

Overview

The SF Outdoor Event Planning & Permitting Guide assists event organizers with navigating the rules, permit processes, and agencies that affect outdoor events, and shares best practices to help them achieve successful outcomes. By increasing transparency and reducing complexity of the rules and processes, this guide aims to empower event organizers with the knowledge, tools, and resources to be legally compliant and produce safer, higher quality and more sustainable outdoor events. The guide was developed with input from over 20 local, state, and federal agencies and will be updated in January and July of each year.

ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

The San Francisco Entertainment Commission regulates, promotes and enhances entertainment and nightlife in San Francisco. The seven-member Commission has the powers and duties to accept, review and gather information to conduct hearings for entertainment-related permit applications. In 2016, the Commission launched a new effort to support and preserve outdoor community and cultural events in the city through research, policy development, education, and advocacy.

MUSIC AND CULTURE SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

In 2009, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a policy “to foster, promote, and sustain music and culture in San Francisco.” In Chapter 90A of the SF Administrative Code, the City’s Music and Culture Sustainability Policy states: “The City is committed to a general policy of sustaining indoor music and performance venues, and outdoor special events such as, but not limited to, parades, festivals, neighborhood celebrations, and street fairs. As development proceeds in San Francisco, with new buildings constructed, possible zoning changes, evolving infrastructure, changes in transportation systems and traffic patterns, and the like, the City must be vigilant to ensure that San Francisco remains a hospitable environment for music and cultural venues and events. San Francisco’s music and performance venues and indoor and outdoor cultural events should be preserved and enhanced and protected from displacement due to development.”