



Blacksburg Farmers Market Application Procedures:

1. Answer all questions on the application form.
2. **1st time applicants only:** include \$35 application fee + a one-time non-refundable space reservation fee of \$35 payable to ***Friends of the Farmers Market***
3. Attach copies of all applicable licenses and documents (refer to 2020 Vendor Regulations)
4. Mail printed, completed and signed form, with attachments, **no later than December 15, 2022** to:

**Deborah Edwards, Market Director
Friends of the Farmers Market
PO Box 568
Blacksburg, VA 24063**

If you prefer, you can drop off your completed application form to the Market Office which is located adjacent to the Blacksburg Farmers Market, beside Champs Café. Please call or email ahead of time to ensure that someone is in the office to accept your application.

If you have any questions about completing this form, please contact us at Director@blacksburgfarmersmarket.org or 540.239.8290



2023 Blacksburg Farmers Market Vendor/Craft Application

- All returning vendors are required to submit an application annually.
- First-time vendors are encouraged to review the *2023 Vendor Regulations* to determine their eligibility to be a vendor at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.
- Please return this form no later than December 15, 2022.
- **PLEASE ANSWER ALL APPLICABLE QUESTIONS THOROUGHLY**

APPLICANT NAME: _____

FARM/BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please list any other addresses where you plan to grow or produce goods to be sold at the Market:

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____ OTHER _____

EMAIL: _____ WEBSITE: _____

NOTE: Important information is regularly communicated to vendors using email. If you require an alternate form of communication, please state your preference:

VEHICLE TYPE: _____ LICENSE: _____

VIRGINIA SALES TAX #: _____

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We require copies of any of the following licenses or permits if applicable to the products you plan to sell. Please indicate whether they are attached or pending. No vendor will be allowed to participate at the Market until copies of all required documents have been received.

	pending	attached
USDA Certified Organic Certificate		
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) kitchen certification		
VDACS Value-added food certification (eg. Low-Acid Prepared Foods, Ice Cream)		
Virginia Nursery Permit		
VDH Tempory Event Permit (Prepared food)		

If you intend to sell meat, please give the following information for the USDA meat processing facility that you use:

Business name _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

Have you been a vendor at the Blacksburg Farmers Market previously? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, for how many years? _____ Last year that you sold at the Market _____

Do you require electrical hook-up? Yes ___ No _____

If yes, please indicate the type of appliance (eg. cash register, freezer) and the wattage of each:

If you plan to prepare food at the Market, will you be using an open flame? Yes ___ No _____

What does sustainable and regenerative agriculture/food systems mean to you?

Image Requirements:

- a. Please submit at least 5 printed color images of your work. Include additional photos of your tools and work area. If you do festivals, please include a booth shot.

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Please indicate which days of the week and months of the year that you plan to attend:

MONTH	WEDNESDAYS	SATURDAYS
January 2023	XXXXXXXXXX	
February 2023	XXXXXXXXXX	
March 2023	XXXXXXXXXX	
April 2023		
May 2023		
June 2023		
July 2023		
August 2023		
September 2023		
October 2023		
November 2023		
December 2023		

Space Designation and Fees

Monthly space reservation fees for the period of April through December vary according to location at the Market: Prepayment fees are due with application submittal for all pre-payment options. See Vendor Regulations for additional information.

Structure space (monthly)	3-month discount (20%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount (30%)
\$45	\$112 (\$36/mo.)	\$189 (\$31.50/ mo.)	\$283.50 (\$31.50/ mo.)
Cobblestones (monthly)	3-month discount (25%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount
\$22.50	\$54 (\$18/mo.)	\$94.5 (\$15.75/mo.)	\$141.75 (\$15.75/mo.)
1.5 Structure Minimum 3-month commitment *Sales based*	3-month discount (25%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount
N/A	\$168.75 (\$56.25/mo.)	\$315 (\$52.50/mo.)	\$472.50 (\$52.50/mo.)

- Space fees for January through March are \$5 per market day not to exceed \$20 a month payable with the previous months 4%

Section 9. a) of the 2023 Vendor Regulations states:

All market spaces are assigned. The Vendor Review Committee utilizes a points scale to assign spaces at the Market. The scale aggregates vendor sales for the previous year divided by dates attended the previous year. The highest overall averages (4% by market) get priority for stall assignments. The market only utilizes attendance data from Saturday markets but uses total sales data. This way,

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higher attendance does not dilute the vendors' score but incentivizes Wednesday attendance by including overall sales. Additional factors such as planned attendance for the current year, physical ability, "Vendor Rep" status and "Committees Served" will be applied during the assignment process. Above all else, vendors will be assigned spaces contingent upon the listed attributes and an arrangement that is beneficial to the general success of the market based upon the Vendor Review Committee's declaration.

Please refer to the attached Vendor Stall Layout Diagram and indicate your first three preferred stall location choices. Note that stalls beginning with the letter 'S' are under the structure; stalls S10/11 and S12/13 are 1½ stalls; stalls beginning with the letter 'C' are on the cobblestones.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

This year we will be featuring on-site cooking demonstrations during market hours. Vendors will be invited to contribute cooking ingredients from their farms or businesses in exchange for marketing opportunities at cooking events. Are you interested in participating by donating goods for these events as needed? Yes _____ No _____

For on-site cooking vendors: Booth must contain a fire extinguisher; propane must be secured to prevent it from falling over; and cooktops must be on a metal table.

The Blacksburg Farmers Market, which is operated by The Friends of the Farmers Market, is located at Market Square Park, which is owned and operated by the Town of Blacksburg. All vendors are required to sign the following waiver:



WAIVER: I (we) hereby relieve the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia, its agents and employees, from any and all liability for any damage, loss, injury, or costs associated with or arising from the Applicant's use and presence at the Blacksburg Farmers Market; and furthermore, I (we) agree to indemnify and hold the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia, harmless from all claims, costs, and actions occasioned by me (us) for the use and presence at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

I (we) hereby relieve the Friends of the Farmers Market Inc., its agents and employees, from any and all liability for any damage, loss, injury, or costs associated with or arising from the Applicant's use and presence at the Blacksburg Farmers Market; and furthermore, I (we) agree to indemnify and hold the Friends of the Farmers Market Inc., harmless from all claims, costs, and actions occasioned by me (us) for the use and presence at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

Applicant Name _____ Date _____

Applicant Name _____ Date _____



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PLEASE COMPLETE AND ATTACH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS IF APPLICABLE:

- **All applicants: Code of Conduct**
- **All Growers: Harvest Schedule**
- **Vendors of plants, value-added products and crafts: Product List, Craft Application**
- **Prepared Food Vendors: ServSafe Food Handlers Certification, Product List, and VDH**

See Below for Craft Application



If applicable, please submit this document along with your completed Vendor Application

1. Media Designation: Please select the media designation for your craft.

- A. Clay Leather Mixed Media
- B. Wood Fiber Man made Materials
- C. Glass Metal Natural Materials
- D. Jewelry Paper Other: _____

Please answer the following questions. If necessary, you may attach additional pages.

2. Describe your work using the following guidelines:

a. Give a general description of your work in 300 words or less.

3. Describe your process using the following guidelines:

- a. Describe the techniques, processes, and materials you use in the production of your craft.
- b. Include parts of the process that may involve integrated technology like a 3D printer or CAD/CAM programs.

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4. Describe any outside components using the following guidelines:

- a. List the components used in your work that are NOT produced by you, such as lamp parts, findings, basket reed, buttons, or hinges. Note: No less than 75% of your work must be produced by you.
- b. Please include services you contract out like washing, sewing or casting.

5. Other details:

- a. Is there anything you would like the review panel to know about your work that was not included in this questionnaire?

6. Image Requirements:

- a. Please submit at least 5 printed color images of your work. Include additional photos of your tools and work area. If you do festivals, please include a booth shot

See Below for Vendor Regulations and Code of Conduct

Blacksburg Farmers Market 2023 Vendor Regulations

1. Introduction

- a) The Blacksburg Farmers Market is a small, thriving, Producer Only market located in the heart of downtown Blacksburg, Virginia.
- b) Although the vendors at the market operate their own individual booths and businesses, it is the cooperative effort of all vendors at the market that makes the market function smoothly and successfully for all involved.

2. Management

- a) The governing body of the Blacksburg Farmers Market is the Friends of the Farmers Market, Inc. The Friends of the Farmers Market is ultimately responsible for the operation of the Market. Friends of the Farmers Market is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support to the Blacksburg Farmers Market and local community through management, development, educational programs about benefits of locally grown food and sustainable agriculture, as well as special events that enhance the market's role as a community gathering place within the region.
- b) The Friends of the Farmers Market, Inc. employs a Market Director to handle the operations of the farmers market. The Market Director is the enforcer of these rules, regulations, and procedures. The Market Director may call upon the assistance of vendors, Friends board members, and outside experts to carry out the management responsibilities. The Market Director works to support the mission and goals of the organization.

3. Hours of Operation and Attendance

- a) The regular hours of operation for the Blacksburg Farmers market are:

January 1 through March 31	Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM
April 1 through November 30	Wednesdays 2 PM to 6 PM and Saturdays 8 AM to 2 PM
November 1 through December 31	Saturdays 9 AM to 2 PM

- b) Vendors shall be set up and ready to sell at the market's designated opening time. All vendors are required to be present in their assigned space no later than 15 minutes prior to opening time to avoid the following late penalties:

- First offense – the vendor will receive a warning from the market manager.
- Second and successive offenses – the vendor will be required to pay a \$10 fine in advance of setting up his or her stand.
- For each late arrival, the vendor will not be counted present in the attendance roster taken by the market manager

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Valid emergencies resulting in lateness will be excused at the manager's discretion. Courtesy calls to the manager informing him or her of expected late arrival will not normally excuse the vendor from penalty.

c) If a vendor expects to not attend the market, he or she must inform the Director 48 hours prior to that market day. Repeated failure to notify the Market Director of attendance will result in a \$50 fine and or suspension from the Farmers Market.

d) All vendors should be packed up and their selling area cleaned within an hour of market closing time. Vendors are responsible for packing out all boxes and trash - All public litter containers in the Market area are for reasonable use by vendors and customers. Excessive or improper use by the vendors is not permitted.

4. Vendor Staffing

a) The vendor is encouraged to have their booth staffed by a mature person who is knowledgeable of what is being sold and how it is grown, raised, or made. This is a good business practice and reflects positively on the market and its educational mission. The booth shall be staffed by an immediate family member or an employee (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia - <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/irs-20-factors-and-exemptions>) Exceptions to (this rule) may be granted by the manager on a case-by-case basis. Examples of acceptable exceptions are illness, family emergency, family vacation, etc.

5. Vendor Applications

a) The market calendar year begins on April 1. Applications for the market will be available after February 15. Applications are due to the manager by December 15th to allow for processing of applications and assignment of spaces. Applications submitted after the December 15th will not be accepted. Applications for fall and winter are again accepted September 1 to begin vending in October.

b) Each applicant must submit a copy of his or her sales tax license and other applicable legal documents including organic certification, kitchen inspection, and meat processing paperwork. Produce vendors must submit a list of anticipated crops. Craft vendors must submit photos or samples of their work. **Vendors requiring electricity must list all appliances to be used and the wattage of each.** Due to limited wattage, vendors are urged to utilize gas as a means of preparing food.

c) All vendors will produce their goods for sale within a fifty-mile radius of the corner of Draper Road and Roanoke Street in Blacksburg. The radius may be expanded at the discretion of the Market Director to ensure product variety and availability on a case-by-case basis.

d) Each application is reviewed by the Applications Review Committee. The Applications Review Committee consists of the Market Director and the vendor representatives who serve on the Friends of the Farmers Market Board of Directors. This group is responsible for selecting vendors from the pool of applicants, assigning spaces at the market, and considering special exceptions.

6. Vendor Fees

a) First time applicants will pay a non-refundable \$35 application fee upon submission of their application. Upon acceptance, new vendors will submit a non-refundable fee of \$35 to reserve their space. These one-time fees are in addition to the fee schedule listed below.

b) Stall fees will be charged as follows April-December: Attendance is not required to be consecutive. Payment for your selected period is due in full at the time of application submission.

Structure space (monthly)	3-month discount (20%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount (30%)
\$45	\$112 (\$36/mo.)	\$189 (\$31.50/ mo.)	\$283.50 (\$31.50/ mo.)
Cobblestones (monthly)	3-month discount (25%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount
\$22.50	\$54 (\$18/mo.)	\$94.5 (\$15.75/mo.)	\$141.75 (\$15.75/mo.)
1.5 Structure Minimum 3-month commitment *Sales based*	3-month discount (25%)	6-month discount (30%)	9-month discount
N/A	\$168.75 (\$56.25/mo.)	\$315 (\$52.50/mo.)	\$472.50 (\$52.50/mo.)

- Space fees for January through March are \$5 per market day up to a maximum of \$20 a month.

c) There is a market sales assessment of 4% of gross market sales payable monthly. CSA and herd share pick-ups at the market are subject to inclusion of the monthly 4% fee. **The fee is due by the 7th day of the following month. Failure to pay the fee by the 20th will result in a \$20 fine.** Non-payment of this fee past the end of the month will result in the vendor’s suspension from market, i.e. the vendor will not be able to sell at Market until fees are paid in full. If fees and accrued fines aren’t paid past 60 days, the vendor will be suspended from Market and must re-apply at the next application period, either March 1 or September 1. The Blacksburg Farmers Market has a \$3,000 fee cap on vendor fees. Once a vendor has reached the \$3,000 limit, they are no longer required to pay their 4% fee for the remainder of the calendar year. Vendors reaching this cap are still required to report their sales for data collection purposes.

d) Space reservation fees are to be paid at the same time as the previous month’s 4% (i.e.: June’s space reservation fee will be paid by June 7th, along with May’s 4%). During the months of January – March the space reservation fee may be paid the following month (i.e. – January’s space fee may be paid by February 7, along with January’s 4%).

7. Vendor Meetings

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a) Any vendor who has been in good standing for the previous three months is a member of the vendor committee and entitled to vote at vendor meetings.

b) Vendor meetings shall be held quarterly **at a minimum** with additional gatherings scheduled on an as needed basis. All vendors with issues to be discussed at the meeting shall bring this information to the attention of the vendor chair or market director in advance of the meeting when possible. A reminder and call for discussion topics will be sent out via email earlier in the week. If a vote will be held, notice will be given in advance.

8. Permits and Tax

a) Vendors must be able to produce any licenses, certifications, and permits required by law for all products.

b) **The collection and filing of all related taxes is the responsibility of the individual vendor.** Vendors are exempt from Town of Blacksburg business license fees or itinerant vendor fees.

9. Assignment of Vendor Spaces

a) All market spaces are assigned. The Vendor Review Committee utilizes a points scale to assign spaces at the Market. The scale aggregates vendor sales divided by dates attended. The highest overall averages (4% by market) get priority for stall assignments. The market only utilizes attendance data from Saturday markets but uses total sales data. This way, higher attendance does not dilute the vendors' score but incentivizes Wednesday attendance by including overall sales. Additional factors such as planned attendance for the current year, physical ability, "Vendor Rep" status and "Committees Served" will be applied during the assignment process. **Above all else, vendors will be assigned spaces contingent upon the listed attributes and an arrangement that is beneficial to the general success of the market based upon the Vendor Review Committee's declaration.**

b) A space under the market structure is defined by the parking space that is adjacent to the selling space. Any selling space that is not under the structure is defined as an area having ten feet of frontage in the Cobblestone area behind the structure. All vendors who are assigned stalls under the market structure will be limited to 1 stall under the structure and an optional second stall on the cobblestones. There are currently two 1.5 stalls that are available to current vendors with adequate points related to the scale mentioned above. Those who have stalls that are not under the structure will be given the option of renting 2-3 stalls.

c) In order that customers have optimum opportunities to park close to the Market, no vendor shall park in the metered spots along Roanoke or Draper on both sides of the street during market hours. Vendors shall refrain from parking in the National Bank of Blacksburg parking lot as it is reserved for customers. Vendors are responsible to find their own parking spaces and should consult with the Market Director for suggestions regarding the most convenient options near the Market. If a vendor has a health concern or limited mobility issue, please contact a Vendor Representative or the Market Director for assistance.

d) No vendor parking will be allowed on the cobblestones during Saturday markets. If all vendors can be supported by the space under the structure, parking may be permitted at the discretion of the Market Director. Parking will be permitted during Wednesday markets unless the number of vendors exceeds the capacity of the structure.

e) All products, displays, tables, equipment, and signage must be restricted to the space assigned to each vendor by the Market Director. If deemed appropriate by the Market Director a single sign may be placed in front of the stand if it does not restrict the walkway in front of vendors. **Park benches and the grass area must be left clear for the use of market visitors unless approved by the Market Director.**

10. Competition at the Market

The Blacksburg Farmers Market believes that competition is important for the overall health and sustainability of the Market. The Blacksburg Farmers Market urges vendors to be creative and unique. The Market will strive to ensure that no product category becomes over saturated.

11. Products to be sold at the Market

a) There are three (3) categories of product that can be sold at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

1. **PRODUCER:** A farmer, rancher and grower who owns or leases the land the product is produced on; and participates in the production, sales and marketing of the farm products. The re-sale of agricultural products by farmers, ranchers and growers is not permitted. Agricultural products such as flowers, plants, bedding plants, trees, fruits, vegetables, honey, eggs, and milk must be from a farmer's or grower's own fields, greenhouses, hives, flock, and/or herd. A producer includes the immediate family of the vendor and the vendor's employees.
- i) Animal Products shall include meat, cheese, honey, and eggs. Vendors of these products must obtain all certifications and inspections required by federal, state, or local laws and regulations. Proof of current certification must be submitted each year with the vendor application.
- ii) Meat vendors are required to raise their products on a farm within the 50-mile market radius. All animals must spend at least half of their lives on the vendor's farm before being processed and sold at the market.
- iii) Orchard Leases: Orchard leases will only be permissible if the lease agreement is presented with the application package. Lease agreement must contain the size of the orchard plot, the agreed upon payment and schedule, lease duration, varieties grown, and a detailed account of how the lessee plans to tend and harvest the fruit. Receipts must be presented upon request and the Producer Only Committee will verify that the land is being worked by the lessee. Lease agreement shall be in this format:

- <https://landforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/Sample-Short-Term-Lease.pdf>

1. **VALUE ADDED:** these are sauces, relishes, beverages, wreaths, crafts, jams, jellies, prepared food etc. Whenever possible, ingredients must be grown by the vendor, sourced from other vendors at the market, or sourced locally. The "added-value" process must be clearly defined

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Example: Jam made from peaches sourced from a local farm is acceptable, Jam bought from a local farm is not. Applications received under this category will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Vendor Review Committee. All prepared food vendors will be required to take the “Food Handlers Safety” course. Certificate of Completion to be submitted with the application.

2. **SPECIALTY:** other agricultural product(s), which are not currently available at the market and/or in the local region but have been deemed important to the Blacksburg Farmers Market will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exotic, out-of-region products such as coffee, tea, chocolate, grains, and oils fall under this category. Applications received under this category will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Vendor Review Committee.

b) No vendor will knowingly offer for sale any product derived from genetically modified organisms or genetically engineered organisms. A genetically modified organism (GMO) or genetically engineered organism (GEO) is an organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques are generally known as recombinant DNA technology. With this technology, DNA molecules from different sources are combined into one molecule to create a new set of genes. This DNA is then transferred into an organism, giving it modified or novel genes.

c) All home-prepared consumable products must be covered and labeled with the product name, date of preparation, net weight (if applicable), all ingredients in descending order, and the name and address of the preparer. Exempt items must follow the labeling requirements listed in section “h” below.

d) Price tags will be distributed by the Market Director as needed and should be used to clearly identify the product.

Color coded price cards are as follows:

- Bright green – for organic products. Vendors selling products labeled as “organic” must provide a Certificate of Organic Production in accordance with the National Organic Policy (NOP). All certified organic products must be labeled in accordance with the NOP. It is the responsibility of the vendor to know and comply with these regulations.
- White – products made, grown, or raised by the vendor
- Vendors set their own prices and are responsible for accurately representing their products. All scales or weighing devices must have a current and valid certification sticker signed by the Virginia Department of Weights and Measures. Vendors must make appropriate adjustments of any customer’s responsible claim of unsatisfactory quality or condition.

e) All vendors will be subject to inspection to ensure that the items listed on the products list are grown, raised, or produced by the vendor, and that the quantity brought to the market matches the site inspected. **New Vendors providing certain products will be subject to a site inspection prior to**

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application acceptance. The Market Director may be accompanied on the inspection by vendors, non-vendor board members and/or an outside consultant.

The Blacksburg Farmers Market requires kitchen (home or on site) certification by VDACS. Proof of current certification must be submitted each year with the vendor application. All recipes must be submitted and approved by VDACS prior to being sold at the Market. The Blacksburg Farmers Market follows all regulations set forth by § 3.2-5130 of the Code of Virginia. For more information please see: <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/kitchenbillfaq.pdf>.

- f) Any vendor who plans to sell home-canned acidified foods, such as pickles and tomato-based sauces, must do one of the following:
- send a sample of each recipe to a certified lab, and then send the results to the VDACS inspector who will approve or disapprove the product
- OR
- If applicable, see if your products qualify for the VDACS exemption as outlined below.
 - Allowable foods under the exemption are: Pickles and other acidified vegetables processed in a private home so that an equilibrium pH of 4.6 or lower is achieved. Acidified vegetable products include pickled products, salsa, chow-chow, relishes and similar vegetables that are processed in a private home to achieve an equilibrium pH of 4.6 or lower.
- g) Candies, jams and jellies not considered to be low-acid or acidified low acid products and baked goods that do not require time or temperature control for safety and are produced in a private home. Dried fruits, dry herbs, dry seasonings, dry mixtures, coated and uncoated nuts, vinegars and flavored vinegars, popcorn, popcorn balls, dried pasta, dry baking mixes, roasted coffee, dried tea, cereals, trail mixes and granola.
- h) Labeling requirements for exempt products are as follows: Product containers should have a label displaying the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person preparing the food product and the date the food product was processed. The statement “NOT FOR RESALE – PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION” must be placed on the principal display panel. In addition, this exemption does not preclude the need for standard labeling information on the product label (name of product, name and address of the manufacturer, distributor, or packer, net weight statement, an ingredient statement and possibly nutritional information if applicable).
- i) Vendors who are preparing these foods are also strongly encouraged to conduct regular PH testing and to attend a Better Process Control School course to ensure food safety.
- j) A limited number of market spaces will be allotted strictly for craft vendors. Craft vendors will be limited to 15% of total vendors, except during winter market when left to the discretion of

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the Applications Review Committee. Crafts add diversity to market offerings. Craft selection is prioritized based upon the use of locally sourced materials. Produce, Value-Added, & Specialty vendors may include craft items at their stand should those items be made by the vendor from local materials and given approval from Market Management.

- k) An agreement is allowed between two **existing** market vendors to share one market space, provided that:
- Each vendor pays a complete stall rental fee for a minimum of three months
 - Each vendor pays a separate monthly sales assessment of 4%

A Letter of Agreement between the two vendors with terms is presented to the Applications Review Committee for approval at the beginning of each market season. An allowable representative for each vendor partner must be actively involved in selling at the market for a reasonable number of days during each market season, the terms of which will be outlined in the Letter of Agreement between the two vendors and subject to the approval of the Market Director.

12. Penalties for Illegal Resale

- a) It is the vendor's responsibility to prove to the Market Director that any questionable item was indeed grown, raised, or produced by the vendor within a 50-mile radius of the market. If this cannot be proven, the following steps will ensue:
- b) At the first offense, a \$250 fine will be paid by the offending vendor, who will not be allowed to return until the fine is paid in full. The questionable product must be removed immediately.
At the second offense the vendor will be permanently expelled from the market.
These offenses will be cumulative and will be carried over year to year.
- c) If the accused vendor wishes to appeal the decision, they must submit an appeal request in writing to the Market Director. A committee comprised of 3 vendor board members and 3 non-vendor board members, plus the Market Director will hear the appeal. The appeal hearing, and decision will take place within two weeks of receipt of the request letter. The decision of a majority of the members of the appeal committee will be binding. This process will remain in place when the Market shifts to producer only.

13. Samples at the Market

- a) Offering samples of vendor products is a powerful selling tool. All samples are to be confined to with the vendors allotted market space. Roving samples are not permitted.

14. Disputes

All vendors and their representatives will agree to follow the "Blacksburg Farmers Market Code of Conduct." Violations, as outlined in the Code, by any vendor or their representative are under the discretion of the Market Director to address. The form follows

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The Market Director cannot effectively act on hearsay, anonymous, vague or untimely complaints about the conduct of others. Vendors will follow the procedures outlined on the Grievance Form to make a complaint or raise a concern. A written Grievance form with the inappropriate actions by a vendor or the vendor's representative must be submitted in writing to the Market Director within 14 days of the incident.

15. Sanitation and Safety

a) All public litter containers in the Market area are for reasonable use by vendors and customers. Excessive or improper use by the vendors is not permitted. The use of chewing tobacco, snuff products, alcohol or illegal substances are not permitted at the Market. Any unsafe or unsanitary conditions should be brought to the immediate attention of the Market Director.

b) All Prepared Food Vendors are to follow the guidelines set forth by the Virginia Department of Health and will be required to satisfactorily complete the ServSafe Food Handler online training course and present a certificate of completion before vending at the market.

c) Behavior by vendors judged to be disruptive or detrimental to the peaceful operation of the Market will not be allowed. The Market Management reserves the right to ask a vendor to leave at any time.

d) Neither Friends of the Farmers Market, Inc. and its representatives nor the Town of Blacksburg and its representatives are responsible for damage or loss of any personal belongings.

16. Music at the Market

Beets-4-Beats

What it is: Beets-for-beats is a barter system to recruit local musicians to play at the farmers market in exchange for produce. Currently our music budget only pays for bands at special events and mingles. In order to have music on other dates, without increasing our fees or asking musicians to play for free, vendors donate vouchers for produce that musicians can redeem as payment.

Why? Having regular music adds to the vibrant community atmosphere of our market park. Advertising music attracts more customers to the market. We are fortunate to live in an area full of talented local musicians, and our Market Square Park is now part of Virginia's Crooked Road Heritage Music trail. And, it is awesome to see some of our regular customers play music!

How it works for Vendors: Coupon donations are voluntary. Suggested donations are \$5 per coupon. Vendors are encouraged to donate extra produce or small items that you have in abundance. Vendors who sell larger items can donate discount coupons; this way you can support the program and still make a sale. The Market will reimburse vendors up to \$25/year for donated coupons. Coupons collected can be turned in with the vendors token envelope on a weekly basis.

Only vendors who are present at the market to enjoy the music will be asked to donate coupons.

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Vendors can choose to have a regular automatic coupon renewal, or to donate on a market-to-market basis.

Please keep in mind that some musicians don't use their coupons the same day that they play but hang on to them until later. Coupons donated are good for 1 month. If you donate an item that has an expiration date, please note this on your coupon.

See Below for Code of Conduct

Blacksburg Farmers Market Code of Conduct

The Friends of the Farmers Market, Inc. strives to provide a supportive environment for both vendors and customers of the Blacksburg Farmers Market. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to help ensure the safety and well-being of all participants.

As a Blacksburg Farmers Market vendor and/or the vendor’s representative, I will:

1. Respect and adhere to all rules established by the Blacksburg Farmers Market including (but not limited to) all clauses of the Vendor Regulations.
2. Demonstrate the highest standards of personal behavior and integrity, treating everyone with courtesy and respect and serving as a positive role model.
3. Abstain from physical or verbal abuse and not tolerate it from others.
4. Operate vehicles and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner.
5. Abstain from criminal activity.
6. Comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws.
7. Under no circumstance, attend or participate in the Blacksburg Farmers Market while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
8. Under no circumstance possess, sell or consume alcohol or controlled substances at the Blacksburg Farmers Market except at a market-sponsored event (e.g. Mingle at the Market). Drinking must be in moderation and the drink must be consumed discreetly.

Any behavior or conduct in violation of these standards, or which is otherwise considered in the exclusive opinion of the Market Director to be disruptive and detrimental to the peaceful operations of the Market, shall be grounds to allow the Market Director to require a vendor and any employees, agents, or guests to leave the Market immediately. Failure to comply with any component of the Code of Conduct or participation in other inappropriate conduct as determined by the Market Director may lead to dismissal as a vendor at the Blacksburg Farmers Market.

Vendors shall be responsible for all damages resulting from their failure to comply with these standards of conduct and/or failure to comply with the instruction of the Market Director.

Vendor agrees to pay reasonable costs of enforcement of the Code of Conduct, including but not limited to attorney’s fees and court costs, in the event such action is required by the Friends of the Farmers Market, Inc. and/or the Market Director as its agent.

Code of Conduct continued on next page

Blacksburg Farmers Market Vendor Application 2023

All vendors or representatives of vendors who will attend the market must sign a separate Code of Conduct.

I have read the Blacksburg Farmers Market Code of Conduct and agree to comply with it:

Printed Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

See Below for Enforcing the Code of Conduct/Vendor Regulations

Friends of the Farmers Market

Enforcing the Blacksburg Farmers Market Code of Conduct/Vendor Regulations

Each vendor and any representatives of the vendor who will attend the market must sign a Code of Conduct form at the beginning of every market season as a condition of selling at the market. A copy of the signed form is kept on file with the Market Director and a copy shall be provided to the vendor. The goal of the Blacksburg Farmers Market Code of Conduct is to help ensure that involvement in the Blacksburg Farmers Market is a positive, satisfying, and safe experience.

The Market Director cannot effectively act on hearsay, anonymous, vague or untimely complaints about the conduct of others. **A written Grievance form with the inappropriate actions by a vendor or the vendor's representative must be submitted in writing to the Market Director within 14 days of the incident. The report must identify the section of the Code of Conduct and/or Vendor Regulations that was violated and provide specific details about the alleged violator's actions. The complainant(s) must sign the form.**

Upon receipt of the complete Code of Conduct complaint, the Market Director will, within 20 days, investigate the allegations. This may include meetings with the complainant(s) and/or the alleged violators, or seeking the aid of third-party experts, as needed. The purpose of these meetings would be to clarify policies, determine whether, and to what degree, there was a violation and determine what disciplinary action, if any, is appropriate. The Market Director may ask the complainant(s) and alleged violator(s) to attend a joint meeting if s/he determines this would be useful in resolving the situation.

The Market Director, as a result of a Code of Conduct violation, may enforce any or all of the following disciplinary consequences:

- a. Writing a letter of apology to the injured party(ies).
- b. Repair of or restitution for property damage.
- c. Probation for a specified period with the understanding that another violation will lead to more serious disciplinary action.
- d. Suspension from the Market for a period.
- e. Reassignment to a different space in the market.
- f. Permanent exclusion from the Blacksburg Farmers Market.
- g. Referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency or other authority.

Within three weeks of a complaint being made, a memorandum summarizing the nature of the complaint, the names of those who investigated the case, the findings of the investigation and any subsequent disciplinary actions will be placed in the Blacksburg Farmers Market files. Copies will be given to the appropriate parties involved, including the complainant and the alleged violator, but no parties who are not directly involved with the violation.

Continued on next page

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If the situation cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the parties involved, an appeal may be made to the Appeals Committee by submitting the same grievance form originally submitted but marked "Appeal". The Appeals Committee will include three vendor board members and three non-vendor board members. The Appeals Committee will meet to address the appeal request within two weeks of receiving the request for review and its resolution shall be binding for all parties involved.

- **Temporary Event Permit Application.**