

# Artist & Crafter



APPLICATION

**July 23, 24, 25, 2026**

RICHARD J. NOTTE STERLING HEIGHTS CITY CENTER  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**MARCH 23, 2026**



**The chance to be a part of a unique city festival featuring the work of great artists and crafters is now!**

**Join us July 23-25, 2026  
in Sterling Heights, Michigan  
for the**

**2026**  
*Sterlingfest*  
Art & Music Fair

Renowned as one of Michigan's best-run and best-attended festivals, (including earning the Detroit News' "Michigan's BEST Summer Festival" title), Sterlingfest's combination of arts & crafts, music and food means three days of sun-drenched, summertime fun every year. Now in its 44th year, Sterlingfest mixes the tradition of an arts & crafts fair with a jazz and blues stage, a Suds 'n' Sounds stage, Kidzfest children's activities and entertainment stage, a family midway, food trucks and a main concert stage.

Since Sterlingfest's beginning, visitors to the arts & crafts show browse and purchase exquisite sculptures, watercolor paintings, striking photographs and many other unique hand-crafted items offered by juried exhibitors. The Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair is set in a street fair-like setting at the heart of Sterling Heights, Michigan. Artists show and sell their work with a backdrop of lively music from the jazz and blues stage. Visitors can stroll past the City's historic Upton House Museum, and along the Sterling Heights sculpture walk, featuring the City's public art along with a "SterlingScapes" exhibit of large-scale outdoor sculptures.

The 2026 Sterlingfest schedule of events features a variety of great music to keep visitors entertained, including jazz, blues, folk and Top 40 entertainment. Plus, free fun activities for the kids allow mom and dad to take their time in the arts & crafts fair. It adds up to a financially rewarding opportunity not to be missed!

Please fill out this application and join us July 23-25 for the 44th annual Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair.

**Application deadline is March 23, 2026.**

**For more information, please call the City of Sterling Heights Community Relations Department at (586) 446-CITY(2489), e-mail us at [cityhall@sterlingheights.gov](mailto:cityhall@sterlingheights.gov), visit us online at [sterlingfest.info](http://sterlingfest.info) or "Like Us" at [facebook.com/sterlingfest](https://facebook.com/sterlingfest).**

Barbara Chudzik, Chairperson  
Arts Commission

Melanie D. Davis, Director  
Community Relations Department

**[www.sterlingfest.info](http://www.sterlingfest.info)  
[www.facebook.com/sterlingfest](https://www.facebook.com/sterlingfest)**

## ARTWORK

- All art work **must be** original conception, designed and executed by the accepted artisan.
- **NO commercial molds, kits, buy-sell or resale items.**
- **NO** commercially cast jewelry, etc., or purchased items. This includes imported goods. Jewelers must be the designers and hands-on makers of their work. Purchased, facet cut gems may be used. Assembled, prefabricated jewelry is not allowed.
- Artisans will exhibit only in the accepted medium.
- Suspect items will be examined and reviewed to ensure ORIGINAL work.
- All work must be suitable for an arts & crafts show.
- **Understand that failure to follow the guidelines and rules stated can mean IMMEDIATE EXPULSION (with no city refunds) from this year's arts & crafts fair and future fairs.**
- **Artists selling food items must meet Macomb County Health Department health standards.**

## JURIED SHOW

- All art work submitted will be juried by the Sterling Heights Art Commission.
- Artists **MUST** be juried for acceptance into show.
- No applications accepted after jurying process.
- [No artists accepted on day of show.](#)
- **The commission reserves the right to make determinations on any of the above rules, if not followed at the art fair.**

## ENTRY

- **Submit at least 5 photos: 3 photos of EACH MEDIUM of art work, 1 photo displaying artwork in production stage and 1 photo of booth with artwork displayed.**
- Applications will be considered incomplete if missing any of the required photos (see above) or required info.
- photos may be submitted via email to [cityhall@sterlingheights.gov](mailto:cityhall@sterlingheights.gov).
- Artist's name, address and art work description must be included with photos.
- **Digital photos must represent the type of ALL items actually being sold and must be submitted for jurying.**
- Include a resume and list of shows exhibited for the past five years.
- Deposit of your jury fee, and booth or corner booth fees does **not** constitute acceptance in the show.
- If not accepted, the booth (and corner booth) fees will be returned by Friday, May 22, 2026.
- A 2.8% PROCESSING FEE WILL BE ADDED TO ALL CHARGE TRANSACTIONS.
- **No cancellation refunds made after Friday, May 22, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- **Incomplete applications will be returned and will not be accepted.**

## ENTRY PROCEDURES

- Non-refundable Application Fee: \$20.  
(check or credit card)  
Make checks payable to:  
Treasurer, City of Sterling Heights
- **Booth Fee:** (check or credit card)  
**\$260** per [single booth space](#)  
**\$440** per double booth space  
[Corner Booth add \\$38](#)  
**\$365** for face painter space near Carnival and Kidz Tent

## COMMISSION/TAX

- Artist is responsible for Michigan state sales tax.
- NO COMMISSION.

## DISPLAY

- All booths and their contents (i.e. tables, shelves, tents, etc.) must be furnished by the artist, be able to withstand crowds and weather, and fit within the 12' x 12' booth space.
- **Clean, white, flame-retardant tents ONLY. Per International and Sterling Heights Fire Code (Sec. 2404): Tents/fabric cover shall have a permanently affixed label bearing a fire safe label. If not attached, owner must provide certification that the fabric has been treated with flame-retardant solution, etc. Certification must be retained on the premises at all times.**
- **Only battery powered generators are permitted within the artist booth area. If you require electricity to sell your product, please note it on your application. Spaces near an outlet will be assigned as they are received, based on availability. Artists must supply electrical cords.**
- Street/park settings sometime offer uneven ground and various types of ground covering.
- Artist/crafter will be notified what ground surface they will be stationed on by Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

## AWARDS

Sterling Heights Art Commissioners will review all vendor booths on Friday, July 24 to select their choice for two honors:

- **COMMISSIONERS' CHOICE:**  
Certificate and automatic entry in 2027 Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair. [Entry Fee waived for 2026 show.](#)
- **HONORABLE MENTION:**  
Certificate and automatic entry in the 2027 Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair. [Entry Fee 50% off for 2026 show.](#)

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Live jazz & blues and other performance artists.
- "KidzFest" and Family Midway.
- Sterlingfest Suds 'n' Sounds pavilion area with food trucks and continuous family entertainment.
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening concerts.
- Drone Show following Thursday concerts.

## ARTIST BOOTHS MUST REMAIN OPEN FOR THE DURATION OF THE FAIR, RAIN OR SHINE

- **Artist must be set up and ready to sell from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.,** Thursday, Friday and Saturday (optional close at 9 p.m.)
- **Artists leaving the show prior to the end of the show will be barred from exhibition in future fairs.**

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

### FESTIVAL LAYOUT UPDATE FOR 2026:

- The Midway Carnival and the Arts and Crafts area will be swapping locations for 2026. With this change, the Art Fair, food trucks, snack vendors and live music will all be located in the heart of Dodge Park, creating a more cohesive and walkable festival experience.
- In past years, Restaurant Row was located between the Midway Carnival and the Suds 'n' Sounds Stage. This year, Restaurant Row will be replaced entirely by food trucks. All food truck vendors will be centrally located in this area, creating a more vibrant and accessible dining experience for festival attendees.
- Additional details, including an updated festival map, will be provided at a later date.

# Application

**DEADLINE: Monday, March 23, 2026**

Please Print Clearly or Type:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Artist/Crafter Information Statement: (Please provide a brief statement that will enhance the jury's understanding of your work.)

## MEDIUM

Please check the appropriate category for your work:

- |  |  |                                      |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting/Drawing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiber Wearable    | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/Printmaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pottery                 | _____                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food              | <input type="checkbox"/> Skincare                |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass             | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Media             |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture/Metal         |                                      |

## CHECKLIST

- ☐ MINIMUM of five photos emailed to: cityhall@sterlingheights.gov
- ☐ \$20 Application fee (non-refundable)
- ☐ \$260 Booth Fee (single space=12'x12')
- ☐ \$440 Double Booth Fee (double space=24'x12')
- ☐ ADD \$38 Corner Booth Fee, separate check. (If corner is not available and request is denied, \$38 corner fee will be returned)
- ☐ \$365 Face Painter Space near Carnival and Kidz Tent
- ☐ Number of 12' x 12' spaces requested \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Include a resume and list of shows exhibited

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ SEPARATE CHECKS ENCLOSED

(Payable to Treasurer, City of Sterling Heights)

A 2.8% PROCESSING FEE WILL BE ADDED TO ALL CHARGE CARD AMOUNTS.

- ☐ PLEASE BILL MY CREDIT CARD

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVV #: \_\_\_\_\_

**I HAVE THE FOLLOWING NEED OR REQUEST: Although not guaranteed, the commission will make its best effort to fulfill all reasonable requests.** \_\_\_\_\_

## AGREEMENT TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS HARMLESS FROM LIABILITY

In consideration of and as a condition of approval to participate in the 2026 Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair, vendor agrees as follows:

- A. Vendor agrees to release from liability and not to sue the City of Sterling Heights, its elected and appointed officials, employees, agents, and volunteers for any losses, costs, expenses (including attorneys' fees), damages, liabilities, or claims arising out of injuries to persons or property during Sterlingfest, except for damages caused by or resulting from the city's sole negligence.
- B. Vendor agrees to the fullest extent permitted by law to indemnify and hold the city of Sterling Heights, its elected and appointed officials, employees, agents, and volunteers harmless against any losses, costs, expenses (including attorneys' fees), damages, liabilities, or claims whether groundless or not, arising out of bodily injury, sickness or disease, including death resulting at any time there from, which may be sustained or claimed by any person or persons, or damages to any property, (including the loss of use thereof) based on any act or omission, negligent or otherwise, of vendor or anyone else acting on its behalf, relating to any activity associated with Sterlingfest, except that vendor shall not be responsible for indemnification to the city for damages caused by or resulting from the city's sole negligence; and vendor shall at its own cost and expense, defend any such claim and any suit, action or proceeding which may be commenced hereunder and vendor shall pay any and all judgments which may be recovered in any suit, action or proceeding and any and all expenses, including but not limited to costs, attorneys' fees and settlement expenses as they relate in any way to any activity associated with Sterlingfest.

**By signing this agreement, I agree to all guidelines outlined above.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPLETE APPLICATION

(POSTMARK) BY: **MONDAY, March 23, 2026**

MAIL TO: Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair  
40555 Utica Road  
PO Box 8009  
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-8009  
OR email to: cityhall@sterlingheights.gov