



RIVER ARTISANS COOPERATIVE

28 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vermont

(802) 591-2085

riverartisanscooperative@gmail.com

www.riverartisanscooperative.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in membership in our cooperative!

River Artisans Cooperative, formally known as the Jelly Bean Tree and the Saxton River Artisans Cooperative, was created in 1975 by a group of local artists and craftspeople in Saxtons River, Vermont. In September of 2017, the shop moved to its present location in Bellows Falls, Vermont and was renamed the River Artisans Cooperative.

The shop's operating expenses come from display fees, commissions on sales, fundraisers and member-contributed items (known and sold as "Z" items).

Member Responsibilities

All members are required to pay a yearly display fee semiannually of \$120.00 for the calendar year January 1 to December 31, due on January 1 and July 1.

If not paid by the 15th of the month due, the member's items will be removed from the shop display and placed in the basement storage area until such time as the fee is paid or the items are picked up by the member.

New members joining on or after July 1 of their first year will pay \$10/month, prorated, for the partial year.

Applicants may choose to be either working members or non-working members. A schedule of commissions follows. This schedule of commissions is reviewed yearly.

Commission Scale		
Shifts Worked (3 Hours)	Shop Percentage from Sales	Member Percentage from Sales
0	45%	55%
1	40%	60%
2	35%	65%
3	30%	70%
4	25%	75%
5	20%	80%
6	15%	85%

Commissions are paid monthly. Payments are made when a member's net sales (earnings after the shop's commission is subtracted) are \$25.00 or more. If sales are less than \$25.00, the amount will be rolled over into the next month to be paid after reaching the minimum of \$25.00.

From time to time, we meet as a cooperative to discuss and form policy and elect officers and committee members. All members are encouraged to attend.

The current committees are Executive, Jury, Display, Marketing, and Fundraising.

Jurying of Work

The cooperative strives to uphold high standards and we are looking for items that represent a similarly high level of skill and creativity.

All new work must be juried in order to be accepted into the shop. All work displayed in the shop must meet the judging criteria.

Applicants should submit samples sufficient to cover the range of their work. If submitting more than one category of craft or art, each category must have a good representation and will be juried separately.

Once accepted, the member may bring in other pieces of work similar to that which was juried and approved. New items that differ significantly from those already approved must first be submitted to the jury before being displayed.

The Jury Committee will provide the member candidate with feedback on their decisions based on the complexity, workmanship and skill of the work. Non-accepted work may be re-submitted for reconsideration after making improvements as suggested by the jury.

Please submit the following to the shop for jury review:

1. Your original work consisting of at least two (2) actual pieces and as many as five (5) pieces for each category of work you wish juried. Pieces should be finished work, ready to sell. If a piece is too heavy or too large to bring in for the jury, quality photographs may be submitted instead. Space availability in the shop may limit the selection of some items.
2. A completed Membership Application indicating the category of work, a proposed selling price for each item, and the process(es) and materials used to make it.

Exclusions: plastic canvas, lead glazes on pottery, children's items not meeting basic safety standards.

What Will Be Judged

The jury will make sure the work demonstrates mastery of technical skills, is well-conceived, well thought-out and creative, shows professional craftsmanship and makes a creative contribution to the shop.

The Jury Committee will make every effort to respond in a reasonable time frame. After a majority of the jury has evaluated the items submitted, the jury chairperson will let the prospective member know the decision.

Set Up

Once accepted, the member may come in with their tagged items. The tags are to include their shop code(s) using CAPITAL letters to identify their work and the price. The member then needs to fill out their inventory pages in order for the shop to credit the sales of their items. Help with the inventory pages and code-tagging can be provided by any of the clerks.

Price tags must be coded using CAPITAL letters, never lower-case.

- a. Member Code—Item Code (Examples: “AK—C” or “SL—G”)
- b. Never use the letter “Z.” It is reserved for RAC use only.

Items will be put out for display by the Display Committee. Once placed, work may not be moved. If the member brings in additional items, they may be added to the established display, but no other member's items may be moved. Requests or suggestions for display may be left in the Communications Notebook under the counter.

It is the responsibility of each member to provide their own labeling for items. RAC does not provide tags or labels. The tags must be securely attached. If items need special equipment, the member is also responsible for providing same.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for applying to become a member!

Please fill out this form and include it with samples of your work. Our cooperative is run by many of our members part-time; please allow a few weeks for our jury to make their decision and we will contact you.

Name: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Do you have interest in being a: _____ working member or _____ non-working member? (See Membership Information for details.)

Enter description of items being juried and a proposed selling price for each item. Include the process by which you make the item and the materials used. If submitting more than one category of work, be sure to describe each—with process and materials.

Category	Proposed Price	Process Used	Materials Used

Use back of sheet if necessary.