



The Florence City Center Farmers Market Vendor Application

Thank you for your interest in joining the year-round **City Center Farmers Market in Downtown Florence!**

The City of Florence started the market in April 2016 and has experienced exciting growth for entrepreneurs, local farmers, artisans, foodies, and our growing community. This family friendly market runs year-round, rain or shine, outside of a few hurricanes or ice-storms here and there. The City Center Farmers Market has a beautiful new facility located at 200 Sanborn Street. This new location includes three lease spaces for small businesses and a commercial test kitchen available for rent by the hour.

Please read and complete the online Vendor Application. Once you have been accepted payments for vendor spaces should be made to City of Florence or call 843-665-2047 to pay by credit card by every Wednesday at noon. If you have questions, please write to mdowdell@cityofflorence.com with **Farmers' Market Vendor Question** in the subject line.

Farmers' Market
c/o Planning Department
City Center Building
324 W Evans Street, 2nd Floor
Florence, SC 29501

We are looking forward to being your partner at the market, please send over any questions you may have!

Merrette Dowdell
Market Organizer

Market Vendor Information

*At this market, **local** is defined as having been grown or made in South Carolina or, if out of state, from within 100 (air) miles of Florence County.

The market organizer for the city is Merrette Dowdell. The market manager onsite every Saturday is Adam Silverman, citycenterfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Goals: City Center Farmers Market has a mission to add to downtown's vitality through 1) access to fresh, healthy food and information 2) promotion of active living 3) creating a venue for entrepreneurs of locally-produced food and artisan products 4) a community gathering place.

Location: 200 Sanborn Street. This location has convenient parking and is in walking distance of the historic downtown and several neighborhoods. It is part of the City's wellness campus and as an area that includes the City Recreation Department headquarters, gymnasium, and an inclusive-play playground.

Time: Saturday mornings every week from 9am-1pm. Rain or shine. Set up time begins at 8am. *Please be prepared to open for business at 9 but do not sell prior to opening time nor break down before closing.* This market is YEAR-ROUND. We close for significant weather events (e.g. hurricanes, snow) and for Saturdays that coincide with major holidays.

Application Process: Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Please go online to this website and complete the vendor application (www.florencedowntown.com/citycenterfarmersmarket). An IRS W-9 form is also required for food and garden vendors*. Site visits by the market organizer or manager may be required before or after application approval.

Approval to be a vendor is determined by the market committee, weighing factors such as how local the vendor's base of operations is, market needs in different categories, quality and uniqueness of product, degree of professionalism, references, and vendor's anticipated frequency of participation and to the market committee's discretion.

If you apply and are approved, your standing at the market is considered **active**. If you miss 12 consecutive market days, your status is **inactive** and you may request re-consideration of your existing application.

*The City reimburses vendors who have sales to customers using SNAP EBT cards (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Electronic Benefit Transfer cards).

How to participate:

Once approved to participate in the market, request your preferred market dates; make payment by **noon the Wednesday before the desired market day**. Payment (after approved application) reserves the space. In the event of a shortage of tents/tables, priority will be given chronologically based on payment for the market day. You can request market dates by email or phone communication with market organizer as frequently as you need.

If you do not participate for 6 consecutive months (26 market days), you may re-apply.

Cancellations: See market fees section.

www.florencedowntown.com/citycenterfarmersmarket * <https://www.facebook.com/citycenterfarmersmarket>

Smoking: The City does not allow smoking in the market area for vendors or customers.

What do the City of Florence and its City Center Farmers Market provide?

- Ability to accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP. Formerly known as Food Stamps) payments for qualified purchases on behalf of vendors with timely reimbursement to the vendor for those transactions. (Please see vendor responsibilities section for more on this subject.)
- Healthy Bucks for increasing spending power of visitors who have SNAP debit cards. This is in effect as long as the state of SC provides this program.
- An assigned location each week – be aware that it may not be exactly the same location every week though we do try to keep a consistent order. Vendors may swap around with one another if mutually agreeable.
- One 8-foot table and a 10x10 canopy. Tent/tables will be first-come-first-serve based on your reservation.
- Access to electricity.
- Diversified advertising and promotion of the market and of the specific vendors across print, social media, and radio including occasional give-away incentives (this is limited and is intended as a complement to vendors' own promotions, not a replacement).
- Indoor restrooms and trash facilities.
- The City of Florence has waived the business license requirement for this market.

Vendors' responsibilities:

The congeniality of the vendor community at City Center Farmers Market is an important component of the market's success and is something we do not take for granted. Please take the time to get acquainted with one another and make an effort to maintain a friendly atmosphere

- Familiarize yourself with the layout of the market, the location of restrooms and smoking area, market rules, and generally where we are located in the City.
- All questions about market operation or complaints (vendor or customer) should be reported to the on-site market manager and to the city's market organizer. *See also the market feedback section of this application.*
- Review the map (emailed to vendors before the market day begins) to familiarize yourself with what location you have been assigned.
- Label your tent/table with your business name. Label any products' source if you did not produce them. Please see rules in following section about what vendors may sell. After three reminders to label off-farm goods, a vendor may be dismissed from the market.
- A tablecloth or table covering of some sort is required.
- Ensure that your tent and table do not interfere with or endanger other vendors or customers (i.e. does not blow away). To that end, the market rules require that you provide four (4) weights of at least ten (10) pounds each for the canopy legs regardless of weather forecast. (Weights may not put downward weight on the canopy but must be secured to the canopy legs and rest on the ground.) You can buy these or make your own.
- Be ready by 9am, but do not sell prior to opening time nor leave before closing time at 1pm. This is important to keeping the market looking presentable to patrons who arrive near the end of market.
- Remove your waste and belongings at the close of each market day. Trash cans are provided.
- Wear shoes and shirts required.
- Keep the market family-friendly, which includes music lyrics and entertainment, merchandise for sale, activities provided, attire, conversation that customers can hear, promotion, and advertising.
- Help maintain a strong, congenial vendor community, which includes looking for ways to be helpful to others and respecting one another's opportunities to engage with customers.
- If you are selling a qualifying product and the customer asks to pay with a SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) EBT card (a debit card specifically for SNAP funds), you use the market manager to process payments (unless you are authorized to take the payments directly). SNAP users currently enjoy the extra benefit of qualifying for the Healthy Bucks program which gives patrons even more buying power for purchasing fruits and vegetables. These nutrition assistance offerings are key features of the City Center Market and CCFM vendors may not deny customers a qualified purchase based on these forms of payment. A How-To sheet on this process will be provided to vendors.
- Consider signing up for SC Certified if you are eligible. You may find a Certified South Carolina membership application at this link: <https://www.certifiedscgrown.com/programs/member-program-info/>
- *****It is the vendor's responsibility to hold all required local, state, and federal business licenses, certifications, permits, and any appropriate insurance.*****

What May Vendors Sell:

The City Center Farmers Market prioritizes vending of local fruit and vegetables. Vendors of other foods, natural products and artisan crafts, as well as relevant community groups and service providers, are welcome to participate as space allows. Market rules apply to all types of vendors.

Only products listed on the applications *and* accepted by the market committee may be brought to market. Farm visits by market staff/advisors will be conducted.

Items not allowed: franchise products, political paraphernalia, second hand items, or any other items not made locally by the vendor or his/her family member.

In rare instances, exceptions are made at the discretion of Market Committee in the interest of meeting customer needs and market goals; and, as stated above, the Market reserves the right to refuse the application of any vendor or any application at any time and for any reason.

Rules regarding fruits and vegetables and other natural products:

1. Fruits, vegetables, and natural products must be local, as defined in this document.
2. All resale items must be labeled with the name of the farm or farmer who grew it. The vendor must have purchased items directly from the farmer who grew it. No produce purchased other farmers markets or wholesale vendors shall be permitted for re-sale.
3. Any items marketed as 'organic' must have on display the USDA organic certificate. Any items sold with reference to humane treatment must also have on display any relevant, official documentation.
4. CBD oil and hemp products for ingestion may not be sold or distributed because they have not been approved by the FDA for consumption. Vendors who carry CBD oil and hemp products must have on display the documentation showing independent testing or invoice(s) indicating source(s) of the oil.

Categories of Vendors and Fees:

All vendors: \$10 per market day. \$35 per month if paid before beginning of month. \$100 for 13 market days (approximately 3 months)

Food & Plant Producers Farmers, bakers, gardeners, vendors who grow, raise, or make the food or plant items they are selling. This includes livestock farmers, even if the meat was processed by someone else. If the vendor produces the vast majority of what s/he sells and re-sells a couple of items, s/he may mark items' sources appropriately yet remain in this category.

Re-Sellers

Vendors who sell produce or plants that fit market rules, but that they did *not* produce themselves. If your space generally includes several items you produced and more re-sale products, you pay the re-seller fee. Don't forget: all products should be identified as to which farm they came from (please retain documentation) – see especially rules about fruit/vegetable/natural products, above.

Blends

For those selling a combination of crafts and foods, roughly equal in display space, revenue, and/or variety.

www.florencedowntown.com/citycenterfarmersmarket * <https://www.facebook.com/citycenterfarmersmarket>

Artisans

Vendors who sell non-food items that they have made. Re-sale of artisan products is not permitted at this market except in rare circumstances, and approved by the Market Committee.

Anchor Tenants

**this slot is currently filled.*

Vendors who meet the following additional requirements:

- Carry a wide variety of food items; and
- Commit to only one location in Florence County on Saturday mornings; and
- Commit to participate all market days with 1 non-holiday exception a year; and
- Commit to setting up early enough so as not to block other vendor setups.

Anchor tenants will be provided a fixed location and up to three 10x10 canopies and up to 3 10x15 canopies or equivalent coverage. Anchor tenants may, in advance, request space for their own additional canopies. Weights for all Anchor tenant tents will be provided but the vendor is responsible for tying tents together and generally ensuring that the tents do not move about in windy weather.

Nonprofits, community organizations, and for-profit service providers –

Those promoting a cause, concept, or service that fits the mission of the market but not selling a tangible item onsite. Entities must be non-partisan. This rate is \$5. Limited space allotted. If the entity is selling a service onsite the rate is \$10.

If the entity is selling crafts or natural products as a fundraiser, the appropriate category and rules above apply. For example, if plants are being sold, apply under “Food Producer/Gardener”.

Food Trucks/Mobile Vending

Space is limited for food truck/trailer parking and specific slots will be assigned. Vendors for food trucks may select to vend on weekdays 11am-2pm and/or during market hours on Saturdays 9am-1pm. Vendors must follow the City rules regarding food truck operation (See City of Florence Planning Office, 843-665-2047) and then apply through City Center Farmers Market. Spaces may be reserved for up to 3 months at a time, renewable.

City License, Payments, Cancellations

Business License Requirement: The City has waived the requirement for business licenses for vendors while they are participating in this city-sponsored event.

Payment deadlines and payment logistics: Payment of market fees and City license reserves your place on a given market day. **Payment is due no later than NOON on the Wednesday before the market day** in which you wish to participate and multiple market days may be paid for at one time. Alternate payment arrangements may be made with approval from the Market Organizer. Vendors may pay in person or via mail (see address at bottom of this page) or by calling the number below and paying the City of Florence by credit card. (American Express is not accepted.)

Cancellations: If you must miss a market day for which you've reserved a place, please contact us via email ASAP. If you contact us before noon on Thursday before the market, we will roll the pre-paid market fee forward to an agreed-upon date. Cancellations made after the Thursday noon deadline will forfeit the market fee and incur a \$5 fine, payable before participating again. Refunds are not available.

Returned Checks: Returned checks will incur a \$35 fee, payable before vendor may participate again.



Market Feedback

The City of Florence’s City Center Farmers Market (CCFM) strives to provide a fair and equal opportunity for all participants to sell and purchase locally produced goods. All vendors and the CCFM market manager have received a copy of the Vendor Guidelines with an understanding of the importance of their cooperation. This form and process are in place to help insure that the market rules are followed:

Problems, complaints, or concerns must be directed immediately to the Market Manager. Compliments are, of course, welcome. Any complaint that cannot be resolved with the aid of the Market Manager may be submitted in writing to the CCFM Committee or to the Market Organizer Merrette Dowdell.

mdowdell@cityofflorence.com or 843-665-2047.

If you feel a vendor or any other participant has acted in a way that harms the CCFM please supply the following information:

Your name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of the vendor or person in question: _____

Feedback. Provide any evidence that supports your concern:

Date(s) of occurrence: ____/____/____ Time(s) of occurrence ____/____/____