



# CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

## DOWNTOWN STREET PERFORMERS POLICY

### **1 INTRODUCTION:**

1.1 Street Performing, also known as busking, provides a public amenity that enhances the vibrancy, vitality and ambience of Downtown San Antonio. The City of San Antonio encourages the performance of non-commercial artistic expression at downtown sidewalks, plazas and parks.

### **2 PURPOSE:**

2.1 This document establishes guidelines of what is allowed with busking in Downtown San Antonio.

2.2 These guidelines are not applicable for any other program authorized by the City of San Antonio.

### **3 DEFINITIONS:**

3.1 “City” means the City of San Antonio.

3.2 “Downtown” means the Central Business District.

3.3 “Street performance” or “busking” is the practice of performing in designated areas, for voluntary donations. Busking includes non-amplified musical performances and other types of personal entertainment.

3.4 “Street Performer” means the person presenting an artistic expression in the form of music, dance, acrobatic, comedy, singing, musical performance or other expressive activities.

### **4 PERMITTED AREAS:**

4.1 All City of San Antonio controlled downtown public pedestrian spaces on sidewalks in public right of way and City owned parks will be available for busking with the following exceptions: River Walk, Alamo Plaza (bounded by Alamo Street from Commerce to Houston, and east to Crockett and Blum – to include sidewalks on both sides of the street and

the Plaza itself), Main Plaza, and the outdoor spaces owned and controlled by the City of San Antonio for other purposes such as the Convention Center, Alamodome, City Hall, Market Square, La Villita, and the Commerce St. Bridge between Losoya & Presa St. The City shall, if needed, adopt further regulations and restrictions to protect the free flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to preserve the historic and aesthetic ambiance of City of San Antonio resources.

4.2 Preferred locations include specified areas of Houston Street and certain cross streets along Houston Street, and Travis Park.

4.3 Street Performer may not block any sidewalk and may not hinder the free passage of pedestrians.

4.4 No more than one Street Performer, or coordinated group of street performers may perform in any specific location at the same time.

4.5 Street Performer may perform at a specific location for a maximum of one hour. Limited performance times permit other performers to utilize the space and encourage a variety of entertainment.

## **5 REGISTRATION PROCESS:**

5.1 The City encourages all performers to participate in busking and does not require registration. However, certain benefits will be given to those who register with Centro San Antonio. These benefits may include promotion of the performance and artists and potentially the payment of a small stipend for certain performers. The registration form is located at: <http://downtownsanantonio.org/main/houston-street-performers>.

## **6 RESTRICTIONS:**

6.1 Street Performer may solicit tips and donations from the public solely by means of a small sign no larger than 24 inches x 38 inches with a receptacle (such as a musical instrument case or small box); at no time shall the Street Performer make an oral solicitation while street performing or violate any of the City's regulations regarding public solicitation.

6.2 Street Performer must fully comply with the City's public solicitation regulations which may be found at: Section 21-29 of the San Antonio City Code (online at Municode.com). In summary, a person commits an offense if the person solicits within fifty feet of the following areas: a. an automated teller machine; b. an automated teller facility; c. the entrance or exit of a bank; d. the entrance or exit of a check cashing business; e. a charitable contribution meter; f. a parking meter or pay station on a street; g. a public parking garage or parking lot pay

station; h. the entrance or exit of a restaurant or the service area of an outdoor eating establishment; i. at a bus station or stop; or j. a marked crosswalk.

6.3 Aggressive panhandling will be enforced.

6.4 No vending (i.e. selling) of any merchandise is allowed. Citations will be given should vending occur.

6.5 Street Performer must fully comply with noise regulations. No amplification of any kind is allowed. Persons performing on street level bridges over the San Antonio River Walk should take note that any loud sounds created as part of their performance shall likely be deemed a noise nuisance by River Walk proprietors or downtown residents and will thus be asked to cease creating such sound or be subject to citation under section 21-52 “noise nuisance”. In summary, the following acts are declared to be “noise nuisances” when accomplished in such a manner, or with such volume, intensity, or with continued duration, so as to annoy or to disturb a reasonable person: the playing of any radio, television, phonograph, drum, juke box, nickelodeon, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces, or amplifies sound. The complete City of San Antonio noise regulations are contained in San Antonio City Code section 21-51 through 21-61. (online at Municode.com)

6.6 Street Performer may not use or connect to any City power source.

6.7 Street Performers may perform at anytime during the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and during the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

6.8 Street Performers are not allowed to perform during a private or community event. Street Performers interested in performing prior to and/or after a private or community event must seek approval by the host of the event.

**All information related to the program may be obtained from:**

City of San Antonio  
Center City Development and Operations Department  
400 N. St. Mary’s, Suite 100  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
(210) 207-3677