

Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival

2026 ARTIST PLANNING GUIDE

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FESTIVAL WEB SITE: <https://www.hipstoricartfestival.com>

FESTIVAL LOCATION

The Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival will be held on Washington Street from the 1000-1400 blocks. Washington Street is the Historic Highway 61, the Blues Highway.

SHOW HOURS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 5pm – 9pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 10am – 6pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 Noon – 5pm

ARTIST CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS

ARTIST CHECK-IN TIME: Friday, October 2 7am- Noon

By 12 noon Friday, all artists must pick up their official check-in packet, which includes your name badge, booth sign and parking pass. If you need a later check-in, please contact the festival prior to your arrival at 601-519-3032. **All artists are required to check in before setting up!**

ARTIST CHECK-IN LOCATION

Artist check-in will be at Washington Street Park located at 1007 Washington Street Vicksburg, MS 39183. [Please follow the driving directions shown below in the Driving Directions section.](#)

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO ARTIST CHECK-IN

I-20 from the West driving directions – take Exit 1C, stay left to make a left turn at the traffic light onto Halls Ferry Road. Stay on Halls Ferry Road until it merges with Cherry Street. Stay on Cherry Street until you reach Jackson Street. **Jackson Street is about 2.6 miles from I-20.** Make a left turn onto Jackson Street and go one block to Washington Street. Make a left turn onto Washington Street and go half a block until you see our Artist Check-In tent.

I-20 from the East driving directions – take Exit 1C, stay right to make a right turn at the traffic light onto Halls Ferry Road. Stay on Halls Ferry Road until it merges with Cherry Street. Stay on Cherry Street until you reach Jackson Street. **Jackson Street is about 2.6 miles from I-20.** Make a left turn onto Jackson Street and go one block to Washington Street. Make a left turn onto Washington Street and go half a block until you see our Artist Check-In tent.

LOAD-IN & SET-UP PROCEDURES

After you check in drive south on Washington St. to your booth number. Park across the street from your booth space in the parking pull out areas. Please leave a traffic lane for other artists and emergency vehicles. This will be a leisurely set-up. We do not require artists to sign up for an appointed check-in. Please unload completely, set up and move your vehicle as quickly as you are able, allowing room for other artists to have vehicle access to their booth spaces.

Artists need to be in their booth and open fifteen minutes before opening each day.

ARTIST PARKING

Please display your Parking Pass on your dashboard during festival hours.

There are three designated artist parking areas: 1) the parking lot next to the **Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum** at 1107 Washington Street, 2) the parking lot next to the **Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio** at 1221 Washington Street, and 3) the **Lower Mississippi River Museum** parking lot at the corner of Levee Street and Washington Street.

The first two parking lots are within the festival site across from artist booths. Both lots are small, so only vehicles the size of a van or smaller can park there – no trailers. Parking in these lots will be first come, first served. [Since Washington Street is the only way to enter and exit these two parking lots, please plan to arrive early each day since Washington Street will be closed to all vehicles one hour before show opening. Also, your vehicle will need to stay parked until the end of the show each day.](#)

The third parking lot at the Lower Mississippi River Museum is where all other artist vehicles can park including oversize and vehicles traveling with trailers. This lot is not on the show site, so you can come and go at your leisure. This is a level lot with plenty of room and police security cameras.

Directions to the Lower Mississippi River Museum Parking Lot:

-If you are in **booth spaces 1101-1118**, the best way to get from your booth space to the Lower Mississippi River Museum parking lot will be to make a right turn at China Street (the closest right turn to your booth space going south). Go down the hill one block take a right on Clay and make a right turn on Levee Street. Follow Levee Street until you reach the parking lot on the right side just past the Lower Mississippi River Museum.

-If you are in **booth spaces 1201-1214**, the best way to get from your booth space to the parking lot will be to make a right turn at Clay Street (the closest right turn to your booth space going south). Go down the hill two blocks and make a right turn on Levee Street. Follow Levee Street until you reach the parking lot on the right side just past the Lower Mississippi River Museum.

-If you are in **booth spaces 1301-1310**, the best way to get from your booth space to the parking lot will be to make a left turn at Crawford Street (the closest left turn to your booth space going south). Go one block to Walnut Street, then make a left turn. Proceed to East 1st Street. Make a left turn. Go one block, then cross Washington Street. East 1st Street becomes Levee Street after you cross Washington Street. As soon as you cross Washington Street, the parking lot is on the left.

There is plentiful on-street parking available near the festival site. We would like to save those parking spaces for patrons of the festival and downtown businesses.

Please use your best manners when parking. We all have experienced poor parking and know that it only takes one badly parked car to ruin several perfectly good parking spaces.

BOOTH INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: The entirety of Washington Street is on a 5% incline. If your booth or display panels or cases need to be level, please bring shims.

BOOTH ASSIGNMENTS

Booth assignments will be posted to your ZAPP account sometime prior to the festival. Booth assignments are at the sole discretion of the festival and are not interchangeable. At check-in, you will receive a booth sign that must hang in your booth.

ELECTRICITY

The show will be open after dark on Friday night. You will need to provide your own lighting. One electrical receptacle will be available to each artist. Please try to limit your electrical needs to 500 watts. It is possible the closest electrical outlet to your booth will be as far as 100' away, so please bring an outdoor-approved extension cord. If you need more electrical outlets, please plan to provide your own power strip, preferably one rated for outdoor use. *Do not lay your power strip on the ground.* Generators are prohibited.

BOOTH DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS

Artists are responsible for providing all booth structures, racks, tables, chairs, display units, and other fixtures suitable for outdoor use and constructed to withstand crowds and wind. Artists are responsible for ensuring that their tent and its accompanying structures are properly secured, especially in the case of rain or wind. Be sure to weigh your canopy with sufficient weight. **You will need a minimum of 50 pounds of weight for each leg of your tent. In some circumstances, 50 pounds per leg might not be enough. It is your responsibility to make sure you have enough weight to prevent injuries or damage.**

All Booth spaces are on brick streets. Each exhibitor will be given a space measuring (minimum) 11'x11' to house a booth structure with dimensions no larger than 10'x10'. Displaying artwork on the outside wall of your booth **will be possible at most booth locations - be prepared.**

All booths have limited space behind them to store items. Please maintain a tight, compact space. Booth spaces that look untidy or have loose items thrown about will be asked to move storage to the interior of the tent. Sidewalks must be kept clear for through foot traffic.

ARTIST PRESENCE

Artists must be present during the entire festival and must personally staff their exhibit space. No spouses, agents, dealers, or representatives may attend in place of the artist. Artists who sell their entire body of work must remain with their booths for the duration of the festival. Artists who break down displays or depart before closing time on any day of the festival will not be allowed to return the following day or to future shows unless proof of an emergency is presented.

No artist may let or sublet their booth either entirely or partially, with or without charge. Work of individuals other than those accepted and specified in the artist's application for entry may not be exhibited or advertised in the booth.

SECURITY

City of Vicksburg police officers and a private security company will provide event security beginning at 5pm on Friday, October 2 until 5pm on Sunday, October 4. We are working to always assure the highest possible security of the festival site. Security for your belongings is your responsibility and requires your active involvement. Artists are solely responsible for the security of their exhibits and equipment. We insist you close and secure your booth each night and secure all personal belongings during the day and night. Additionally, if you are a jeweler and would like an escort to your hotel or vehicle after closing, please contact artist relations at 601-519-3032 to plan in advance of closing.

CASH AWARDS/JUDGING

\$7,000 total will be awarded by the festival judge. The onsite judge is Myrna Colley-Lee. Best of Show will receive \$2,000. There will be five (5) \$500 Legacy Art Awards given in the two-dimensional category (includes: Mixed Media 2D, Painting, and Photography), and five (5) \$500 Legacy Art Awards in the three-dimensional category (includes: Clay, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Mixed Media 3D, Sculpture, and Wood). All award winners will be automatically juried into the 2027 Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival. Judging will occur on Saturday, October 2 during the hours of the festival.

ARTIST HOSPITALITY AND ARTIST RELIEF

Cold bottled water will be delivered to your booth periodically.

Artist Hospitality Location

- Located 2nd Floor Loft in the H.C. Porter Gallery, 1216 Washington St.
- Open:
 - Friday from 5pm to 9pm
 - Saturday from 10am to 5pm
 - Sunday from 12pm to 5pm
- Handicapped accessible (Elevator access)
- Coffee, light breakfast items, snacks and water will be available.
- Blood Mary's will be served on Sunday (featuring Cathead vodka), while supplies last.

ARTIST RELIEF VOLUNTEERS

Artist Relief Volunteers will be circling throughout the festival. They each have designated zones so that all areas are covered.

Things Artist Relief Volunteers Can Do:

- Deliver a free snack from the Artist Hospitality (as available).
- Stay in your booth while you get lunch or use the facilities for up to 30 minutes.
- Assist in answering questions

Things Artist Relief Volunteers Cannot Do:

- Carry art without the artist or patron present
- Leave the festival footprint while volunteering
- Sit in your booth for longer than 30 minutes
- Purchase your lunch
- Handle money in any way

NEED HELP?

- Please feel free to get an artist relief team member's attention by speaking to them or gesturing for help.
- Call H.C. Porter, 601-519-3032 or Bob McFarland, 253-275-8108.
- Booth sitters will be provided for 15-30 minute intervals. Please call the phone number on the back of your festival artist badge when you are ready for a booth sitter or place the pink ribbon included in your packet on the corner of your booth to alert the block captain.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Members of the press as well as our official festival photographer, may photograph you or your booth for media and/or promotional purposes. Any official photographers will be wearing the official festival nametag.

RESTROOMS

There will be a restroom trailer across from Washington Street Park near the food vendors. There are public restrooms in the corner of the parking lot at Washington Street and Crawford Street (near booth space 1310). Artists may access the restrooms in Artist Hospitality at 1216 Washington St. 2nd floor of the H.C. Porter Gallery.

SALES TAXES

Please remember to charge 7% sales tax on all your sales. The State of Mississippi requires the show to collect and remit all artist sales taxes. A short tax form will be included in your check-in packet. Please complete the form and remit your tax payment to the designated festival representative, Donna Ingram, beginning at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 4. As previously mentioned, there is a 7% sales tax in Vicksburg, Mississippi. [You can pay with cash or check. All checks must be made payable to Main Street Vicksburg.](#)

LOAD OUT

[Sunday, October 4 5pm- 9pm.](#) No one will be permitted to begin tearing down their exhibit before 5pm on Sunday, October 4. No vehicles will be permitted on site until the site is opened to vehicular traffic by the VHAF staff and/or Vicksburg Police. Your load-out must be completed by 11:59pm on Sunday, October 4, 2026.

Please break down your booth and place it to the side to allow for a HAPPY and fast load out process. There is great potential for congestion, so please be patient.

IF YOU HAVE AN OVERSIZE VEHICLE OR A TRAILER

– Artists in booth numbers 1101-1118 can get from the Lower Mississippi River Museum parking lot by turning left onto Levee Street, then left onto Grove Street, then right onto Washington Street. You can exit the site by proceeding to China Street then make a left turn.

- Artists in booth numbers 1201-1214 can get from the Lower Mississippi River Museum parking lot by turning right onto Levee Street, then crossing Washinton Street onto East 1st

Street. Go one block then make a right turn onto Walnut Street. Proceed to China Street then make a right turn. Turn left onto Washington Street. When you leave proceed to Clay Street, then make a left turn.

- **Artists in booth numbers 1301-1310** can get from the Lower Mississippi River Museum parking lot by turning left onto Levee Street, then left onto Clay Street, then right onto Washington Street. You can exit the site by proceeding to Crawford Street then make a left turn.

***IF YOU ARE PARKED WITHIN THE SHOW SITE AT THE BIEDENHARN COCA-COLA MUSEUM PARKING LOT OR THE MERLE NORMAN COSMETIC STUDIO PARKING LOT, YOU MAY NOT MOVE YOUR VEHICLE UNTIL THE "ALL CLEAR" IS GIVEN.**

Any items left onsite after 12:00am on Monday October 4th will be disposed of by festival staff.

CANCELLATION AND WITHDRAWAL

An exhibitor who wishes to withdraw from the Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival may be released; however, no booth fees will be refunded. An artist who fails to register on site before Noon on Friday, October 2 may forfeit all rights to occupy their booth space. In the event of a delay in arrival after close of packet pickup at noon, please contact the event staff at 601-519-3032 or 253-275-8108. If the exhibitor withdraws, the exhibitor will remain liable for the full booth fee.

The Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival may, if required by force nature or other reasons beyond its control, postpone or shorten the festival. No exhibitor shall have any right or claim for any damages whether direct, indirect, or consequential, or of any other kind, arising or alleged to arise by reason of any postponement or cancellation of the festival.

INSURANCE AND LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

Each exhibitor must insure his/her property against the risks of fire, theft, burglary, breakage and leakage, and weather or water damage as well as the risks of transport to and from the festival site. The Vicksburg Art Association, Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, Vicksburg Main Street Program, H.C. Porter Gallery, McFarland Productions, Inc., H.C. Porter, and Robert W. McFarland are not liable to any exhibitor or any other person for any damage or loss whatsoever, arising from any cause, except the gross negligence of said parties. Without limiting the foregoing, the Vicksburg Art Association, Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, Vicksburg Main Street Program, H.C. Porter Gallery, McFarland Productions, Inc., H.C. Porter, and Robert W. McFarland are not liable for any loss incurred by reason of failure of the exhibitor to obtain such insurance or failure of such insurance to cover any loss. Furthermore, exhibitors will be held liable for any damage caused by their tents or structures.

ARTWORK POLICIES AND SHOW RULES

Artists will retain all proceeds from their sales. No commissions will be collected. All revenue collected by the festival will be used to produce and promote it.

The work exhibited at the festival must match the quality and style as represented by the artist in his or her application. The jury committee reserves the right to refuse exhibition and/or eligibility of cash awards for work that is not consistent with a submitted application, event standards and/or the policies listed below. Failure to comply can result in immediate removal from the festival with no refund. All work must be original, well-conceived, and expertly executed by hand or with appropriate tools by the exhibiting artist. Works from commercial kits, casts, molds, patterns or plans, prefabricated forms or other commercial methods are prohibited.

“Buy/Sell” merchandise is not allowed.

Artists selling work that is not their own will be expelled from the festival.

Only artists accepted in the jewelry category may exhibit or sell jewelry. Jewelry is not accepted in any other category.

Artists may only exhibit and sell work in the medium (media) for which they are accepted.

Photographic and Reproduction Policies: Photographic and Digital Art prints must be made from the artist's original negative or digital file under the artist's supervision. A reproduction is defined as any existing work of art (such as a painting, watercolor, drawing, photograph, etc.) that is copied by digital or photographic means and printed on an offset press, or through a computer by means of an ink jet or electrostatic printer. This definition includes giclées and reproductions with additional enhancement by the artist.

Artists must disclose the edition numbers for works produced in editions. All prints must be in limited editions of 350 or fewer (inclusive of all sizes) on archival paper and numbered and signed by the artist on the front of the piece. Prints may comprise no more than 25% of the total works to be sold.

All two-dimensional art must be appropriately framed or matted and must be displayed on a suitable panel or in a portfolio or stand.

Mass-produced merchandise and/or promotional items whether derived from original or non-original artwork are not permitted to be displayed or sold at the festival. This includes, but is not limited to, cards, postcards, note cards, photocopies, posters, mouse pads, t-shirts, calendars, etc.

Audio Equipment: The operation of radios, tape players and other sound equipment as well as any audio-visual presentations of any kind by exhibitors must be conducted with

the full consent of other exhibitors in the surrounding area. Volume must be kept within reasonable levels and sensitivity to other exhibitors should be observed. The Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival reserves the right to limit, and if necessary, prohibit the operation of sound and/or audio-visual equipment.

APPLICABLE LAWS/REGULATIONS

The laws of the City of Vicksburg, the State of Mississippi and the United States of America are applicable to all questions arising under the rental of space or these conditions. Fire, safety and security regulations must be adhered to by all participants at the Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival. In the submission of an entry application, the exhibitor acknowledges these conditions of participation and agrees to observe and be bound by each provision contained therein, and all other rules and guidelines of the Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival.

LODGING

For overnight lodging options at hotels, bed & breakfasts, cabin & lodges, campgrounds & RV parks, and casino hotels, please visit [Lodging | Visit Vicksburg](#).

DINING

For dining options, please visit [Dining | Visit Vicksburg](#).

VICKSBURG WEATHER IN EARLY OCTOBER

As autumn arrives in early October, Vicksburg enters one of its driest stretches of the year. With temperatures gradually cooling, the season offers ideal conditions for enjoying the outdoors. Daytime highs typically range from the low to mid 80s°F. while nighttime lows settle comfortably in the mid 60s°F.

FESTIVAL MAP

2026 Festival Map, please click on this link:

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hipstoricartfestival

Instagram: [Instagram.com/@vicksburghipstoricartfestival](https://www.instagram.com/@vicksburghipstoricartfestival)

ORGANIZATION/MISSION

The mission of the Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival is to foster meaningful connections between artists from across the nation and patrons from the Southeast. By creating a dynamic space for artistic exchange and commerce, the festival not only supports the creative economy but also strengthens local tourism and contributes to an enriched quality of life in Vicksburg.

The Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival is a collaboration between the Vicksburg Art Association, the Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Vicksburg Main Street

Program, and the H.C. Porter Gallery. For more than 40 years, the Vicksburg Art Association has served as a nonprofit hub for local artists, fostering creativity throughout the community. The Vicksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, a state-chartered, tax-exempt agency, promotes the city and county as a destination acting as both marketer and information resource for visitors. The Vicksburg Main Street Program, a nonprofit public-private partnership, works to revitalize and sustain the city's historic downtown while preserving its unique character.

The Vicksburg Hipstoric Art Festival is set within a vibrant downtown known for its striking architecture, unique restaurants, and distinctive blend of Civil War history and modern culture; Vicksburg has become one of Mississippi's premier tourist destinations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact H.C. "Chris" Porter via e-mail at hcporter@hcporter.com or by mobile phone (601) 519-3032.