



Performer Information DBQFest 2026

DBQFest, also known as DubuqueFest, is Iowa's longest-running art fair and festival, celebrating art, music, and culture since 1979. Held annually in downtown Dubuque's Washington Park, the festival features a juried art fair, live music and performance art, food vendors, and a variety of family-friendly activities. The 2-day event offers free concerts, performances, and interactive art experiences for all ages to enjoy.

Dates to Know

- April 30, 2026 - Applications Close
- May 15, 2026 - Notification emails sent
- July 1, 2026 - Tech needs and details deadline
- August 8-9, 2026 - it's DBQfest!

Performer Rules & Guidelines

Our focus for performers is on Dubuque county and surrounding area. We look for performers and music that will compliment the art fair, not compete with it.

- Performers will be reviewed by a 3-4 person jury. After reviewing the application, the Performer Coordinator may contact you with any questions.
- We have a performer payment budget, and cannot go over it. This group will review the applications and work to create a diverse lineup that compliments the art fair and the atmosphere.
- Preference will be given to performers who have not played the festival in at least two years.
- The Performer Coordinator will send notifications May 15, 2026. Watch your emails around that time to know if you have been accepted. After acceptance, line up and performance schedule will be confirmed. Contracts will be sent with more specific details.
- Performers must arrive at least 30 minutes before your performance time to load in and sound check.
- Performers must provide all personal instruments and equipment needed for performance, to connect to Audio Company equipment.
- Performers must provide items available for promotion; photos, bio or description, any social media links.

Parking

Parking at the festival is hard to find. Performers will be able to park and unload near the back of the stage. Vehicles may need to be moved after unloading. This will be determined the day of the event.

Liability

All work will be displayed entirely at the exhibitors' risk. No liability is assumed by DBQFest, the Dubuque County Fine Arts Society, or the City of Dubuque. Overnight security will be provided.

Accommodations

Performers are responsible for their own accommodations. Overnight camping in Washington Park is not permitted. Visit Travel Dubuque at <https://www.traveldubuque.com/stay/> or call them at (563) 556-4372 or toll-free at 800-798-8844 for listings of campgrounds, hotels and other accommodations in the area.

For More Information

Contact Performance Coordinator Bryce Taylor, email performers@dubuquefest.org.

DBQfest Festival Director Ali Levasseur
email: director@dubuquefest.org – or visit our website at: DBQfest.com

Dates to Remember

- April 30, 2026 - Applications Close
- May 15, 2026 - Notification emails sent
- July 1, 2026 - Tech needs and details deadline
- August 8-9, 2026 - it's DBQfest!