

Saturday Market Fact Sheet



For more information:

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The Market Season: The Market is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from April through mid-November on the Park Blocks at 8th and Oak in downtown Eugene. The hours are 10 AM to 5 PM. On the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Market moves indoors for its Holiday Market, which runs weekends through Christmas Eve at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Crafts: Handcrafters are welcomed into the Saturday Market without a jury approving their work. The prime guideline for selling at Market is that all products must be sold by the person who made them or a member of his or her immediate family. The Saturday Market Standards Committee ensures that all wares sold at Market are handcrafted, and enforces product standards related to uniqueness, originality and craft processes.

Food: There are fifteen food booths in the International Food Court. They must meet rigid Market guidelines regarding originality and uniqueness. Launched in 2016, the Featured Local Food Producer program allows a monthly rotation of packaged food makers to present their wares from a small booth in the Food Court.

Entertainment: Saturday Market is a major supporter of local performing artists. Six sets of music and other performances take place weekly on the Market Stage. The 11:00 hour is devoted weekly to performances for children and/or by children. Including Holiday Market, over one thousand performers appear on the Market Stages each year. In addition, the marketplace has room for all types of strolling entertainers.

Sustainability: Saturday Market has a vigorous recycling program, and served as a test-site for the 2008 Olympic Trials recycling program. Trash is pre-sorted at the receptacles into compost, recycling and trash. The trash is then sorted again by Market staff before being hauled away for composting, recycling, or to the landfill. Each year, the Market diverts up to 90% of the trash generated weekly at the event site away from the landfill and into the compost pile and recycling bin, at an average of 1,000 lbs. per week in the summer. At Saturday and Holiday Markets, metal forks are used, washed and re-used, saving an estimated 2,000 plastic forks from the landfill each Market day.

Staff & Budget: There is a full time staff of four and a dozen additional Saturday assistants. The Market's annual budget is over \$500,000 and it is estimated by Market staff that over \$2.5 million of local handcrafts and food items are sold during Market events annually. Market's budget comes entirely from member fees, the Market receives no grants or government financial support, aside from a contract with the City to manage some downtown activities.

Attendance: Since there is no single entry point or admission charge, there is no way to tell exactly what the weekly attendance numbers are at Saturday Market. Market management estimates that 5,000 - 8,000 people attend the Market each week.

Membership & Fees: The Market has over 600 members annually, and 200-300 of these members sell each Saturday. Members pay an annual membership fee of \$50, and \$13.00 plus 10% of their sales for their weekly 8' x 8' booth space, or \$8 plus 10% for a 4' x 4' space.

The Name: Eugene's Saturday Market is the original Saturday Market. The name "Saturday Market" is used by other similar markets around the state with the permission of the Saturday Market Board of Directors. There are other independent Saturday Market style markets operating in Portland, Bend, Salem and Ashland, among others. Market organizers from other states frequently come to learn about Saturday Market operations.

Mission: Saturday Market is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a low cost marketplace for local handcrafters and artisans and a weekly celebration for the Eugene community.

Governance: Saturday Market is governed by a nine member Board of Directors, who come from the members who hand make goods to sell at Market, as well as community members.

History: The first Saturday Market was held on May 9, 1970. It rained, and there were 29 vendors. At the first Saturday Market, each vendor was charged one dollar. The first Saturday Market was held in the alley next to the Oak Street Overpark. After one summer on the plaza in front of the County Courthouse, the Market was moved to the "Butterfly" parking structure across from the courthouse. Saturday Market moved to its present site on the Park Blocks in April, 1983.

Our Founder: The founder of Saturday Market is Lotte Streisinger. She brought the vision of a Saturday marketplace to Eugene from market plazas she saw in Central America combined with childhood memories of European markets, and a desire to give local artisans a place to sell their wares every week.

Lane County Farmers' Market: Farmers' Market takes place each Saturday across the street from the Saturday Market. The Farmers' Market is an independent organization and Saturday Market's sister market. First set up under the auspices of Saturday Market in 1979, Farmers' Market became independent in 1989. The phone number for Farmers' Market is 541-431-4923. Information can be found on their website at lanecountyfarmersmarket.org

Parking & Accessibility: There is plenty of free parking near the Market's site in The Arcade and The Overpark. The Park Blocks are also fully wheelchair accessible, and there are handicapped accessible portable restrooms on each block.

More Info: More information about all aspects of Saturday Market, including photos, vendor listings, history and more is available on the website at eugenesaturdaymarket.org.