



Community Booth Rules & Information for 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 2-day festival features a juried art fair, free concerts and performance art, food vendors, and interactive art experiences for all ages to enjoy.

Community Booths provide nonprofit organizations and community-focused groups the opportunity to connect with festival attendees through outreach, education, and interactive engagement.

Important Dates

- June 15, 2026 - Applications Close (11:59 PM)
- June 17, 2026 – Notification Emails Sent
- July 1, 2026 – Booth Confirmation Deadline
- August 7, 2026 - Check-in & Set-Up Begins
- August 8-9, 2026 - It's DBQFest!

Festival Location & Activity Hours

Location

Washington Park, between Locust & Bluff Streets and 6th & 7th Streets, Dubuque, Iowa. Rain or shine.

Festival Hours:

- Friday, August 7
 - Booth Check-In & Set-Up: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday, August 8
 - Check-In & Set-Up: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
 - Festival Open to Public: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Live Music until 7 PM)
- Sunday, August 9
 - Festival Open to Public: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
 - Teardown Begins: 4:00 PM

Early teardown is not permitted without prior approval. Community Booths will have up to 3 hours after the event conclusion to dismantle and remove all items.

Community Booth Eligibility & Contribution

Community Booths are reserved for nonprofit organizations and community-focused groups. Booths may not be used for commercial sales or product vending.

Community booths operate on a voluntary contribution model of \$0–\$50 (“pay what you can”). Contributions help offset shared event expenses and support the sustainability of DBQFest. Financial contributions are not required for participation, and acceptance is not based on ability to contribute.

Accepted organizations are responsible for supplying their own tent, tables, chairs, signage, and materials.

Booth Setup & Safety

Booth spaces may not exceed 11' wide by 11' deep unless approved in advance.

All booths:

- Must be clean and orderly
- Must remain within assigned footprint
- Must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations
- Will be located in the park to be set up on grass

All tents must be properly weighted or staked for safety. A minimum of 40 pounds per leg is strongly recommended.

DBQFest volunteers may be available for short restroom breaks; however, groups remain responsible for their booth at all times.

Community groups are responsible for securing their own materials and equipment.

Overnight security is provided for the general festival area, but DBQFest is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged items. Community booths are strongly encouraged to have side panels on their tents to enhance security.

Parking & Load-In

On-street parking immediately surrounding Washington Park is reserved for unloading and loading during designated times only.

After unloading, vehicles must be relocated to designated parking areas. Parking details will be provided prior to the event.

Vehicles that remain in restricted areas may be asked to relocate.

Sound & Conduct

No amplified sound systems or loud music are permitted in Community Booth areas without prior written approval.

Booths must not obstruct walkways or neighboring spaces.

All activities must remain family-friendly and aligned with DBQFest's mission.

Cleanup

Community groups must dismantle and remove all materials within three hours of the event's conclusion. Booth areas must be left clean and free of trash.

Weather & Event Changes

DBQFest is a rain-or-shine event. Participants are responsible for securing equipment and materials against weather conditions.

DBQFest reserves the right to cancel, postpone, relocate, or modify the event due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

Terms & Liability

All activities operate at the participant's own risk.

DBQFest, the Dubuque County Fine Arts Society, and the City of Dubuque are not responsible for loss, theft, damage, or injury arising from participation in the event.

Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless DBQFest, the Dubuque County Fine Arts Society, and the City of Dubuque from and against any claims, damages, losses, or liabilities arising out of or related to their participation.

Failure to comply with these guidelines may impact eligibility for future DCFAS events.

Questions/Concerns: Contact DBQFest Festival Director Ali Levasseur via email director@dubuquefest.org or at 307-630-9447.