

California Avenue car free streets implementation plan

Outdoor Patio Guidelines Workshop

Merchants Meeting

Tuesday, July 30 2024

Agenda

- Summary of direction from City Council (5m)
- Existing City of PA Parklet guidelines (5m)
- Challenges we want the Cal Ave Outdoor Patio Guidelines to Address (5m)
- Workshop Outline (40m)
 - Example of Patio Guidelines from Mountain View
 - Examples of outdoor patio elements
 - Workshop Questions
- Discussion, Next Steps (5m)

Direction from City Council

Requested on November 6, 2023

- ❑ Maintain California Avenue as a car-free street with current areas of street closure to be made permanent.
- ❑ Pedestrian traffic be directed to the sidewalks to increase visibility of retailers.
- ❑ **Implement a Permanent Parklet Program based on the adopted program City- wide except on Car-Free streets, but adjusted for contextual differences on California Avenue if necessary.**
- ❑ Create two-way slow bike lane down the center of California Avenue in the car- free area.
- ❑ Install gateway way signs at Cambridge and Sherman on El Camino, and on Page Mill. Install wayfinding signage on California Ave primarily to promote retail businesses and events.
- ❑ Conduct regularly scheduled street clean up and maintenance.
- ❑ Initiate a branding program based on the historic and contemporary strengths of the California Ave/Mayfield district.
- ❑ Explore reorienting the stalls of our farmers market to face the other businesses to be more synergistic and or other options that could benefit the farmers market and the existing businesses consistent with pedestrian traffic.

Requested on June 10, 2024

AA1. Pre-Approved Parklet Designs and Proposed Revisions to Adopted Ongoing Parklet Standards

MOTION: Council Member Kou moved, seconded by Council Member Burt to:

1. Approve and direct staff to adopt the Revised Ongoing Parklet Program Regulations, including allowing the use of planters on parklets.
2. Approve Pre-Approved Parklet Designs and the Associated Draft User Guide as recommended by Architectural Review Board (ARB).
3. (For consent on June 17) Adopt the attached interim ordinance and resolution to:
 - a. Extend the interim parklet program for parklets and at-grade dining on the carfree portion of Ramona Street until March 31, 2025, or until outdoor dining standards are adopted for Ramona Street, whichever is sooner;
 - b. Implement license fees under the interim ordinance for this same section of Ramona Street for use of the right-of-way as previously established under the Ongoing Parklet Program.
4. **Direct staff to return to Council promptly after Summer Break with an Agenda Item to consider applying the ongoing parklet standards to California Avenue.**

On-Going Parklet Program

PALO ALTO ONGOING PARKLETS PROGRAM

(Updated June 10, 2024)

I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Palo Alto has developed an ongoing Parklet Program that will allow for parklet installations in eligible areas of Palo Alto. The program is designed with the intended purpose of supporting the vibrancy of the public realm and enhancing the civic experience of diners, pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists.

The following standards outline the requirements for parklet installation including location, materials, and design. The City of Palo Alto will review all parklet permit applications and will only approve parklets that are able to meet the standards. Due to the unique circumstances of each proposed parklet location, some parklets may require additional review by key departments (as outlined).

All parklets—including installations previously installed under the pilot parklet program—will require a new ongoing Parklet Permit from the City of Palo Alto. Application requirements are outlined in Section IV (A) Submittal Requirements.

Parklets are permitted in conjunction with legally existing and permitted eating and drinking establishment uses as well as commercial uses including retail establishments. Any and all business activity must be contained within the parklet space and not encroach into the sidewalk, public right-of-way, or roadway.

II. GLOSSARY

Due to the unique design and placement of parklets, there are several terms with distinct meanings that should be understood in order to implement the standards.

1. **Enclosure**—Barrier/railing that follows the parklet edge.
2. **Platform Edge**—The outermost edge of the parklet platform.
3. **Parklet Footprint**—The total area within the platform edge that can be utilized by a project applicant.
4. **Platform**—Base of the parklet that is at grade with the sidewalk.
5. **Travel Lane**—Portion of the street with active automobile traffic.

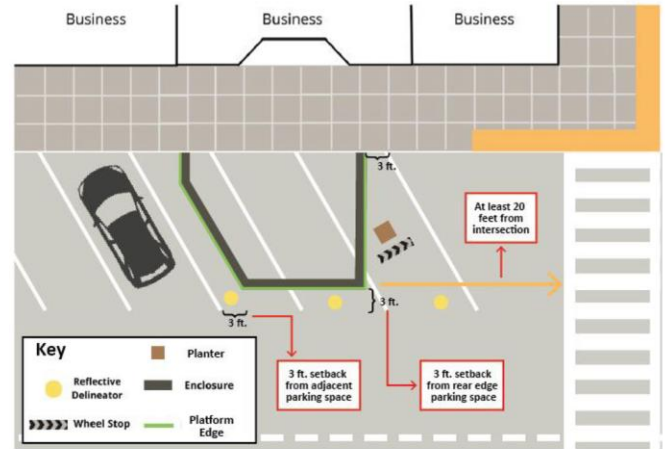
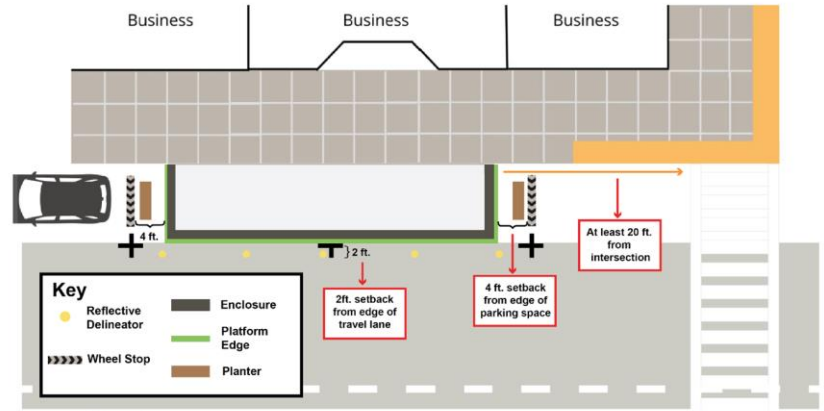


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Existing City of PA Guidelines

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR UPLIFT LOCAL PERMITS – Traffic-Free Streets (Cal Ave and Ramona St)

Umbrellas:

- Are not allowed on the sidewalk.
- Cannot extend into the emergency access lane.
- Must be placed within the approved outdoor dining area.
- Must be sufficiently weighted or secured to prevent being blown over or blown away.

Heater Standards:

- Heaters must be placed at least 5 feet away from any combustible materials.
- A fire extinguisher shall be kept on site at all times.
- Propane qualifies as a hazardous material, storage of propane tanks shall be outdoors and in an approved storage cage. The Fire Department must approve storage location.

Railings/Barriers/Other:

- “Edge treatments” in the form of railings or other barriers along the perimeter of the encroachment area shall be a maximum of 36 inches in height.
- Any sidewalk encroachment which is being used must have a minimum clear distance of 8 feet from any objects for unimpeded pedestrian travel.
- The emergency access lane must be kept clear at all times.
- Any ramp installed for accessibility purposes must comply with the applicable requirements of 2019 CBC 11-B and 2010 ADA requirements provisions for ramps including: width, slopes, landings, handrails, and edge protection.

Tents:

- Sidewalls on tents are no longer allowed.
- Tents are not allowed on sidewalks.
- No tents over 400 square feet are allowed, this includes multiple smaller tents within 12 feet of each other and which total more than 400 square feet.
- Be sure to account for neighboring businesses’ tents which are closer than 12 feet to your tent.
- The square footage of your tent and their tent will count towards the 400 square feet limit.

Lighting & Electrical:

- All outdoor lighting or electrical appliances used outdoors must be rated for outdoor use.
- All outdoor lighting needs to be connected to a GFCI electrical outlet receptacle. A building permit is required for installation of GFCI receptacles or permanent electrical.
- Solar powered lighting may reduce or eliminate the need to connect lights to electric receptacles. Any extension cords and/or electrical cords used to power outdoor lighting must be rated for outdoor use.
- No electrical cords shall cover public sidewalks at grade or egress paths. Electrical power cords can run overhead. Such cords shall be at least 8 feet above the sidewalk or adjacent grade.
- Lighting or electrical appliances shall not be connected to City of Palo Alto power receptacles including City streetlights.

Challenges we want the Cal Ave guidelines to address

1. Location responsive.

The guidelines need to Cal Ave existing conditions such as varying sidewalk widths, sidewalk extensions, and on-street at parallel and diagonal parking. A standard parklet configuration may not apply here.

2. Support a variety of types of outdoor use.

Tier the level of permit based on the type of outdoor use. **higher end restaurants** including outdoor area with a roof or other enclosure, a permit for their exclusive use, which would be at a higher cost. **a lower cost, shared space** - café tables, umbrellas, and planters that can be moved for events. **non-dining uses**, such as for merchandising or non-commercial use by a third-party vendor.

3. Safety.

Guidance is needed on how to protect merchant investments and ensure customer safety with regular use of the street by vehicles serving the farmers' market and events such as 3rd Thursday.

4. Weather protection and comfort year-round.

incorporate guidance for semi-enclosed structures with roofs or trellises to provide shade and protection from the elements, retractable options that can offer flexibility, based on weather conditions, yet are transparent so as to maintain visibility of adjacent store fronts. Recommendations for outdoor heating solutions to ensure year-round usability, that are safe, efficient, and compliant with local safety regulations.

5. Aesthetics.

Address the quality of design, setting at least a minimum standard, yet encouraging an overall high quality aesthetic standard across all outdoor dining. This can include color, materials, and other guidance, including use of landscaping and planters.

6. Near-term solutions.

Provide guidance from the city as to what are acceptable near-term solutions, so they can invest in outdoor dining at least for this winter, that do not conflict with permanent guidance. May be interim improvement guidelines for winter 2024.

Challenges we want the guidelines to address

7. Service and access management.

establish clear guidelines for how service vehicles do not impact outdoor dining areas, including farmers' market setup and takedown times.

8. Permitting and licensing.

Offer options for a streamlined permit process, clearly outlining the steps and requirements for merchants. Include a checklist for compliance with all guidelines, from structural requirements to ADA accessibility, including any limits on use of adjacent parking spaces.

9. Inspections, maintenance and Enforcement.

Guidelines need to address cleaning and maintenance protocols for both merchants and the city to keep the dining areas clean and well-maintained. Need protocol for addressing non-compliance, including timelines for corrective actions and potential penalties.

10. Pre-approved or Expedited Check-List Options.

offer some pre-approved dining designs that merchants can choose from. Options for different budget levels and space configurations, ensuring that all comply with the broader guidelines and standards. Non-pre-approved, or check list approved options would need to go to the Architectural Review Board for approval, depending on the design, but any non-pre-approved enclosure could need a review of a roof, trellis or shade structure.

EXAMPLE

Downtown Mountain View Outdoor Patio Standards/Guidelines

Mountain View | CA

April 2023



Gehl

Contents

1	P-3 Introduction
2	P-5 Patio Location and Permitted Activities
3	P-8 Patio Layout
4	P-15 Business Responsibilities
5	P-17 Design Guidelines
6	P-29 Maintenance & Operations

Potential Patio Layouts

A Sidewalk

See page P-10

B Program Zone 10'

See page P-11; applicable to Pedestrian Malls only

C Program Zone 18'

See page P-12; applicable to Pedestrian Malls only

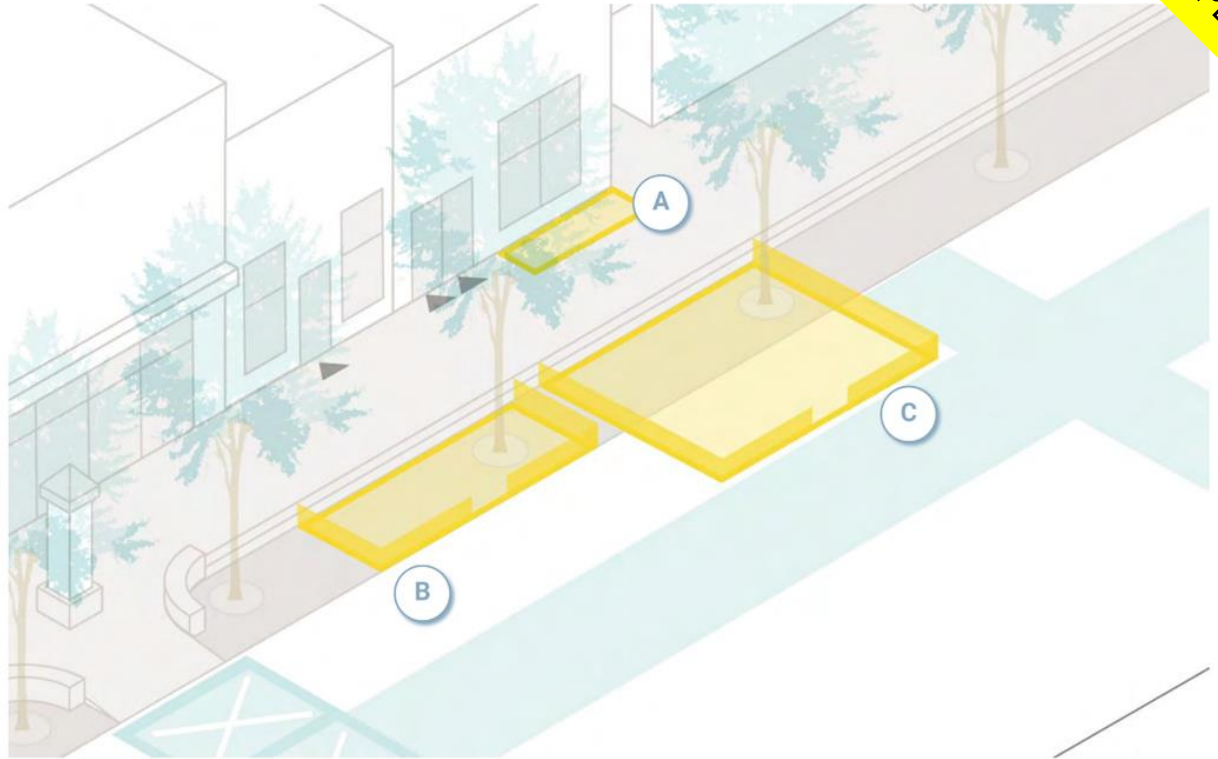


Figure 3: Potential Patio Layouts

The City and Business Partnership

Making the Downtown a continuing success requires an effective partnership between the City of Mountain View and Downtown businesses.

The goal of this partnership is to ensure a successful, attractive, and well-used Downtown that supports existing and future businesses and ensures that businesses are treated equally.

The City's role is to support business success by providing consistent guidelines, public infrastructure improvements, public events, and timely street maintenance. Specifically, the City will:

City's Specific Responsibilities

- Receive and approve applications based on approved Outdoor Patio Design Standards/Guidelines.
- Within the Pedestrian Malls, applications will be reviewed and approved based on space availability after allocation for public use areas (such as social eddies) and walkways connecting sidewalks and the central walkway in the program zones.
- Update these standards/guidelines as needed based on actual experience and measures of success.
- Provide technical support to business in the preparation of patio applications.
- Provide public seating and play installations.
- Conduct special events and programs.
- Provide regular maintenance of public facilities.

Business Responsibilities

Design Guidelines

Patio elements must ...

Operating an outdoor patio is optional. However, if businesses chose to operate outdoors and the license agreement is approved, the patio elements must meet the following guidelines:



Patio Element Guidelines

- ❑ All elements/furnishings must be freestanding; nothing may be bolted to the ground.
- ❑ All elements must be easily movable; businesses should be able to easily pack up their patio space for street cleaning or special events.
- ❑ Patio spaces must be ADA accessible and have accessible seating, or ADA accessible seating must be provided on the sidewalk.
- ❑ Patio furnishings must not encroach the central walkway or block pedestrian access along the sidewalk.
- ❑ Only solar or battery powered tea or mood lighting on tabletops is permitted. No electricity may be strung between the patio and place of business. Flame candles are not permitted.
- ❑ Power generators cannot be placed in the patio spaces or sidewalks.
- ❑ Structures and platforms are not permitted.
- ❑ Floor coverings (e.g., synthetic turf) are not permitted.
- ❑ Patio furnishings must not damage the pavement, sidewalk, landscaping, lighting, street trees, or any other City property.
- ❑ Patio furnishings shall not be attached to or hung from light poles, sign posts, bus shelters or street trees.
- ❑ Banners or other elements shall not be placed on the patio barriers.
- ❑ Businesses must make good faith efforts to properly maintain the City installed patio barriers.
- ❑ City is not responsible for security (loss/theft) of any furnishings or merchandise.

Guidelines for Merchandise in Patios

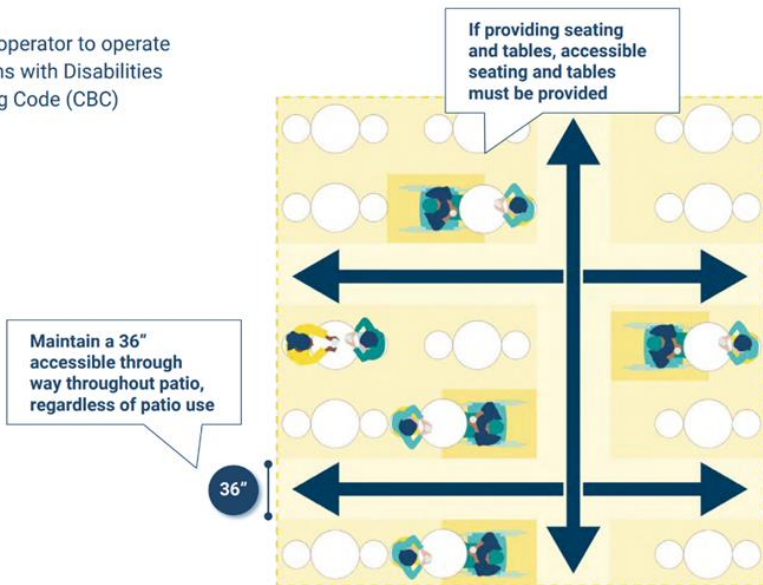


Merchandise Display Guidelines

- ❑ Businesses shall provide layout of the space, and identify display materials when submitting outdoor patio license application.
- ❑ Display merchandise shall be representative of the merchandise displayed inside the retail establishment.
- ❑ If displaying merchandise on patio space, business owner shall comply with ADA requirements.
- ❑ Merchant vendors shall attractively display merchandise in a manner which calls attention to the offered products. Displays using card tables, cardboard cartons, plastic milk cases, or plywood boxes are unacceptable.
- ❑ All display stands must be removed every day in accordance with the approved hours of operation of the retail establishment.
- ❑ No electricity may be strung between the business and the patio space.
- ❑ Generators are not permitted on sidewalks or patio spaces.
- ❑ Any furnishings provided within the patio space shall comply with these guidelines/standards.

Patio Furnishings – Accessibility

It is the responsibility of each patio operator to operate in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the California Building Code (CBC) standards.

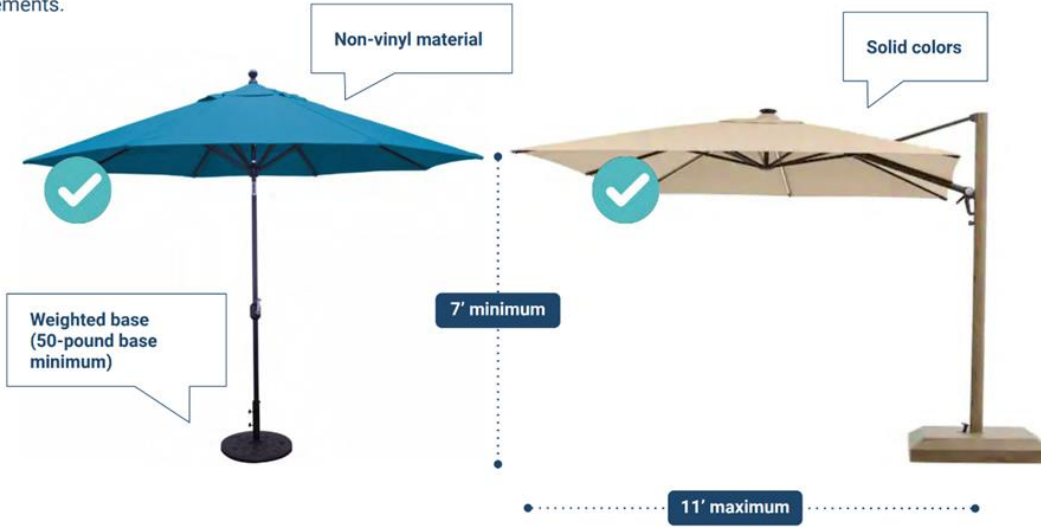


Requirements

- ❑ Patio operators must operate in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the California Building Code (CBC) standards.
- ❑ In a dining area, tables must be far enough apart that a person using a wheelchair can maneuver between the tables when patrons are sitting at them.
- ❑ Some accessible tables must be provided, dispersed throughout the dining area versus clustered in a single location.

Patio Furnishings – Umbrellas

Patio umbrellas are an optional element, restricted to program zone patios, and must adhere to the listed requirements.



Requirements



EXAMPLE

- ❑ Umbrellas shall be designed for outdoor commercial use and maintained in a clean manner.
- ❑ Shade structures with side panels or flaps or “tent-like” structures are prohibited.
- ❑ Umbrellas shall not be larger than 11' diameter.
- ❑ Umbrellas shall be weighted with a minimum 50-pound base weight and allow 7' height clearance. Bases shall be filled with water and not sand.
- ❑ Umbrellas shall not block sightlines through or along Castro Street.
- ❑ Umbrellas shall not extend past the patio footprint.
- ❑ Umbrellas shall be a solid color and made of non-vinyl fabric.
- ❑ Neon colored umbrellas are not permitted.

California Avenue Outdoor Dining Guidelines

Workshop on
Guidelines
Elements

7.30.2024



01.
Outdoor Dining Elements

ACTIVITY: OVERHEAD SHELTER & PATIO ENCLOSURES

What kind of overhead shelter and patio enclosures do you want to see on California Ave?

Overhead Shelter



Cantilevered umbrellas

Large free standing umbrellas

Custom fixed overhang with no built-in elements

Custom fixed overhang with built-in tables

Custom fixed overhang with built-in community board

Retractable fabric awning



Arbor / Pergola Structure

Fixed fabric awning

Corrugated plastic roofing

Wood slats overhang

Metal trellis with lush overhang

Clear vinyl protective screens

Patio Enclosures



Free standing low fence

Post with rope

Free standing mounted stanchions

Custom wood planter & glass enclosure (wind protection)

Custom wood planter with no enclosure

Custom corten steel planters



Free standing low fence, frosted glazing

Bolted metal railings with overhang

Bolted metal railings

Flower pots on stands

Powder coated planter, metal

Planter, wood

02.
Outdoor Dining Elements

ACTIVITY: SEATING & OUTDOOR MERCHANDISING

What kind of seating and outdoor merchandising spaces do you want to see on California Ave?

Seating



Sleek and modern

Traditional

Bright and colorful, single color

Bright and colorful, multi-color

Stools, wood

Stools, metal



Picnic table, metal/neutral color

Picnic table, wood

Bench seating

Low to the ground, metal and natural wood

Low to the ground, free standing, metal and colorful

Low to the ground, free standing, wood and colorful

Outdoor Merchandising, Programming, and Activities



Temporary pop-up displays for vendors

Permanent pop-up displays for vendors

Sidewalk, table display

Wellness, beauty experiences

Health and fitness

Outdoor retail



Performers

Musicians

Orchestra

Art display

Educational display

Playful structures

03.
Outdoor Dining Elements

ACTIVITY: LIGHTING, PLANTING & BRANDING

What kind of lighting, planting and branding do you want to see on California Ave?

Lighting



Decorative lights | Small String lights spanning over the sidewalk | Large globe-like string lights | Lights mounted underneath umbrellas | Lights integrated in enclosures | Lights integrated in overhead shelter

Planting



Mounted planters on enclosure edge | Flower and plants on the enclosure | Small format pots, planters | Large format planters | Trees in planters | Hanging flowers, plants

Branding



Printed branding on patio enclosures | Branding on umbrellas | Hanging blade sign | A-Frame | Hanging signage | Hand-painted lettering

04.
Outdoor Dining Elements

ACTIVITY: TRASH, SAFETY & HOSTING

What kind of trash management, investment in protection and hosting stations do you want to see on California Ave?

Trash, Recycling & Composting Management

Heating



Trash bins storage | Trash/recycling/composting bins combo | Trash/recycling/composting bins combo | Electric, mounted | Electric, free standing | Gas

Safety - Investment Protection



Free standing bollards | Bolted bollards | Reflective tape | Reflective Stands | Signage | Bike lane buffers

Host Station - Customer needs / Waitstaff needs



Outdoor host station | Host instructions | Menu display stand | Menu display A-frame | Bus station, movable | Bus station, integrated

Workshop Overview

Workshop Questions for Restaurateurs

Please select what would appeal to you to invest in and do?



What would you NOT want to see at the business next to you? (Applies to shelter, enclosures, seating, lighting, planters, branding)



What do you need and why? (applies to trash, safety, and hosting)



What would you desire / expect the City to provide?



Workshop Questions for Retail / Service Merchants

RETAILERS / MERCHANDIZING / BRANDING

What would be useful for your business, or if adjacent to your business would attract shoppers?



What would negatively impact your business?

