



Ottawa Farmers' Market (OFM) Busker Policy

The Ottawa Farmers' Market Association strives to make the highest quality Ottawa products available to our customers. We expect buskers to offer the same high level of quality when they participate at the OFM. This policy applies to musicians and other performers (e.g., balloon artists, face painters, henna artists, etc.).

A Busker is a person that provides music or other entertainment to customers at the market on a casual basis, as pre-booked with the Market staff.

The OFM requires all potential Buskers/Entertainers to audition before entrance into the Market. This can be achieved through on-site auditions or links to performances on line. If no samples are provided in the online application, the market co-ordinator will reach out to arrange the on-site addition.

The OFM reserves the right to refuse any Busker/Entertainer to participate in the Market.

Busker Rules:

- All Buskers are responsible for adhering to all Federal, Provincial and City regulations, laws, and guidelines.
- Buskers will treat all customers, OFM vendors, staff, volunteers, and other buskers with courtesy and the utmost respect
- Profanity is not permitted.
- Amplification of instruments or voices is allowed only at the discretion of the market manager. Amplification needs to be kept to a minimum to not impeded on the business transaction of neighbouring vendors. .
- Buskers must be courteous to adjacent vendors and the performance must not impede market traffic flow.
- Buskers can collect tips. Performers cannot ask for money or require payment, but may place a donation basket in one location; it cannot be passed around.
- Buskers are not permitted to sell any products or services. Exceptions allowing limited CD/album sales may be made by market staff.
- Buskers must book their timeslots with the market coordinator at least one week in advance.
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- Buskers must notify the market manager of a cancellation at least 24 hours ahead of time, allowing for the coordinator to notify another busker of an available opening. Repeated last-minute cancellations may result in future timeslots being revoked.
- Buskers are permitted at predetermined locations only. These locations will be determined by the Market Manager and will be indicated to the performers on their first performance.
- Buskers are required to check in with the market manager (or other designated individual) on the day of performance.
- Buskers are responsible for providing their stands and other needed materials of set up. A limited number of chairs can be provided.
- Appropriate dress (neat and clean) is expected.
- Buskers will be given a set timeslot (typically 2 hours); performances are expected to be completed at the end of this time. Market staff may offer an extension if the next timeslot is empty.

The Ottawa Farmers' Market is not liable for any injury, theft, or damage to either the busker or their property arising out of or pertaining to preparation for or participation in the Ottawa Farmers, Market; whether such injury, theft, or damage occurred prior, during, or after the Ottawa Farmers' Market, the busker agrees to indemnify and hold the Ottawa Farmers' Market harmless for and against any claims for such injury, theft, or damage. All personal property, including, but not limited to, instruments, must be kept with the busker at all times.

Tips for successful busking:

- Keep it interesting: We often receive complaints from vendors and customers if a busker only plays a limited amount of material.
- Keep volume in mind: When vendors and customers can't hear each other, we are sure to receive complaints.
- Dress for the weather; the OFM is a rain or shine market.
- Add a small sign or have business cards for people to follow you!
- Bring something to collect donations. Use your instrument case, bowl or be creative to entice people to support your music.
- Keep the OFM customer in mind: Ask yourself if your music, product, or service is relevant and appropriate to the OFM customer. If it is, you will likely be a successful OFM busker!