

About Community Village

Support and promote the city of Omaha and the great nonprofit work happening inside of it? Yes. Provide a space at the festival devoted to hands-on activities for attendees of all ages? Double yes.

That's the Maha Community Village for you—merging fun and learning together every year since 2012. The 2018 Community Village is seeking 501(c)(3) nonprofits—specifically those working directly or indirectly in the mental health realm, providing services or education—to join with us in making a difference. Your organization is invited to concept an activity that reflects who you are and what you bring to the community, to be carried out during these days of creativity and discovery. For organizations that do not work in the mental health space: don't worry, you can absolutely still apply. We only ask that you agree to stand with Maha to encourage conversation around mental health in our community.

Apply Today at MahaMusicFestival.com/2018/Community-Village-Application

Please review the Community Village FAQ section before applying and get in touch at community@mahamusicfestival.com with any additional questions.

What's New This Year

Maha is now a two-day event. The Community Village will be open Friday, August 17 from 5 PM to dusk (approximately 8 PM) and Saturday, August 18 from noon to dusk. You have the choice to participate in both days, or Saturday only. Please note that each day will include overlapping but not identical audiences. If you choose both days, you may leave your booth intact overnight from Friday to Saturday. See the FAQ below for more info.

We'll be sending out Omaha Gives! vibes. For nonprofits serving Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties, the 24-hour online community giving event Omaha Gives! can help harness the power of giving together. Maha will use this opportunity to promote Community Village partners also participating in Omaha Gives! on May 23. (Participating in Omaha Gives! is not a requirement for Community Village.)

We're focused on creating hope. Since 2016, Maha has partnered with Nebraska nonprofit The Kim Foundation to help inform the community about the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide. We are continuing the platform this year by reinforcing messages of hope and resiliency while raising awareness. Since Community Village is one mega channel for getting this message across, applicants could add to the movement by considering an activity that weaves in themes of creating hope.

Key Dates

April 9: Application opens
May 1: Application closes
May 11: Notification of participating organizations
May 15: Public announcement of participating organizations
May 23: Promotion of Omaha Gives!
Early August: Logistics information sent to participants
August 17 & 18: Maha Music Festival

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

Any local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization willing to bring a creative activity to Maha is eligible to apply.

Our organization doesn't work in the mental health space, can we still participate in Community Village?

Yes! All local 501(c)(3) nonprofits that apply will be considered.

We've realized that our captive audience presents a unique opportunity to share an important message with thousands of engaged individuals who care about their community. Thus, we are using our microphone to raise awareness around mental health, which has considerable impact on our community and is all too often swept under the rug.

With our focus on mental health awareness, we simply ask that organizations invited to participate in the Community Village agree to stand with Maha and help change the conversation about mental illness in our community. When submitting your application, you'll be asked to indicate your support of our effort, which might be as simple as sharing our messages on social media, but we're also seeking partnerships that include efforts beyond the festival.

How does Maha choose organizations to participate in the Community Village?

Our internal committee reviews all applications and selects organizations based on available space and evaluation of how the proposed activity will enhance the festival experience. Organizations will be notified of their approval to participate by May 11.

What kinds of activities work best at Maha?

We've had many activities over the years. Some of the fan-favorites have been art projects, games, trivia, demonstrations, and educational activities just to name a few. The options are (nearly) endless—the more creative, the better!

Are there any activities that are not allowed in Community Village?

Per Stinson Park's regulations, we do not allow live animals, dunk tanks (or any activity that

uses a significant amount of water), or the use of open flame or fire. Please get in touch if you're unsure about whether your activity would be permitted.

What kinds of activities do not work well at the festival?

Activities that require small group participation, play music (without headphones), take a lot of time for an individual to complete, or require significant one-on-one conversation may not work well in a festival environment.

Does my organization have to participate in Omaha Gives! to apply?

No.

Does my organization need to participate in both days of the festival?

No. While we will make it as easy as possible, we understand if your organization cannot commit to both days of the festival. We ask that you choose between Friday and Saturday, or Saturday only.

When and where does the Community Village take place?

Maha Music Festival is at Stinson Park in Aksarben Village. The gates are open to attendees from Friday, August 17 at 5 PM and Saturday, August 18, 2018 at noon. Community Village closes both days at dusk, around 8 PM.

When can we setup and teardown?

Setup: We will get in touch with exact times closer to the event, but organizations participating in both festival days will be able to load in on Thursday, August 16 or Friday morning, August 17. Organizations participating in Saturday only will need to load in early that morning (prior to 10 AM).

Teardown: After Community Village closes on Saturday, Maha staff will determine this based on festival volume and notify everyone when it's ok to break down. All items must be removed from the park no later than 2:00 AM.

Where do we park when we arrive?

Free parking is available in any one of Aksarben Village's three parking garages.

Are there any activities or items that are prohibited?

Yes. Open flame of any kind, staking in the ground, rinsing or dumping in the fountain, live animals, dunk tanks, and activities with potential for bodily harm are not allowed—but those are just the questions that have come up in the past. There could be other potential restrictions that we'd need to clear with Stinson Park management, so when in doubt, please ask. Maha (a fellow nonprofit) is financially responsible for any damage to Stinson Park, so please let us know if you have any questions about any element of your org's activity. We also request that there are no sales of merchandise in your tent and that activities and

displays are “G-rated”, as many children enjoy the Community Village with their families.

How much space do we get?

In order to accommodate a diverse selection of participating organizations, tents will have two groups sharing each 10'x10' space.

Our activity requires extra green space, can we have it?

There is space in front of or behind all Community Village tents that can be used to extend your activity beyond the tent, itself. Please be mindful of the organizations you are sharing space with so as not to block their booth or activity. If possible, coordination in advance is recommended.

What is provided in the tent?

Maha will place one 8' table and 2 chairs for each organization unless coordinated otherwise.

Can we bring in a cooler for volunteer food and drink?

Yes. We recognize it can be a long day for volunteers, thus we authorize Community Village participants to bring in a cooler for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Coolers need to be in 90 minutes PRIOR to gates opening to the public, so please plan your setup time accordingly. Free water refills will be on-site.

Will we have electricity available for our tent?

Yes. If you need electricity, let us know ASAP so we can place you in one of the tents near a power source. **Please be prepared with your own long extension cords to connect to power sources, as we will not provide those.**

Can we hang items/banners in/on our tent?

Yes. Please bring your own zip tie fasteners, tape, rope, etc. Please coordinate with your tent mates to be sure there is room for everyone's items.

Can we stake anything in the ground?

No. This is strictly prohibited by the Stinson Park property management due to the underground sprinkler system. There are NO exceptions to this rule. Please devise alternative methods for securing or supporting items for your activity.

Will there be a water source nearby?

Yes. Maha will have water stations for refilling water bottles for drinking. The Community Village is stationed near the Aksarben fountains, but they are NOT to be used for rinsing, washing, drinking, dumping, or filling anything, per Stinson Park property management. Please let Maha staff know if you will require water for your activity and someone will direct you to a water source.

How many free tickets do we get?

To make entry and re-entry easier for Community Village, we will provide wristbands for each booth worker. Each booth/organization will receive up to 6 wristbands (unless your activity requires additional personnel). The wristbands are not tickets, and are to be worn only by people working at your booth.

Other Questions?

If you have any questions, please email community@mahamusicfestival.com.

We're grateful for your participation and the enhanced experience you'll be providing. Thank you for being a valued partner and for the great work you do in the community!