

OPEN STREETS MPLS™

2026 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE AT OPEN STREETS MINNEAPOLIS™

STEP ONE	Review all info in this 2026 Open Streets MPLS Participant Guide.
STEP TWO	Register for Open Streets Minneapolis events through the Our Streets website.
STEP THREE	Submit additional documentation as needed, such as food permit information or an ST-19 Sales Form.
STEP FOUR	Look for an email two weeks before each event with your assigned location and event details.
STEP FIVE	Arrive, set up on the street, and have fun!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT OUR STREETS EVENTS TEAM

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our streets

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About Open Streets Minneapolis™

Open Streets Minneapolis was founded in 2011 by [Our Streets](#). Since then, Our Streets has worked with communities across Minneapolis to organize and host more than 60 free, family-friendly events. Our Streets is excited to return as the organizer of Open Streets Lyndale and Open Streets Cedarfest in 2026 after a two-year hiatus in 2024 and 2025.

Open Streets Minneapolis is part of a global movement to make streets places that put people first. The events temporarily close major thoroughfares to car traffic, opening them to people biking, walking, rolling, and connecting with their community.

At the events, we experience streets as public spaces where communities thrive: congested city streets become vibrant, pedestrian-friendly boulevards where people can move and be.

Open Streets Minneapolis events focus on the local community: working directly with local organizations, businesses, artists, and organizers to support and celebrate what makes each Open Streets Minneapolis corridor unique.

At each Open Streets Minneapolis event, local businesses, artists, and community groups transform their streets with public art, dance performances, pop-up shops, games, activities, and more to showcase the diversity, creativity, and culture of Minneapolis.



Dates and Deadlines

2026 Registration for Open Streets Lyndale and Open Streets Cedarfest will be conducted separately. Find registration opening dates and deadlines in the chart below:

Open Streets Event & Route	Event Date	Registration Opens	Food Vendor Deadline	Artist Stipend Deadline	Priority Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Open Streets Lyndale W 22nd St to W 42nd St	Sunday, June 7	Wednesday, Apr 15	Friday, May 8	Friday, May 8	Wednesday, May 20	Friday, May 29
Open Streets Cedarfest 3rd St to S 6th St	Sunday, September 13 <i>Date confirmation pending</i>	TBA	Friday, August 14	Friday, August 14	Wednesday, August 27	Friday, September 11

How to Participate at Open Streets Minneapolis™

Anyone can sign up for a spot on the street to sell, promote, engage, entertain, or provide other family-friendly activities or programming! Participants in Open Streets Minneapolis might include:

- Local businesses
- Mutual aid providers
- Artists, zine creators, and crafters
- Community groups
- Advocacy organizations
- Live musicians
- Theatre makers
- Food vendors
- Interactive art creators
- Fitness instructors
- Health providers & healers
- Open jams & community dance leaders
- Any Minneapolis group or individual who wants to connect with community

Be creative and think outside the box! All fun, engaging, and family-friendly activities are welcome. Have questions about an activity idea? Contact us at events@ourstreetsmn.org or 612-424-0485.

Our Streets' Right to Refuse Participation

Our Streets and Open Streets Minneapolis reserves the right to refuse participation and/or to remove from any Open Streets Minneapolis event any individual, group, or entity that violates any Open Streets Minneapolis policy, engages in illegal activities, or exhibits behavior deemed dangerous, disrespectful, inappropriate, and/or offensive by Our Streets staff.

Participant Categories, Registration, and Fees

This section breaks down the Open Streets Minneapolis participation categories and their associated fees.

Expanded free registration categories

Our Streets continues to prioritize affordability and accessibility for community members. **In 2026, we're proud to offer free registration for the following categories:**

- Artists and Programmers
- Mutual Aid and Resource Groups
- Individuals, Businesses, and Organizations located on the event route

Priority Registration and Late Registration

We offer a generous late registration policy, allowing folks to reserve spots on the street up to one week before the event. However, our small team will be better equipped to accommodate your specific needs when you register by the priority deadline, which is two and a half weeks before the event.

Priority registrants will be assigned spots on the street before late registrants. If a participant has specific spot location or space needs, they should be sure to register by the Priority Registration deadline.

Identifying the right category

Multiple categories may reasonably apply to a single participant. Use the [Participation Type Identifier Tool at this link](#) or read the category definitions (listed after the Participation Fees Chart) to get greater clarification.

Artist Stipends

Our Streets aims to appropriately recognize the value of artistic labor and support artists while also providing abundant opportunities for all artists and community members to participate in Open Streets as they desire.

Some funding is available to compensate performers and programmers who participate in the event, but compensation is not guaranteed. Performers and programmers may indicate if they would like to be considered for an artistic stipend when they submit their registration form. To be considered for a stipend, artists and programmers must submit their application by the Artist Stipend deadline.

Participation Fees Chart

Accessibility is important to us. If the fee for your appropriate category is cost-prohibitive, reach out to us at events@ourstreetsmn.org.

Participation Category	Short Description	Participation Fee
Performer or Programmer	Groups or individuals who perform or provide free activities at the event.	FREE
Mutual Aid or Resource Provider	Unincorporated groups or individuals who are providing free resources or mutual aid to community members who live in the neighborhoods on the event corridor.	FREE
On-the-Route Participant	Individuals, businesses, and organizations located on or immediately adjacent to the event route.	FREE
Makers Market Vendor	Home-based crafters, artisans, entrepreneurs, and cottage food vendors from Minnesota. (Products created using AI are not permitted in this category)	\$25
<i>continued on next page</i>		

Participation Category	Short Description	Participation Fee
Neighborhood Participant	Individuals, businesses (excluding food vendors), and organizations located in the neighborhood(s) surrounding the event route. (See included neighborhoods by route.)	\$50
Neighborhood Food Vendor	Food vendors located in the neighborhood(s) surrounding the event route. (See included neighborhoods by route.)	\$100
Minneapolis Participant	Individuals, businesses (including food vendors) and organizations located in the city of Minneapolis that do not qualify as a Neighborhood Participant.	\$200
Minnesota Participant	Individuals, businesses (including food vendors), and organizations located in Minnesota outside of Minneapolis.	\$300
Out-of-State Participant	Corporations and entities located and/or headquartered outside the state of Minnesota.	\$500
Nonprofit Participant	501(c)3, 501(c)4, and government entities that serve the residents of Minneapolis	\$100

Participant Category Definitions

Performer & Programmer

Groups and individuals who perform at the event or who provide free activities or programming for attendees of the event. Entities with more than 25 full-time employees are excluded from this category unless specifically permitted by the event organizer.

Examples: musicians, dance groups, kids' bubble activities, bike repair workshops, free fitness classes, spoken word poetry readings, yard games, free history exhibit, etc.

Mutual Aid or Resource Provider

Groups or individuals who are providing resources or mutual aid to community members. This is for unincorporated community-led groups.

Examples: groups providing aid for rental assistance, immigration help, food distribution, community closets, organizing community safety patrols, etc.

On-the-Route Participant

Individuals, businesses, and organizations that are located on or immediately adjacent to the event route. Includes food vendors that are located on the event route.

What does “immediately adjacent” mean?

This is intended to include those who are less than half a block away from the given event route but do not have an address that is technically on the corridor. Inclusion in this category is also at the discretion of the event organizer. If you are unsure if this would apply to you, reach out to events@ourstreetsmn.org for clarification.

Makers Market Vendor

Crafters, artisans, entrepreneurs, and cottage food vendors from Minnesota who do not rent or own a brick-and-mortar storefront. Multi-level marketing salespeople are excluded from this category (Paparazzi Jewelry, Cutco, etc.). Cottage food permit holders may participate in the Makers Market, but other all other food vendors must participate in a location-based category.

A limited number of tents and tables for the event will be available to Makers Market vendors on a first-come, first-served basis. A tent and table can be requested in the participant registration form.

Examples: ceramic art, custom clothing, small-batch body care products, pre-packaged hot sauce, hand-poured candles, curated vintage curio, watercolor art, etc.

Artificial Intelligence Use Policy

Our Streets values the labor of artists and the skill of artistic practice. **Vendors who produce goods using artificial intelligence (AI) imaging tools are not permitted to participate in the Makers Market.** Vendors who utilize AI for designs or products may register in other area-based categories.

Neighborhood Participant / Neighborhood Food Vendor

Individuals, businesses, and organizations that are located in the neighborhoods surrounding the event routes. Food vendors located in the surrounding neighborhoods are subject to a higher fee than standard neighborhood participants to account for administrative costs.

2026 Open Streets Event	Surrounding Neighborhoods
Lyndale	Lowry Hill East (The Wedge), Whittier, South Uptown, Lyndale, Kingfield, East Harriet
Cedarfest	Cedar Riverside, Elliot Park, Ventura Village, Seward

Minneapolis Participant

Individuals, businesses, and organizations that are located in the City of Minneapolis that are not within a specified surrounding neighborhood on the event route.

Minnesota Participant

Individuals, businesses, and organizations that are located in Minnesota but outside MPLS.

Out-of-State Participant

Individuals, businesses, franchises, corporations and other entities located and/or headquartered outside the state of Minnesota.

A note on franchises and corporations

In general, franchises and corporations must participate as an Out-of-State Participant unless the location of the entity's headquarters qualifies the entity for a different participation category.

For example, let's say a theoretical national chain called FastFood has a restaurant location on Lyndale, but their headquarters is in Des Moines, IA. Though the FastFood restaurant is on Lyndale, FastFood would register as an Out-of-State Participant because their headquarters is located in Iowa.

Nonprofit Participant

Includes 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 organizations, and government departments or entities that serve residents of Minneapolis. Nonprofit participants who provide a free service or activity at the event, like free vaccinations or mutual aid, may be eligible to participate for free as a Mutual Aid or Resource Provider and should contact Our Streets.

If a participant who would qualify for this category is also located on the event route or in a neighborhood surrounding the event route, they can participate for a lower fee by registering as an On-the-Route Participant or Neighborhood Participant.

Food And Beverage Permits

If you are selling or giving away food or drink at the event, you will need to submit a food permit. The only types of edible items that do not require food permits are bottled water and pre-packaged candy.

Vendors with the following valid licenses will be asked to provide their license number and license type for inclusion in the event:

- Cottage Food Producer Registration (from the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture)
- City of Minneapolis Seasonal Food Permit
- City of Minneapolis Food Truck (Mobile) License
- Exempt Vendors (Product of the Farm or Pour-Only Vendors)

Vendors who do not hold any of the above licenses or registrations must submit information for a Short Term Food Permit application as part of their registration form. Additional materials, such as proof of access to a commercial kitchen, may be requested after registration is submitted in order to complete a Short Term Food Permit application. **Short Term Food Permit application fees are covered by Our Streets.**

Other food licenses: Minnesota Food Truck and Commercial Kitchen

State of Minnesota Food Truck Licenses and Commercial Kitchen Licenses alone are not adequate licensure for City of Minneapolis Department of Health Food Permit applications. Holders of such licenses will be required to submit as a Short Term Food Permit applicant.

Not sure which category you fall into or have questions about food permits? Contact us at events@ourstreetsmn.org

Food Safety Compliance

Food Vendors are responsible for complying with the City's guidelines for dispensing food at events. A free [20 minute online training](#) is available from the Minneapolis Department of Health. Vendors will be inspected by the a City of Minneapolis Health Inspector at Open Streets Minneapolis events. The City of Minneapolis will enforce closure and fines for unpermitted vending and food safety violations. For questions on food safety, contact the Minneapolis Health Department at 612-673-3000.

Approved food distributors will receive a confirmation before the event confirming the City has approved your participation. Ensure you have your permit at the event. If you have a Mobile Food Vehicle license, or Seasonal Food Permit license from the City of Minneapolis, ensure you know your license number (format LICXXXXX).

When setting up, all vendors **must** complete the [Food Vendor Checklist](#). Avoid common food code violations by:

- Having hand washing if you have open food
- Having mechanical refrigeration for potentially hazardous foods
- Not touching food that is ready to eat with bare hands
- Swapping out serving utensils at least once every 4 hours
- Having a food thermometer and checking refrigeration and hot food temperatures
- Using disposable containers and utensils that comply with [Green to Go ordinance](#)

Securing A Food Permit For Private Property

Open Streets Minneapolis cannot provide food permits for activities on private property. If you are thinking of selling or giving away food or beverage on private property or any space not on the street or sidewalk, you must contact Minneapolis Environmental Health well in advance to determine what permits would make this possible:
EnvironmentalHealthPermit@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3000.

The City of Minneapolis will enforce closure and fines for unpermitted vending and food safety violations. Our Streets is not responsible for fines incurred on adjacent private properties during the course of the event.

Securing A Food Permit For Immediately Outside Your Restaurant

If you are a licensed restaurant along the route that will apply for an expansion of premises, contact your [Business Licensing Inspector](#) or Minneapolis Environmental Health. All businesses who apply for an expansion of premises during an Open Streets Minneapolis must receive approval from Our Streets.

Alcohol And Cannabis Sales At Open Streets Minneapolis™ Events

Overall, alcohol and cannabis sales are not permitted at Open Streets Minneapolis events. The only exceptions apply to businesses on the route who secure an expansion of premises or other appropriate licensure from the City of Minneapolis.

If businesses with an existing patio or temporary expansion of premises permit are unable to restrict consumption of alcohol or cannabis to within their secured license area, Our Streets is at full liberty to disallow alcohol or cannabis sales by that vendor for the remainder of the event.

Operator Certificate Of Compliance (St19) Form For Sales

If you are selling anything at Open Streets Minneapolis, including food or drink, you must email an [Operator Certificate of Compliance \(ST19\) form](#) to events@ourstreetsmn.org. Do not send it to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. **The deadline to submit your ST19 is two weeks before the event you are participating in.**

Amplified Sound And Music

A limited number of participants may amplify sound at Open Streets Minneapolis, and available spots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. **Amplified sound means anything loud enough to impact conversations more than 25 feet away.** If this applies to your activities, you must specify you intend to use amplified sound when completing the Open Streets Minneapolis registration form. We fit as many amplified sound sources in as we can while maintaining at least 300 feet between sources to minimize sound overlap. Amplified sound locations are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

To respect our neighbors and comply with City ordinance, **all amplified sound at Open Streets Minneapolis must not exceed 85 dB(A)** measured 20 feet from the source. This is well below typical outdoor concert levels. There are many free sound level meter mobile apps you can use if you're unsure about your sound level.

You do not need your own sound permit: Open Streets Minneapolis holds the necessary sound permits for the entire event.

Materials & Electricity Access

Open Streets Minneapolis does not provide any materials. Participants (you) are responsible for bringing everything you need for your activities, with the exception of Makers Market vendors who have requested and received confirmation of a provided tent and table.

Participants may bring a tent, tables, chairs, games or other non-dangerous movable materials. All tent legs must be weighted down with at least 30 pounds of weight.

Open Streets Minneapolis does not provide electricity access. If you require electricity, you may independently coordinate electricity access with a business on the route or may bring a generator. **Propane tanks for generators may not exceed 20L in volume and vendors using propane must have a 2A10BC fire extinguisher on hand**

Vendors using tents must not place liquid propane tanks under the tent.

Your Assigned Spot On The Street

Around two weeks prior to each event, you will receive an email that includes an **event map** with your exact spot on the street. If you have not paid your registration fee or if your activities require a food permit or an Operator Certificate of Compliance (ST19) form for sales, ***we will not assign your spot until we have received everything we need.***

Many factors are considered when determining your location, including:

- Your request for a specific location (submitted when completing registration).
- Ensuring activities are appropriate for their location and respectful to residents and businesses.
- Allowing entities on-route to have the space outside their building or storefront.
- Choosing a location that fits your planned activities.
- Spacing out mobile food vendors and programming evenly throughout the route.
- Ensuring amplified sound locations are at least 300 feet apart.
- Assigning locations in order of sign up; first-come, first-served.
- Ensuring the overall event layout meets legal and safety requirements.

By default, each spot host has a 12 foot by 12 foot space on the street for your activities. You can request more space at sign up. We can nearly always accommodate requests for more space.

The description of your activities you provide at sign up, your social handles, and any photos you submit will be used to promote your participation in the event on the [Open Streets Minneapolis webpage](#). Please contact us at events@ourstreetsmn.org or 612-424-0485 with any questions about your location or special requests.

Event Logistics & Schedule

All materials must be at your assigned location by 10:00 AM and cleared from the street before 6:00 PM. It is your responsibility to be mindful of time constraints and adhere to that schedule.

If you have questions during the event, text or call 612-424-0485.

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM | Street Closure

- At 8:45 AM Open Streets volunteers and security staff will begin closing the route to motor vehicle traffic.
- By 9:00 AM, the entire route will be closed to motor vehicle traffic.

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | Event Load-In

- Anytime between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM, you may drive onto the route to unload materials in your spot on the street. More specific details regarding entry and exit will be provided closer to the event.
- Participating motor vehicles (e.g. food trucks) may move into place during this time.
- Volunteers and Our Streets staff will be available to assist you in finding your spot and to answer questions.
- **All motorized vehicles dropping off materials must be removed from the route by 10:15 AM.**
- **All motorized vehicles participating in the event must be in place by 10:15 AM.**

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM | Event Set-Up - Motor Vehicles Prohibited

- **Motorized vehicles will not be permitted to drive on, enter, or exit from the route from 10:15 AM until 5:30 PM.**
- Volunteers and Our Streets staff will be available to assist and answer questions.
- A 15 foot access lane must be maintained on the street at all times for emergency vehicles. Do not place items within the access lane (typically the center 15 feet of the street.)

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11:00 AM - 5:00 PM | During the Event

- **Food, water, waste receptacles, and portable toilets can be found throughout the event.**
- **If you need a quick break, volunteers will be available to look after your spot.** Volunteers will check in with participants periodically to provide breaks.
- In case of emergency, call 911 and specify that you are at Open Streets Minneapolis.

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM | Tear Down

- During this time, vendors and participants break down set-ups and pack up supplies.
- Participants may not drive motor vehicles on the route until after 5:30 PM.
- **Vendors are expected to clear and pack out their own trash**, including any tents or other equipment that becomes damaged or broken during the course of the event. Do not add trash to full or overflowing trash receptacles. Leave the street nicer than you found it!

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Load Out

- Participants may move motor vehicles on and off the route to load out supplies after 5:30 PM.
- All supplies must be cleared from the route before the street reopens to car traffic at 6:00 PM without exception
- When moving vehicles on and off the route, participants should replace any barricades they move to prevent non-event vehicles from driving on the route while participants are still present.

6:00 PM | Car Traffic Resumes

- Car traffic will return to the route at 6:00 PM sharp.
- Volunteers and security staff will reopen the street to car traffic.
- All participants are responsible for ensuring their supplies and set up is completely

Cancellation Policy & Inclement Weather

The health and safety of our community and our staff is very important to us. Open Streets Minneapolis events will comply with guidance from public health and community safety experts.

Events may be cancelled for the following reasons:

- Inclement weather, such as thunderstorms, extreme heat, or dangerous wind conditions.
- [Poor air quality that exceeds 100 AQI \(Orange or Moderate level\)](#)
- Public safety threats, such as enforcement raids or high disease infection rates

If an event must be canceled, we will announce the cancellation as soon as possible. Cancellation will be communicated with our partners and the public through our social media, website, and e-mail newsletter.

Registration fees are non-refundable.

In the event of a start delay, participants will receive an email by 9:00 AM the morning of the event.

If the event is to end early, Open Streets Minneapolis staff and volunteers will notify all participants in-person along the route.

If an event needs to be cancelled, participants will receive an email by 9:00 AM the morning of the event.

Rain or Shine

In the event of rain showers without thunder or dangerous wind conditions, the event will go on as planned.



Policing At Open Streets Minneapolis™

Our Streets will make every effort to minimize police presence at Open Streets Minneapolis events to the extent that is permitted by the City of Minneapolis. Except as is deemed absolutely necessary by city officials, Our Streets will not engage MPD or other law enforcement entities in event activities. To the best of Our Streets' understanding, there is not currently a clear path or model for city street closure in Minneapolis without any MPD presence.

The City of Minneapolis requires that licensed security personnel or off duty officers be present at large public events. Event safety at the 2026 Open Streets events will be managed by Strongarm Security in partnership with Our Streets staff.

If you need assistance or feel unsafe when interacting with Minneapolis Police at Open Streets Minneapolis events, please text or call us immediately at 612-424-0485.

Safer Spaces Policy

Safer spaces are intentional anti-oppression spaces, created with the goal of supporting and welcoming all identities, meaning all genders, races, religions, abilities, orientations, etc. We make safer spaces by being brave enough to enter these spaces, being vulnerable to making mistakes and learning, and by calling out and responding to oppressive behavior.

We will know our spaces are actively anti-oppression when everyone feels they can engage to their fullest. All identities are welcome here. We all work together to create safer spaces. Bigotry will not be tolerated.

This policy applies to all Our Streets work places and events. If you feel unsafe or experience harm at an Open Streets Minneapolis event, contact us immediately at 612-424-0485.