

Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair
Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society
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Purpose: The purpose of the Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fairs is to 1) Raise funds to maintain the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society LeTourneau Museum and Richard Heritage Preserve. 2) Provide local and regional artists and fine crafters a biannual event where they can showcase and sell their work. 3) Promote fine crafting and artistry. 4) Create and host a unique shopping experience for the public that spotlights unique, hand-crafted, home-grown, one-of-a kind items in a pleasant, seasonal atmosphere.

History: The Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair began in the late seventies as a spin-off of a popular arts and crafts booth at Maternity BVM Church, hosted by the ladies of the St. Anne Sodality, at their annual card party. Several of those ladies started Les Artisans as a fundraiser for the newly-formed Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. The show ran many years at Maternity BVM, then several more years at Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School. In 2011, the 4th of July Jubilee merged with the Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair. This show had originated as a fundraiser for the Athletic Foundation at Kankakee Community College, and flourished under the director of long-time organizer, Pam Ash. After Pam's retirement, the fairs hit a rough patch, followed by a decline in attendance and vendors. The goal of the new coordinator is to build these two greatly-missed events into great shows once again.

Les Artisans is held every July 4th and the first Saturday in December at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds Expo Center, located at 213 W 4000S Road, Kankakee, Illinois, 60901. The venue is conveniently-located near I-57, spacious, with ample parking, easy-access to doors for unloading, multiple electric hook-ups, well-maintained bathrooms, kitchen, and outdoor hook ups for food trucks. There is a wi-fi password available **only to facilitate sales**. The Expo Center has heat in the winter, and remains comfortable in the summer months, even without air-conditioning. The building itself is a large metal building with a high ceiling, and concrete floor. There is electric available, if needed. Fair hours are 9am to 3pm. Vendors may set-up the afternoon before shows from 3-5pm. Set-up the day of shows begins at 6am. We welcome volunteer groups, or individuals who need community service hours to help unload and load, and will provide that help to vendors whenever possible..

Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair focuses on handmade items; **we are not a flea market or resale venue**. The items sold must be the handiwork of the artist or crafter, or grown by the farmer. The artist, crafter or farmer must be present at the show, unless prior arrangements are made with the coordinator. We will rent a very limited number of booths (not more than 10 per show) to retail direct sales home-based businesses 2016 returning vendors only. Vintage upcyclers and recyclers are allowed 50% or less related, unaltered vintage items, and are carefully screened. **These are only exceptions to the handmade rule.**

We welcome artists, fine crafters, and farmers in the following categories:

- 1) Original art; oils, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, sketch
- 2) Fiber arts; knitting, crocheting, weaving
- 3) Jewelry
- 4) Pottery
- 5) Aromatherapy; candles, potpourri, soap, oils
- 6) Woodcrafting
- 7) Baskets
- 8) Machine or hand-sewn fabric items

- 9) Clothing and accessories
- 10) Quilted items; by hand or machine
- 11) Floral items; fresh or artificial
- 12) Garden decor
- 13) Home decor
- 14) Papercrafting; journals, cards
- 15) Needle artistry; embroidery, cross-stitch
- 16) Primitives, folk, homespun art
- 17) Stained glass
- 18) Holiday decor
- 19) Upcycled or recycled vintage items
- 20) Metalworks, blacksmithing

Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair will accept applications from vendors who sell the following items:

- 1) Candy
- 2) Baked goods
- 3) Honey
- 4) Coffee
- 5) Tea
- 6) Popcorn
- 7) Ice cream and/or shaved ice
- 8) Fresh produce
- 9) Jams, jellies, salsas
- 10) Mixes
- 11) Plants or live floral items

The coordinator will limit the number of vendors selling perishable items, and may increase the number of these type of vendors as the show grows. **Food items must be prepared in a commercially-licensed kitchen, and vendors must package items in accordance with Board of Health guidelines, and secure and/or comply with any necessary permits to sell food items at the fair.**

Because Les Artisans is a fundraiser, we cannot sell booths at a reduced rate to other nonprofit groups. Because we are a shopping venue, we do not allow raffles or informational booths. Nonprofit groups are welcome to rent booths, but they must sell something handmade or handcrafted. The Coordinator recruits vendors for Les Artisans in a variety of ways; networking at other shows, social media, email, and press releases. An email list is kept of vendors who participate in Les Artisans, or who may be interested in participating in the future. Please email ellen.stringer@gmail.com to be placed on the email list. Potential vendors who wish to have a paper copy of applications mailed to them, call Ellen Stringer at 815-935-5278 to be placed on the mailing list.

The Coordinator and BGHS reserve the right to not invite back vendors who do not align with Les Artisans purpose and goals. Vendors are strongly encouraged to comply with the request for pictures at the time of application. Applicants who are former Les Artisans participants from the 1978 to 2013 run of the show are **not guaranteed invitations, acceptance, or same-booth assignment.** Additionally, new vendors who do not follow the fair's guidelines, or who conduct themselves in a disruptive way will not be invited back. Vendors who cancel more than twice without verifiable cause will not be allowed back.