

Threads Of Time: An 18TH Century Market & Fair

Produced by the Virginia Highlands Festival
Abingdon, VA 24210 ~ July 25 - 26, 2026

Dear Exhibitor,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the **18th Century Market & Fair**, a new two-day living history experience on July 25-26, 2026 in recognition of Virginia's 250th Commemorations (VA250) and presented by the Virginia Highlands Festival.

While this specific event is a first for us, the Virginia Highlands Festival itself has a long and trusted history in our community. Now entering our **77th year**, the Festival produces **more than 300 events over 10 days each summer**, welcoming artists, performers, educators, and cultural interpreters from across the region and beyond. This event builds on that legacy while allowing us to explore an immersive, historically inspired experience aligned with the VA250 initiative, set in a town rich with history, supported by an active historical society, and home to important sites such as the historic Muster Grounds..

The 18th Century Market & Fair is envisioned as a family-friendly, educational gathering that reflects the people, trades, and daily life of the 18th century—acknowledging the many cultures and perspectives that shaped Virginia and the Appalachian frontier during this period. Through artisan merchants, interpreters, demonstrations, and storytelling, the event will offer visitors meaningful opportunities to connect with history in an accessible and engaging way. Our vision is to present both Native and colonial experiences with care and accuracy, acknowledging cooperation, tension, and conflict while emphasizing understanding, respect, and shared humanity.

For our inaugural year, we are **not charging an application fee or a space fee**. Our goal is to encourage participation, collaboration, and creativity as we shape this event together. In return, we are especially interested in exhibitors, vendors, and artisans who are willing to **demonstrate their craft, trade, or skills** during the two-day event. Hands-on demonstrations and interactive engagement are central to the spirit of this fair and to creating a meaningful experience for visitors of all ages.

We welcome a range of historically inspired artisans, merchants whose work aligns with an 18th-century setting and who value education, storytelling, and community engagement alongside commerce. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, or suggestions to improve our event.

Thank you for considering being part of this new chapter of the Virginia Highlands Festival. We look forward to reviewing your application and learning more about the work you do.

Warm Regards,

Shana Carrico, VHF President
Deirdre Cole, VHF Producer
Beth Stockner, Event Coordinator



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APPLICATION FOR EXHIBITORS

Application Requirements:

In addition to this completed form, submit the following no later than June 15.

1. Pictures of yourself in period dress, and your display and tent set-up.
2. Pictures of products that represent your product line.

Exhibitor/Artisan Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Website or Social Media: _____

Product Information:

Please describe the type of goods you sell (including prices):

Please describe your method of production (including tools used):

Presentation Information:

Will you (and your representatives) dress in period-appropriate clothing?	_____ Yes	_____ No
Will you use period-appropriate displays, and tools?	_____ Yes	_____ No
Will you demonstrate production of your craft at the fair?	_____ Yes	_____ No

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Tent Information:

Are you able to provide your own period-appropriate, 18th-century tent? Yes No

Do you have an add'l period-appropriate tent that you would be willing to rent to VHF? Yes No

Total space your set up requires (including ropes and stakes) _____ Feet (Frontage) by _____ Feet (Depth)

Mailing Information:

Please submit your applications either digitally or hard copy.

- Send digital files to artsandcrafts@vahighlandsfestival.org.
- Hard copy files should be mailed to

Virginia Highlands Festival
c/o 18th Century Market & Fair
PO Box 801
Abingdon, VA 24212.

Our receipt of this application does not guarantee participation in the event. You will be notified by June 22nd if your application has been accepted.