



Park Activities 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.

Park Activities enhance the overall festival experience by providing free, interactive, and family-friendly opportunities for attendees to engage with art and community in meaningful ways.

Important Dates

- June 25, 2026 - Applications Close (11:59 PM)
- July 1, 2026 – Notification Emails Sent
- July 8, 2026 – Participation Confirmation Deadline
- 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:

- Saturday, August 8: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Live Music until 7:00 PM)
- Sunday, August 9: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Accepted activity participants must remain operational during their confirmed participation times. Early teardown is not permitted without prior approval from DBQFest.

Activity Selection

DBQFest strives to curate a diverse and high-quality mix of park activities that enhance the overall festival environment.

Selection is based on:

- Interactivity and participant engagement
- Alignment with DBQFest's mission
- Age accessibility
- Operational readiness
- Space and logistical feasibility

Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. DBQFest reserves the right to curate activities to maintain balance, safety, and overall event flow.

Activity Guidelines

All park activities must:

- Be free to the public
- Be family-friendly
- Align with DBQFest's mission as a celebration of art, culture, and community

- Be appropriately staffed and supervised

Activities may not serve as:

- Commercial promotions for for-profit businesses
- Political rallies, campaign events, or petition drives
- Religious services or worship gatherings

Individuals and organizations are welcome to propose creative, secular, and community-focused activities.

Participation & Scheduling

Final schedules and placement assignments will be confirmed prior to the festival.

Participants must:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled start time
- Be fully set up and ready at advertised time
- Remain within assigned footprint
- Maintain a safe and organized activity space

DBQFest is a nonprofit, free-to-the-public event with a limited programming budget. DBQFest makes a good-faith effort to provide fair stipends as funding allows.

Participants submitting a fee proposal should provide an all-inclusive rate that covers:

- Materials and supplies
- Staffing
- Setup and teardown
- Equipment needs

DBQFest may seek sponsor support to offset activity fees and reserves the right to negotiate final compensation based on budget availability and scope of activity.

Setup & Equipment

Washington Park is an outdoor setting. Participants are responsible for providing all equipment necessary for their activity unless otherwise confirmed in advance.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Tents and weights
- Tables and chairs
- Activity materials and supplies
- Extension cords (if approved for power use)

All tents must be properly secured. A minimum of 40 pounds per leg is required unless otherwise approved.

Protective materials must be used if activities involve paint, water, tools, or other materials that may impact park surfaces.

Participants are responsible for maintaining a clean and orderly space at all times.

Utilities & Power

Electrical access is limited and not guaranteed unless confirmed in writing.

Participants must disclose any electrical needs in advance. Extension cords must comply with City of Dubuque event regulations.

Activities requiring significant electrical load, amplified sound, or special utilities may be subject to additional review and approval.

Sales, Promotion, & Fundraising

Park activities are intended to be free community experiences.

Participants may not sell goods, collect donations, or promote commercial services unless expressly approved in advance by DBQFest.

Unauthorized sales or promotional activity may result in removal from the event.

Parking & Load-In

Parking near Washington Park is limited. Participants may unload in designated areas during assigned load-in windows.

Vehicles must be relocated to public parking areas following unloading unless otherwise approved.

Detailed load-in instructions will be provided prior to the event.

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.