

Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair
Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society
Ellen Stringer, Coordinator 815-935-5278
lesartisansartsandcraftsfair@gmail.com

Purpose: The purpose of the Les Artisans Arts and Craft Fairs is to 1) Raise funds for the Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society. 2) Provide regional artists and fine crafters an opportunity to 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 1978 as a spin-off of a 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. Since Les Artisans returned in 2016, it has become one of the best pop-up events in our area and beyond.

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, five doors for unloading, multiple electric hook-ups, well-maintained bathrooms, wi-fi, and commercial kitchen. The Expo Center is heated in cold weather. It does not have A/C, however, there are multiple fans, and it's completely sheltered from the elements. The building itself is a large metal building with a high ceiling, and concrete floor. Fair hours are 9am to 3pm. Vendors may set-up the afternoon before shows from 3-5pm, or the day of shows beginning at 6am. We welcome volunteer groups, or individuals who need community service hours to assist vendors. Vendors are responsible for their own tables and chairs, and conduct their own sales, including collection of requisite sales tax.

Les Artisans Arts and Crafts Fair does not accept resale, flea market booths, or direct sales vendors. We do not have any unwritten percentage rule about how much of a booth can be manufactured or resale items. We simply DO NOT allow manufactured items. The artist, crafter or farmer must be present at the show, unless prior arrangements are made with the coordinator. There are NO raffles or informational booths allowed. Nonprofit groups must pay the full fee and comply with all show guidelines.

Vintage upcyclers and recyclers are allowed 50% or less related, unaltered vintage items, and are carefully screened. Vintage items must be AT LEAST 20 years old, and be interesting, popular vintage items. Artists may sell items based on their art. **These are only exceptions to the handmade rule.** Vendors may not display items with profane language, nudity, or other inappropriate items, as determined by the coordinator. Because I would like to continue to enjoy a great relationship with our hosts at the Expo, marshmallow shooters are not allowed to be USED in the building.

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, origami
- 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.**

A word about Cricut. Crafters are strongly advised to develop other crafting and artistic skills that use Cricut stickers as a supplement to their work, not the whole basis of their work. For example, crafters who make and paint wooden signs and other items may use Cricut stickers for their lettering. Crafters who make Cricut stickers and place it on manufactured items will not be allowed a booth.

Contact Ellen Stringer at lesartisansartsandcraftsfair@gmail.com for more information. Potential vendors who wish to have a paper copy of applications mailed to them, call Ellen Stringer at 815-935-5278.

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. Additionally, new vendors who do not follow the fair's guidelines, or who conduct themselves in a disruptive way will not be invited back