

## **Business, Ministry, Church or Organization Partner Questions & Answers**

- 1.) When does Bless Fest begin/end?
- 2.) How much does it cost to participate?
- 3.) When is setup & tear down?
- 4.) Can we sell products?
- 5.) Are there any rules or guidelines for organizations/individuals on the park grounds?
- 6.) Do we have limited space and where do we set up?
- 7.) Location – indoors or outside and what about rain?
- 8.) Is electricity available?
- 9.) Are there bathrooms or Port-a-Potties on the grounds?
- 10.) Is there shelter & seating close to the stages?
- 11.) Are vendors responsible for their own shelter??
- 12.) Can we give away any food items?
- 13.) Is there any security on the grounds?
- 14.) What about First Aid or Emergency Services?
- 15.) Do you have a designated Prayer Tent and Staff that can counsel people in need?
- 16.) Does anyone follow up after the event?
- 17.) Does Media Messengers accept charitable donations?

**1. Bless Fest times: Friday—6:00pm-10:00pm** opening night we kick off an all (clean-positive) Hip Hop/Rap concert. On **Saturday 12:30pm-10:00pm**, you will have opportunity to reach a broader audience for a greater length of time. We ask that you arrive on the grounds an hour before your starting time. If you have a larger set up, we would encourage you to set up on Friday afternoon or earlier on Saturday morning prior to the festival beginning. We do have volunteers who may be available to assist you, if needed.

**2. There is no charge** for those involved with the Festival. We only ask that you give away something for free! However, we do appreciate donations to assist with our costs. As the festival grows, so do our expenses. We're always trying to find more useful items and services that can benefit the people of our communities. We always accept monetary donations. We accept new or like new items, from businesses, ministries and individuals alike (such as gift cards, bikes, new clothing, toys, school supplies, food items, work tools, etc.). These are given away totally free, or via free raffles, during the festival. We'll be happy to promote your organization at our stages.

**3. We start setting up at 9am Friday morning into early Friday evening. We also finish setting up on 9am Saturday morning.** Saturday's fest ends by 10 pm, however the Food Tent area and other main booths generally close by 6 pm on Saturday. Please close down your tent by dark, unless you're in a well-lit area, or your booth has lights and is close to a stage. After 7 pm (or so), most activity occurs by the main staging areas. Our major Take Down is on 9am Sunday morning until about 5pm. We always need help to take down/clean the grounds.

**4. Sale of material, food or services** by Participants who are not scheduled Bless Fest Performers, **is prohibited**. Our main objective is to give to the community "freely." We don't solicit offerings from our guests. The only exception is made for performers, who may sell their merchandise to assist them with their expenses. All of our performers graciously donate their performance time and services. Performers often give away materials as well. "If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord and He will repay you." Proverbs 19:17 (NLT Bible version)

**5. We do have some guidelines for participants, those who set up booths and for anyone on the grounds.** The goal of Bless Fest is to be an oasis in a desert place. We are a Christian ministry and want to share via word, song, music, fun activities and simple generosity. The Festival is open to anyone of any or no faith. We welcome all people of all races, cultures and personal beliefs. Since the City of Lansing has rented the grounds to us, we're responsible for maintaining order and for the safety of our guests. We also abide by the City of Lansing park rules and all laws of the land. **We don't allow people to canvass the grounds pushing their ideas** or trying to sell items to our festival guests. We have established booth areas and individual set up areas for those who have agreed to partner with Bless Fest. We only allow scheduled bands or performers to sell products. **We do not allow any ministries or volunteers to take part in the free raffles that is for unassociated guests only.** We do allow our Security, Evangelism or Prayer teams to occasionally interact with our guests on the grounds, as they feel led to. We don't allow any political materials or messages to be distributed or shared on the grounds, or at any open pathways leading into our rented grounds. This includes taking of polls, signing of petitions, political endorsements or any voter registrations. This is a Christian venue and outreach designed to bless the community, bring hope, and provide helpful resources for anyone and to touch lives.

**6. We allow enough space for what your mission or business needs.** We do our best to provide great locations for our partners although it is first come, first served. There are key areas that are designated but we have plenty of open space in the main areas of traffic. We generally have 1-2 large canopy tents for Christian churches, faith ministries, business partners and non-profit organizations. This is located near the Food Tent and Prayer Tent. This is an ideal area! You may unload your items as close as practically possible to your setup site. We ask you to park your vehicle afterward either within designated park grounds, or at the LCC public parking ramp, across the street. The LCC parking ramp is free on the weekends.

**7. We are completely outdoors!** Bless Fest is located at the [Adado Riverfront Park](#) west grounds. There is a huge grassy area with one outdoor stage at the South End and the Amphitheater stage, on the North End. We run the festival rain or shine. So far we've been blessed with great weather (light showers a few times). Although, in case of storm, lighting, etc., we'll wait it out and continue the festivities, as soon as we get the "all clear." The safety of our participants and partners is paramount to us. Please take safe shelter and be practical.

**8. Yes, we have electricity** and plan to have multiple plug strips available. **Please let us know in advance** and we'll arrange to run an extension cord to a corner of your area. Closer to the main area is best if electricity is needed. **Please provide an extension cord to reach a power strip.**

**9. Yes, we will have "Port-a-Potties" on site.** There are also facilities across the street at the community college.

**10. We have a limited supply of tents, canopies, tables and chairs.** We try to provide at least one table and a couple of chairs per vendor. If you can bring a couple of your own chairs or a small table, that would help. Having your own tent may be of benefit to you depending on when you arrive, since there is a limited supply. The Canopies/Tents larger than 10ft. x 10ft. **must be of "fire retardant" materials**, or rented commercially. Please check with us if in doubt. There are strict City building rules about this and we must comply. If you are giving away several large items, we can provide some tables, chairs and at least 1- 10 ft. x 10 ft. or 1-10 ft. x 20 ft. canopy but again, it is first come, first served. Another option is an area within a large tent.

**11. If you want to give away free food items, they must be store bought,** commercially. Please let us know what you plan to give away. Should your organization have a commercial kitchen inspected by the Health Dept. and you would like to bring in pre-packaged food items (such as baked goods, etc.) That can be permitted. Since we are licensed to cook certain meat products and distribute food items, per Ingham County Health Dept. rules, any other raw or unpackaged food item preparation, is prohibited on the grounds. We are licensed and inspected by the Health Dept. every year. We would welcome your organization or church to work within the food prep tent anytime from 11-5 pm on Saturday. It is one of the best places to be at Bless Fest! For any questions contact Collette Henderson—Food Prep Supervisor at: [mediamessengers@yahoo.com](mailto:mediamessengers@yahoo.com) or call **517-333-8628**.

**12. There is shelter close to each stage.** Large canopies are provided and 200+ chairs at the south portable stage area. The amphitheater stage has plenty of concrete step seating within an uncovered area. A limited number of chairs are placed at the top of a shaded hill overlooking the stage. It's best to bring sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat! We have enough shelter for immediate needs and the community college building or the LCC parking ramp enclosure is available, if weather gets rough.

**13. Yes, we have Christian volunteer security staff.** Some of our staff are also off duty Mich. Dept. of Corrections officers. Security, along with our Evangelistic team, work together to check the grounds regularly. We're blessed to have experienced staff who care about people and use wisdom in any situation. They are also able to contact the LAPD, if they would ever need to. All of our volunteer staff leaders as well as Security, are observant of any possible physical hazards to festival goers, volunteers or festival items/structures.

**14. Yes, we have good first aid kits and staff that can provide this service.** We can also quickly contact the EMS/Fire Station personnel, located across the street from the park.

**15.) Yes. We have a designated Prayer Tent and trained staff on the grounds.** Our prayer team is very effective. They lead many people to spiritual salvation and pray for individual problems, needs and physical healing as well, according to the scriptures. The prayer tent is located at the center of the park.

**16. Yes, Media Messengers staff follow-up** on those who made decisions to serve the Lord. If your church or organization has been instrumental in this decision, we encourage you to take the lead and continue to nurture them into your church family. Media Messengers otherwise guides those who need to find a local church or assist them in their immediate spiritual need. **Business and non-profit organizations** are also welcome to follow up on any of their contacts from Bless Fest. We want people to be helped in every way and that service may continue after the Bless Fest. We always want to hear how this mission has blessed lives and how people are doing.

**17. Christians or any supportive businesses looking to be a blessing to the city,** are welcome to partner or help with the Bless Fest. If you're a business person or are self-employed and would also like to set up a booth we only ask that you give something away of value to the community. As a partner you may pass out business cards, flyers or product samples at a booth. Companies donating gifts or sponsoring any area of the Bless Fest mission will be added to our advertisements and will be mentioned as a partner from the stages. This festival is a gift to our special guests, the people of Greater Lansing. We want everyone to experience God's love and blessing.

**\*Food is available to the community, bands and to any volunteers!** There are also several take out/fast food restaurants nearby within 1 or 2 city blocks. Please know that at about 3 or 4 pm on Saturday, the food tent will be closing. We're happy to provide food to anyone throughout the afternoon on Saturday. We have often given out 2,000 plus meals in one afternoon. Please know that there may be times where our food supply ends sooner than anticipated. We also provide lunch for our Friday and Sunday volunteers who help set up/take down.

Please feel free to e-mail or call with other questions. Keep the Bless Fest ministry in your prayers. We appreciate any donations or volunteering, to assist us with this large mission. Contact us via e-mail at:

[mediamessengers@yahoo.com](mailto:mediamessengers@yahoo.com) or call 517-333-8628. You may also send a letter to: **Media Messengers, P.O. Box 331, East Lansing, MI 48826-0331**. For more information visit: [www.mediamesengers.org](http://www.mediamesengers.org)