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Prospective Artist Information

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I. About the Show

The Blue Genie Art Bazaar (BGAB) produces unique art shows featuring creative handmade gifts and art by local and regional artists. Rather than booths that are manned by the exhibitor, our show is likened to a pop-up gallery or retail store. Exhibitors are responsible for setting up their area, creating stock, and merchandising their work.



All sales are handled by BGAB cashiers at centralized checkout stations, as in a pop-up gallery or retail store. Customers appreciate the low pressure sales environment and this relaxed atmosphere has proven to increase sales at our show. Because the artists are not staffing their booths, they have extra time to create more work to meet our high volume show, as well as network to promote the show. Exhibitors are also encouraged to market to their customers through social networks, packaging, and promotional materials.

Customers will find a dazzling array of art, apparel, and other gifts throughout our 9,000 sq ft venue. The booths are organized to create a varied experience for customers by mixing

mediums and complementary styles. BGAB staff walks the floor to answer questions and assist with handling art. The Bazaar is always free to attend and offers free parking.

Our annual holiday Bazaar will be open every day from November 15 to Christmas Eve.

This is our most popular and well-known event and has become an Austin tradition over the past 24 years.

The May Market began in 2021 and continues to grow each year. Like our holiday Bazaar, the May Market is a free, family-friendly experience showcasing the work of regional artists and artisans under one roof. The May Market is the ideal place to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, and more. It is open weekends only throughout the month of May.

BGAB also has an online shop which is open year-round. Acceptance into one of our shows does not guarantee participation in both events or the online shop.

II. Important Dates

Application Submission Deadline: Friday, August 4, 11:59 pm

1st Applicant Notifications via Email: September 1, 2024

Holiday Bazaar Dates: November 15 - December 24, 2024

Exhibitor Load-in: November 9 - 12

Exhibitor Load-out: December 27-29

May Market Dates: April 25 - May 26, 2025

Exhibitor Load-in: April 19 - 22

Exhibitor Load-out: May 29-31

Please note that these dates are subject to change

III. Submission Process

Submissions are ONLY accepted online through Zapplication

Open Call: May 1 - August 4, \$45 fee

Use coupon code EARLYBIRD before July 14 to receive \$10 off your application fee.

If you have not used Zapplication before, please read their instructions on [How to Apply](#).

Application

Review and prepare each of these requirements:

1. Description of Materials/Technique: Brief statement of 1,000 characters or less that describes the materials and techniques used to create your artwork and your artistic background.
2. Description of Work: One sentence description of your work. *This will be used by BGAB in marketing materials to represent your work to the public.*
3. Prices: You will enter the prices when you submit your images. *This is to give us a general idea of your pricing on various product types.*
4. Booth type & electricity needs: Review the available display space types (see Section IV) and indicate your preference. You will also be asked to indicate whether you require electrical access for your products (e.g. if you sell lamps or other items which require electricity to work, not “show lighting”)
5. Photos: Please prepare six (6) product photos which represent what you plan to sell. **For best results, photos should be standard JPG format, 72 dpi, 1400-1920 px on the longest side, and no larger than 5MB each.** [See Image Preparation Tips](#)
 - a. *These images will be used on the BGAB website.*
 - b. *We will only use images of your product, please do not submit artist photos, company logos, or collages.*
6. Payment: Have a valid credit card ready to pay the submission fee. *Application fees are non-refundable regardless of acceptance.*

If you experience any technical difficulties with the online application, please consult the [Zapplication Help Center](#). (BGAB Staff are unable to view in-progress applications.)

Once you have submitted your application and payment, you should receive an email from Zapplication confirming your purchase. **This is the only “confirmation” email you will receive when submitting your application.**

Requirements & Conditions

All artists must submit an application and all submissions are reviewed and selected through a jury process. Past participation does not guarantee a place in this year’s show. Only submissions completed by the final deadline will be considered for participation. **Application fees are non-refundable regardless of acceptance.**

All applicants will be notified of their jury status via email on September 1. Participating artists, or representatives, must be available for scheduled load-in. Artists, or representatives, must also be available for load-out or they can choose to pay BGAB a \$100 fee to have their items stored.

Shared Display or Multiple Artist Submissions

1. A maximum of three (3) artists are allowed to apply for a display space together, but it will remain within our standard size parameters. How the display space is shared is up to the group.
2. Only one (1) application is required per group. On your Zapplication *My Profile* page, select the Team button and fill out the names of your group members.
3. There needs to be a primary contact that is responsible for receiving all BGAB communication for the group.
4. Each artist's work must be represented on the application in the description and photos.
5. The group will be juried and accepted or rejected as a whole, rather than as individual artists.
6. The group will receive one (1) PLU (Price Look-Up) number for the booth. *We will not issue multiple PLUs for each artist within a single booth.* (See the FAQs at the bottom for more on PLUs.)
7. Only one (1) check will be issued to the group.

Jury Criteria

Each year we strive to include artists with handmade, high quality, unique artwork in a wide variety of mediums. We select artists who we believe are capable of meeting the demands of the show in terms of style, volume, and affordability. These are subjective criteria that are at the exclusive discretion of the jurors. The show attracts a diverse audience, but for the purposes of selection our jurors have a target demographic that represents the majority of our clientele. The target audience is 25-60 years old with children. They live in Austin and appreciate the unique, creative, and relaxed style for which it is known. They like their gifts, attire, and home furnishings to reflect their personal style.

IV. Display Spaces

The display spaces are different at BGAB than at other shows, please look over this information carefully.

Wall Construction

The booth layout is primarily made of 4' x 8' walls constructed from thin 1/4" plywood over a frame of 1" x 4" lumber. All walls are painted white.

Types and Sizes

There are five (5) types of display spaces available. Please indicate your preference on your

application. Indicating your preference does not guarantee that you will be assigned that type of space. Final space assignments are at the discretion of BGAB Management.

Please note that most booths will share a corner with another vendor. Corners must be respected and you cannot block a neighbor's space.

1. 8' x 8' Wall

The 8' x 8' Wall space is a wall space that is 8 feet wide by 8 feet tall with approximately 2 feet of floor space in front. Some spaces have taller walls and are usually assigned to artists working in two dimensions who could use more height.

Tables used in 8' x 8' space should be no more than 2 feet deep by 6 feet long. Shelves and brackets may be screwed to the walls. Some 8' x 8' wall spaces may not be flat, meaning the walls may be perpendicular to each other forming a corner.



8' x 8' Wall



8' x 8' Wall w/ 90 degree corner

2. 4' x 8' Wall

The 4' x 8' Wall space is a wall space that is 4 feet wide and 8 feet tall with 1-2 feet of floor space in front. Although tables can work in these booths, shelving is often a more effective way to display in a small space. Shelves and brackets may be screwed to the walls.



4' x 8' Wall w/ no corners



4' x 8' Wall w/ shared corner on right

3. Shelving Space

Shelving space refers to spaces on shared shelving units provided by BGAB positioned in prominent areas throughout the show. Artists with these spaces are given the equivalent of 4 shelves, each about 2 feet long. Displays in these areas must be compact. Each shelf is about 10" deep and vertical space between shelves is about 14". Dimensions may vary.



Display Shelves featuring multiple artists

4. Jewelry Case

BGAB has six (6) jewelry cases available. Each case is an enclosed wooden cabinet with 2 glass shelves.

5. Clothing Rack

BGAB has two (2) clothing racks available. Each is a circular, stand-alone clothing rack with a round glass shelf (36" diameter) on top.



Jewelry Case



T-Shirt Rack

Display Design Guidelines

1. It's a good idea to prepare in advance for an attractive and well-merchandised display. However, changes to the space may arise at the last minute, so you must be flexible and ready to find creative solutions.
2. We highly recommend covering the walls. You may cover walls with paper, fabric, or anything removable. You may not paint the walls or use any adhesives on the walls.
3. You may use screws, tape, staples, and pins to attach things to display walls, but not nails. Hammering on the walls can cause work to fall off the opposite side of the wall.
4. Shelves and brackets may be screwed to the walls. Your shelves should be no more than 2 feet deep. If you plan to put significant weight on your shelves, it is a good idea to reinforce them.
5. You may store extra merchandise within your display for restocking, for example concealed under a table or inside a cabinet.
6. Most walls share a corner with another space. Corners must be respected and you may not block any part of your neighbor's space. A friendly conversation with your neighbor beforehand can be helpful!

7. Because walls meet at corners, the dimensions of your booth space may not be exactly 8'x8' or 4'x8'. Keep this in mind when planning your display. You will have a chance to measure your space before load-in.
8. We encourage you to include business cards and signage about yourself, merchandise, or business; however, we ask that you not display information promoting another store, gallery, or show.
9. Your walls must be cleaned of all materials at the time of load-out, including screws, staples, and tape.

V. Product Pricing

1. This is a gift show and people are primarily shopping for affordable gifts.
2. By offering items at a variety of price points, you'll increase your chances of making a sale. While shoppers may be attracted by the expensive, eye-catching items, they often end up buying the more affordable items.
3. It is a good idea to do some market research to see if your pricing is in line with other people selling similar work at art fairs, in stores, or on Etsy and other sites.
4. You may offer quantity discounts (ex. 3 for \$20), as long as it is included on the price tag.
5. You may change your pricing during the show, just make sure all tags are accurate!

VI. Commissions & Fees

In addition to the application fee, artists will pay a commission on sales.

For the holiday Bazaar, commissions are categorized into three tiers based on the artist's total show sales:

Tier 1: \$0 to 3,500 = 45% Tier 2: \$3,501 to 9,000 = 40% Tier 3: \$9,001+ = 35%

For the May Market, a flat commission of 40% is paid.

All sales are handled by BGAB; including collection and payment of sales tax. After the commission is deducted, payment is mailed to artists within three weeks of the show closing. When you receive your check, you will also receive a statement showing your total number of sales, gross sales, and net payment after commission.

VII. Security & Loss

Although we are committed to loss prevention, BGAB is ultimately not responsible for loss. It can occur through unintentional damage, cashier mis-rings, or theft. We have preventative measures in place including staff training, a central prominent check-out station, and security

cameras. BGAB cannot track inventory, though artists may keep an inventory of the products they stock; however, BGAB cannot accept any artist inventory reporting as a basis for claims of loss.

VIII. Frequently Asked Questions

A. What does it cost to participate?

Artists must pay the application fee and a commission will be deducted from the final sales totals. Commissions are explained in Section VI.

B. When will I know if I'm accepted or not?

Notifications will be emailed to all applicants on September 1.

C. I make two distinct products which I'd like to sell at the Bazaar, do I need to apply twice?

NO - If you are only applying for one booth, just include both products in your description & images.

YES - If you want to have a separate booth space for each product. Please note, that sales/commissions will be tallied separately and checks will be issued separately for each distinct booth.

D. I don't live in Austin, can I still apply?

Yes. While the majority of our exhibitors are from the Austin area, we consider artists from around Texas and beyond! However, accepted artists must be able to set-up, break-down, and restock their booths. Past exhibitors have usually enlisted the help of local friends & family, a fellow BGAB artist, or hired helpers. BGAB staff may be hired to restock your space through our Hire-a-Genie program.

E. What is the size of my booth?

Applicants must indicate their preferred display type on the application: 8'x8', 4'x8', shelving, jewelry case, or clothing rack. Display types are explained in Section IV. BGAB Management will assign booth spaces after all exhibitors have been confirmed. Indicating a display preference is not a guarantee that you will receive that type of display space.

F. Are shelves provided?

Shelves are only provided to artists assigned a "Shelving" booth. Any additional display units or hardware is not provided. Jewelry cases & clothing racks are provided to those artists assigned to that booth type.

G. Can I put shelves or tables in my display?

Yes, shelves and tables may be included in your wall display, but they should have a maximum depth of 24 inches and they may not block your neighbor's booth. Shelves

should only be attached with screws.

H. Can I have a wall covering on my display?

Yes, you may use a temporary wall covering, such as paper or fabric. You may not paint directly on the wall, or use anything adhesive such as wallpaper or contact paper.

I. Can I display my business name?

Yes! We encourage you to include business cards and signage which communicates your brand. However, any solicitation promoting another store, gallery, or show (like postcards, flyers, etc.) are not allowed without express consent of BGAB management.

J. Will I have electrical access in my booth?

We must limit the use of electricity by exhibitors, so you should not expect to use additional lighting or electrically powered objects within your booths. (The exception to this rule is jewelry displays - we will provide electrical access for lighting on jewelry displays.)

If your products *require* electricity to be displayed, such as lamps or lightboxes, we will provide an electrical outlet. If you need electrical access for this reason, please let us know on your application. Final booth placement and access to electricity is at the discretion of the management.

K. What is a PLU?

Each artist/booth is assigned a unique PLU (price look-up) number, so that total sales for each artist can be tracked. It will be emailed to participating artists at least six weeks before the show opens. Each piece of merchandise must have a clearly labeled PLU and Price to insure sales accuracy.

Because our roster of exhibitors changes each year, we cannot guarantee returning artists to use the same PLU they had in a previous year.

L. How do I label my PLU?

Each piece of merchandise must have a clearly-marked label of their PLU and Price. It can be printed or handwritten, but it must be legible and smudge-proof. The order is important for cashiers; it should have the PLU and then the Price.

See example on right.



M. When do I restock my merchandise?

Artists can restock any time that the show is open, but we recommend coming in at off-peak hours, such as weekdays or mornings. The show will open at 9:30 am daily for artists to restock before customers arrive. Artists should plan on restocking frequently; each artist (or their representative) must get a badge from staff

every time before restocking.

N. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

If you have questions about the Bazaar, please email us at info@bluegenieartbazaar.com

If you experience technical difficulties with Zapplication, please consult the [Zapplication Help Center](#).