

Yes, you can bring flowers to an opening night, especially if you want to congratulate a performer, artist, or host. Keep the arrangement small and choose a sensible time to give it, since the recipient may be busy before and during the event.

Choose flowers that are easy to carry

A modest bouquet is usually more useful than a large arrangement. The person receiving it may need to carry it home on public transport, fit it in a car, or keep it out of the way at a crowded venue.

Choose a wrapped bunch that can be held in one hand. Avoid a heavy vase unless you know the recipient has a place for it. A small arrangement in a container can work for a host who will stay at the venue, but check first if you are unsure.

Strongly scented flowers can be distracting in a small space. A lightly scented or unscented mix is a considerate choice, particularly if you do not know the recipient's preferences.

Pick the right moment

At a theatre performance, wait until after the show unless the recipient has arranged another handoff. Before curtain time, performers may be preparing and venue staff may be helping guests find their seats. Do not expect to go backstage without an invitation.

At a gallery opening, a brief handoff during a quiet moment can work. The artist or host may be greeting many people, so keep your congratulations short and let them return to their guests. Ask where they would like you to leave the flowers rather than putting them down yourself.

If you cannot find a good moment, ask a member of the venue staff if they are able to pass the bouquet along. They may not have room to store it or time to deliver it, so be prepared to keep it with you.

Decide whom to give them to

Flowers make a thoughtful gift for someone you know who is performing, exhibiting work, or hosting the event. You can also bring a shared bouquet for a group, but make clear who should receive it and add a card with the names you want to congratulate.

You do not need to bring flowers simply because you have been invited. Your attendance and a few sincere words are enough. If the invitation asks guests not to bring gifts, follow that request.

Add a note and plan the handoff

A card helps the recipient identify the flowers, especially if several bouquets arrive at once. Keep the message brief and personal. You might include:

- The recipient's name and your name.
- A simple congratulations on the opening.
- A specific detail you admired, if you have seen the work or performance.

If you are attending with others, decide in advance who will carry the bouquet and give it to the recipient. Keep it clear of aisles and seats during the event. If you bring water for the stems, make sure the wrapping will not leak onto coats or programs.

Flowers are a kind gesture, not an obligation. A small bouquet, given at a convenient moment, lets the occasion stay at the center.

A related guide: why flowers wilt early