

## **ELGIN BUSKING GUIDELINES**

Downtown Elgin welcomes buskers to perform in and about town. We just ask that you follow some simple guidelines.

The Guidelines below provide a framework to assist performers, businesses and residents in understanding the rules for busking. The aim is to foster an environment that encourages and enables a range of busking performances to thrive in our city. After reading the guidelines, if you have more questions, please contact the City of Elgin's 311 or the DNA at [info@DowntownElgin.com](mailto:info@DowntownElgin.com) or 847-488-1456.

### **CITY OF ELGIN BUSKING GUIDELINES**

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*What is Busking?* A busker is considered to be an entertainer who is actively providing a public performance in the public space in exchange for a donation. Busking is defined as playing a musical instrument, singing, reciting or performing conjuring, juggling, puppetry, miming, dancing or other entertainment. Busking also includes the activity of drawing any message, picture or representation on a pavement, paper or canvas surface. Types of busking performances may include:

- performing with an instrument or multiple instruments, conventional or self-constructed
- performing a song, dance routine, mime, clowning, juggling, puppetry, comedy, magic or living statue act
- actively working in an artistic medium (this excludes pre-built static displays and artworks advertising or promoting a company, event or charity)
- performing a Circle Act with or without dangerous goods (includes the use of substances that are flammable, toxic or hazardous and implements such as swords)

*What is NOT considered busking?* The activities listed below are not considered busking.

- vendors of any kind – including glow sticks, flowers, jewelry and merchandise sellers
- fundraising, events or promotions even if they involve any element of a performance as listed previously
- touting or soliciting
- tarot card reading, palmistry and fortune telling
- massage, chiropractic treatment or any other physical manipulation
- face or body painting and temporary tattoo applications
- artists selling pre-fabricated work – pavement artists must be actively engaged in producing their artistic medium and not simply selling displayed goods
- begging/fundraising: Busking is not individuals, clubs or companies wanting to promote their business or activities or fundraise on behalf of another individual, organization or entity even if they are engaging in a public performance to do so.

## **General Guidelines and Conditions** (may include but are not limited to the following)

### Age Restrictions

Performers under the age of 16 should have parental or legal guardian consent. It is mandatory that children under this age have parental or legal guardian or adult supervision at all times whilst performing.

### Group Acts

Group acts are generally limited to less than 8 performers with larger groups assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### Public Liability

Buskers are wholly responsible for all claims made against them for personal injury or property damage.

### Safety

Buskers must work to ensure that neither themselves nor their audience, pedestrians or the general public, are put at risk at any time during their performance. Buskers must accept responsibility for any impact that their performance may have on other city services and activities.

### Pedestrian Access/Audience Management

Buskers and street performers must ensure free and safe access for pedestrians along any pathways or thorough- fares near the performance site. Performers should ensure that they or their audience do not block shop doorways during business hours, dining areas and cafes, bus stops, fire escapes, roads and residential doorways. Wheelchair access around a site must be maintained at all times.

### Animals

The use of non-domesticated animals will not be permitted as part of a busking performance. Buskers who use animals as part of their act:

- must provide a clean, comfortable and safe environment for the animal performing
- must not put themselves, the animal or any member of the public in danger

### Cleanliness

Buskers must keep the site in use clean while they are working, ensure that their use of the site does not pose a threat to public safety and that the busking site is left in the condition that it was found.

### Monetary Appreciation

- Buskers may give audiences an opportunity to provide voluntary donations by placing a container on their site. Buskers may not approach individuals requesting money or solicit funds in a way that is overtly offensive to members of the public.

### Selling Guidelines

Unless in accordance with specific conditions on a permit, buskers must not offer goods or services for sale; display, demonstrate or advertise goods for sale or associate themselves with such advertising in conjunction with their performance. For buskers wishing to sell original merchandise in conjunction with their busking performance, merchandise is limited to original works produced or created by the busker (e.g. CDs)

### Public Interaction and Etiquette

- The busker should add to the amenity of the area by adhering to the Busking Guidelines and developing a community minded approach to their performance.
- Buskers are encouraged to establish good relationships with retailers and nearby traders.
- Buskers are expected not to harass, annoy or disturb people, traders or residents while busking.
- In the interest of self-regulation, if a busker is located directly outside a retailer or residential building and is causing a nuisance (loud or intrusive, repetitive, or causing any other obstruction) the busker should attempt to resolve the issue amicably. If there is no mutually agreeable solution the busker should move on if requested to do so by the retailer

Elgin Busker Guidelines are set and enforced by the City of Elgin.

