



## **The BTV Winter Market Frequently Asked Questions**

We are pleased to provide this FAQ to help answer some potential questions regarding The BTV Winter Market. As always, reach out to us at [BTVMKT@Burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:BTVMKT@Burlingtonvt.gov) if you have a question that isn't addressed below. Thank you!

### General Questions

#### **1. How big is the market?**

We are planning on presenting 20 vendors each week. All vendor booths will be on hardscaped surfaces and not on the grass.

#### **2. Why isn't the BCA Holiday Artist Market taking place this year?**

Following the success of the BTV Market this summer, BCA and Love Burlington are joining forces once again to bring you the BTV Winter Market. The BTV Winter Market blends together the 20+ years running BCA Holiday Artist Market and the Love Burlington Winter Market for a magical month-long event.

#### **3. What about COVID?**

The BTV Market will follow all current federal, state, and City guidelines in regards to the health and wellbeing of our vendors and patrons. We will make any changes needed as new guidelines are presented, but we do feel good that we are outside in a large space.

#### **4. Are food trailers allowed to participate?**

In short, yes. While trucks are not allowed, non-motorized trailers or food carts are allowed. However, please reach out to us with specifics, as parking these units into vendor slots could be challenging. We are happy to work with you to see if we can make it work.

Per a city ordinance, no food trucks are allowed to operate in the Central Peddlers District in Burlington. Because of this, food trucks are not allowed to participate in this market.

#### **5. Are all vendor spaces the same size?**

Yes, all vendors will get an 8'x6' market stall that has three sides and a roof. Each stall has 5 amps of power (unless specified), basic lighting, basic decorations (lights and garland) and a basic heater. Market stalls will be secured overnight with a tarp and bungee cords. Materials can be left in market stalls overnight but nothing of value should be left in them as we cannot guarantee security for these items.

Vendors are responsible for their own displays, additional lighting or décor, table (s), chairs and any materials needed for setting up your display such as a hammer or command strips.

## **6. Will additional electricity be available? What about cooking?**

In general, yes, City Hall Park was developed with significant infrastructure to support events and markets. If you need a reasonable amount of additional power, we will be able to accommodate a small number of requests and ask that you please note your power needs on your application. Food vendors will receive an additional 20-amps of power in addition to the 5 amps provided.

Cooking with wood or propane is allowed, as long as you bring a fire extinguisher.

Please note any on-site cooking in your application so we can place you appropriately and consider nuisance smoke.

## **7. Is the market rain or shine or snow?**

Like the Vermont weather, it's complicated. With a market that is between four to six hours long, the weather can vary over that time frame. Here's the plan:

- The market is by and large a rain, shine or snow event, with the exception of extreme weather (heavy rain, high wind, below zero temperatures, winter warnings or lighting). We suggest you travel with tarps, even when the weather looks to be decent.
- If there is extreme weather at 9 am on Saturday, we will delay the market by one hour, with a market start at 12 pm instead of 11 am. At 10 am, if the forecast is still looking unfavorable, we will cancel the market.
- We will track any potential lighting during the market. Any strike within 8 miles requires that the market cease operations, and we will encourage everyone to seek cover. We realize this is hard, given that you have your merchandise to look after. Make the best decisions you can at the time. The market will then be paused until 30 minutes after the last lighting strike in our 8 mile radius. This is standard life safety for outdoor events.
- If NOAA issues a severe weather warning or winter storm warning for our area, we will follow the same procedure as noted above. This is only for a warning, which means the severe weather is imminent (as opposed to a watch).
- All market communications will be via email, including weather alerts and information.

## **8. Load In, Load Out, Parking**

We recognize that having a 20-vendor market load in at the same time is a challenge. With that in mind, anticipate that City Hall Park might be congested. Please plan ahead. We will have a temporary parking loading zone on College Street. You can unload and load up here for a maximum of 10 minutes in each direction. Please use these spaces with others in mind. You can park temporarily in spaces with orange meter bags. The other spaces are traditional paid metered spaces. Load in times will depend on the start of each market day but are typically an hour to an hour and half ahead of the market opening. Break down and load-out will be for an hour following the close of the market. Once you unload, you will need to find garage or street parking as available. The Downtown Garage (formerly Lakeside Garage) on College Street is nearby and offers the first two hours of parking free every day and free parking on Sunday.

### **9. Is there WiFi in the park?**

Yes! Look for Burlington Telecom Guest and log on.

### **10. Storage onsite?**

Vendors will have exclusive access to their market stall for their session, meaning you do not have to remove all your display each day. However, we do highly recommend that you load-in and load-out all of your product each day. Market stalls will be secured overnight with a tarp and bungee cords. Materials can be left in market stalls overnight but nothing of value should be left in them as we cannot guarantee security for these items.

### **11. Insurance—really?**

Getting insurance to cover you and your merchandise in the park may seem like a big step, but insurance is a good idea for all involved. It helps protect you and your merchandise in the event of a mishap. Getting liability insurance isn't always as expensive as it seems and it can be used in any other endeavors of your small business. We are happy to share resources or assist you in getting insurance. We are requiring proof of insurance for participation. Please reach out with further questions or if this presents a challenge.

### **12. Community Panel, Selection Process and Scheduling**

A five-person community panel will review all applications at the same time and create a pool of diverse vendors for the BTV Winter Market. Once approved, applicants will be notified on October 14<sup>th</sup> on their acceptance and schedule. Finally, we will look at all of the date requests and program each market to have a good range of offerings, working within the date selections each vendor made. See the application for more information.

### **13. Will I be cold?**

There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes! It is important to remember that this is an outdoor market and you will need to dress appropriately with lots of layers. The heater provided gives off heat but will not be comparable to being indoors. We encourage everyone to embrace the season and get cozy! Bring blankets and hand and foot warmers.

We will also have standing heaters and propane fire pits available for guests (and vendors) to warm up with.

### **14. Sessions?**

Yes! Instead of signing up for a single day of the market you will be signing up for session. This means you are signing up to vend either a two- or three-day period. The pricing reflects the full session, not each day. For example, a 3-day session is \$150.

### **15. Event Grants**

The City of Burlington is excited to offer small event grants to individuals needing financial assistance to participate in the BTV Winter Market. Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$50 - \$350. Grants are to be used for purchasing insurance, paying for market fees and paying for access to a community kitchen or food commissary. To ensure those with the highest need are supported, we will

be asking for financial information (household size and annual income) within the event grant application. We will follow-up with a link to the event grant application with all accepted vendors in mid-October.

**16. Will there be security on-site?**

The City is actively trying to arrange for overnight and event private security for BTV Winter Market. Due to staffing shortages, we are not able to confirm full coverage at this time. Stay tuned for an update.