

Good Neighbour Guidelines For Street Entertainment

A GUIDE TO BUSKING IN EDMONTON

Responsible Hospitality Edmonton (RHE) supports a safe, thriving, late night economy by planning, managing and policing and the many aspects of night life by:

- managing Whyte and Jasper Avenues as a venue
- ensuring licensed venues know and comply with rules and standards meant to keep people safe
- promoting patron responsibility

For more information about Responsible
Hospitality Edmonton call 311 or visit

www.responsiblehospitalityedmonton.ca



The City of Edmonton recognizes that street entertainment can bring a special kind of energy to our entertainment zones and other public spaces. We encourage responsible busking that helps our streets come alive with music, dance and magic.

We welcome buskers to our public spaces with the expectation that we are all working together to ensure that street entertainment is making a positive contribution to the vibrancy of our entertainment zones. We aim to work with buskers to minimize complaints, criticism and other problems that can be associated with buskers operating in the public domain.

Buskers are encouraged to be aware of busking best practices, and to actively minimize any negative impact their activities may have. This includes respecting the noise concerns of others and managing crowds to maintain safe and unobstructed pathways for pedestrians.

There is no permit required to busk on public property in the City of Edmonton. However, permission from ETS is required to busk on ETS property. For more information on busking in a transit station, call 780-496-1622 or visit the ETS Customer Service Office:

City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7



Location

Buskers are responsible for ensuring that doorways, phone booths, bus stops, postal boxes, fire hydrants, licensed areas (such as patios and extended lobbies) and pedestrians are not blocked by their performance or audience. Busking on a street corner is discouraged, as it often results in the unsafe displacement of pedestrians into an intersection. A Peace Officer may ask a busker to relocate if their presence is forcing pedestrians to unsafely divert around a performance.

Specific restrictions on busking may be imposed during planned special events, such as the Fringe Theatre Festival. Busking at a special event should be coordinated through the event organizer.

Performance

Buskers must recognize that not everyone will appreciate a particular performance. In order to respect the universal right to enjoyment of our public places, a busker may be asked by a Peace Officer, after a period of time in one location, to move to a new location. A request to move may be made in instances of very loud or repetitive performances.

Public Risk or Danger

No aspect of a street performance can pose any danger or risk to the public. No equipment or props should be left unattended at any time. It is a busker's responsibility to ensure that no City or private property is damaged as the result of a performance.

Noise

Buskers must adhere to the noise regulations outlined in the Community Standards Bylaw. Amplification is permitted but should be kept at moderate levels. Noise complaints by local businesses and residents will be investigated. Buskers may be asked to reduce sound levels by a Peace Officer. Buskers are encouraged to consider their surroundings when choosing a busking location. Buskers should expect to be informed of 'closing time' in an entertainment zone by the Edmonton Police Service, and respect any request to cease busking for the night.

Donations and Vending

Buskers are allowed to solicit donations from the public, but should not accost or otherwise interfere in any way with pedestrians. Buskers who choose to sell recordings of their music, or request a specific donation amount on any form of signage, require a business license and vending permit from the City of Edmonton.



Bylaws

When busking in any location, there are several City of Edmonton bylaws that are enforced to ensure that busking remains a positive part of our vibrant, multi-use sidewalks.

- A person shall not stand or be in any other position on a highway so as to obstruct the entrance to a building or to obstruct pedestrians or vehicles using the highway.
- s. 60(1) of Bylaw 5590, the Traffic Bylaw
- A person shall not crowd, jostle or harass any pedestrian on a highway - s.61 of Bylaw 5590, the Traffic Bylaw
- A person shall not climb or interfere with any: (a) traffic control device; or (b) item of street furniture.
- s.63 of Bylaw 5590, the Traffic Bylaw
- A person shall not cause or permit any noise that disturbs the peace of another individual.
- s.14(1) of Bylaw 14600, the Community Standards Bylaw
- A person shall not leave any garbage, litter or other refuse in a public place except in a receptacle designed and intended for such use.
- s. 4 of Bylaw 14614, the Public Places Bylaw
- A person shall not panhandle in an aggressive manner in any public place.
- s. 4.1(1) of Bylaw 14614, the Public Places Bylaw
- A person shall not throw or propel an object, or act in any other way, in a public place that is reasonably likely to cause injury to another person or damage to property. - s. 6 of Bylaw 14614, the Public Places Bylaw

To learn more about City of Edmonton bylaws, visit
www.edmonton.ca/bylaws