



Ottawa Farmers' Market Association

2023 Busker Policy

The Ottawa Farmers' Market (OFM) is a producer-run organization that features over 150 vendors from within 100 km of Ottawa. Providing an opportunity to buy the freshest local products directly from the people who produce them, the Market is also a great place to meet friends, have lunch, enjoy live music, and more.

Live music and performances from Buskers are an important part of building community and creating a vibrant atmosphere at our Markets!

Busking With The OFM

A Busker is a person/group that the Market pre-books to provide music or other entertainment to Market Patrons.

Buskers are not compensated by the Market, but they are encouraged to collect tips from patrons.

The OFM strives to offer the highest quality local products, and we expect buskers to offer the same high level of quality. We reserve the right to refuse any Buskers.

Buskers may perform at any of our four market locations:

- Lansdowne (Sundays, year-round)
- Westboro (Saturdays, May to Oct.)
- Orléans (Thursdays, May to Oct.)
- Barrhaven (Sundays, May to Oct.)

Types of Buskers we host at the Market include:

- Solo Musicians
- Bands of 2-5 people
- Balloon Artists
- Face Painters
- Henna Artists
- Magicians
- And more!

Applying to busk with the OFM:

1. Submit a Busker Application on our website: ottawafarmersmarket.ca/busking
 - a. Be sure to include a link to a performance sample. If you are unable to provide one, the Market may arrange an on-site audition.
2. A Market staff member will email you to confirm if you are a good fit for the Market.
3. Buskers may be contacted prior to the beginning of each Market season to schedule dates, time slots, and Market locations to busk.
4. Buskers may also be contacted during each Market season to fill cancellations or book special performances.



Liability

The OFM 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 Market; whether such injury, theft, or damage occurred prior, during, or after the Market, the busker agrees to indemnify and hold the OFM 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.

Busker Rules

Market Conduct:

- Buskers are responsible for adhering to all Federal, Provincial, and City regulations and laws
- Treat all patrons, vendors, staff, volunteers, and other buskers with courtesy and respect
- Performances must be family-friendly - inappropriate themes and profanity are not permitted
- The Market has zero tolerance for violence, harassment, or discrimination
- Smoking and consuming alcoholic beverages are not permitted within the Market footprint
- Appropriate dress (neat and clean) is expected
- Stay home if you are feeling unwell or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19

Scheduling:

- Give at least 24 hours notice if you need to cancel - repeated last-minute cancellations may result in future time slots being revoked
- Arrive 5 minutes prior to your scheduled start time
- Check in with Market staff at the Info Booth upon your arrival
- Complete your performance by the end of your time slot and pack up efficiently

Setup & Sound:

- Do not drive your vehicle into the Market footprint to unload - transport any instruments or materials from your parking spot (special exceptions may apply)
- Bring your own stands and other needed materials - the Market will provide chairs and a tent
- Perform within the 10ftx10ft space designated by the Market - the performance must not impede traffic flow
- Consult with staff about amplification of instruments or voices - it must be kept to a minimum
- The Market typically does not allow brass instruments or groups of more than 5 people due to noise / space restrictions

Tips & Product Sales:

- Do not directly ask for money or require payment from patrons
- Buskers may place a donation basket in one location - it cannot be passed around
- Do not sell any products unless approved by Market staff - CDs are generally permitted



Busker Guidelines

Performing:

- Keep it interesting - rotate your material and do your best to avoid repeating songs during your busking time slot
- Bring something to collect donations - use your instrument case, or be creative to entice people to support your music
- Keep the OFM Market Patron in mind - if your music or performance is relevant to them, you are more likely to be successful!

Promotions:

- We encourage you to use the Market graphics provided by the OFM on social media to let folks know you are coming!
- Add a small sign or have business cards for people to follow you

Lansdowne Market:

- Please use the underground parking that is available for a fee - parking is not permitted around the Aberdeen Pavilion
- If you are busking inside the Aberdeen Pavilion, bring warm clothing as it can still get chilly
- An outlet can be provided for amplification devices

Westboro, Orléans, and Barrhaven Markets:

- Parking is available for free in surrounding streets and parking lots
- No power sources are available for Buskers

THANK YOU!

As a Busker, you are contributing to a more vibrant local food system and community!
