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Community Arts Busking Program Guidelines

Background

A busker is a person who plays an instrument, sings, dances, juggles, mimes, performs and acts or entertains in public impromptu.

The Community Arts Busking Program is a coordinated program and encourages buskers and street musicians to liven up York and Peel Street to bring some vibrancy and colour to the central city precinct.

There is also support for a continuation of this program as part of an overall move to revitalise the CBD.

The main thrust of these guidelines is to ensure that the performance quality and the safety of both the public and performers is maintained.

The appointed program coordinator has the authority for the management and implementation of these guidelines.

Approval Process

No formal application or approval is required, and there is no need to audition.

Where a tape, CD, video, CV, documentary evidence or review of the act is provided to the coordinator, he may be able to assist in various material ways.

Performance Times

This is self regulating, buskers will be there when people are there.

Performance Duration

Buskers should only perform for a maximum of 1½ hours at a time in any one location. Upon completion of the 1½ hour session, the busker should allow a minimum of one (1) hour before returning to the same location.

Locations

Busking is permitted within the CBD, specific sites are not allocated, and locations cannot be reserved. Although where a business has made an arrangement with a busker to perform at a set time outside their business other buskers should make room for them. Otherwise sites are allocated on a first in basis.

It can be to the busker's and businesses advantage to consult with the shops where he intends to busk. Some may provide drinks, food and/or monetary tips.

It is also courteous to consider the proximity of the act to the locality, such as playing high pitched instruments with a limited repertoire near people eating can detract from their environment, or playing near other acts or public events.

Suitable sites can be in front of a business that is closed at the time.

In selecting a location, the busker needs to be careful about impeding access to peoples businesses.

Buskers will be required to regularly rotate to encourage diversity.

Monetary Appreciation / Inducements

Buskers may receive a monetary appreciation from the audience for their performance; but are not to solicit funds in a way, which is likely to cause any discomfort to any individual.

The coordinator may provide performer inducements or gifts of appreciation to encourage high quality street performances.

Noise Levels

Buskers must perform within acceptable volume levels. Sound levels must not inconvenience the public.

The sound levels from the busker's performance shall at no time intrude into nearby retail or restaurant establishments or interrupt trade of local businesses in any way.

Amplification needs to be discussed with and approved by the co-ordinator.

Excessive noise, level of noise amplification, music of a percussive or repetitive nature, or excessive duration of an act, may result in the busker being requested to cease busking.

Activity Not Permitted

Causing a nuisance or obstructing pedestrian movement.

Selling or offering for sale any articles or commodities without approval. ***One original CD by the artist preferably their latest work is acceptable.***

Utilisation of dangerous implements fire, knives, swords, chain saws, snakes or materials, including flammable materials and chemicals, fire, fireworks, smoke, flares, heated elements or anything giving off a level of heat or toxicity that poses a threat of harm or damage to members of the public and public property.

Public Interaction

The busker must always:

- perform in a safe way, in particular they must not endanger themselves, the public or any property in the area.
- Not ***knowingly or deliberately*** upset any member of the public by their behaviour.

Site

Buskers must keep the site in use clean while they are working and ensure that their use of the site does not pose a threat to public safety.

Public Liability Insurance

The City has public liability insurance covering street entertainment activities, within the Community Arts Busking Program, but its cover does not extend to individual performers. Performers are strongly recommended to obtain their own insurance.