



TULIP FESTIVAL

TULIP FESTIVAL FOOD VENDOR APPLICATION

May 9th - May 10th, 2026, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Event Summary

The Capital Region's official spring kick-off, Albany's Tulip Festival, returns on Saturday, May 9, and Sunday, May 10, 2026, to celebrate its 78th anniversary. This free 2-day event is Albany's crown jewel, showcasing picturesque Washington Park and its 180,000 tulips at their peak. Featuring an array of vendors, specialty zones, live music, and entertainment, this cherished festival continues to draw over 100,000 attendees annually, from locals to international travelers of all demographics.

The City of Albany's Office of Cultural Affairs is now accepting applications from **food vendors**. Food Row features a high-quality mix of diverse menus for festival patrons to enjoy. **Application Deadline: All applications must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 11th, 2026.** We look forward to reviewing your application for the 2026 Tulip Festival. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Andre Cowan, Program Aide, and Office of Cultural Affairs at (518) 434-5416 or vendors@albanyny.gov.

Application Guidelines

1. **Rain or Shine Policy:** Tulip Festival will be held rain or shine; no refunds will be issued due to inclement weather except in cases of force majeure, in which the booth fee will be returned (\$10 application fee is non-refundable).
1. **Health Department Compliance:** All vendors must comply with Albany County Health Department requirements for a temporary food service permit. See page 4 for more information.
2. **Prohibited Items and Vendors:** Glass bottles, Styrofoam containers, as well as the sale, sampling, distribution, and promotion of products or materials related to political campaigns, alcohol products (with the exception of confections containing an alcohol content of no more than five percent (5%), per volume) and all CBD/THC products are strictly prohibited. See pages 5 & 6 for more information.
3. **Selection Process:** An independent jury appointed by the City of Albany will oversee the selection process. All decisions by the jury are final. The City of Albany does not offer grandfathering; all vendors must apply annually.
4. **Evaluation Criteria:** Applications will be evaluated based on specific jury criteria and the overall quality and integrity of the event.
5. **Incomplete Applications:** Applications lacking the required information will be considered incomplete and subject to rejection. Two (2) checks are required with the completed application.
6. **Booth Specifications:** Please provide details such as booth length, width, and serving side to ensure appropriate space allocation (30'L x 10'W). Due to limited space, any application over 30' L x 10'W is subject to rejection.
7. **Photo Submission:** Submit high-quality photos of your booth setup along with a complete full menu and pricing. These images are crucial for the jury evaluation. Any price changes after submission require written approval from the Office of Cultural Affairs
8. **Insurance Requirement:** See page 4 for more information.



Tulip Festival 2026 Food Vendor Application Form

Business Owner Name(s): _____ Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Select all food categories that apply:

<input type="checkbox"/> African	<input type="checkbox"/> American	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Beverage	<input type="checkbox"/> BBQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Desserts	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Food	<input type="checkbox"/> Greek	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian	<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Latin	<input type="checkbox"/> Pizza	<input type="checkbox"/> Seafood	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegan	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Website: _____ Instagram Account (Please list username) _____

Description of attached Photos: **Including menu items, pricing, booth display**
(Please provide comprehensive and accurate descriptions to avoid duplication of vendor offerings.)

1: _____

2: _____

3: _____

4: _____

☐ **Media Release:** By checking this box, you authorize the City of Albany Office of Cultural Affairs to use the photos you submitted for promotional purposes.

Two vendor parking permits will be provided onsite at this event. Provide information for the vehicle/trailer permit.
(Please Note: all vehicles must be off-site after load-in hours)

Vehicle Plate Number _____

Trailer Plate Number _____

State Plate Issued _____

State Plate Issued _____

Make, Model & Color _____

Trailer Color _____

Were you a Food Vendor at last year's Tulip Festival? Yes___ No___

(Please Note: The City of Albany does not hold the Grandfather clause to any vendor)



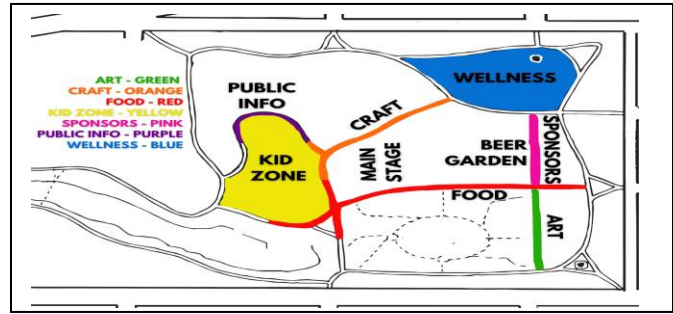
Tulip Festival 2026 Food Vendor Fees

Submit a one-time payment for the application fee:

☐ \$10 (non-refundable) Application Fee

The Size of your original booth _____

Select Booth Size category you are applying for:



Category	Booth Size	Booth Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Row Standard food section	<input type="checkbox"/> 30'L x 10'W -Selecting this option confirms that the booth dimension falls within the range	<input type="checkbox"/> \$650 (Refundable if not accepted) Vendor may apply for multiple spots by submitting separate applications. Each application will be juried individually, and acceptance of one application does not guarantee acceptance of another.
<input type="checkbox"/> Kid Zone Child-Friendly Food & Beverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 15'L x 10'W Space Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325 (Refundable if not accepted) Vendor can only apply for (1) one spot in this area for the 2026 Tulip Festival.
<input type="checkbox"/> Wellness Zone For vendors offering healthy food options such as smoothies, wellness drinks, fresh ingredients, lighter menu items, and other nutrient-focused or wellness-aligned offerings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 15'L x 10'W Space Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 for 15'L x 10'W Vendor can only apply for (1) one spot in this area for the 2026 Tulip Festival. The Wellness Zone is not on Food Row

Select if you would like to provide meal vouchers for event volunteers:

<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Meal Voucher Opportunity: -Vendor provides volunteers with meal options -Use standard-priced voucher (\$12 value) -Payment received 2-4 weeks after the event	<input type="checkbox"/> Must Provide: -Menu -Signed notary contract (upon approval) -Taxpayer identification number & certification (W9)
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Payment Instructions: Checks should be payable to "THE CITY OF ALBANY" and submitted along with the application. Please send two separate checks. One \$10 for the application fee and another for the booth fee you've selected. **Money orders are not accepted.**

Registration Deadline: All completed applications must be postmarked on **Wednesday, March 11th, 2026**. The acceptance letter will be sent out on **March 27th, 2026**.



Tulip Festival 2026 Licenses and Insurance

1. Vendors are required to provide a certificate of proof of Workers' Compensation (C105.2) and Disability (DB-120.1), or a certificate of Attestation of Exemption (CE-200) attached to the application.
2. Food vendors must procure and maintain Commercial General Liability insurance coverage with limits of \$1,000,000 for each occurrence. As an attachment to the application, Food vendors must submit a certificate proof of Commercial General Liability insurance, stating the name of the event, the date, and the following parties as additional insured on a primary and non-contributory basis:


City of Albany
24 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

Albany County
112 State Street
Albany, NY 12207

3. Vendors are solely responsible for their equipment and property during the festival, including setup and breakdown, and must have insurance to cover losses from theft, vandalism, or other risks. Although security is provided at certain times, any loss or damage is the exhibitors' responsibility. The City of Albany, Tulip Festival, and event staff are not liable for theft, vandalism, or damages. Exhibitors must secure their tents and equipment after event hours and assume full responsibility for them outside of those hours.
4. Vendors must abide by all current NYS Department of Health safety guidelines.
5. Vendors are solely responsible for collecting and paying all New York State sales tax during the event and shall properly display their New York Sales Tax Certificate at their booth.
6. All approved Food vendors will be issued a temporary Health Permit once their items are approved by the Department of Health.
7. Vendors agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Albany, including its employees and agents, from any claims, damages, losses, and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) resulting from any negligent or intentional actions or omissions by the vendor or their employees. This obligation applies to the extent that the vendor or their employees or agents are responsible for such claims, losses, and expenses.



Tulip Festival 2026 Rules and Regulations

1. Only one business or organization is allowed per booth. Sharing, subletting, or reassigning booth space is prohibited. Vendors may only distribute, display, or sell items from the business contracted with the City of Albany for their booth.
2. The City of Albany may change the event's location, dates, and hours, or cancel entirely at any time without notice. However, reasonable efforts will be made to inform vendors of any changes or cancellations in advance.
3. Vendors must have personnel present and in their booth at all times during official operating hours of the event: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm both days.
4. By submitting this application, you hereby consent and acknowledge that the City of Albany reserves the right to prohibit the sale, sampling, distribution, and promotion of products or materials related to political campaigns, products or materials containing alcohol, and all THC/CBD products at the City of Albany-produced events (see albanyevents.org for a complete listing). Please note that confections containing alcohol, as defined by New York State Liquor Authority's Advisory #2019-1, with an alcohol content of no more than five percent (5%) by volume, are permitted to apply and will be subject to a standard vendor jury selection process. Applications received that involve the sale, sampling, distribution, and promotion of the aforementioned items, with the exception of confectionery containing an alcohol content of no more than five percent (5%) by volume, will be subject to immediate rejection. This policy is instituted to uphold public safety and to ensure a family-friendly environment for all City of Albany-produced event attendees and excludes the City of Albany-sanctioned alcohol sales, intended for consumption by event goers, in designated "Beer Zones".
5. Vendors are banned from using polystyrene foam (Styrofoam ) containers, cups, or bowls. A first offense results in a warning, and a second offense leads to contract termination and removal from the event without a refund.
6. Vendors must provide their own supplies: water, electricity, tables, chairs, tents, and tent weights.
(Note: Cars used as an electrical source are prohibited)
7. Vendors are prohibited from bringing any animals or pets to the event, except for service animals as defined by the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
8. Refunds: Once accepted into the festival, no refunds will be provided, except in cases of force majeure.
9. Vendors must stay within the boundaries of their assigned spaces, which are 30'L by 10'W for Food vendors, 15'L by 10'W for Craft vendors, and 10'L by 10'W for both Public Information and Art vendors. The City of Albany will determine vendor placement.
10. Vendors may not hawk, peddle, sell, or advertise outside their assigned area.
11. Vehicles of any kind are prohibited on-site outside of load-in hours (Friday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday: 6:00 am – 9:00 am) and are not permitted near the vendor's designated area during the event. Load-out begins after 6:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday.



Tulip Festival 2026 Rules and Regulations (cont.)

12. Vendors must make arrangements for transporting their products, equipment, etc., to and from their exhibit spaces; event personnel are not available to assist. No storage space is provided for products, literature, or other materials. Driving is strictly prohibited after load-in hours.
13. Vendors are prohibited from playing music or activities that may be disruptive to neighboring vendors or event participants. A first offense results in a warning, and a second offense leads to contract termination and removal from the event without a refund.
14. Vendors must adhere to the City of Albany's tobacco-free park ordinance [38.52.14] and cannabis-related ordinances, including the provisions of the *Cannabis Law* (Chapter 7 of the Public Health Law) and the *Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA)*, both of which prohibit smoking and vaping of cannabis in all city parks. These ordinances have been in effect since January 1, 2015, for tobacco-related smoking and since March 2021 for cannabis-related smoking. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in fines, permit revocation, or contract termination. For this ordinance, 'smoking' is defined as the act of burning any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other substance containing tobacco, or cannabis as defined under the *Cannabis Law* and the *Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act* (which includes smoking of both adult-use cannabis and cannabinoid hemp, as defined in section three of the *Cannabis Law*).
15. Exhibitors are required to remain for the full two days of the event.
16. The City of Albany does not hold the Grandfather clause for any exhibitors.
17. Food vendors (excluding those using deep fryers) must always have a commercial-grade, ABC-type fire extinguisher (minimum 9 lbs.) in their designated space. Vendors using deep fryers must have a 6-liter K-type fire extinguisher on hand. The Albany Fire Department reserves the right to inspect both the extinguisher and the vendor's space. The City of Albany may close any exhibit that fails to comply with these requirements.
18. The City of Albany may, for publicity purposes, use any photographs or information received or obtained during the event.
19. Vendors using an electric generator or other motor must soundproof the device to meet the City of Albany's standards. Due to frequent complaints, this policy will be strictly enforced. We recommend having a quieter backup generator or servicing your current one. The City of Albany reserves the right to shut down any exhibitor not adhering to this or other event policies.
20. Vendors are expected to arrive on time during designated load-in hours; a first offense results in a warning, and a second offense will lead to contract termination and removal from the event without a refund.
21. Pricing should remain consistent based on the submitted application and cannot be altered; a first offense will result in a warning, and a second offense will result in contract termination and removal from the event without a refund.
22. Vendors must treat all Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA)/City of Albany (COA) staff, volunteers, fellow vendors, and festival guests with professionalism and respect. Abusive, threatening, harassing, or other inappropriate behavior by the vendor or the vendor's employees or agents will not be tolerated. OCA reserves the right to deny any application or immediately terminate any vendor contract without a refund based on a vendor's violation of this policy, including past violations. Submission of an application constitutes agreement to this policy and review standard.



Tulip Festival 2026 Release & Indemnification

I, the undersigned, understand that my participation in the Tulip Festival is voluntary. By signing this release form, I acknowledge and agree to the following terms:

I am aware of and assume any risks associated with my participation in the event, including but not limited to, any potential injury, illness, loss, or damage to my person or property. I acknowledge that I am solely responsible for my safety and belongings during the event.

I hereby release, waive, and discharge the City of Albany, its employees, agents, volunteers, and affiliates from any claims, demands, or causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage, or injury that I may sustain as a result of my participation in the event, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

I grant permission to the City of Albany to use my image, likeness, and/or voice recorded in any format (photographs, video, and audio) during the event for promotional purposes, including but not limited to marketing materials, social media, and website content, without any compensation.

I verify that all information I have provided about my business, and my products for sale is true and accurate.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Albany from any liabilities or claims made by other individuals or entities as a result of my actions during the event.

I have read and fully understand this release form and its terms. By signing below, I confirm that I am voluntarily agreeing to the release and to abide by all applicable rules and regulations. If my application is accepted, this form will serve as a binding agreement, representing the terms of the permit. I understand that the City of Albany reserves the right to remove any vendor from participating in the event at any time, without refund, if they violate the rules and regulations or fail to follow reasonable instructions given by City of Albany event personnel.

By submitting this application, you hereby consent and acknowledge that the City of Albany reserves the right to prohibit the sale, sampling, distribution, and promotion of products or materials related to political campaigns, products or materials containing alcohol and all THC/CBD products at the City of Albany produced events (see albanyevents.org for a complete listing). Please note that confections containing alcohol, as defined by New York State Liquor Authority's Advisory #2019-1, with an alcohol content of no more than five percent (5%) by volume, are permitted to apply and will be subject to a standard vendor jury selection process. Applications received that involve the sale, sampling, distribution, and promotion of the aforementioned items, with the exception of confectionery containing an alcohol content of no more than five percent (5%) by volume, will be subject to immediate rejection. This policy is instituted to uphold public safety and to ensure a family-friendly environment for all City of Albany-produced event attendees and excludes the City of Albany-sanctioned alcohol sales, intended for consumption by event goers, in designated "Beer Zones".

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____



2026 CITY OF ALBANY TULIP FESTIVAL

Food Vendor Application Checklist

- ☐ Application filled out completely with all required information
- ☐ Release and Indemnification read, signed, and attached
- ☐ Four (4) photos including (1) full menu items and prices, one (1) clear photo of the booth display, and two (2) a representative of the work you plan to sell attached to the application. All photos must be clear, Recent and show exactly what will be sold at the Tulip Festival
- ☐ Two (2) checks made payable to "The City of Albany": One for the Booth Fee & one for the \$10 Application Fee. **Money orders are not accepted.**
- ☐ Proof of Workers Compensation (C105.2) and Disability (DB-120.1) or a Certificate of Attestation of Exemption (CE-200)
- ☐ Proof of Commercial General Liability insurance
- ☐ Return pages 2,3,7,and 8

APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th, 2026

SEND APPLICATIONS TO:
City of Albany Office of Cultural Affairs
24 Eagle Street, Room M 252
Albany, NY 12207

Contact Andre Cowan at 518-434-5416 or write Acowan@albanyny.gov with any questions.