

GALWAY INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

TRADERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply to be a trader at Galway International Arts Festival?

Galway International Arts Festival (GIAF) works with independent traders in its Festival Garden and at the GIAF Heineken Big Top. If you're interested in trading, you can submit a Traders Application Form through our website, along with a signed and dated copy of the Traders Checklist & Conditions and the Sustainability Policy.

Each application is assessed on its own merit; therefore, we encourage applicants to provide as much information as possible, including photographs of pitches and products. If your application is successful and all required documents are submitted, the Traders Manager will issue a contract and be available to address any further questions. A payment schedule will also be arranged.

Please refer to the documents on the GIAF website for further details on applying and trading at the festival. Due to the high volume of applications, we are unable to accommodate all traders who apply.

What kind of space do traders receive at the Festival?

GIAF has limited space available for traders. The festival will provide a small number of 3 x 3-metre marquees as part of a flower wall. There is very limited space for vans. Pitches are not allocated on a first-come, first-served basis but will be assigned at the discretion of the Traders Manager.

When completing your application, please ensure that stall and pitch sizes are accurate. You must provide four measurements: stall width and depth, as well as pitch width and depth. Your stall size should include your trading structure and any additional kitchen or preparation areas. Due to space constraints, you may not receive the exact space requested. If applying with a van, you must upload an image of it when completing your application form.

What does GIAF look for in applicants?

Only food vendors are eligible to apply.

The presentation and appearance of a trader's stall are important, as are the goods being sold. We seek creative and aesthetically pleasing stalls that align with the Festival's ethos and offer high-quality food and products at fair prices.

- **Marquee signage:** For traders using the marquee option, GIAF will design your signage artwork. Signage dimensions are set at 2.8m wide x 0.4m high.

Sustainability is a key value of the Festival. All food must be served in disposable and compostable packaging. The rules regarding composting are strict, and non-compliance may result in being asked to leave the site and exclusion from future festivals. Even if a product is labelled as compostable, it may not meet our requirements. Down to Earth Materials is our approved wholesaler and can advise successful applicants who are unsure — contact details will be provided upon acceptance.

What documentation do I need?

Required documents include:

- GIAF Traders Application Form
- GIAF Terms & Conditions
- Traders Sustainability Policy
- Trader FAQs (*for reference only — no signature required*)
- Trading Fees 2026

When will I find out if my application is successful?

Online applications close on **May 29, 2026**. Applicants will be notified of their application outcome by **June 4, 2026**.

If I am successful, what happens next?

Successful applicants will receive an Offer to Trade, detailing pitch location, size, and branding requirements. If you wish to accept the offer, the Traders Manager will follow up with further information.

Trade Costs

Festival Garden

- 14 days in a GIAF-supplied marquee: **€3,500**
- 14 days in a trader-supplied van: **€4,500**

All prices are subject to VAT.

Heineken Big Top

Spaces at the Heineken Big Top are extremely limited.

- Large units: **€200 per gig**
- Small units (e.g., coffee vans, small marquees, gazebos): **€100 per gig**

The Heineken Big Top line-up for 2026 can be found on our website. *(Link to be inserted)*

All prices are subject to VAT. Any price changes will be communicated by the Traders Manager.

What are the trading days and hours?

Festival Garden, Eyre Square July 13 – July 26, 2026, inclusive 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM daily

Heineken Big Top On gig days: 7:00 PM – 10:45 PM

The full list of Big Top gigs for 2026 is available on our website.

Additional details will be provided to all traders upon acceptance.

Waste Management

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- A three-bin system will be in place for segregated waste disposal.
- Traders must keep their area rubbish-free during the event and remove all waste before leaving.
- Any rubbish left behind will incur fines and may impact future participation.

Food Waste

- Food waste must be separated from general waste — designated bins will be provided.
- This is a council directive, and failure to comply will result in fines.

Gas

- Gas is strictly prohibited on the Festival Garden site.
- At the Heineken Big Top, all gas supplies must be enclosed in a gas cage provided by the trader, with a maximum of 2 cylinders held on site at any time.

Restrictions

- Polystyrene and plastic are not permitted.
- All packaging must be biodegradable and compostable.
- Refer to our Sustainability Policy for a detailed list of approved materials.

What does GIAF do with my personal data?

GIAF complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your application data will be used only for assessing suitability for trading at the Festival. It will not be shared or sold to third parties. The Festival may retain your details for future applications.

If you wish to have your data deleted after the 2026 Festival, please email traders@giaf.ie.