

Gingerbread NYC: The Great Borough Bake-Off (2025-26)

Museum of the City of New York

RULES AND PROCEDURES AGREEMENT



Welcome to the Museum of the City of New York's fourth annual edition of *Gingerbread NYC: The Great Borough Bake-Off*! The selected displays will be on view to the public in a gallery at the Museum from **Friday, November 7, 2025 through Monday, January 19, 2026.**

Stipend

Each baker/bakery selected to participate will receive a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 toward materials and supplies. Stipends will be distributed when the participating bakers/bakeries have submitted the completed packet of entry materials (a W9 form and a signed copy of these Rules and Procedures, which includes a photo release below.)

Upcoming Key Dates

Fri., Sep. 19 – Deadline for bakers to submit designs for approval
Fri., Sep. 26 – Bakers will be informed of acceptance into the competition
Fri., Oct. 3 – Deadline for bakers to submit designs with accurate dimensions for approval
Fri., Oct. 10 – Bakers will receive design approval/feedback (if not sooner)
Thu., Oct. 23 – Bakers install gingerbread displays
Fri., Oct. 24 – Bakers install gingerbread displays
Sat., Oct. 25 – Bakers install gingerbread displays
Sun., Oct. 26 – Bakers install gingerbread displays
Thu., Oct. 30 thru Fri., Oct. 31 – Final judging
Mon., Nov. 3 – Press preview / Awards presentation
Fri., Nov. 7 – Open to the public
Mon., Jan. 19, 2026 – Last day on view to the public

Theme

The theme for **Gingerbread NYC** is *Iconic New York* – distinctive buildings, places, or things that represent your community, neighborhood, or borough.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded in a variety of fun categories. Last year's categories included Best Borough Spirit, Most Realistic, Most Unique, Good Enough to Eat, and Best Overall. Visitors to the Museum will also be invited to vote for their favorite display.

Size/Weight Limitations

- Display Dimensions: Each baker will be provided with a display area measuring 40"W x 30"D x 36"H. The gingerbread display should not extend beyond this area.

NOTE:

The FRONT of your display must be on the 40" wide side.

The SIDES of your display must be on the 30" deep sides.

The REAR of the display might be visible to the public or it might be partially or fully obscured depending upon its placement within the gallery.

- Display Base: Each display MUST be on a base. Plywood ($\frac{1}{2}$ " or $\frac{3}{4}$ ") as a base for your display is recommended. Gingerbread displays combined with a base must not be larger than 36" high. Use of pegs/risers/feet on the bottom of the base is preferred but not required. If you wish to install pegs/risers/feet on the underside of your base, they are considered part of the base and must not cause the entry's overall height to exceed 36". Bases can be painted/decorated.
- Display Weight: Display is not to exceed 50 lbs.

Materials and Construction

Everything above the base of your entry must be composed completely of edible materials.

Competitors are permitted to use up to 40% mechanically produced components in their entry.

Examples include: machine designed, 3D printed, and laser cut components. 60% of each entry must be handcrafted. The main structure of your entry must be constructed of at least 75% gingerbread, some of which should be exposed.

Edible materials are not limited to candies and icings. Use of gum paste, fondant, pastillage, chocolate, modeling chocolate, royal icing, isomalt, cast sugar, gelatin and pressed sugar is encouraged. Use of "Disco Dust", "Rainbow Dust" or "Hologram Powder" is permitted.

NO artificial display materials, such as Styrofoam, interior lighting or other electronic components are to be used in the construction or decoration of the creation. Candies must be unwrapped and free of any non-edible materials, such as lollipop sticks. Non-edible materials such as paint and/or ribbon are approved and encouraged to decorate the outer edge of your plywood base only. Decorations must not cause the entry to exceed the required size limitations.

Terms and Conditions

1. I acknowledge that my entry will remain on display during the times specified by the Museum of the City of New York (MCNY). (Expected public display dates are November 7, 2025 through January 19, 2026 – but that those dates are subject to change.)

Initial to confirm _____

2. Unless the exhibition is extended or otherwise agreed upon, I must pick up my entry between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tue., Jan. 20, or Wed., Jan. 21, 2026. Entries remaining will be discarded beginning at 7 pm on Wed., January 21, 2026.

Initial to confirm _____

3. By voluntarily participating in Gingerbread NYC, I've consented to receive email communication from MCNY, the event itself, and future Gingerbread NYC planning and media requests as they arise.

Initial to confirm _____

4. I agree to make myself and/or my bakery representative(s) available for interviews, photographs, filmed or taped recordings, etc., by MCNY or press/news outlets coordinated by MCNY with as much advance notice as possible and not to be unreasonably denied.

Initial to confirm _____

5. Bakers may be asked to make periodic repairs or adjustments over the period of public display dates. Such repairs and/or adjustments are to be covered by the original stipend.

Initial to confirm _____

6. I agree that if I am unable to produce a gingerbread creation for display at the Museum by the specified deadlines, I will return any stipend(s) that may have been issued to me.

Initial to confirm _____

7. I hereby grant permission to MCNY to print or otherwise duplicate the picture or likeness of my creation and/or myself with or without my creation for either internal or external release; including but not limited to print, video and online publications, local and network television, and international media outlets. I understand that the image of my creation becomes the property of MCNY. I understand that at no time does MCNY guarantee the safety or security of my creation and MCNY cannot be held responsible for any damages incurred to my creation. Participation in the competition includes filmed interviews, photographs, and audio recordings of the process. By participating, each baker/bakery agrees to be bound by all rules and procedures herein, which

may be amended from time to time. MCNY reserves the right to refuse entries that it, in its sole discretion, deems are inappropriate for display at the Museum, to disqualify any baker/bakery who fails to follow the rules and procedures contained herein, and/or to disqualify any baker/bakery who falsifies any entry form information.

Initial to confirm _____

8. I agree to HOLD HARMLESS, RELEASE, DEFEND, AND INDEMNIFY MCNY, each of its current or former predecessors, successors, each of its affiliated organizations and companies, its insurance companies, respective agents, employees, representatives, assignees, officers, directors, members, partners, medical providers and shareholders (each a “RELEASED PARTY”) for ANY AND ALL LIABILITY and/or claims arising from injury to persons or damage to property arising from the incident, any RELEASED PARTY’S alleged or actual NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF any express or implied WARRANTY, breach of contract, or breach of any statutory or other duty of care, or mistakes or errors in judgment of any kind. By signing this release, I agree that I am releasing any right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against MCNY. THE RELEASOR AGREES TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY each RELEASED PARTY for any and all claims and/or those of a third party arising from the incident.

Initial to confirm _____

ACCEPTED AND AGREED by:

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Phone Number

Email Address