



VENDOR FAQ

Who is eligible to apply?

Vendors must sell products that are made, grown, sewn, or created in South Carolina. This marketplace is focused on showcasing local artisans, makers, farmers, and food producers. Resale items and national/direct-sales products are not accepted.

When will vendors be notified if they are accepted?

Acceptance emails will be sent within 7 days of the application closing.

Can I restock inventory during the fair?

Restocking policies will be communicated closer to the fair. In general, inventory planning is important to avoid sell-outs, but restocking is encouraged.

Can I customize my booth or display?

Displays are standardized for consistency. Vendors may provide approved signage or branding materials.

Does applying guarantee acceptance?

No. Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance. Applications are reviewed to ensure product fit, category balance, and overall marketplace quality.

Can I bring multiple product types or brands?

Vendors may only sell the product types approved in their application. Any changes or additions must be reviewed and approved in advance. Inventory limits and requirements are provided after acceptance. Vendors will be asked to submit inventory details ahead of time so staff can prepare properly.

Can I come and work my area/booth?

No. Vendors do not staff their own booths. SC Grown Marketplace staff handle sales and customer interactions during the fair.

Will my business name be displayed?

Yes. Vendor names and product information will be clearly displayed. Products are encouraged to be branded and we request vendors bring a lot of business cards.





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Do I need a business license?

Yes, a valid City of Columbia Business License is required. We cannot assist in applying for your business license, but you can find all information at businesslicensing.columbiasc.gov

What are the requirements for food vendors?

Food vendors must meet all applicable health department, cottage law requirements, and state requirements.. Specifics will be discussed at the SC Grown Marketplace Food Vendor Meeting.

When and how are vendors paid?

After the fair ends, vendors receive a report of their final sales. This includes a breakdown of the fair fee and remaining payout balance. Once approved by the vendor, payment is sent out via check within 3 weeks.

How will vendors receive updates and instructions?

All official communication will be sent via email. Vendors are responsible for checking their email regularly and meeting all deadlines.

What happens if I can no longer participate after being accepted?

Vendors must notify the marketplace as soon as possible. Withdrawal does not automatically disqualify you from future events unless it is a continuous issue.

What kind of traffic does the marketplace see?

We don't have exact numbers for the marketplace, but the SC State Fair sees an average of 400,000 people per year.

How are sales handled during the fair?

All sales are processed through the SC Grown Marketplace system. Vendors do not handle transactions directly. We also collect tax.

