

# Blue Skies Program

*Kalamazoo or Busk!*

Permit Performance Year: 2024

**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 required to register to maintain compliance with special-event outdoor entertainment policies set forth by the City of Kalamazoo. Blue Skies entertainers perform free-of-charge, but tipping is encouraged. Entertainers may include, but are not limited to, the following: bands, solo musicians, singers, clowns, improv actors, etc.

## Eligibility and Requirements

1. Entertainers are required to apply through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo for a permit each season.
2. Entertainers need to send a recorded video or audio file, at least 2 minutes and no more than 5 minutes in length, for review to Kim Shaw at [kshaw@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:kshaw@kalamazooarts.org)
3. Entertainers must prominently display their Blue Skies permit during busking performances.
4. Entertainers are responsible for their own amplification, used only at sites pre-approved by the Arts Council.
5. Entertainers under the age of 18 must have written consent from a parent or guardian, and if under the age of 15 must have a parent or guardian present during all performances.
6. Entertainers must not block the egress to buildings or the public right of way.
7. Juggling and performances involving fire are not permitted.
8. Entertainers must sign up through approved portals for their busking days/times.

## Procedures

When weather permits, approved Blue Skies entertainers are permitted to perform outdoors in pre-approved locations (map included with permit) in Downtown Kalamazoo. Performances are limited to the below dates and time slots, and approved performers will be directed to our sign-up portal to reserve their locations, dates, and times. Additionally, performances taking place during Art Hop need to be approved by Kim Shaw [kshaw@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:kshaw@kalamazooarts.org) at least 30 days in advance; day-of scheduling will not be allowed.

## Friday, April 5, 2024 – Friday, November 1, 2024

Monday - Thursday: 11:30 to 1 pm and 4:30 pm to 8 pm

Friday: 11:30 am to 1 pm and 4:30 pm to 9 pm

Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm, 1:30 pm to 5 pm, and 5:30 pm to 9 pm

Sunday: Noon to 4 pm and 4:30 pm to 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 performance slot(s), please email Kim Shaw [kshaw@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:kshaw@kalamazooarts.org). 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 and provide the following documents, when applicable and upon request.

1. Amplification information and requests in writing.
2. 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!** is a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo. If you have questions related to this program, contact Kim Shaw at [kshaw@kalamazooarts.org](mailto:kshaw@kalamazooarts.org) or via phone at (269) 342-5059.