

33rd Annual

ART in the PARK

2026 Artist Application

Saturday, September 12th • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, September 13th • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Presented by Kent Parks & Recreation Department



Kent's Art in the Park Festival, held the weekend after Labor Day, has become a premier community event for the city. This festival is a family friendly experience that attracts residents from all over Northeast Ohio. Art in the Park is hosted in Fred Fuller Park, Kent's oldest and largest park with majestic trees and scenic walking trails along the Cuyahoga river. The 2025 event featured over 100 artists who expressed their creative talents through photography, painting, artful apparel, ceramics and pottery, drawings, jewelry, glasswork, metal, mixed media, sculpture, and wood. This includes youth artists, who have a valuable contribution to the world of art. Art In the Park emphasizes the "Young At Art" with a designated area for artists 3rd through 12th grade.

There are numerous demonstrations throughout the two day event where community members can experience art with their own hands. The annual Sylvia Coogan Silent Auction is stocked with items donated by exhibitors to benefit future art programs in Kent. In addition to the wonderful visual art experiences, music is performed on two stages throughout both days. Many of the regions favorite performers will delight attendees with a wide variety of music such as jazz, country, folk music, and others. A variety of delicious food vendors will be available for attendees as well.

Art In The Park is a juried show featuring both local and regional artists. Monetary prizes are awarded to best of show, first, second, and third places. Ribbons are awarded for honorable mention and best display.

We want those who are serious about fine art and quality products to be able to showcase and sell their work at this year's Art In the Park Festival that attracts over 10,000 people over the two days. Artists, Demonstrators, Vendors and those who wish to have a Community Information Booth are invited to apply.



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Eligibility Only original works by the applying artist will be considered by jurors. No manufactured or mass produced items are accepted. Only one Artist will be permitted per booth, therefore, no two Artists will be permitted to share one booth.

Returning Artists Returning Artists from the 2025 Art in the Park Festival will receive an exclusive registration window from January 26th through March 20th. During this exclusive window, Returning Artists are guaranteed to receive the same booth space they had in the 2025 Art in the Park Festival with limited exceptions. If a Returning Artist would like to request a new booth space instead of the space they had in 2025, they are able to rank their top three booth space choices. A map of the booth spaces with pictures of each space will be made available on our website at the time of registration.

New Artists Public registration for New Artists opens on March 20th. New Artists will be able to rank their booth space preference by referencing the map on our website. Kent Parks and Recreation staff will use these ranked preferences to place all New Artists into open booth spaces. There is no guarantee that New Artists will receive their preferred booth space.

New Artists & Artists that did not participate in the 2025 Festival, Complete the Following:

Submit this application form as well as an artist statement to Kent Parks and Recreation. Provide four quality digital images or photographs depicting the full range of your work. All images must be labeled with the Artist's name. If applying online, email photos & artist statement to oliver.wuenschekentohio.gov and in the subject line, please list "Art in the Park 2026."

Application Applications can be submitted through the mail, in person at our office (497 Middlebury Rd. Kent, OH 44240), online at www.kentparksandrec.com, or emailed to oliver.wuenschekentohio.gov.

Deadline The Returning Artist exclusive registration period ends on March 20th. All artist registration ends on June 30th or when all booth spaces are full. Artists may be added to a waitlist following the deadline in case an accepted artist pulls out of the festival.

Payments The cost for an artist booth at Art in the Park is \$150. Payment is required at the time of registration. **No booth spaces will be held until payment is made.** Artists may pay using cash, credit/debit card, or check (made out to 'The City of Kent'). Checks will be cashed upon receipt; this procedure does not indicate acceptance into the show.

* The price above includes a non-refundable \$15.00 screening fee

** Artists not accepted will be issued a \$135.00 refund by August 1st

*** Applications without payment, photos and/or Artist statement will not be considered for selection

Jury Selection Jury Selection will be completed in July. Artists will be notified by July 24th regarding their acceptance. Only New Artists are required to go through the jurying process.

Cancellations Accepted Artists must cancel their reservation by August 1st to receive a refund. All refund requests must be made in email to oliver.wuenschekentohio.gov. This refund does not include the non-refundable \$15.00 screening fee.

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Booth Preference

When submitting an application, artists will have the opportunity to list their top 3 choices of booth location. Priority will be given on a first come, first serve basis after the initial exclusivity window for returning artists. If all 3 of an artists booth space locations are already taken, they will be placed in an open booth space. Artists that do not list any booth preference will be placed in the open booth spaces available. A map of the festival is available on our website for reference.

Booth Items

The medium you are submitting with your application is what must be shown at your booth. Failure to comply will result in expulsion from the Festival and no refund will be granted.

Security

On Friday and Saturday, a uniformed security guard will be on site from 8pm to 8am. Kent Parks & Recreation Department will not be responsible for theft or damage to works or exhibits.

Severe Weather

No refunds will be granted due to severe weather cancellations. The Festival will operate as planned in the case of rain or adverse weather conditions unless deemed unsafe by Kent Parks & Rec Staff. Artist understands in the case of severe weather, Kent Parks & Recreation will not be liable for any damages.

Booth Spaces

Booth space is approximately 12' x 12'. The Artist must supply all equipment necessary to set up their booths. Sites are mostly located on grassy areas and most are not level. All artist tents must be weighted or staked into the ground.

Artist Behavior

Kent Parks and Recreation expects all vendors to treat event staff, patrons, and other vendors with respect before, during, and after the event. Any vendor not following event rules or behaving in an unacceptable manner will be removed from the event without refund. Kent Parks & Recreation has the right to suspend or terminate participation in future events, at the discretion of Kent Parks and Recreation staff.

Smoking

No smoking is allowed within Fred Fuller Park and event grounds. Vendors found to be smoking are subject to removal from the event without refund.

Awards Judging

A third party artist or art student is hired to judge artists on professionalism, originality, artistic ability, and booth presentation. These categories are totaled and used to rank the artists. Awards are then handed out for the following: Best in Show, First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Best Display, and 4 Honorable Mentions.

Questions

Any questions regarding the 2026 Art in the Park Festival, please reach out to Oliver Wuensch at (330) 673-8897 or through email at oliver.wuensch@kentohio.gov.



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Name as you wish it to appear in the program _____

Business Name _____ Artist Name _____

Email Address _____ Telephone # _____

Address (street, city, state, zip)

Returning Artists ONLY: Are you requesting the same booth from 2025? YES _____ NO _____

Website Address _____

Ranked Booth Choice: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____

Category / Medium (Please check what best describes your medium(s))

_____ Fiber _____ Glass _____ Jewelry _____ Pottery & Ceramics _____ Metal Work

_____ Wood _____ Photography _____ Painting _____ Sculpture _____ Mixed Media

Artist Statement: (must be completed with application)

Artist Representation of Original Artwork: Artist agrees that all work submitted to the jury process and displayed and represented for sale to the public at the Kent's Art In The Park Festival has been designed and executed by the artist. All work exhibited must be for sale. Artist certifies that all jury images submitted represent his/her original work. Artist may display only work juried in the medium accepted.

Please describe materials and processes used to create your art below.

(Attach additional pages if necessary)