



Jury Prodecure

The Market Board of Directors serves as the Jury Committee. New vendors of any category other than Food Vendor, Farm/Produce and Flower/Plant are subject to jurying.

Returning members wishing to add substantially new or different items to their line are also subject to jurying. A new or different item is one that is materially or stylistically different from others previously juried.

A potential vendor's items will be judged upon the following criteria:

Handcraftsmanship (5 points): How much of the item presented is the artist/craftsperson responsible for? For example, a piece of jewelry in which the stone is hand-cut and polished by the artist and then placed in a pendant which has been designed and molded by hand represents a much higher level of handcraftsmanship than a jewelry piece made of pre-fabricated elements. Similarly, a piece of clothing made by one who spins her own fiber has a higher level of handcraftsmanship than a piece of clothing made from purchased fiber.

Artistic Skill (5 points): Is the item well-conceived? Does it evidence a mastery of the medium? How do the items compare to what one might find in a local gallery? *It is important to note that one may not like or appreciate a particular item or line of items; it might not be one's "style."* However, this shall have no bearing on judgement of the artist's skill.

Original Design (5 points): Is each item (or line of items) an original design? For example, the design of a custom stained glass piece is much more original than one put together using a template. A helpful question to ask yourself is "Have I ever seen another item like this one?"

Quality (5 points): How well put-together is the item? Is the stitching even on sewn pieces? Does the label on that sauce look professional? Are the lines straight? Are pots glazed evenly? Products should be judged for quality according to their style -- for example, a rustic wood product such as an outdoor birdhouse is not necessarily of lesser quality than a finely-worked wooden jewelry box.

Market Enhancement (5 points): How well does the item (or line of items) improve the mix of what's available overall? Is it similar to other items already widely prevalent at the Market, or does it bring something new?

For each category, more points awarded equals a higher score. Once the jury committee has discussed the items being presented, each member shall assign a score for every category and add them up. Maximum possible points total 25.

The Manager will collect and tabulate the results, discarding the highest and lowest scores to help promote fairness. If the average score is 17.5 or higher, the items pass the jurying process and are approved for sale. If the average score is 17.4 or less, the items may not be sold at the Open Aire Market.

Sometimes, a vendor or potential vendor wishes to have items juried which cross several categories. For example, a ceramic artist might make thrown pieces like pots and plates, as well as ceramic jewelry. The jewelry needs to be judged separately from the thrown pieces.

Once a final decision has been made, the Manager will notify the potential vendor by mail within one week. When possible, the Manager may provide feedback to those whose items did not make the cut should they be interested in re-application at a later date.

Jurying will take place once per month, at the Board's regularly scheduled meeting. This generally falls on the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact the Market Manager at (360) 683-0164 to coordinate jurying of your items.