



**For Immediate Release:** 03/31/2016

**Contact:**

Heather Groll | [heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov) | (518) 474-5987

**OGS SEEKS VENDORS FOR SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS IN THE CAPITAL REGION**

The New York State Office of General Services is seeking vendors for its Capital Region farmers markets, lunchtime programs, and Summer At the Plaza events. Businesses are encouraged to submit applications to participate in the numerous opportunities that exist for farmers and prepared food, craft, merchandise, and specialty product vendors.

Applicants are being sought for lunchtime food vending programs at the Empire State Plaza and Harriman Campus which run from May through October at both locations. The lunchtime food program is for commercial and not-for-profit vendors providing ready-to-eat food products. At the Empire State Plaza, two options are available: full week participation or Wednesday & Friday participation in conjunction with the summer farmers market and Made in the Shade of the Egg concert series, which attract many potential lunchtime customers to the Plaza. At the Harriman Campus, the lunchtime program runs five days a week, and vendors have the option of opening as early as 7 a.m. to serve breakfast.

The summer outdoor farmers markets are held at the Empire State Plaza each Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at the Harriman Campus each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The markets are grower- and producer-only markets, meaning participants may only sell items they have grown or produced themselves. Reselling is not permitted. The farmers markets are part of the New York State FreshConnect program, which is designed to meet the needs of communities by bringing fresh food to underserved areas, improving nutrition education, and helping create local jobs.

OGS is also seeking vendors for the Summer at the Plaza series of concerts and festivals. Applications are being accepted from vendors who sell food, handmade or commercial products, fine arts, crafts, clothing, accessories, books, general merchandise, and packaged, canned, jarred, or otherwise processed foods that are intended to be taken home for consumption. These events draw tens of thousands of people to the Plaza and include New York State's Fourth of July celebration, Capital Concert Series, Black Arts and Cultural Festival, NYS Food Festival, Kids Day, and Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Businesses interested in these vendor opportunities should consult with OGS concerning specific options available.

All prospective vendors must complete an application and return it with payment to the Convention and Cultural Events Office in order to be considered for participation. Day of event "walk-in" vendors are not permitted at any time. Applications, criteria used to review and evaluate applications, and fee schedules can be found online on the public events page at [www.ogs.ny.gov](http://www.ogs.ny.gov) or by contacting the Convention and Cultural Events Office at (518) 473-2982 or [jason.rumpf@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:jason.rumpf@ogs.ny.gov).

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