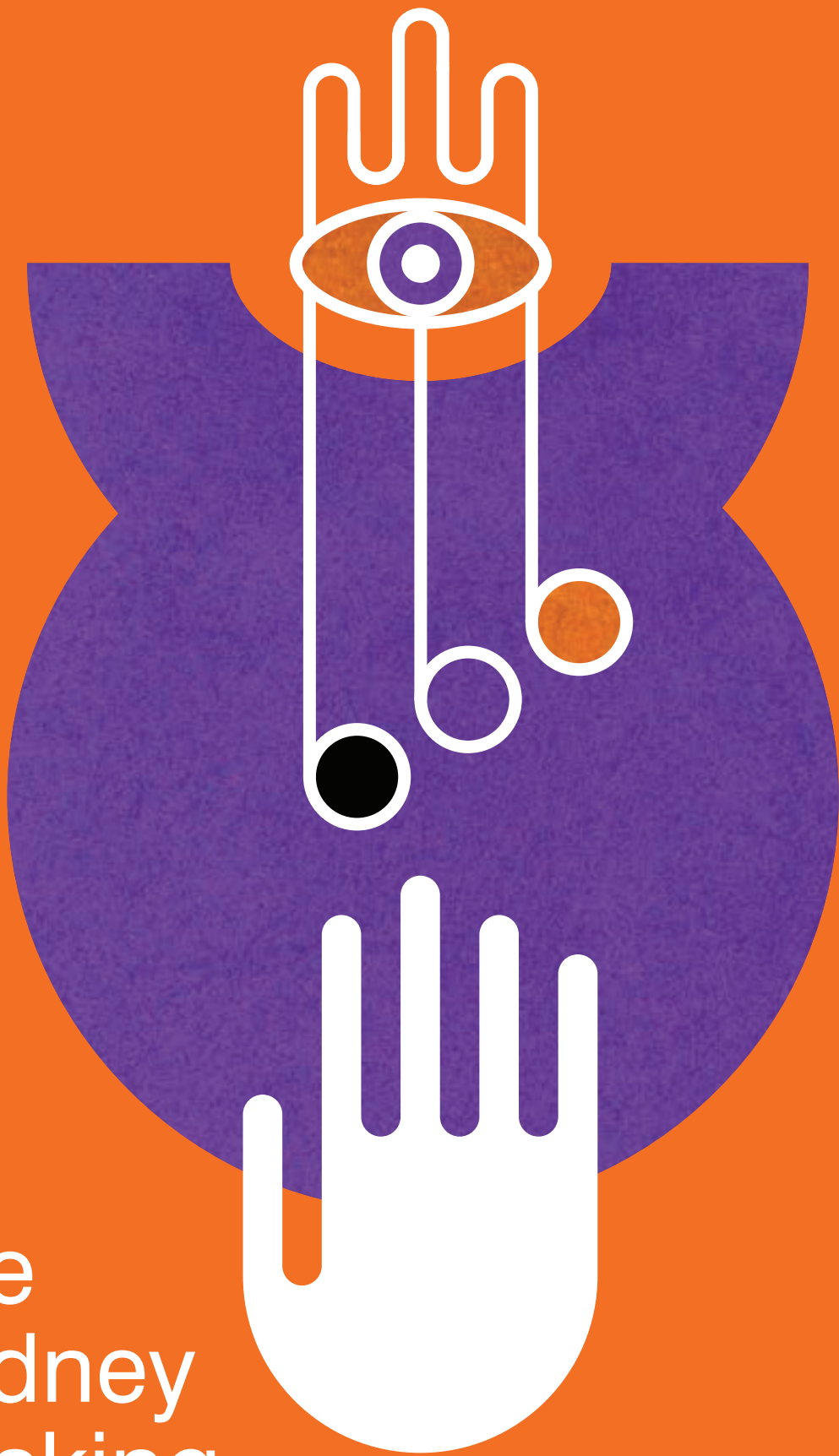


Attachment C

Sydney Busking Code



The
Sydney
Busking
Code

CITY OF SYDNEY 



We, the Buskers of Sydney

recognise and respect
that we perform on
Gadigal Land. We share
our busking spaces with
practitioners of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander culture
who experience and share their
cultural heritage through
dance, song and
storytelling.

The Basics

In Sydney, busking acts are grouped in three categories. Each category has its own set of performance conditions.

Low impact act

If your act does not:

- need more than 2m² performance space
- require an audience to gather, wait and watch
- use “naturally loud” instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments
- use higher risk materials or equipment like fire or sharp objects

You have a Low Impact act and may busk for up to 2 hours per location per day.

Extended Duration act

If your act:

- is quiet, non-amplified and non-musical, and
- involves creating a work of art continuously over a long period of time such as pavement art or durational performance art

You have an Extended Duration act. As long as your pitch isn't restricting other people from using the area around you, you can perform for up to 8 hours per location per day.

High impact act

If your act:

- needs more than 2m² performance space;
- encourages an audience to gather, wait and watch;
- uses “naturally loud” instruments such as drums, bagpipes, pan pipes or brass instruments;
- uses higher risk materials or equipment like fire or sharp objects;
- features 5 or more performers

You have a High Impact act and may busk for up to 1 hour per location per day. You'll need to speak to the City of Sydney about attending an act assessment before you can get a permit to busk.

High Impact acts often need more space, hence there are less places where they can perform. Keeping acts to 1 hour duration provides more performers with access to these limited larger performance spaces and breaks up the impact of loud or large acts on neighbours, pedestrians and the public.

We look out for each other, welcome newcomers, and keep fellow buskers in check if they're over-stepping the expectations and obligations of buskers in Sydney.



Where to busk

You can establish a busking pitch on any public land in Sydney that meets these criteria:

- there is enough open space for you to conduct your performance plus a further two metres for pedestrian flow on at least two sides of your pitch;
- the site is not being used by an approved event or gathering;
- you are 100 metres from another busker or an approved event or gathering;
- your pitch and your audience does not block access to the entry or exit of any building, street or carpark; and
- if the location is a Special Busking Site with set pitches and a booking or queuing system, you observe the conditions of the site (see Special Busking Sites on page 12).

We have a right and an opportunity to actively engage in monitoring and improving busking regulations and busking culture in Sydney.



Making and managing your pitch

The pitch is your stage, keep it looking clean, well laid-out and professionally put together.

Minimise clutter or any unnecessary items that might be a trip hazard.

For Low Impact Acts, keep your equipment near to you and encourage your audience to gather close.

For High Impact Acts, consider laying a rope on the ground or drawing a chalk circle to show the audience where you want them to gather. You want them to be as close as they can be, while still safely outside your performance area.

For Pavement Artists, use a chalk that is entirely removable by water or draw onto a removable canvas that you lay over the pavement. Make sure your materials aren't slippery and your canvas isn't a trip hazard by fixing it to the ground with a tape that does not leave behind an adhesive residue.

Volume

Performing too loudly can negatively affect neighbouring homes and businesses and drive your audience away.

Buskers who play too loudly earn less money as crowds keep a distance from the performance. Pushing your audience away with high volume also adds to congestion and crowding in pedestrian zones, so people are less likely to hang around and watch your performance.

Ensuring that your performance cannot be heard at 50 metres from your pitch is a courtesy to other buskers. Busking pitches can be 100 metres apart, and the sound of your act should not affect another busker's performance.

The following are guides to help you monitor if your act is at the right volume. Be aware that an authorised person from the local council or police can tell you to lower your volume at any time and you need to follow their instruction.

- If you cannot hear any background noise during your performance, you are playing too loud.
- If your audience are gathering more than 3 metres from you, you are playing too loud.
- If you can see that your audience is shouting to speak to each other, turn it down.

- If your performance can be heard 50 metres from your pitch, you're playing too loud. Get a friend or fellow busker to walk 50-60 paces from your performance and see if they can still hear you. If they can, turn it down.
- If you find that no one is paying you any tips, try reducing your volume and see if people become more comfortable approaching you.

- If somebody living or working in a building near you complains that they can hear your performance over their own conversation, you are playing too loud. Remember, you can reach a compromise. You don't have to be silenced if a neighbour is bothered by your act, but being a good neighbour is good for all buskers and busking culture in Sydney.

We are ambassadors
for the cultural life of
Sydney and its diverse,
harmonious communities.



Flammable Materials

If you use flammable materials, liquids or gasses in your act:

- Always define the boundary of your performance space using a rope or similar demarcation. The audience should be at least two metres from you on all sides.
- Keep a Work Cover approved Fire Blanket and a wet towel at hand and within reach
- Never carry more than 2 litres of flammable liquids with you. Mark the container with the words “HIGHLY FLAMMABLE” on all sides, along with the name of the combustible such as “Kerosene”.
- Always keep your fuel container securely shut.
- Take all measures to prevent fuel from dripping on the ground. If it does, clean it up immediately.

Content of your Act

Sydney buskers are ambassadors for the cultural life of the city and values we celebrate: **diversity, generosity, respect and inclusion.**

Buskers do not tease, humiliate or harass anyone.

We have a varied repertoire and never repeat the same material during a set. If you don't have enough content to fill your time at a pitch without repeating anything, then trim your set to the amount of material you have and move to another pitch.

Sydney buskers are some of the best in the world. We have innovative, original, expertly performed acts.



We work in cooperation with each other, local government and the police to manage any issues that arise from a busker's performance or behaviour. We understand that the way we conduct ourselves may affect the reputation and livelihood of all buskers in Sydney.

We perform in public places to contribute something positive to those spaces. If our performance is having a negative effect on anybody, we do our best to remedy it.

Special Busking Sites

Special Busking Sites have additional conditions or operating systems. These are self-managed by the buskers who use the pitches and are overseen by City Rangers and City of Sydney staff.

H High impact **L** Low impact **E** Extended duration **A** Any act



Martin Place

There are **four pitches in Martin Place**. The eastern side of the George Street intersection, facing George St (Low Impact only). The eastern side of the Pitt Street intersection, facing Pitt Street. And in the Mall between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Street. In the Mall between Phillip Street and Elizabeth Street.

Buskers may perform once per day in any of these locations. All acts in all six pitches are limited to a 45 minute duration between 10am and 4pm, Mon – Fri.



Hyde Park

There are **three busking pitches in Hyde Park North**.

On the paved area facing Market St, adjacent the St James Station entrance. On the paved area surrounding Archibald Fountain. And one Low Impact pitch by the monument on the corner of Elizabeth and Park Streets.



QVB Forecourt

The **southern forecourt of the QVB** may be occupied by one Extended Duration Act and either one Low Impact Act or one High Impact Act at any one time.



Pitt Street Mall

There are three pitches in Pitt Street Mall

North, near the King Street intersection. Middle, half way between North and South pitches, near Mid City Centre. South, near the Market Street intersection under the Westfield sky-bridge.

The Northern and Southern pitches are for Low Impact and High Impact Acts only.

Buskers may perform in the North and South pitches for a maximum of one hour, per pitch, per day.

One hour sets on the Northern and Southern pitches can be booked on the City's website 24 hours in advance.

The Middle Pitch is for Extended Duration Acts only.

The Middle Pitch is allocated on a first-in basis.

Busking is limited to 11am–10pm, 7 days a week.

Sales

The sale of buskers' own music, video, artwork or merchandise is encouraged in Sydney, but it has to be supplementary to your performance. You can't spruik your products or get someone else to sell them on your behalf. You are at a busking pitch to busk not to conduct a market stall, if somebody happens to approach you to buy your music or merch, it's a bonus.

SHOT OF FEMALE
TOWN HALL STREET
'PERFORMER TO BE
SHOT BY KATHERINE



The Busking Code is our guide to busker etiquette and pitch sharing arrangements in Sydney.

Sydney has a thriving busking culture and is home to some of the most lucrative busking pitches in the country. We welcome street performers from across Australia and the world to share their performances on Sydney streets alongside our local talent.

We ask all buskers in Sydney to follow this code.

For more information

For permit enquiries or to report busking issues, please contact City of Sydney Customer Service on (02) 9265 9333 or council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Buskers wanting more information about the rules for busking in Sydney can email busking@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au