

Green Initiative

**Lazy Daze Arts and
Crafts Festival,
Cary, NC**

Detailed description of the event

Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival is a 2-day festival in the heart of Downtown Cary, NC celebrating its 49th anniversary which boasts over 250 artist booths, 28 food vendors, 15 non-profit organizations, all-day entertainment, children's programs, and interactive experiences throughout the festival.

Detailed description of the environmental impact of the event or initiative.

After a successful pilot at the 2024 Spring Daze Festival, the Cary Art Daze Low Waste Initiative was fully introduced at the 2024 Lazy Daze Arts and Crafts Festival! The initiative required all participating food vendors to use BPI-certified compostable serviceware. This included plates, clamshell containers, boxes, cups, and straws—essentially, anything leaving a vendor's truck (that wasn't recyclable) had to be compostable. Understanding that change can be difficult and to promote vendor buy-in, Cary provided compostable cutlery for all food vendors at no cost as well as cups for the beer vendors. The process began well before the festival, with an orientation for all food vendors. This session detailed the serviceware requirements, explained what BPI certification entails, and provided resources for sourcing compliant products. Festival staff worked closely with vendors, collecting and approving every item they intended to use, and documenting these in an interactive Google sheet accessible to all vendors. At the festival, expansive composting infrastructure was strategically placed to ensure easy access. Each of the 60 Clearstream waste stations included bins for trash, recycling, and composting. Additionally, two waste information booths and a Cary Composts booth, staffed by the Town of Cary's Solid Waste Department, offered festivalgoers guidance on proper waste disposal. These stations included bins for trash, recycling, compost, and a special bin showcasing the serviceware used by the vendors. At the conclusion of the festival, compost was picked up by CompostNow, which collected and processed the material. By the end of the two-day event, over 4,000 pounds of compostable material were collected—an amount that impressively surpassed the weight of trash generated during the festival! This initiative was met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from both food vendors and attendees. Vendors appreciated the clear communication and support, while festivalgoers embraced the opportunity to contribute to a more sustainable Lazy Daze experience. By prioritizing compostable serviceware, the festival took a significant step toward reducing waste and setting a new standard for environmentally conscious events.

Estimated number of attendees?

50,000

Testimonials or community feedback

Try Seafood Cary "Lazy Daze did an amazing job with the low waste requirements. Every year it gets better. Each vendor has a responsibility to participate and abide by the low waste requirements and all has contributed to this. Promoting a healthier living and less threat to our ground water. Great job Lazy Daze see you next year!"

<https://www.carync.gov/recreation-enjoyment/events/cary-art-daze-festivals/lazy-daze-arts-and-crafts-festival/environmental-efforts> <https://www.instagram.com/p/C-vpEN0sXxl/>

Detailed description of the DEI impact of the event/initiative

Multicultural Night created an immersive space to celebrate and honor the many cultures represented within our community. By highlighting diversity through music, dance, art, food, and interactive activities, the event offered individuals from all backgrounds a chance to feel seen, valued, and included. Main stage performances showcased rich cultural heritages to a wide audience, blending entertainment with education to foster understanding and break down barriers. Interactive experiences, such as the Polynesian cultural station and step dance lessons, provided attendees hands-on opportunities to engage with traditions outside their own. Lantern-making activities encouraged participants to express their cultural heritage or celebrate multicultural themes, fostering both pride and mutual appreciation. The world map, where attendees marked their places of ancestry, visually demonstrated the global roots of the community, emphasizing the richness brought by diverse stories. Similarly, the gazebo, adorned with lanterns, handprints, and names, symbolized the event's core message: that every individual contributes to the shared fabric of the community. By hosting multicultural vendors and food trucks, the event supported small businesses, elevated underrepresented voices, and exposed attendees to new global flavors and crafts. The Lantern Parade served as a stunning culmination of the event's DEI impact, with nearly 1,000 participants marching under the glow of their decorated lanterns. This shared experience symbolized unity, demonstrating how diversity and individuality can come together to create something extraordinary. Multicultural Night went beyond celebration to foster real connections, mutual respect, and shared understanding among attendees. Through representation, educational opportunities, and shared experiences, the event advanced diversity, equity, and inclusion in a meaningful and lasting way.

Estimated number of attendees?

6,300

Testimonials or community feedback

Dear Jessica, I just wanted to send you a quick thank you note for the fantastic festival this past Saturday. We were thrilled to be part of such an inclusive celebration of our community's diversity. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to spread the word about the work of NYAP La Jornada Duluth and we were able to connect with so many people. We look forward to participating again next year and will definitely check the website to see upcoming events in which we can participate. Again, thank you and your entire team. Best regards, Parisa Abolfathian Foster Parent Growth and Retention Specialist NYAP La Jornada, Duluth

Cary Art Daze

Low Waste

All the steps you need to know to keep Food Vendors on track &
following the Low Waste Requirement at Spring Daze!

By Kaitlyn Lincoln



LOW WASTE OVERVIEW

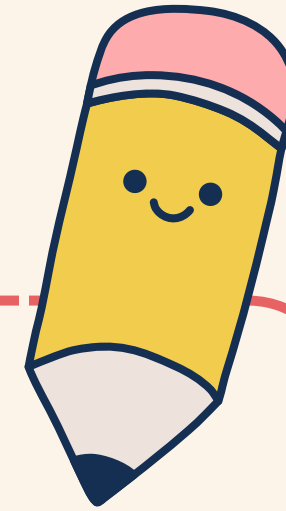
Vendors are required to:

- Use BPI-Certified Service ware ONLY.
- Send ALL items to staff and have each one approved before purchasing.
- Be audited at the festival.

*Failure to adhere to this requirement results in unfavorable applications going forward.



BACKGROUND



In 2024...

- Vendors complied at 95%.
- The top 'surprise item' was plastic 2oz sauce cups.
- Collected over 4,000 pounds of compostable material.
- Waste stations, food trucks, and clearstreams all had compost signage.

Serviceware

Includes ALL:

- Cups, lids, straws
- Containers, trays
- Sauce cups, bags, stickers, misc. items
- Napkins (already accepted)
- Cutlery (provided by TOC)



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01

Educate & Collect

Introduce yourself, the requirement, and the purpose behind it. Ask for amount of cutlery needed for the event.

02

Approve

Approve only BPI-Certified serviceware items as they are sent. Save them & add to the Pre-Approved list in docs.

03

Event Signage

Create event signage for each vendor, clear streams, and waste stations.

04

Audit

Verify using a checklist that each vendor brought the correct items. Save 1 of each item to bring to each waste station.

01

EDUCATE & COLLECT

Step 1



EDUCATE VENDORS

After introducing yourself, the requirement,
& why it's in place...

Vendors need to know:

- What counts as serviceware?
- When is the cutlery order due?
- When are items due?
- Does it have to be BPI-Certified?
- What is the event attendance?
- Are napkins compostable?
- Can I bring sauce packets?

*Except for due dates, all questions are answered in these slides.



COMPOSTABLE CUTLERY

Cutlery Numbers

All vendors must report the amount of BPI-Certified cutlery they need for the event.

Record their needs until all vendors answer and then place order (with extras!)

Event Population

Spring Daze receives up to 15,000 attendees. Vendors need to know this to determine amounts.



Prepare

After the order arrives at Town Hall prior to Spring Daze, the boxes will need to be labeled and/or separated into bags for the amount each vendor requested.

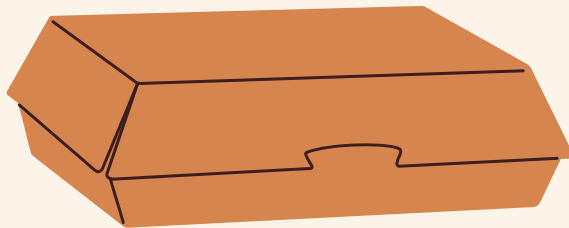
Delivery

The cutlery will be delivered to each vendor the morning of Spring Daze NO LATER THAN 8:45 AM.

02



APPROVING ITEMS



Step 2

IS IT BPI-CERTIFIED?

YES

This item is great!

If not already on the pre-approved serviceware google doc, add it now.
Save this item to this vendor.

NO

This item will NOT be allowed at the event.

The only exceptions are:
napkins, bags, & trays that are only made out of 100% paper.

WHERE TO PUT APPROVED ITEMS



01

With Vendor's Info

Wherever you keep the vendor's information, save all items that have been approved for them.

03

Food Truck & Waste Station Materials

- Each food truck has a sign that displays product images so guests can see what to compost from each booth.
- Waste Stations have a printed guide with images of EVERY service ware item.

02

Pre-Approved List

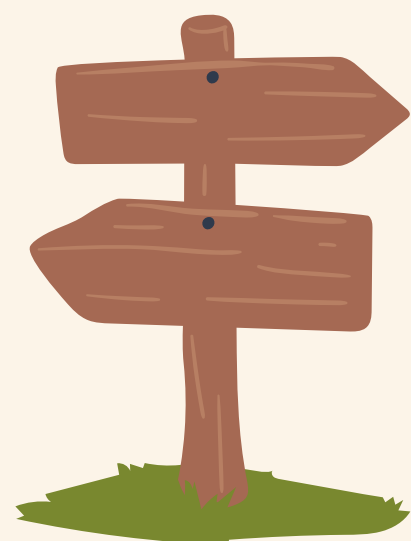
The google doc contains all pre-approved items from vendors. They **MUST** send all items to be approved, not just purchase from this list.

04

Audit Checklist

Each vendor should have **ALL** approved items in the audit checklist for the day of the festival.





03

EVENT SIGNAGE



Step 3

EVENT SIGNAGE

Food Trucks	Waste Stations	Clearstreams	Table Toppers
Specific to each truck	Trash/Recycling/Compost	Same for ALL in the event	Same for ALL in the event
Using real product pictures (examples in Canva)	Examples of items from food vendors at the event	Can be icons or images	Can be icons or images
On 11x17 cardstock	Banners & 8.5 x11	11x17 cardstock	Maddie has dimensions

None of these signs need to be laminated! They should be composted after.

04

THE AUDIT (DAY OF)



Step 4

THE AUDIT



Verify

- All items should be put in a checklist BEFORE the event with room for notes & unexpected items.
- If items don't match, decide how to mitigate contamination with the vendor. (verbal or removal)

Deliver

Deliver ONE of each kind of item (many vendors use the same items) to EACH waste station.

THIS IS WHEN VENDOR CUTLERY WILL BE DELIVERED.

SPRING DAZE CHECKLIST



Spring Daze	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3	Item 4
Vendor	✓	Brought alternative also comostable.	Didn't bring, no alternate	✓
Vendor	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vendor	✓	✓	n/a	n/a



AFTER THE FESTIVAL



- Take mental & physical (or digital) notes during the festival to mark pain points, interactions with vendors, and possible improvements.
- Save these details for debriefs with the Festivals Team & Solid Waste. (This is when we learn how much material was collected!)
- You can do something like what Kaitlyn did by creating a list of the festival vendors from most compliance/ease to least with reasoning to help decide next year's vendors.



COMPLIANCE

Yum Yums

Needed little assistance.
Brought all items.
Let us know about shipping issue and new item BEFORE the event. Great job.



Nommy Nums

Had to order alternative item due to shipping delay. New item was BPI-Certified. Remained at Festival.



Tummy Yums

Brought plastic cups.
Crossed off cups on their truck's compost sign due to not providing alternatives.
Told to inform guests not to compost it.



LINKS

[Pre-Approved Service Ware doc](#)

[Food Truck Signs Example](#)

[Audit Checklist Example](#)

[Waste Station Guide Example](#)

Extras

[Volunteer HQ Example](#)

“Please compost your coffee cups/lunch boxes”
(if applicable, check in with Sam.)

[Clear Stream Art Inspo](#)

By Wake County

[Food Vendor Orientation](#)
[Lazy Daze 2024](#)

What the vendors learned about the
requirement for Lazy Daze

Thank You

