

APPLICATION

THE 44th CHRISTMAS CONNECTION! - Artistic Creations Fair NOVEMBER 10 & 11, 2023 (Friday & Saturday)

Location: MeadowView Convention Center | 1901 Meadowview Pkwy | Kingsport, TN 37660

Sponsored by: City of Kingsport, Office of Cultural Arts (423) 392-8414

Website: <https://Arts.KingsportTN.gov> *New Email:* KingsportChristmasConnection@gmail.com

The Christmas Connection is a very well established cultural event in Kingsport, hosting some of the region's best craft artists and is looked forward to year after year! In 2023, this will be the 44th consecutive year serving the artists and the community. This year's Christmas Connection will be held the 2nd weekend in November, due to availability at Meadowview. Dates of 2-day 2023 show: November 10 & 11, 2023.



July 1 – DEADLINE for applications & photos. No cost to apply!

August 4 – Notification of acceptance & Invitations will be sent to accepted vendors.

August 18 – All payments are DUE from accepted applicants. See booth fees on accompanying form. Please note: Invited vendors are not confirmed for show unless payment is received.

Acceptance is by invitation only. All applications are reviewed by a selection committee, taking various factors into consideration in order to create a high quality, attractive show having a good mix of artistic and crafting creations. There will be a limited number of exhibitions for each category or media.

*Please Note: Preference will be given to items that are “Hand-Crafted” vs. “Retail/Manufactured”.

Please send your application no later than July 1st. Space is limited. [Apply online at EngageKingsport.com](#), or [Scan and email your application](#), along with 5-8 photos to the following email: KingsportChristmasConnection@gmail.com (please make sure your images are a small enough file size to send thru email if choosing this option)

-OR- If needed, you may [mail your application](#) (application form + photos) to the following address:

**Christmas Connection
City of Kingsport, Office of Cultural Arts
1200 East Center Street
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660**



All applicants must submit a total of 5-8 current color photographs along with their application. Photos will not be returned. Your images must accurately represent your CURRENT work. Please make sure photos are good quality images, suitable for promotional use. Make sure your photos represent your products well to the judges, who will use them to determine who is selected for the show. What makes YOUR work unique? How is it different from others' work? Items not included for submission during selection process may not be allowed in show. The Office of Cultural Arts reserves all rights to reject specific items from display.

The Office of Cultural Arts (OCA), part of the City of Kingsport, connects, coordinates and engages the public with a creative community. We operate the Renaissance Arts Center, the Farmer's Market, the Kingsport Carousel, Kingsport Public Art Program, Engage Kingsport Performing Arts Series, and a broad range of support to the area's arts organizations. The OCA works in tandem with Engage Kingsport, Inc., the "Friends of the Cultural Arts" group, a private, volunteer-led 501(c)3 non-profit community organization.

About the City of Kingsport

Founded in 1917, the [City of Kingsport](#) (pop. 53,000) is located on the Tennessee-Virginia border at the crossroads of I-81 and I-26 near the geographic center of the eastern U.S. The city is widely known as a planned community, designed by renowned city planner John Nolen and wrapping around the foot of Bays Mountain – a 3,500 acre park, nature preserve, planetarium and observatory. Kingsport is recognized as an International Safe Community by the National Safety Council, a Healthier Tennessee community, and won the 2009 Harvard Innovations in American Government Award for its higher education initiatives. While many city names are duplicated throughout the U.S., there's only one Kingsport – a fact that invokes community pride, known locally as the “Kingsport Spirit.”

PLEASE PRINT

APPLICATION

THE CHRISTMAS CONNECTION

NAME _____

BUSINESS NAME (if applicable) _____

List any exhibitions/craft affiliations (If applicable) _____

How did you hear about the Christmas Connection? _____

Have you ever had a booth in Christmas Connection before? _____ Year(s) _____ *Please note, past acceptance does not guarantee acceptance to this year. Please submit good quality images that positively & professionally reflect your current work.*Tell us about your work:

Would you consider being a demonstrator during the show? Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

Circle ALL media categories that apply (anything that would be found in your booth):

Primitive or Country Crafts | Assemblage | Floral wreaths/décor | Wood | Metal | Photography
 Natural Materials | Man-made Materials | Jewelry | Glass | Furniture | Fiber | Pottery | Clay
 Mixed Media | Painting/Drawing | Paper crafts | Lotions | Soap | Leather | Candles | Food
 Christmas-themed | Commercial | Clothing | Computer Graphics | Other _____

Which category best describes your craft? _____

Is your craft hand-made? What percentage?

____ % Hand-crafted ____ % Retail/Manufactured ____ % Assembled/Constructed

Please give accurate representation of the items that would be in your booth:

 I form/mold every material into unique creations. I piece together found objects to create one-of-a-kind assemblage. I paint found objects/molds/wood. I purchase items for resale. I make a food or lotion or topical treatment. I make every piece from scratch. I sell a commercial product other: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (_____) _____ ALT # (_____) _____

E-MAIL _____ WEBSITE _____

Booth size in 2023 will be 10' x 10' and will be \$125 per booth. If you require more space, please consider requesting a Double Booth. There will be a \$10 fee per table if sponsor is asked to provide tables for booth.

I am interested in: ___ 1 Booth (\$125) ___ Double Booth (\$250) Comment: _____

Do NOT send a check with your application. You will only be asked to send in a check if you are selected to be in the 2023 show. If so, you will be notified and sent an invitation packet.

___ Yes, I have included 5-8 photos of my artistic creations (good quality suitable for promotional use).

GUILDELINES

THE CHRISTMAS CONNECTION – ARTISTIC CREATIONS FAIR!

(Friday & Saturday) NOVEMBER 10 & 11, 2023 Location: MeadowView Convention Center
1901 Meadowview Pkwy | Kingsport, TN 37660

Sponsored by: City of Kingsport, Office of Cultural Arts (423) 392-8414

<http://Arts.KingsportTN.gov>

44th Annual Christmas Connection - (Friday & Saturday) November 10 & 11, 2023

LOCATION: : MeadowView Convention Center | 1901 Meadowview Pkwy | Kingsport, TN 37660

2023 (2-day) SCHEDULE:

(OPEN TO VENDORS)	Set-up	Thursday	Nov. 9	5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
(OPEN TO VENDORS)	Set-up	Friday	Nov. 10	8:00 AM – 11:45 AM
	Show	Friday	Nov. 10	12:00 Noon – 6:00 PM
	Show	Saturday	Nov. 11	9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
				(OPEN TO VENDORS for setup: 8:00 AM)
	BREAK-DOWN	Saturday	Nov. 11	6:01 PM – 9:00 PM

**** There will be no set-up or breakdown during show hours! Please plan accordingly. ****

FEES: \$125.00 for each 10' by 10' booth. Limited Number. There will be a \$10 fee per table if sponsor of event is asked to provide tables for booth. The Christmas Connection is Free Admission to the public.

EXHIBITIONS: The selection committee reserves the right to reject specific items. There will be a limited number of exhibitions for each category or media. A Christmas theme is recommended for each exhibit.

**Please Note: Preference will be given to items that are "Hand-Crafted" vs. "Retail/Manufactured".*

EQUIPMENT: Chairs will be provided by sponsor of event. There will be a \$10 fee per table if sponsor of event is asked to provide tables for booth. Exhibitor will provide their own display equipment. *Please, no black pipe and drape. Electrical outlets are limited and not guaranteed.*

PARKING: Adequate parking adjacent to the building

- Each artist is responsible for paying his/her portion of applicable TN sales tax. All financial transactions and taxes are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor (information will be provided).
- Artists may exhibit only in the medium(s) in which he/she was accepted.
- Exhibitors must remain open for business for entire show, no early breakdowns.
- It is the exhibitor's responsibility to have the display staffed at all times.
- Please plan for sufficient inventory.
- Cars must be moved from loading zones once loads are complete.
- The number of light bulbs allowed will be limited due to circuit overloads.
- All excess materials, cartons and tables must be concealed or removed.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited, no smoking, service animals only.
- Damage to the facility is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- No propane gas, spray paint or hazardous materials are permitted.
- No open flames or equipment which produces fumes or loud noises are allowed.

