



## 2026 Entry Timeline

- Entry deadline**..... **Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.**
- Entry acceptance email..... Friday, June 5, by 6 p.m. *(check spam folders)*  
*Email will come from [sweb@fairsoftware](mailto:sweb@fairsoftware)*
- Entry delivery**..... **Friday, July 10, noon - 6 p.m.**
- Award judging results..... Viewable in person. Posted online by the second week of Fair.
- Fair dates ..... July 17 - Aug. 16 *(closed Mondays and Tuesdays)*
- Entry pick up**..... **Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**BY ENTERING YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND RULES PRESENTED IN THIS GUIDEBOOK.**

All entries must be original, made by the artist and completed within the last two (2) years. Only accepted entries will be checked in. Any additional accessories or pieces not submitted in the original application will not be allowed.

- Entry fees**..... **\$15 (ages 13 and up) • Fees are non-refundable.**
- Entry limit**..... **Ten (10) per exhibitor**
- Contact**..... **Visual Arts Department • Valeria Tinoco, Program Coordinator**  
[visualarts@ocfair.com](mailto:visualarts@ocfair.com) • Office 714-708-1718 • 714-708-1624 (during Fair)  
 OC Fair & Event Center • 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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## RULES

1. [Local](#) and [State Rules](#) govern this competition.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for reading and abiding by the guidelines stated herein.
3. Fine woodworking is defined as items made primarily of wood that demonstrate a high level of artistic application and craftsmanship. No computer numerical controlled (CNC) machine projects will be accepted.
4. If assistance is needed to determine the division and/or class, please contact the Visual Arts Department at [visualarts@ocfair.com](mailto:visualarts@ocfair.com). Inquiries will be responded to within 72 business hours.
5. **Causes for disqualification.** Disqualified entries will not be displayed and must be picked up when notified.
  - Non-compliance to the competition and OC Fair guidelines will result in disqualification.
  - Entries over the maximum size will be disqualified.
  - Entries that differ from the uploaded image will be disqualified.
  - Entries that do not follow the rules of the division and/or class will be disqualified.
  - Entries that are a copy, or similar to, an existing artwork will be disqualified.
  - Work that is identical to one in another division or department of OC Fair will be disqualified.
  - Items previously shown at OC Fair will be disqualified.
6. **Entry fees are non-refundable.** There will be no refunds for any reason. By entering the competition, the exhibitor is accepting the no-refund policy.
7. Woodworking is a juried competition. Not all entries will be accepted.
8. All entries must be an original design and must have been completed within the last two (2) years.
9. The display and location of the entry are at the discretion of the program coordinator. No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor describes the conditions under which they will exhibit or how the entry must be displayed.
10. Exhibitors are responsible for entering their items in the correct division and class.
11. Work must be finished; no incomplete or work in progress will be accepted.
12. Work should be a majority of exposed wood with appropriate finishing. Paint is highly discouraged.
13. No changes of any kind are allowed after the online entry deadline.
14. Final acceptance of the entry will be left to the discretion of the program coordinator.
15. Due to the family-oriented theme of OC Fair, work dealing with: drug use, obscenity, defamatory statements, violence, gang activity, offensive or objectionable content will not be accepted. This is at the discretion of OC Fair staff.
16. **Hold harmless.** Although reasonable efforts will be taken to safeguard exhibitors' property against loss, damage or theft, neither the State of California nor OC Fair & Event Center will be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of exhibitors' property brought on the premises during the period of OC Fair.
17. Entries not picked up on entry pick up day become the property of OC Fair and will be disposed of promptly.



## ELIGIBILITY

Open to California residents ages 13 or older.

## ENTRY LIMIT

### **NEW** Ten (10) entries per exhibitor

- For this competition, no more than three (3) objects may be entered as a set.
- The total number of accepted entries is limited to the space available.

## ENTRY FEES

### **\$15 per entry**

- Entry fees are payable online with a credit card (Visa, Mastercard or American Express).
- Entry fees are non-refundable.

## OC FAIR EXHIBITOR TICKET

### **Exhibitors will receive one (1) OC Fair admission ticket at the time of entry delivery.**

If none of the exhibitor's entries are accepted for exhibition, one (1) free admission ticket will be available for pick up at the Guest Relations booth located outside of the Blue Gate entrance when Fair is open.

- Please bring a photo ID to claim your ticket.
- One (1) ticket per exhibitor, not per entry.
- Ticket is good any day of the OC Fair and does not require a reservation.
- Tickets are provided to participants to view the results of their efforts.
- Tickets must not be sold.

## PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR WORK FOR ENTRY

### **Digital photo submission of your entry is required.**

- NEW** • Photo upload is limited to one per entry. Digital image must be an accurate representation of the entry; misrepresented entries will be disqualified and not exhibited. Additional accessories or pieces not submitted in the photo will not be accepted on entry delivery day.
- The photo of the entry should include only the item being submitted for the clarity of the judges. If you are submitting items as a set, it must be described as such in the entry form and photographed as such.

### **Image format**

- JPEG, JPG or PNG file formats.
- iPhone users must change the default HEIC camera setting to JPEG or convert the image.
- RGB color space (CMYK files will be converted to RGB by the system.)
- Be sure that the image is rotated to be in an upright position and orientation.
- Maximum file size: 8 MB (megabytes).

**Tutorial** [Photographing Your Work](#)



## HOW TO ENTER

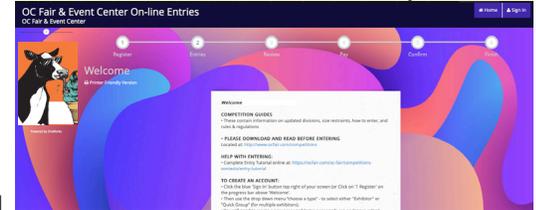
### **Online entry deadline: Friday, May 15, by 6 p.m.**

Click on the link to go to the entry homepage: [ocfair.fairwire.com](http://ocfair.fairwire.com)

#### **Step 1. Register**

- Last year's accounts are no longer valid. All exhibitors must create a new account.
- Entries must be submitted under the name of the individual who will be exhibiting.
- Do not use business or fictitious names.
- There are no team entries.
- Enter the information carefully and proofread the name, title and description of the entry for punctuation, capitalization and spelling to ensure accuracy on exhibit display labels.
- Descriptions are limited to 100 characters and should include a short statement about the work or the methods and techniques used.
- Email will be used to send important information. Check your spam folders and whitelist emails coming from @ocfair.com.

The numbered steps along top of page are clickable and show the current section you are on



fairwire.com welcome page

#### **Step 2. Entries**

- Input your entry (or entries) in the proper department, division and class along with other required information.

#### **Step 3. Cart review**

- Review your entries. You can add, edit, delete or save your entries.
- When satisfied click the "CHECK OUT" button.

#### **Step 4. Payment**

- Enter your credit card information (Mastercard, Visa or American Express).
- An email notification and confirmation will be sent immediately after the online payment is received.
- Check your spam folder If the email confirmation does not arrive shortly after submitting payment.

#### **Step 5. Confirmation**

- Sign by typing "YES" in the "Agreement to Terms" box.
- DO NOT click the "SUBMIT" button multiple times as you will be charged.
- On the resulting confirmation page, you can print a receipt. A blue "UPLOAD FILES" button will also appear.

#### **Step 6. Image upload**

- Click on the "UPLOAD FILES" button to start uploading your images into the system.

***You can log back into your account to see your entry (or entries) and replace images and descriptions. For any other changes, contact us: [entries@ocfair.com](mailto:entries@ocfair.com). Do not re-enter to make corrections as you will be charged.***



## HELP ENTERING

For additional help, review these detailed step-by-step guides:

- [Entry Tutorial](#)
- [Photographing Your Work](#)

Phone: 714-708-1718 (during office hours)      Email: [entries@ocfair.com](mailto:entries@ocfair.com)

## PRICE & SELL ENTRIES

### Pricing

Entries may be marked NFS (not for sale) or for sale by indicating the selling price \$\_\_\_\_\_.

### Prospective buyers

No sale or acceptance of fees for woodworking items will be made by OC Fair. Prospective buyers may fill out a **Purchase Interest Form** that will be forwarded to the artist at the close of OC Fair. OC Fair does not take a commission on woodwork sold as a result of exhibition in the Visual Arts Competition.

## JUDGES

### Woodworking is a juried competition.

Qualified judges will be selected by the program coordinator to judge all exhibits. The judges are recognized authorities in the woodworking field.

### Reassignment of entry division or class

Judges and/or the program coordinator have the option of reassigning an entry to a more appropriate division or class, or may combine divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of exhibitors to enter work in the appropriate class. Failure to enter the appropriate class may result in disqualification.

## FIRST-ROUND ONLINE JUDGING

**Woodworking entries will be judged first from your uploaded images** to determine if the submitted entry meets the requirements for participation in this competition and the subjective standards for exhibition.

- The number of accepted entries is also based on the amount of exhibition space available.
- Judges' decisions are final and cannot be protested.

### The exhibitor will be notified by email with the results of the first-round judging.

An email will be sent for each entry. The email will come from [sweb@fairsoftware](mailto:sweb@fairsoftware). Please check your spam/junk folder. Results may also be viewed online at [ocfair.com/results](http://ocfair.com/results).

### Acceptance for exhibition

Only accepted artwork should be delivered on the entry delivery day. First-round judging acceptance does not guarantee acceptance for exhibition. The delivered entry may still be judged out for not complying with the competition rules and guidelines concerning size and weight.

- Not all entries will be accepted. Due to the high number of entries and limited display space, OC Fair cannot accept all the work submitted. Please understand that this competition is highly competitive.
- Bring only the entry accepted as it was listed. No additional accessories will be accepted.
- Contact the Visual Arts Department at [visualarts@ocfair.com](mailto:visualarts@ocfair.com) with any questions.



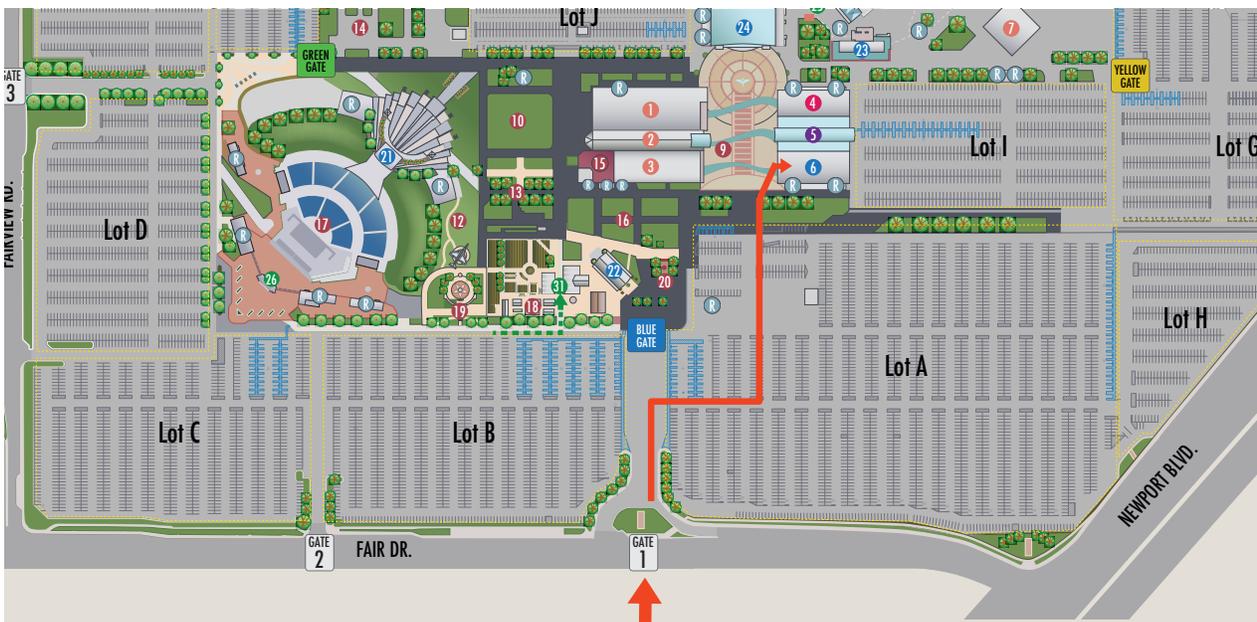
## ENTRY DELIVERY OF ACCEPTED ENTRIES

### **Delivery date: Friday, July 10, Noon - 6 p.m.**

- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.
- Entries may be delivered by someone other than the exhibitor.

### **Entry delivery**

- Enter Gate 1 and follow the marked route.
- Drop off is located on the west side of the Los Alamitos Building/Visual Arts Gallery (building 6 on the map).
- Email alerts will be sent prior to the delivery date with detailed information. Check your spam folder for emails.



### **Claim checks**

- Will be provided when exhibits are delivered.
- Are required to pick up your entry (or entries) on entry pick up day.
- Entries may be picked up by someone other than the exhibitor.

## ENTRY PICK UP

### **Pick up date: Thursday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

- An email alert will be sent prior to the pick up date with detailed information. Check your spam folder for emails.
- Claim check or photo ID is required for pick up.
- If you are unable to pick up your items, please arrange for someone to pick them up for you.
- Unclaimed items and ribbons become the property of OC Fair and will be discarded.

### **Entry pick up**

- Pick up entries at the Visual Arts Gallery/Los Alamitos Building (building 6 on the map).
- Enter through Gate 1 (Main Gate) and follow the directional signs.



## SECOND-ROUND JUDGING

After delivery of accepted entries, all entries will then be checked for compliance with the entry guidelines including size and weight limits, framing, proper hanging hardware and quality of the entry.

Judges may, at their discretion, jury out works that do not meet their subjective artistic standards. If the delivered entry is judged out or disqualified, the exhibitor will receive a notification by phone or email to pick up their entry at the Visual Arts Gallery. Claim check or photo ID is required for pick up.

## AWARD JUDGING

Entries are placed using the American Judging System, where exhibits are ranked one against another.

- First, second, third place and honorable mention may be awarded in each class if judges so determine.
- More than one honorable mention per class may be awarded.
- First place winners will compete for "Division Winner."
- Division Winners will compete for "Best of Show."

### Judging criteria

Entries are judged on originality, creativity, composition, technique and presentation.

### Judges' Award

Additional awards may be made at the discretion of each judge for outstanding entries that exhibit special qualities that the judges feel deserve to be recognized.

### Industry awards

Awarded by a community guild or organization.

### Disqualified entries

If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, the judge will not change the status of awards given for other entries. Judges reserve the right to remove or disqualify any entry in violation of the rules, in poor taste, or not in accordance with the competition standards.

### **Thank you to our 2025 industry award donors:**

Association of Woodworking & Furnishing Supplies...[awfsfair.org](http://awfsfair.org)

Austin Hardwoods and Hardware ..... [austinhardwoodsonline.com](http://austinhardwoodsonline.com)

Capistrano Hardwoods ..... [capistranohardwoods.com](http://capistranohardwoods.com)

Ganahl Lumber ..... [ganahlumber.com](http://ganahlumber.com)

OC Woodworkers Association..... [ocwoodworkers.org](http://ocwoodworkers.org)

Reel Lumber Service..... [reellumber.com](http://reellumber.com)





## AWARDS

Best of Show, Furniture.....	\$400
Best of Show.....	\$400
Division Winner.....	\$200
First Place.....	\$100
Second Place.....	\$75
Third Place.....	\$50
Judges' Award.....	\$25
Honorable Mention.....	Rosette

- Exhibitors will receive awarded ribbons on entry pick up day.
- Award checks will be made payable to the exhibitor whose name is indicated on the entry form and mailed within 30 business days after the close of the 2026 OC Fair.
- Total premiums of \$600 or more to any individual will be paid only after a completed **Payee Data Record** form has been received.
- All accepted entries will be displayed in the Visual Arts Gallery with any awards received.
- Results will be posted online around the second week of OC Fair at [ocfair.com/results](http://ocfair.com/results).
- **Please do not call, email or message OC Fair social media for competition results. We receive a high volume of inquiries daily.**



## AWARDS CEREMONY

### Sunday, Aug. 16, at noon.

- Hosted on the OC Promenade Main Stage.
- Best of Show award recipients will be invited, given two (2) tickets to attend and recognized at the ceremony.
- Invitations will be sent to the email provided at entry registration.
- All exhibitors and the general public are welcome to attend the ceremony.
- Additional guests should purchase Fair admission tickets in advance.





## PRESENTATION & DISPLAY OF ACCEPTED WOODWORK

Upon delivery, any accepted work that is deemed unsafe to display and/or is poorly presented will be disqualified.

### 1. Size and weight requirements

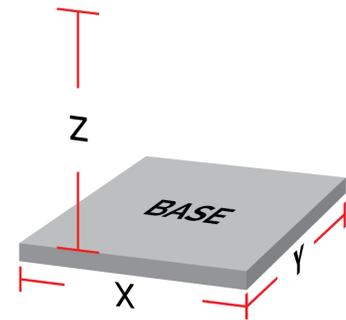
Due to space constraints, size limitations are strictly enforced. Your work needs to be able to be safely moved by OC Fair staff for final placement in the exhibition.

#### a) All freestanding work

**Maximum base size (X, Y)**.....48-by-60 inches

**Maximum height (Z)**.....72 inches

- All entries must fit through a 42 inch-wide by 6 foot-6 doorway.
- Beds must use short rails.
- Oversized items will not be accepted.



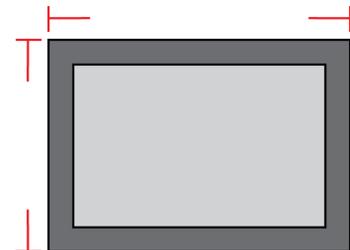
#### b) Wall-hanging work

Portrait, landscape or square orientation

**Maximum size** .....38-by-38 inches

**Minimum size** .....12-by-12 inches

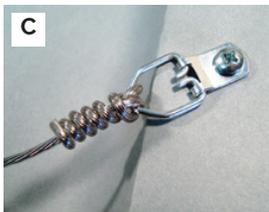
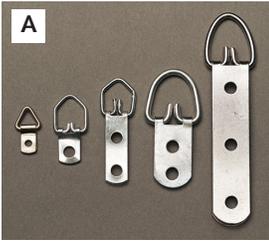
**Weight limit** .....20 pounds





## 2. Hardware for wall hanging

Please adhere to the following guidelines so your work will be prepared to safely hang in a busy public venue like the OC Fair.



### a) D-ring hangers

D-ring hangers are preferred and are available in several standard sizes and weight ratings.

Make sure the frame moulding is thick enough to screw in the D-rings. Drill a small pilot hole for the screw so as not to split the wood frame when fastening the D-ring.

No sawtooth hangers.

### b) Hanging wire

A multi-strand braided galvanized steel wire is required (weight rated for at least four [4] times the weight of the artwork and frame). The ends of the wire should be secured so they do not poke into the back of the image.

- String, thread, fishing line or material other than wire will not be accepted.

**C) Hanging wire is looped through the D-ring hangers,** wrapped several times around itself and securely knotted using a lark's head knot.

**D) Check that the apex of the wire is at least two (2) inches below the top of the frame/piece.**

- The wire cannot extend outside the piece.



## 3. Labeling

Work must be labeled with a printout of the acceptance notification entry tag secured to the back or bottom, or inserted inside of each entry.

*(The label will be sent in acceptance emails. Check your spam folder.)*



## Divisions

**Eligibility**..... Open to California residents ages 13 or older. Original work created within the last two (2) years.

**Entry limit** ..... Ten (10) per exhibitor in all classes combined.

**Entry fee** ..... \$15 per entry

- All rules and guidelines apply.
- Entries require a photo upload. See "Photographing Your Work" on page 2 for more information.
- See size and weight restrictions on page 8.
- Work should be a majority of exposed wood with appropriate finishing. Use stains for color.

### DIVISION 581

#### Furniture

- Has well-fitted joints and an overall smooth finish.

##### Class 01: Traditional furniture

Functional furniture. Furniture in this category should be inspired by or reference furniture of a historic/pre-modern period. This includes tables, cabinets, bookshelves, etc.

##### Class 02: Contemporary furniture

Functional furniture. Furniture in this category should be inspired by or referencing work from the 1970s to present. This includes tables, cabinets, bookshelves, etc.

##### Class 03: Chairs

Functional furniture. Chairs that are particularly imaginative should also be consider for Class 04: Art Furniture.

##### Class 04: Art furniture

Functional or decorative furniture. Can be furniture with a twist, whether whimsical or witty. This is a category for fun!

### DIVISION 582

#### Wood Turning

##### Class 01: Open form

##### Class 02: Closed (hollow) form

##### Class 03: Segmented/polychromatic

Wood blank is constructed from many individual pieces of wood which are glued together before being turned.

##### Class 04: Mixed media turnings

##### Class 05: Wood turning accessories

This category is for the smaller essentials of wood turning. This includes: rings, pens, golf tees, hair pens, etc.

##### Class 06: Creative wood turning

Non-functional pieces that take on an artistic twist.

### DIVISION 583

#### Accessories

##### Class 01: Boxes

Entries with drawers, lids, compartments for storage.

##### Class 02: Other

Clocks, lamps, canes, etc.

##### Class 03: Young at heart

This includes all sorts of toys and designs made for kids.

##### Class 04: Scratch-built models

Any item built "from scratch" rather than building it from a commercial kit, kit-bashing or buying it pre-assembled. Must be made entirely of wood. For kits or models containing other elements, see the Handcrafts Competition Guide, Division 413: Models.

### DIVISION 584

#### Wall Art

##### Class 01: Fretwork

An interlaced decorative design that is either carved in low relief on a solid background, or cut out with a fretsaw, coping saw, jigsaw or scroll saw.

##### Class 02: Segmented/polychromatic

##### Class 03: Marquetry/inlay

The art and craft of applying pieces of veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns, designs or pictures.

##### Class 04: Intarsia/parquetry

The art of creating a mosaic-like picture from pieces of wood.

### DIVISION 585

#### Musical Instruments

- All wood elements to be hand-made by the exhibitor.
- No pre-made/kit guitar necks.

##### Class 01: Any

Any string, wind, keyboard or percussion musical instrument.

### DIVISION 586

#### Wood Carving/Sculpture

##### Class 01: Human form

Representational, whimsical, etc.

##### Class 02: Animals/insects

##### Class 03: Open

Abstract, geometric, household objects, etc.