

Hello Stephanie,

I have given a great deal of thought regarding the 7 daily artisans who seem to be "stuck" at the top of the daily vendor list. They will only become annual vendors when annual artisans currently holding 1 (or in a few cases 2) of the 12 annual artisan spaces leave the market. These 7 daily vendors have been supporting/attending the market and maintaining their seniority for many years (some over 20 years). In the mean time they have been passed over every year while daily produce vendors who have been attending the market for a much shorter period of time are given annual status. This directly effects the location of the space/spaces that are available to them each market day.

I waited 20 years to become an annual artisan vendor so I understand their frustration all too well.

There is much controversy and debate over this issue. While there are probably some annual produce vendors that are opposed to artisans being at the market at all, it can't be denied that the artisans do add the variety of items available that customers enjoy and expect.

Having said that, these 7 artisan vendors come quite regularly to the market and giving them annual status would not change the market mix in any way. Increasing the allowed annual artisan spaces from 12 to at least 19 would simply level the playing field in terms of stall choices.

I will not be able to attend the meeting but I hope you are able to pass my thoughts and recommendations along.

Thank you,

Anne Monheit, Annual Artisan Vendor

Hello, just wanted to give my opinion on the artisan and stalls. I have been on this market over 50 years and have seen it packed with farmers then few farmers then back to packed. I think if we allow the artisans to get more stalls could be a problem down the road if the farmers become packed again. The artisan may only own 12 stalls but they seem to always have way more then that on Saturdays. I think we should keep the stalls for artisans the same as it has been, and if there are empty stall maybe we should look into letting vendors increase the numbers of stalls they have.

Bessie Newbery

Gracias Greenhouse

Good afternoon Marketmaster and Market Commissioners,

I am an artisan vendor that has attended the Ann Arbor Public Market on Saturdays and Wednesdays for the past twenty-three years. I would like to re-address an issue that I brought before your commission in late summer and that is one of honoring the seniority of long time artisan vendors.

When it comes to being assigned a permanent booth at the market we are excluded. Instead, growers who have started attending years, and in some cases, decades after us are allowed to leapfrog over us and attain a permanent booth. With the current market bylaws we will continue to sit in limbo and drop further down the list until we are virtually displaced from the market altogether. (Unless an artisan vendor gives up their booth or passes away)

I am not asking this commission to expand the number of artisan vendors (There is already a moratorium on the number of artisan allowed) Nor am I asking you to make this into an artisan market or grant artisans an additional allotment of booths. I am simply asking that you honor our seniority when it comes to assigning permanent stalls and do away with the present antiquated caste system.

It has taken many years but we have finally updated the look of the market. It has been approximately 10-15 years since the market bylaws have been updated. In this era of divisiveness I implore you as Marketmaster and PMAC commissioners to do your part and make this market a fair and equitable venue for all Market vendors.

Sincerely,

Christine Schopieray