending the Market with you, please flag down a BNC staff member or volunteer to help keep an eye on your booth if you need to leave your table for any reason. There will be several staff members and volunteers floating around throughout the day. Tables must remain open throughout the entire event. You may start disassembling your table at 3:00 pm when the Market closes. Blandford is not liable for items stolen or damaged during the event.

Event Promotions

Please help us promote this event through your mailing lists and social media! If you tag us in your social media, we will do our best to reshare it. You may see one more post between now and the event, so keep a lookout, and keep on sharing it!

Wifi

Wifi is readily available in the Auditorium and Environmental Education Center, and a hotspot is provided in the Learning Lab and Schoolhouse.

Bathrooms

There are bathrooms located in all buildings, as well as one on the back side of the Visitor Center (accessed by walking via the patio around to the north side of the building).

Smoking/Alcohol

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on BNC grounds. Alcohol is not permitted at this event.

Food

We usually have 1-2 food/coffee trucks at each market, so some food is available for purchase.

Parking

We ask that artists with a booth take only ONE space in our parking lot. If you have additional drivers please park the additional vehicle on Hillburn Ave or at the Highlands, which is a short 10-minute walk from our Visitor Center. If there is anyone planning to bring a trailer to the market, you must notify us beforehand to make accommodations. Artist vehicles must be moved to the back of the parking lot once you have unloaded your goods.

QUESTIONS? Please email registrar@blandfordnaturecenter.org and we'll get back to you!