

# Appendix B: Shared Spaces Program

## Program Development

The Task Force decided early on that it wanted to support neighborhood business reopening by building upon a tradition of innovative programs in San Francisco, like Parklets, SF Park, and Sunday Streets, to provide additional public space for neighborhood businesses to operate. With COVID-19 requiring social distancing and more outdoor activities, moving business operations into outdoor public spaces provided the best opportunity for these businesses to continue to operate safely.

The Shared Spaces Program allows neighborhood businesses to share a portion of the public right-of-way, such as sidewalks, full or partial streets, or other nearby public spaces like parks and plazas for restaurant pick-up, outdoor dining, music and performances, and other neighborhood retail activity, as allowed by San Francisco's Public Health Order. Given that social distancing requirements will likely continue to apply until there is a vaccine for the virus, the Shared Spaces Program will support businesses by expanding their ability to operate into outdoor public spaces, providing additional space for required distancing among employees and customers.

Businesses and local merchant associations can apply for a free, expedited permit to share sidewalk or curbside space for table dining or retail activity. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, businesses must self-manage safety and accessibility requirements like ensuring a clear path for pedestrians. The departments coordinating the Shared Spaces Program include San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA), Public Works, Planning, Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and Fire with oversight from the Mayor's Office and in close collaboration with the Small Business Commission.

The program also includes an option for broader repurposing of travel lanes or entire streets to support neighborhood merchants and residents. Merchant Associations can apply a full or partial street opening. Because these proposals come with broader considerations such as impacts to MUNI, these proposals are considered on a case-by-case basis. The City notifies the applicant if opening the street will be feasible or not. If feasible, the applicant must conduct additional work to ensure neighborhood consensus, safety, and

accessibility. The Merchant Association is responsible for the implementation and activation of the space, including staffing, providing barriers, furniture, etc.

## Implementation and Sustainability

As of September 30, 2020, the Shared Spaces Program received over 2,000 applications for permits from all over the city. The figure below shows the types of applications received.

- 31% to utilize the sidewalk and parking lane
- 22% were for sidewalk dining
- 17% for dining in the parking lane
- 20% for pickup in the parking lane
- 2% for activities on private property
- 8% to utilize the roadway.

Seventy six percent of received applications have been approved, 15% were ineligible or diverted, and the remainder required additional information or are undergoing further review by Public Works, MTA, or the Fire Department.

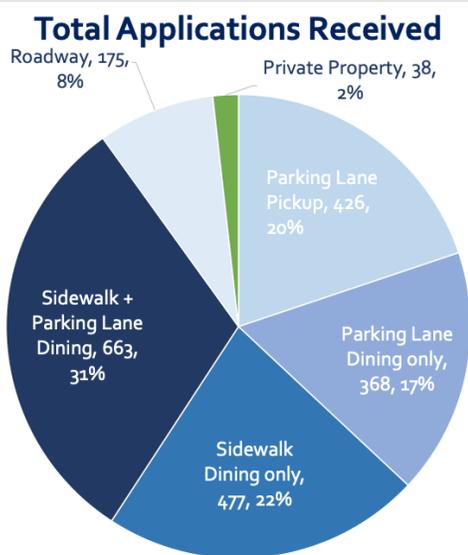
Twenty nine permit applications have also been received through the Just Add Music (JAM) program for entertainment, including live performances (music, dance, comedy, and poetry), amplified music, fitness classes, farmer’s markets, TV/film screenings, and TV/film shoots.

The Shared Spaces Program incorporated feedback from the Task Force, Small Business Commission and Board of Supervisors to develop a Sustainability Strategy. The Strategy will scale up the program and make it more resilient and responsive. The Sustainability Strategy’s goals are to:

- Minimize barriers to widespread participation
- Shorten overall application-to-installation timeline
- Achieve broad compliance with safety and health directives
- Provide accurate and immediate tracking and reporting

The Shared Spaces Sustainability Strategy Program developed specific actions to address each of the identified goals in the following five areas:

- Increase staff capacity
- Increase NGO capacity
- Streamline procedural and processes



- Ease regulatory requirements
- Provide grants for materials