

Answers to frequently asked questions from new participants, and reminders for veteran participants

(posted by Gill Truslow, former AIP Chair):

Before I did my first outdoor show, I went to a few and looked at how other people set up their tents, and asked questions, which helped. It is a lot of work, and can be an expensive commitment. Having now done several, I have learned a lot that may be helpful to artists new to outdoor shows.

Aside from sending in your application and fee in a timely manner, you will need a 10' x 10' foot tent. Many people use E-Z Up tents, which are less expensive, and it is best to have one with sides that you can zip up at night, and/or put down in the event of rain (God forbid!). You will need panels to display framed work. I use 9 Pro Panels, and have accumulated them over time, because they are expensive. Put together, they fill 3 full walls of the tent and can be put together in different configurations to create doorways or openings for light and traffic. Other people use metal grid systems, some of which have cloth covers, or have the skills to build their own using pvc pipes, pegboard, heavy duty screening, etc.

You will also need weights to secure your tent if it gets windy. Without these, your tent can blow away, possibly damaging it, your work and that of your neighboring artists. Due to the park's underground sprinkler system, we are not allowed to use stakes. Whatever weights you use - commercial weight bags filled with sand, capped pvc pipes filled with sand, cinder blocks, gallon water jugs, or other types of weights - they should be tied to the top corners of your tent frame to hold it down.

Here are just a few links that might give you helpful information:

OUTDOOR EXHIBIT MATERIAL RESOURCES

Pro Panels - www.propanels.com

Graphic Display Systems - graphicdisplaysystems.com

Flourish Mesh Panels – www.dickblick.com/products/flourish-mesh-display-panel-set

E-Z Up Tents - www.hutshop.com/ezupcanopies.html

Wet Canvas- <http://www.wetcanvas.com/forums/>

This last site takes a while to learn to navigate, but it has forums about the business of art, learning about art, exploring different media, call to artists and more. You can post questions and receive answers, post work for critique or just read about different subjects. I received helpful answers to questions related to exhibiting at shows like Art in the Park.