



Busking Pilot

Report Back // What we Heard Online & In Person Feedback
August 1, 2016

Project overview

Busking involves a person or group who provides entertaining street performances for public enjoyment. A person who does this is called a “Busker.” Busking is an important part of our city’s identity, culture and spirit. Buskers add delight, interest and energy to festivals, events and afternoon strolls. Calgary streets provide a wonderful opportunity for buskers to showcase their art and for citizens to be entertained and show their appreciation.

The City of Calgary is implementing changes to the busking program for 2016, including more flexibility for busking IDs, online application process and payment options, and the introduction of amplification at designated “busk stops” and Calgary Transit stations. Beginning with 2016 as the Year of Music in Calgary, a strong emphasis for the pilot will be on supporting, celebrating and elevating the profile of street performing as a cherished art form. As part of the 2016 busking program, The City of Calgary is conducting engagement on potential changes to the program.

Engagement overview

This report covers the questions and responses asked during online and in person feedback from June 15 – July 31, 2016.

What we asked

Stakeholders were asked questions in three main categories: Impacts of Busking in Calgary, Locations for Busking, and Amplification in Busking. The questions were as follows:

How important is it for you to have Buskers in Calgary?

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Not important

Please tell us why



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Have you ever given money to a Busker in Calgary?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us why

Describe a positive experience you've had with a Busker in Calgary?

Have you had any negative interactions with Buskers?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the interaction

Overall, does Busking benefit the City of Calgary?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us why



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Locations for Busking

Are there specific locations where you prefer to see buskers? (eg. Stephen Avenue)

Due to safety concerns, busking is not permitted on Transit Platforms. Transit has opened up numerous Transit Stations for Busking. Do you support Busking to continue at Transit Stations?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us why

Should Busking be permitted in City Parks?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us why

Should Busking be permitted in City Streets?

- Yes
- No



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Please tell us why

Where would you like to see Buskers? (eg. Parks, Roads, Transit Stations)

Amplification in Busking

Are there Busking acts that would be better with amplification? (eg. Keyboard, Guitar, Backing Track)

Would you support Buskers being allowed to use amplification?

- Yes
- No

Please tell us why

What we heard

Responses for the question: "How important is it for you to have Buskers in Calgary?" in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Very Important
- Important
- Not Important
- Neutral



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Themes for the question: **“How important is it for you to have Buskers in Calgary? – Please tell us why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Important for a vibrant and culturally diverse City
- Gives Calgarians an audio and visual opportunity to view the arts (entertainment value)
- Builds a sense of community within Calgary

The remaining themes had equal number of responses:

- Does not benefit Calgary
- Benefits tourism in Calgary
- Gives Calgarian artists an opportunity to perform

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Have you ever given money to a Busker in Calgary?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: **“Have you ever given money to a Busker in Calgary? – Please tell us why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes - appreciation for Busker performance of music and/or art
- Yes - appreciation of talent displayed by Busker
- Yes - appreciation of hard work and effort displayed by Busker
- Yes - appreciation of entertainment value displayed by Busker
- No – general lack of support for Busker
- Yes – contribute to Busker ability to generate revenue

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Themes for the question: **“Describe a positive experience you’ve had with a Busker in Calgary?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Appreciation for quality of performance
- High level of talent displayed in performance
- High level of crowd interaction and requests taken
- High level of entertainment value
- Never experienced a positive Busking interaction
- Friendly and polite Busking interactions



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***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Have you ever had negative interactions with Buskers?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- No
- Yes

Themes for the question: **“Have you ever had negative interactions with Buskers – If yes please describe the interaction?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Poor quality of performance
- Amplification of Busker too loud
- Inappropriate and/ or aggressive behaviour of Busker
- Busker remaining at same location for long period of time
- Busking performance too loud
- Verbal harassment by Busker

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Overall does Busking benefit Calgary?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: **“Overall does Busking benefit Calgary – Please tell us why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes - promotes a vibrant, lively, and healthy city
- Yes - displays cultural expression
- Yes - adds entertainment value to Calgary
- Somewhat - without talent, Busking does not benefit Calgary
- Yes - promotes tourism within Calgary
- No – Busking is comparable to panhandling and begging

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Are there specific locations where you prefer to see buskers?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:



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- Stephen Avenue
- Prince's Island Park
- Eau Claire Market
- C-train/ Transit Stations
- Olympic Plaza
- Parks (general)

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Due to safety concerns, busking is not permitted on Transit Platforms. Transit has opened up numerous Transit Stations for Busking. Do you support Busking to continue at Transit Stations?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: **“Due to safety concerns, busking is not permitted on Transit Platforms. Transit has opened up numerous Transit Stations for Busking. Do you support Busking to continue at Transit Stations? Why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes – adds music, culture, and entertainment to the transit ride
- No – Busking at Transit Stations is a nuisance to passengers and causes congestion
- Yes – as long as it doesn't obstruct transit riders
- Yes – Busking adds an element of safety to Calgary Transit
- Yes – provides Buskers with a constant audience

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Should Busking be permitted in City Parks?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: **“Should Busking be permitted in City Parks?” Why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes – Busking adds music, culture, and entertainment to the City Park experience
- Yes – Busking should be permitted in all public spaces
- No – Busking takes away from the natural sounds and experiences of a City Park



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- Yes - however Busking should only be allowed in designated parks so Calgarians have the option of attending a City Park designated for Busking
- Yes – however only if the City Park is large enough that participants can choose their proximity to Busking act without affecting their experience

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Should Busking be permitted in City Streets?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: **“Should Busking be permitted in City Streets?” Why?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes – but only if they do not obstruct vehicle or pedestrian traffic or pose a safety concern
- Yes – Busking adds music, culture, and entertainment to the City Streets experience
- Yes – Busking should be permitted in all public spaces
- No – Busking on City Streets is too intrusive, blocks traffic, and is too loud
- Yes – Busking on City Streets encourages foot traffic and a higher concentration for an audience

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: **“Where would you like to see Buskers?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- No restrictions or regulations – Buskers should decide
- Parks (general)
- C-Train/ Transit Stations
- Stephen Avenue
- Downtown (general)
- Public Plazas (general)

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Themes for the question: **“Are there Busking acts that would be better with amplification? (eg. Keyboard, Guitar, Backing Track)?”** in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- Yes (unlisted instruments)
- No acts better with amplification



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- Street acts requiring vocal amplification
- Guitar
- Keyboard

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Responses for the question: “**Would you support Buskers being allowed to use amplification?**” in order of most frequent to least frequent responses:

- Yes
- No

Themes for the question: “**Would you support Buskers being allowed to use amplification? Please tell us why?**” in order of most frequent to least frequent themes:

- No - do not support as causes excessive noise pollution
- Yes – adds to the performance elements of Busker
- No – do not support as too intrusive and perceived as annoying
- Yes – but only with regulated volume limitations

***Note: the complete list of responses is included in the verbatim section.*

Verbatim Comments

Content is captured as it was provided by stakeholders. No edits have been made.

Verbatim comments for “**How important is it for you to have Buskers in Calgary? – Please tell us why?**”

Especially in the summer time it just brings things to life to have some musicians around sharing their talent.

I don't believe it adds anything to the image of Calgary. It looks like another pan handler who knows how to play an instrument.

I run a small business in Kensington and your new pilot project is TERRIBLE, allowing amplifications is a terrible idea.

More a nuisance than entertaining

They add vibrancy to the street, give people something to stop and watch, music and performance are very important parts of urban life. It also gives people a chance to perform.

It brings life and vibrancy to the city. It creates a festive environment which is good for tourism.

Most touristy cities around the world have street performers.



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attract crowd yes we need crowd eh

Because it builds community and builds Calgary's ID.

Many of the buskers in the plus 15 are not artistic. For instance, one gentleman plays the same riff over and over and if you stop long enough to listen he isn't actually singing the words. Other buskers aren't much better.

It provides a vibrancy to the city. It would be depressing to be downtown with only traffic noise, hearing a violin, our other music drifting down the street makes it even more beautiful

It is a creative outlet and adds spirit to the outdoors

Love music and performances on the street are essential to creating the atmosphere that downtown Calgary is known for.

We've lived it. Other big cities, and buskers make the streets feel alive and surprising. My children always enjoyed them and now they busk too.

Adds life to otherwise boring city streets. Allows art, and music to be witnessed and experienced for very little or no fee.

A way for performers to practice their craft in public, and to make extra money.

Encourages visitors (local and non-local) and makes streets feel safer (more people).

Because having music on the streets is an important part of presenting our distinct identity not just to ourselves but to others as well. Every major, and culturally significant city shares its music in this way

Isn't the existence of busking a given unless the city should decide to forbid it, and wouldn't that be a violation of one's right of freedom of expression?

They make my day! Any music lover would have a strong appreciation for others who share their talents. Live music is one of my most favourite things in the world and I'm always happy to hear/discover more musicians in Calgary.

Culture, Music, Talents and it's just and fun...

Entertainment value. Love live music....don't like bars..

provides vibrancy and interest on streets

It provides entertainment, a moment to appreciate something in the busyness of the day. It also reflects the artistic talent of our city.

It makes everyone's day brighter! Also provides artists with an opportunity to share their talents



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It is not important unless there are rules and regulations that are enforced that help make Calgary commercial areas vibrant. Buskers with skill who are professional and carry themselves with high integrity is would add value.

Brings culture and "hype" to the city

It should be up to buskers whether there are buskers in Calgary. It shouldn't be prohibited or managed. They contribute to a vibrant community and provide entertainment in day-to-day life.

Because we have talented kids out there they need exposed to make there mark.

I find that buskers, rather than improving the city, detract from the city and give the city a 'second class' image

Adds culture and ambiance on our city streets. Has been going on for years throughout the world and should not be stopped!

Adds human element to street

Busking is a very important part of the artistic and musical community in Calgary. It always developing artists an opportunity to make money and practice their craft when more "respectable" methods may not be available.

It is also an excellent way of integrating art into the community.

Why are there so many musical buskers?!?! I would love to see more of the other kind but I have no idea where they are. During the day downtown all I see are annoying music buskers playing on the +15. Where's the performance art?

i feel that it brings life and diversity to the city

The enrich our city streets and allow artist to demonstrate (play/showcase) their talents.

Calgary is sadly lacking life and culture. It's a great and a bit more informal way to bring it to our city.

provides a nice "break", just to chill for a moment.

Adds to vibrancy.

We need to promote music and culture in Calgary.

It adds to the ambiance of the city. Gives people a chance to take in something on the fly instead of of a destination outing. I love the Busker festival in Halifax and hope to see something like that in Calgary.

Adds culture, builds community!

It contributes to arts and culture exposure especially for those who have little money to spend



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It's annoying. The worst are the ones you let set up in +15 walkways. Loud, echos, blocks walking traffic. Combine it with a hot day where the sun brings the walk ways into the 30's C, and it makes an uncomfortable scenario for everyone.

Street Music adds to the playful atmosphere and liveliness of the city.

I can live with or without them. I don't see much difference between them and people begging for money.

Share culture, art, talent in the city.

It is important for people to experience the arts in an open environment.

It animate the street, entertain and encourage artist.

Adds cutlure to our very corporate city.

Street activation

Keep art & music talent welcome where ever & where ever.

Keeps downtown fun interesting upbeat

Adds to the atmosphere of the area

Gives people an opportunity to express their talents and provides entertainment for passer bys :-)

Make streets more lively and entertaining gives ppl another reason to go out

Creates a sense of culture and community.

Verbatim comments for **“Have you ever given money to a Busker in Calgary? Please tell us why?”**

They were putting out positive energy.

They are taking time out of their days for our entertainment and being in the music industry is hard work!

Much good, So music, Very talent

As above



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Not to pay them but to appreciate them for making Calgary a beautiful city!!!

They were doing a great job

To appreciate their contribution to the experience of our great city, to recognize the benefit I receive from receiving their gift of art

When I'm impressed by their talent and want to encourage them to keep pursuing it

Because they were polite, courteous, and appeared professional.

They were very talented or skilled at what they are performing.

Because I wanted to encourage their free-spiritedness.

Haven't been here very long.

Because it's a way for to earn a living.

If they are good and true performers - you bet!

To support the arts

For good or innovative entertainment.

Why are there so many musical buskers?!?! I would love to see more of the other kind but I have no idea where they are. During the day downtown all I see are annoying music buskers playing on the +15. Where's the performance art?

because I enjoy someone trying to perfect their craft

To support them!

I never carry change.

I don't know if there could be an other system to support busker financially. I would not mind to pay more taxes to allow them to have a salary. We could also make a competition that would be won by vote and that could compensate them.

cos I enjoyed them.

I appreciate them.



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I know that in Halifax when I lived there, they had a Buskers Festival for a week each summer which brought people into the downtown to check it out. It was a big deal. In Calgary, it doesn't have the same feel or build up, but I do enjoy times I run into one, which doesn't seem to be often, usually leaving Stampede or a hockey game or football game.

The performance was excellent

There is no point.

They're working! They deserve it.

I don't think I should have to pay for a performance that I didn't request.

It was a good performance

Love to hear and watch peoples art.

They work hard to improve their craft and a lot of guts to perform live.

Nobody asked me for.

They have really worked hard and deserve something for their talent.

Pay back for effort & entertainment

Earned

Income for them

Encourage buskers I like to come out again.

I admire and support their musical ability and bravery to perform in front of strangers!

Never been inclined to

Its worth it

Verbatim comments for **“Describe a positive experience you've had with a Busker in Calgary?”**

I walk through prince's island every day to go to work and I love the summer with the buskers... especially the few accordion players. It's just so nice to walk in the sun with the music and the park.



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The Tuscany train station had violinists playing at the top of the escalators one time. That was nice to hear and the acoustics wasn't too bad.

Never, only BAD experiences since your pilot project was starting allowing for amplification

A few buskers are talented

Most of them are good at their art and provide quality entertainment.

Happy

I gave him a coin and he played my favourite song.

a young quartet from the U of C music dept. set up in the plus 15 this winter and were very talented.

It's been a long time

Enjoying a group playing and interacting with the crowd

The accordion players played the log driver's waltz on request. It was lovely and allowed our children to experience live music.

All buskers I have engaged with have been friendly and polite, with a genuine interest and love of their skill.

None

There are a few buskers whom I am very familiar with and have encountered many times. I don't always have change to give out, but I always have a smile and so do they! I want them to know how much they are appreciated and just how talented they really all are.

Unique entertainment.

I enjoyed a stroll at Princess Island one afternoon listening to this guy..

They took requests for music and played a great interpretation of a song

I've been walking on Stephen ave and have come across a brilliantly talented classical guitarist.

I stopped for five minutes and that once experience made my day!

There's a mandolin and accordion duo that plays on the peace bridge sometimes. I felt like I was in Paris!



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Enjoying a group of musicians playing cover songs in a unique way. Very enjoyable.

There have been amazing street performers in town. I'm talking high skill comedy acts. One in particular was Gustavo. Flaming stilts rope escape! And funny!

Conversation and positive encounter

I enjoyed a saxophone player's tasteful, mellow addition to the lights of the Peace Bridge and the city in the evening.

They made my day when I needed it.

I have never had a positive experience with a busker.

Walking through a plus 15 in winter or strolling downtown on 8th Avenue Mall I love the creativity, music and smiles. Makes my day!

Discover what you didn't know you needed. Dynamic streets. Safer due to human interaction

I love the buskers that play on the Peace Bridge. They enrich my walk home.

It's great. Just makes for a great atmosphere

they made me happier seeing them play a cool, unusual instrument. (guitars are so commonplace)

Watched a magic show and witnessed the delight of the children and parents.

I stopped and listened to them playing.

I've never seen one here.

I haven't had one.

Enjoyed one of their performances

There's a violin group in the plus 15s that are pretty good.

On a nice sunny day, strolling down shephen ave, always puts a spring in my step.

Meeting new people.

To many to say. A lot of new experiences.

I always have been working with them, so I guess is it see the crowd enjoying the show!



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Letting dancers practice with them as they play.

2 y.o. son dancing to a guitarist

Laughs & entertainment

I like it

Entertained

Talked about favourite music with them.

N/A

Good music

Almost every time at transit location

Verbatim comments for **“Have you had any negative interactions with Buskers? If yes, please describe the interaction”**

We asked the busker with an amplifier to turn his music down and he did not. Very distracting when you have to concentrate on your job.

Since allowing for amplification they are far too loud. Concert level noise. What a TERRIBLE idea.

Harassed for walking by and not paying

There are few odd ones that may be annoying in some ways. If they are not skilled in their art (esp. musicians and singers) so not sure how the city can implement a minimum standard of skill. Some comedians may sometimes cross the line and make people uncomfortable. The buskers should display their ID on placard just in case someone has a concern and would like to bring to the attention of the city. A minimum standard of skill self evaluation should be a part of the application process.

if Europe, a busker became agitated because he didn't get the response from the crowd

I live in Prince's Island Estates and my apartment faces north, although it is an inside building and I do not face onto the bike path. I'm good distance from the corner of the bridge crossing onto the island. Still, I can hear the one and sometimes two gentlemen that play accordions. Listening to this monotonous music and the few notes I can hear hour after hour is enough to drive one crazy. I truly feel sorry for the people that live along the pathway. I have to close all my windows to block out the sound. I would ask that musicians stand on the Island side of the bridge and are asked to face the island when playing. The buskers are then playing to people out for a stroll and perhaps looking for entertainment.

People who can't play let alone time their guitar. It's just terrible sometimes.



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There is a couple buskers near the victoria park stampede station who play the saxophone who arent the best (they just repeat music a lot.) Thats not a crime though

"If you can't be good be loud"

Very rarely, you come across a busker that isn't very good at what they do- discordant music can be very grating, and it makes you feel awkward and drives you to leave the space, especially if it is loud

Are pan-handlers who are playing with a jack in the box considered a busker?

Pushy, noisy, don't move on when requested by store

During lilac fest there was a piercing shop just north of the festival who were hanging themselves. They pierced their body and hung from their skin from a custom metal frame. They were dangling left and right. Out of the corner of my eye I thought they were dead. This was on the street in the middle of the day. I watched a 4year old child start crying their eyes out. Their parents didn't know what to do. I was terrified. Yes, this was street art. No I never want to see it in public again.

Indoor buskers in plus 15 system too loud and echo resonant for the situation. Leave them outside!

In Chicago, buskers and their accomplices routinely play on trains and pressure you for money.

Terrible music sometimes

Verbatim comments for **“Overall, does Busking benefit the City of Calgary? Please tell us why”**

Encourages people with musical talents to share, makes you smile when you hear good music

Sometimes they are very loud and not everyone can sing even if they think they can.

I will move my business or sue the city if this continues. I provide high paying jobs not money for coins, what doe the city prefer?

Mostly untalented artists begging for money

It is great for creating a lively city.

ah...happy fun cheerful crowd!

I believe it brings people together and makes people happy. :)

Overall no. I suppose if they are located in a park or on Stephens Ave they might entertain tourists and the lunch crowd.



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Music is awesome.

Adds to a feeling of vibrancy and spontaneity

It show open mindedness and cultural diversity

Without music and performances downtown is full and boring. The buskers brighten the atmosphere.

Adds indefinable 'zest' to the city

It's free entertainment and animation free of any intermediaries.

Music is a universal language and I have yet to meet one person who dislikes music. It just brings joy and people of all cultures together. It makes Calgary even more diverse than it already is.

Let's people make a bit of money and they are great entertainment.

Culture

It's like a pulse. It's energy.

Music makes pictures and often tell stories

All of it magic and all of it true

And all of the pictures and all of the stories and all of the magic

The music is you..

(John Denver)

It allows different outlets for artists to explore

It makes our city more exciting for locals and tourists alike

Make rules that are enforcable and get rid of pan-handlers.

Street musicians and street performers bring people to the places they perform. It's public arts and culture at its best. Areas in the world that have buskers are hot spots for tourists, families, and they can enliven a city core. Think about Covent Gardens in London?

It's a welcome alternative to commercial music venues that is free for anyone to enjoy and interact with.

It enhances the culture of the city.

Yes, because we need them for our happiness and to have more life in the city.

As above



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As I mentioned earlier, it adds a creative ambiance to our wonderful city. Especially with the new National Music Center and Juno's here this year. We are finally gaining culture as a city with music, murals, and talent.

Why are there so many musical buskers?!?! I would love to see more of the other kind but I have no idea where they are. During the day downtown all I see are annoying music buskers playing on the +15. Where's the performance art?

i feel that it brings life and diversity to the city

Same reason as above/ they add culture and community and art to our everyday.

makes it a happier place.

The arts are extremely important in any city.

Shows we aren't as stickup as others think we are.

It gives interest to the city. We should have a busker festival if we don't have one and if we do it should be better publicized.

They get in the way and are annoying.

This is a staple in many European cities where you find a variety of live music on many corners of tourist spots. It energizes you and the audience sometimes breaks into dance! It livens up the streets and keeps people hanging out later in the night and contributing to local food and drink establishments in the area.

Only a slight step above begging for money.

make it enjoyable to walk down the street.

It shows a large involvement in the local arts.

I add up to Calgary culture and energy.

Livens the streets, shows off the talents of many that don't get a chance to play anywhere.

More activation in public spaces.

Keeps people involved in a positive nature

Attraction

Adds entertainment



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Provides opportunity for expression, adds "art" to our City.

Liveliness, sense of community, promote music, make the city better

Attracts more tourism and independent business

Verbatim comments for **"Are there specific locations where you prefer to see buskers?"**

I like the buskers near Eau Claire Market, in Prince's Island and Stephen Ave.

Amateur night - like karaoke night at pubs.

NOT KENSINGTON!!!!

In the parks

train stations.

*Prince's Island Park, Sien Lok Park, Chinatown (outside of the Chinese Cultural Centre),
Riverwalk (near Harry Hays), train stations*

Prince's Island Park

*Anywhere downtown, 17th Ave, parks, transit stops, anywhere busy where buskers think they
could make a go of it (where it's safe).*

More city parks and play grounds.

Stephan Ave. and Olympic Plaza are other good places for buskers.

*The buskers are then playing to people out for a stroll at lunch time and perhaps looking for
entertainment. Or to tourists. Definitely not in residential areas where all residents are subject
to the same "entertainment" hour after hour, every day.*

Anywhere but residential should be allowed

Everybody loves it !!

St Patrick's island lagoon.

*Stephen Avenue, Beltline, Olympic Plaza, 7th Ave, areas traditionally traversed by foot and may
be less pedestrian friendly outside of 9-5, Monday-Friday.*



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Stephen Ave, Kensington/Sunnyside, Inglewood, 17th Ave, Princes Island, East Village, anywhere downtown

I don't like Stephen Avenue. I love Princes Island. It is a marvellous place for everyone

Wherever they're not being overly disruptive

Na

Eu Claire, Stephen Ave, Olympic Park, and Prince's Island Park

Stephen Avenue

Public parks

Mall entrances or parking lots

Stephen Avenue, parks etc. Places downtown where there are food trucks.

Stephen Ave.

I don't think there should be restrictions

Kensington plaza, Eau Claire plaza, Stephens ave, Olympic plaza, Tompkins park, central memorial library, east village by the Simmons. Basically, public places with a lot of foot traffic where noise won't be an issue

Downtown core, aux. commercial areas such as Quarry Park and the new Currie area going up. Also near street festivals and major events.

Eau Claire, 9th Avenue, Kensington, Thompkins park on 17th Ave.

No.

Not sure.

If they exist, parks like princess island only

Downtown - main walking areas/8th Avenue Mall, Eau Claire, East Village, Bridgeland, Mission, city parks.....

10th Street NW in Kensington. Specifically at the public plaza outside Safeway. They have ugly no-panhandling signs to keep the local street people off the property due to "safety". Would much rather have buskers and a sense of community to keep people truly safe.



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Not on the +15. If the idea is to have an engaging interactive experience, you won't get it there, we're just moving to where we need to be.

All over the downtown area.

Pedestrian malls and festivals

Stephen Avenue, Princes Island, the pathway system, ctrain stations...

But really anywhere that buskers feel would be a good place for them to be - shouldn't necessarily just be assigned spots.

no preference - but some at the malls would be fun - would require money to travel so maybe the city could help with that.

Stephen Ave, Eau Claire market

Yes Stephen Ave, also 17th Ave, Princes Island Park, river pathways

No

Stephen avenue, parks

Transit stations

Stephen avenue, prince's island park, olympic plaza

Downtown, shopping streets/districts like Eau Claire.

Eau Claire, and other places in outlying communities. there are so many hubs, and everyone focuses on downtown.

Near train stations.

Stephens Ave, 11th Ave (special occasions), Inglewood

Not specific location...where ever the action is. Stephen Av and Prince Island is definitely a must.

Primary (?) pedestrian spaces

Anywhere someone wants to play should be acceptable

Yes, Stephen Ave

Train station, Stephen Ave, Olympic Plaza, East Village



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Anywhere in the city

Transit locations, congested area

Verbatim comments for **“Due to safety concerns, busking is not permitted on Transit Platforms. Transit has opened up numerous Transit Stations for Busking. Do you support Busking to continue at Transit Stations? Why?”**

I am not sure if commuters would appreciate buskers if they're in a rush to/from work and waiting on a platform with lots of people. I think it has to be an area that people won't feel bothered or annoyed by if they're rushing to take the train.

People are traveling through and if the Busker isn't very good you only have to listen to them for less than a minute while you escape the station.

WHY ADD MORE NOISE TO A NOISY CITY

they add a nice break to my day, coming home from work.

Keep people entertained while waiting for rides.

I don't want to have to avoid half of the train platform because somebody is playing music and thinks everybody within 20m should have to pay them.

Some platforms may be okay, such as downtown. For example the station by courthouse park has plenty of space.

Because it is like a welcome to the place you arrive.

People come and go and do not have to listen for hours on end. Buskers provide bodies close to stations and perhaps make the station safer.

So buskers can have a decent audience

If I have to catch a train I don't have time to listen , and see if there is talent!

Eases stressed out commuters. Makes life a bit more bearable, and connects people through music.

More entertaining than listening to why a train is late yet again.

It entirely depends on their volume for me. I have no strong feelings either way

I am a Vancouver Translink busker. The stations give buskers shelter from the weather. I have met thousands of people from all over the world in the transit stations.

Also Transit Stations are safe places to busk.



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I like it, and it would be nice to hear music while waiting for a train

*Entertainment while I wait. Better than suffering on my phone.
I have always enjoyed busking at Transit stations. I find it enjoyable.*

Busking may cause congestion during busy times.

Like community art, it provides commuters with the opportunity to break up their commute with something beautiful

Something to enjoy while there is nothing else to do! It might be wise to audition transit buskers though, because it would be awful to have to listen to bad music and being stuck having to endure it

Create congestion, especially during events.

You don't want people congregating in areas where people are on their way to and from work.

Among other reasons, it adds another set of eyes and ears in stations to help make things more secure.

There will typically be beggars or buskers at transit stations anyway.

Why not!

Buskers would be better suited to urban areas where there is a lot of foot traffic. Transit Stations are already breeding grounds for crime and loitering, and people are trying to get from one location to another without having to navigate around large crowds. Buskers will not help this situation.

great opportunity for buskers to play to thousands of folk

not safe on the platforms and I like the stations

Safety is first.

It's interesting but would be fun to have more than music or at least more Unusual music

I don't want to be harassed or expected to give money when I just want to take the train.

Because it's entertaining during a time when you're waiting!

Great way to entertain people waiting.



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Too small of a location, people just want to get home.

It entertain people while they miserably wait for the train...bring a little sunshine in their day.

Activation of public space

Freedom is a right!

I like to hear the music on my commute.

Music everywhere

Not much else to do while waiting

Verbatim comments for “Should Busking be permitted in City Parks? Why?”

I enjoy buskers in the parks the most. So far the most of the buskers I have encountered are talented and play nice music.

Some people go to the parks just to hear the sounds of the park. The birds sing, the bees buzz etc. If someone is yelling into a microphone you can't hear any of those things.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH ENJOYING QUIET

because music should be EVERYWHERE!

The space is large enough that you can avoid them if you want to

Because you get a little music as you go for a walk or something.

Yes and no. If they are at one end only where people can choose a spot to listen, or get away, that is ok. Not everyone wants to be forced to listen to someone, or a particular type of music when they are on a leisure outing.

Yes but not all of them and not just anywhere. Any busier or noiser parks should be ok, such as Olympic plaza

I have time to sit and listen

why not?

Adds to enjoyment of park, encourages visitors to stay longer.



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Because in City Parks, the sound is buffered by the foliage and landscape, leading to intimate and private performing spaces. Buskers wont compete with each others volume as much and create ugly, chaotic sounds. (To mitigate the effect on wildlife, specific performing spots in parks should be chosen. Many already have good 'venues'!)

Again culture and colour. People love to sit on a park bench on a sunny day and watch a good free show

It's public space.

*I like it! It enhances my experience in a park
I enjoy it and I think others enjoy it and it makes a nice atmosphere.*

Why not? if food carts can locate there why not some form of entertainment?

Not in most parks with the exception of public plazas. The sounds of nature (birds, squirrels, silence, rustling of trees) are an important part of the park experience.

If adequate space permits and areas are set aside specifically for buskers to set up.

*Busking should be permitted in public space, period.
I'm undecided on this as it depends on the feel of the park. Some people want a quiet park experience.*

I go to the parks for quiet and contemplation. If you do allow in parks, limit the parks and times that they can busk

I believe busking should be allowed where ever there is foot traffic.

Why are there so many musical buskers?!?! I would love to see more of the other kind but I have no idea where they are. During the day downtown all I see are annoying music buskers playing on the +15. Where's the performance art?

Yes! They enliven and enrich our urban experience!

For sure.

Many people go to these locations for peace and quiet (along river paths, walking trails, picnic areas). Buskers draw crowds which are often loud and scare away birds and wildlife. Buskers do not need to have access to every area of the city.

cos it's a free country!

Why not, it's a great open venue

Arts culture and interest. Why wouldn't we allow this?



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I don't want to be harassed or expected to give money.

At specific spots!

It is a good open concept.

Adds up fun in a boring day and entertain people.

Activation of public space

It's our right to live & be free & have freedom of speech.

Public space

Makes parks a fun place to hang out

Arguments can be made both way

Verbatim comments for "Should Busking be permitted in City Streets? Why?"

I like buskers less on the street. Maybe because downtown streets are full with people running to/from offices and I feel like it's appreciated less.

People go to their jobs and have to concentrate. Some Buskers are not very good at their trade and it can be very distracting and annoying to have to listen to bad music and poor singing that is being amplified. If you are any good you shouldn't need an amplifier.

TOO NOISY

because music should be EVERYWHERE!

They don't take up too much space.

Don't need more people on the street begging for money

Because it is fun entertainment.

As long as they are busy streets with a wide sidewalk to accommodate them. The city street is already noisy with vehicular traffic so the noise plus there may be many people passing that would contribute funds to the busker. Not in residential areas on the streets though.

Anywhere there's room and not quiet places.



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Adds to atmosphere. I can easily imagine them in Inglewood and Kensington.

Why not!

why not?

Encourages foot traffic.

Highest concentration of people, easiest access for both musicians and pedestrians.

Busking is about location location. The streets are where the people are. Buskers need an audience. Passers by are attracted to things that are happening. A good busker will make them linger and buy a coffee, a beer, or other merchandise

It's public space.

I think that it should be permitted in certain streets, but I think some would be too narrow, and others too residential.

It is enjoyable! It draws people

Why not? if food carts can locate there why not some form of entertainment?

As long as they aren't blocking pedestrian or motor vehicle traffic, and as long as it isn't in residential areas where tenants might get annoyed.

During events and on specific streets where safety can be upheld.

Busking should be permitted in public space, period.

To add entertainment to daily life.

God No, block sidewalks, noisy, and intrusive

Same as above.

Yes! They enliven and enrich our urban experience!

Downtown would be fine on city streets, but not in residential locations.

cos it's a free country!

Certain areas. Inglewood for example has a great crowd presence.

Arts culture and interest. Again why wouldn't we allow this.



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I don't want to be harassed or expected to give money.

Certain spots, due to safety!

Too dangerous for everyone around – accidents.

Same as above

Activation of public space

As long as away from entrances & traffic yes.

Minimize restrictions, maximize public enjoyment

Verbatim comments for “Where would you like to see Buskers?”

Parks are my favourite place but even Stephen avenue is not bad because it is where people seem to go on their lunch hours and people are generally more relaxed on Stephen ave vs other areas of downtown.

NOWHERE

train stations, shopping malls, downtown

Prince's Island Park, Sien Lok Park, Chinatown (outside of the Chinese Cultural Centre), Riverwalk (near Harry Hays), train stations

Parks. Or nowhere.

I don't think it should be so restrictive, have general rules and let buskers decide.

Every ware!

Stephan Ave. and Olympic Plaza are other good places for buskers. Train stations, busy roads.

ONLY places where people don't go to lounge for hours and enjoy some rest and fresh air, such as for a BBQ or picnic.

City

Anywhere it makes sense. Buskers, good ones, will know where.

Downtown. C-train stations neighbourhoods like Maria loop Kensington Inglewood

Parks and downtown



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parks, roads, transit stations, on c-trains.

Parks, downtown and elsewhere.

All of the above

Anywhere.

Parks

Parks, transit stations, commercial streets down town (17th Ave, Stephen ave, 10th, etc)

Either or..

Glenmore Park, Chinook Station, Stehen Ave,

All over the place, where ever they feel it can be successful.

Everywhere

Public plazas and popular shopping districts with high pedestrian traffic

Walking malls, parks.

Wherever buskers want to see themseves.

transit stations, sidewalks, other public spaces.

All the above.

Outside of the city

Where there is foot traffic.

Public plazas to make them truly public rather than cold extensions of private corporate buildings.

At appropriate locations

All the above.



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Everywhere.

We could even extend to other type of art like painter and such.

Calgary NEEDS more creativity.

Not just big concert centre . Things that are more unique and random. Things of a smaller size. Come on, look at Montreal get inspired.

Montréal just launched a mural festival for example. It would be great. If you need help, I would be happy to help.

Pedestrian malls and festivals.

everywhere!

Downtown

Sidewalks, parks, transit.

Roads

Stephen avenue, prince's island park, olympic plaza

Everywhere!

all of the above

Transit stations, downtown walkways, park.

Parks, Stephens Ave, Inglewood

Everywhere, they are fun to watch anywhere they are.

All of the above.

Anywhere as long as respectable. I feel anywhere is appropriate.

I like music

Parks, streets, transit,

Anywhere



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Listed previously

Verbatim comments for “**Are there Busking acts that would be better with amplification? (eg. Keyboard, Guitar, Backing Track)?**”

I don't know. I haven't really paid attention to what they may or may not need.

No buskers should be allowed to amplify.

NO. Never. If they are any good people will stop to listen. Amplifying bad music 3 blocks further will not make it any more enjoyable.

Absolutely NOT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have been calling the police and 311 and will continue to do so. I cannot run my business when they are outside, they take it too far every time. the last guy had FOUR amplifiers and played country music ALL AFTERNOON. what a ridiculous policy change.

Yes

Guitar

No

Yes, but not many.

Only on Stephens Ave or in transit areas.

Of course. Some people play an acoustic instrument called a loudspeaker.

Absolutely.

Yes

Absolutely

I like to play with a small battery powered amp. i play acoustic guitar and sing. This gives my voice a lift above traffic noise, and also means that my voice does not get so tired. Thus better tone. Backing tracks should be made by the person who is using them.

Hip hop acts need a microphone because it is 2016.

Anyone who can't otherwise be adequately heard in a given milieu.



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No
No
No
no

Minimal

No to amplification

Guitar, keyboard

Yes

Very few that I can think of, with the exception of electric keyboards, since acoustic pianos are difficult to busk with. Also, possibly microphones as it may be difficult to hear a singer over loud instruments

Noise levels should be regulated.

Yes, street acts that require vocal amplification to be heard properly.

Any musician

Buskers should be audible while not being unreasonably loud or breaking the noise bylaw. I'm not sure if I approve of backing tracks or looping.

Only in suitable locations.

Some performances do require amplification, although not at an obnoxious level. This is where responsibility comes into play.

No No No

Basic vocals and instruments.

Likely, but I am not an artist.

No.

Yes

yes if there is enough room to set up where no one would trip over it

The only acts that would benefit with amplification are performance based acts (juggling, dancing, etc...) not musical acts.



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Yes. Also comedians would need amplification.

Some but the level of the volume needs to be regulated so people are not blasted off the sidewalk.

No, please ban amplification. It's bad enough as is.

No, it's not really busking if it is electronic.

Guitar

No

No

Music acts, shows that have music but aren't music based

Yes! many musical acts

Yes

Some. Depends on the environment.

Some are better with amplification. There is a balance to keep tho for the people who doesn't want to hear them.

Acts in larger spaces.

Music can always be better with an amp.

Not sure!

Yep, but I feel the risk of disrupting people's peaceful commute or interactions is too high.

Verbatim comments for **"Would you support Buskers being allowed to use amplification? Why?"**

I will only support amplification as long as the buskers don't turn their music up too loud.

An amplified busker ruined my outdoor lunch experience.



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If you are in public you shouldn't be allowed to be the source of discomfort and annoyance to people who have to work. Amplifying poorly played music and bad singing doesn't make it sound any better. Amplification just means you can reach and annoy more people. Shouldn't be allowed AT ALL. If you are any good you don't need an amplifier. People who have to work near an amplified performance don't have the choice of moving on. Our rights to have a peaceful work area are being ignored.

I have to run a business too, allowing a festival atmosphere where I cannot run my business, a business that pays high living wages should not be compromised by allowing this to go on. The ones I have seen are way too loud. I cannot meet with clients in my office, it is so loud. I have been calling the police and will continue to do so if this continues.

because some of them need it! train stations are loud, so the music has to accommodate for that. Also, some buskers process their sound thru effects, and that sweetens the experience even more.

Loud. Annoying. Intrusive.

As long as they are properly vetted and not just any crazy person with an amp and guitar.

Not if it opens the market to ALL buskers regardless of where they are set up.

Keep it under 90dB SPL at 2meters and it's fine

Busking is best when the sound doesn't carry too far

More variety

Sometimes amplification is necessary when used appropriately.

There are certain things musically that can only be heard through amplification. Also, saxophone and brass instruments are much louder without amplification than a guitar. Why can't the guitar use amplification to be heard at the same level as other instruments?

Some just need that extra tiny kick to balance their sound correctly and be effective. (That said, their volume should be monitored so as not to exceed reasonable limits.)

They're already too loud and annoying.

A decent volume attracts more people. A thousand songs will attract a thousand customers

As long as they're not breaking the noise bylaw and being complained about.

The beauty of busking is the way it draws people into an intimate group.

They don't need to be that loud



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Music may become noise..

You can hear it better from a distance

It would help to get their craft out, however they should have a limit on how loud it can be.

I'm saying no, for the main concern of sound Pollution. Busking acts should be something that people enjoy in close proximity to the busker. Most acoustic instruments are more than loud enough to be heard. There should be exceptions, of course, that are explicitly outlined

I want to hear the performer.

It's especially helpful for vocals so you can hear the singing or with roots instruments like cigar box guitars or steel guitars

If it's not too loud, why wouldn't it be allowed?

Only in suitable locations.

Buskers with a Busk Stop ID already can, I'm assuming the question is referring to all buskers at all time? No. A busker must first demonstrate responsible practice before being given greater permissions.

Acoustic is best. Amplification would be invasive.

But it depends on the performance

It may cause noise disturbances.

Amplifiers can be volume controlled to comply with noise bylaws and levels in an area.

Well it depends. It can kind of make it unpleasant. I would say no. It's not necessary and it usually creates a bad effect.

Blaring music is not always a positive experience for everyone.

because some need amps to be heard! also, some instruments are electric and the artists use sound processing to change the tone (ie, chorus pedals, loopers)

makes music easier to hear and people would be drawn to find the source

No, sometimes amplification can get out of hand. With acoustic busking if a passerby doesn't enjoy the performance they can walk a way and be free from the act within a few feet. This is harder to do when there is amplification.

Better listening



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Acoustics are too loud in current applications. Amplifying this just makes it worse.

Too loud. I'd prefer more use of other musical instruments - I.e. Violin, horns, etc.

Better audio

Too noisy

It's a fine line between entertainment and noise pollution. Buskers are usually able to attract and hold an audience without amplification in my experience in other centres.

Because it draws attention

Attracts more attention for the artist.

Some need it.

Just for to be heard...but in respect of the surrounding.

In areas where noise trespass isn't an in issue (ie. Not near patios).

Why not time lines in place and respectable actions why not

Personally I like instrumental music, guitar, piano. Not a fan of singing/ rapping so would prefer amp only for instruments.

As long as it doesn't impede on other buskers' space.

(Up Arrow)