

Blue Skies Program

Kalamazoo or Busk!

Permit Performance Year: 2018

Blue Skies—Kalamazoo or Busk! is a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo designed in an effort to encourage the performing arts and provide an opportunity for entertainers to perform for the public and promote their bands, business, and profession. Entertainers are asked to register in order to maintain compliance with special-event outdoor entertainment policies. Blue Skies entertainers perform free-of-charge, but tipping is encouraged. Entertainers may include, but are not limited to, the following: bands, solo musicians, choirs, jugglers, clowns, improv, etc.

Eligibility and Requirements

1. Entertainers are required to register through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.
2. Entertainers must prominently display their Blue Skies permit during busking performances.
3. Entertainers are responsible for their own amplification which may only be used at pre-approved sites (see map.)
4. Entertainers under the age of 17 must have written consent from a parent or guardian in order to apply.
5. Entertainers under the age of 15 must have a parent or guardian present during all performances.
6. Entertainers must maintain a valid email account for updates regarding available performance space and the like.

Procedures

When weather permits, approved Blue Skies entertainers are permitted to perform outdoors in pre-approved locations in Downtown Kalamazoo (see map.) Performances are limited to the below time slots. Additionally, performances taking place during Art Hop need to be approved by the Arts Council's Art Hop program coordinator, Charlie Tomlinson (ctomlinson@kalamazooarts.org) at least 30 days in advance; day-of scheduling will not be allowed.

Monday – Thursday:	11:30 am–1 pm and 4:30 pm–8 pm
Friday:	11:30 am–1 pm and 4:30 pm– 8 pm (excluding Art Hop)
Saturday:	10 am–9 pm
Sunday:	Noon–8 pm

The Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo regularly emails and posts to Social Media relevant special events, festivals and other activities occurring downtown that may be of particular interest to Blue Skies entertainers in providing special performance opportunities. To schedule a performance slot(s), please email Charlie Tomlinson (ctomlinson@kalamazooarts.org) with the date and time of choice. Specific locations are on a first-come, first-served basis for each time slot on any given day. Again, day-of scheduling will not be allowed.

Application Process

Blue Skies entertainers are required to complete a new/updated application form each calendar year, as well as provide the following documents, when applicable and upon request.

1. Copy of your valid driver's license or photo ID.
2. Amplification information and requests in writing.
3. Waiver/release for performances classified as extraordinary activities (tumbling, stilt-walking, acrobatics, fire).

PLEASE ALLOW 3 BUSINESS DAYS TO PROCESS YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION.

Blue Skies—Kalamazoo or Busk! Program Coordinator Contact Information

Kalamazoo or Busk! is a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. If you have questions related to this program, contact Charlie Tomlinson at ctomlinson@kalamazooarts.org or via phone at (269) 342-5059.