

The Maker's Hand

Presented annually by the [Prince Edward County Arts Council](#), The Maker's Hand is a prestigious fine craft show featuring both established and up-and-coming artists from across Ontario & Quebec. Since 2004, the show has attracted more than 50,000 visitors from Toronto to Ottawa and beyond. The \$5 public entry fee gives visitors access all weekend long!

Returning to The Armoury in 2026!

For the 2nd year in a row, The Maker's Hand will take place in the County Arts Lab, located in the historic Armoury at the heart of Picton's bustling Main Street (206 Main Street, Picton, Ontario). The show will feature 25 booths, located inside the County Arts Lab, and in the adjoining Armoury Atrium. The County Arts Lab also hosts the region's largest group exhibition, [Art in the County](#).



Some venue features include:

- Part of the ['Art at the Heart of Picton'](#) Marketing & Referral Program
- Main Street signage, which attracts foot traffic
- Secure WiFi network for processing payments
- 2 restaurants in the Armoury
- Many restaurants and shops within walking distance
- Across the street from The Royal Hotel
- Free parking at the rear of the building, as well as at two nearby municipal parking lots
- Wheelchair accessible, accessible parking spots, but no elevator in the building

Pictured clockwise from top left: The front of The Armoury; Images from The Maker's Hand 2025 including Besom's booth in the Atrium; YellowHouse on Kenyon set up in the White Room (a separate room available for rent within the Arts Lab); and booths in the County Arts Lab.

Open Late on Friday Evening

As Picton attracts shoppers and diners from across the region, we will have extended opening hours from 1:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday November 6th. Artists will have the opportunity to set-up on Thursday afternoon, or Friday morning (see details below). Other activities of note in Picton are Countylicious and the Firelight Lantern Festival. Check out <https://countyarts.ca/whats-on/location/picton/> for more events.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must self-identify as a professional artist (see Canada Council for the Arts' [definition](#)) and present functional, conceptual, or sculptural work that exhibits originality and technical excellence. **The Maker's Hand does not accept consumable products in the show, nor do we accept soaps & bath products, or candles.**

You must present a professional booth display. Organizers will provide pipe & drape walls (8 ft tall - black) for all booths in the County Arts Lab, and a black back wall for booths in the atrium. Atrium booths must have walls to delineate each space. Black folding chairs and tables are available, if notified in advance. Bring all lighting and extension cords you may require.

APPLICATION PROCESS

First Round Deadline: April 15, 2026

Second Round Deadline: July 15, 2026 (if necessary)

Applications must be complete to be considered by organizers who look not only for excellence of craft, but also for a mix of media and variety of products and price points. Each year organizers work to keep the show fresh, interesting, and balanced to attract both new and returning customers. Sometimes that means not accepting a previously selected applicant in a particular year.

A note on **cultural appropriation** - As part of a commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment at all County Arts programs, including The Maker's Hand, artists are encouraged to learn about the harmful impact and effects of cultural appropriation and, with this in mind, evaluate and critically reflect on their own practices. Helpful resources include this Canada Council for the Arts [Context Brief](#) and those listed in [this article](#) from the Canadian Crafts Federation. The Maker's Hand application form includes a question asking applicants to acknowledge that their work is not appropriating, and/or disrespectful towards, other cultures.

Before you apply, you'll want to be ready to provide the following:

- Minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 digital professional quality images of the type of work you'll be selling at the show.
- One digital image or rendering of your booth set-up showing booth walls
- Minimum of 2 digital images of you in your studio/work space (taken from different angles)
- Images ***MUST*** be high-resolution marketing-ready. Minimum size of 1080 x 1080 pixels with no writing or logos. All images must be labeled in this order: company/business

- name, media, # (for example: JannaSmith_Ceramics_1)
- Product description, production process description, and bio/artist statement

CANCELLATION POLICY

If an artist withdraws their application following the signing of their participation agreement, booth fees are not refundable without penalty.

- Up to August 1st your booth fee less a \$100 cancellation fee will be refunded.
- After August 1st: No Refund. A \$75 fee will be charged for a returned NSF cheque.

ACCEPTANCE and CONDITIONS

Upon acceptance, you will be emailed The Maker's Hand contract. Please sign and return a copy by the given deadline. You must pay your booth fee at this time by e-transfer or credit card.

The Maker's Hand agrees to:

- Provide you with the agreed upon booth space at the show
- Provide pipe & drape walls (as indicated above)
- Assist you with setup, take-down and breaks throughout the show's duration
- List your name on our website with a link to your website
- Make you a part of our intensive and targeted media campaign
- Provide you with a digital poster to be sent to your network

As a selected artist, you agree to:

- Set-up between the hours of 9:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Thursday, November 5, 2026, or between the hours of 9:00 and 1:00 pm on Friday November 6, 2026. **Show opens to the public at 1:00 pm on November 6th.**
- Be in attendance throughout the show on November 6, 7 and 8, 2026
- Dismantle your booth immediately after the show closes and vacate the hall by 6:00 pm on November 8, 2026
- Equip your own booth; The Maker's Hand does not provide any booth furnishings.
- Limit yourself to your assigned booth size; you cannot extend your booth into the aisles
- Not insert nails, hooks, screws or tape into the walls or floors of the building
- Not use any kind of open flame, except momentarily when carrying out a cultural practice, e.g. an Indigenous artist lighting sacred medicine during a [smudging ceremony](#). Please contact us for more information and let us know if you will be engaging in these types of activities.
- **IMPORTANT:** Identify the Prince Edward County Arts Council and TGSL Holdings as "additional insured" on your home or business insurance policy for the duration of the show, and provide organizers with a certificate of insurance, OR request and sign a waiver provided by The Maker's Hand organizers.
- Be responsible for any storage you might need; there is NO storage on-site
- Permit The Maker's Hand to use your photographs for marketing purposes
- Abide by the principles laid out in the following [Inclusivity, Diversity & Equity Policy](#)
- Link your website to www.themakershand.com and help promote the show through

your social media channels using @themakershand

2026 SCHEDULE

Date	Activity	Time
Thursday, November 5	Set up	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday, November 6	Set up	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Friday, November 6	Show	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 7	Show	10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, November 8	Show	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, November 8	Take down	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

2026 Booth Sizes & Rates

Booth Size	Cost	Location
5' x 5'	\$250	Lab (2) & Atrium (3)
5' x 10'	\$500	Atrium (5)
5' x 8' corners	\$500	Lab (3)
5' x 12'	\$550	Lab (3)
10' x 10'	\$600	Lab (5)
White Room 140 sq'	\$750	Lab (1)
Courtyard	TBD	Outside (3)

The Maker's Hand is exempt from charging HST on booth fees.

Questions/concerns? Please contact makershand@countyarts.ca