

Public Space Management – Downtown/ Central Business District

Public Safety Committee Update
August 24, 2015



Downtown Public Space Management

- Overview
- Street Performances
- Public Safety
- Recommendations
 - Including Sidewalk Vending
- Questions
- Discussion and Direction

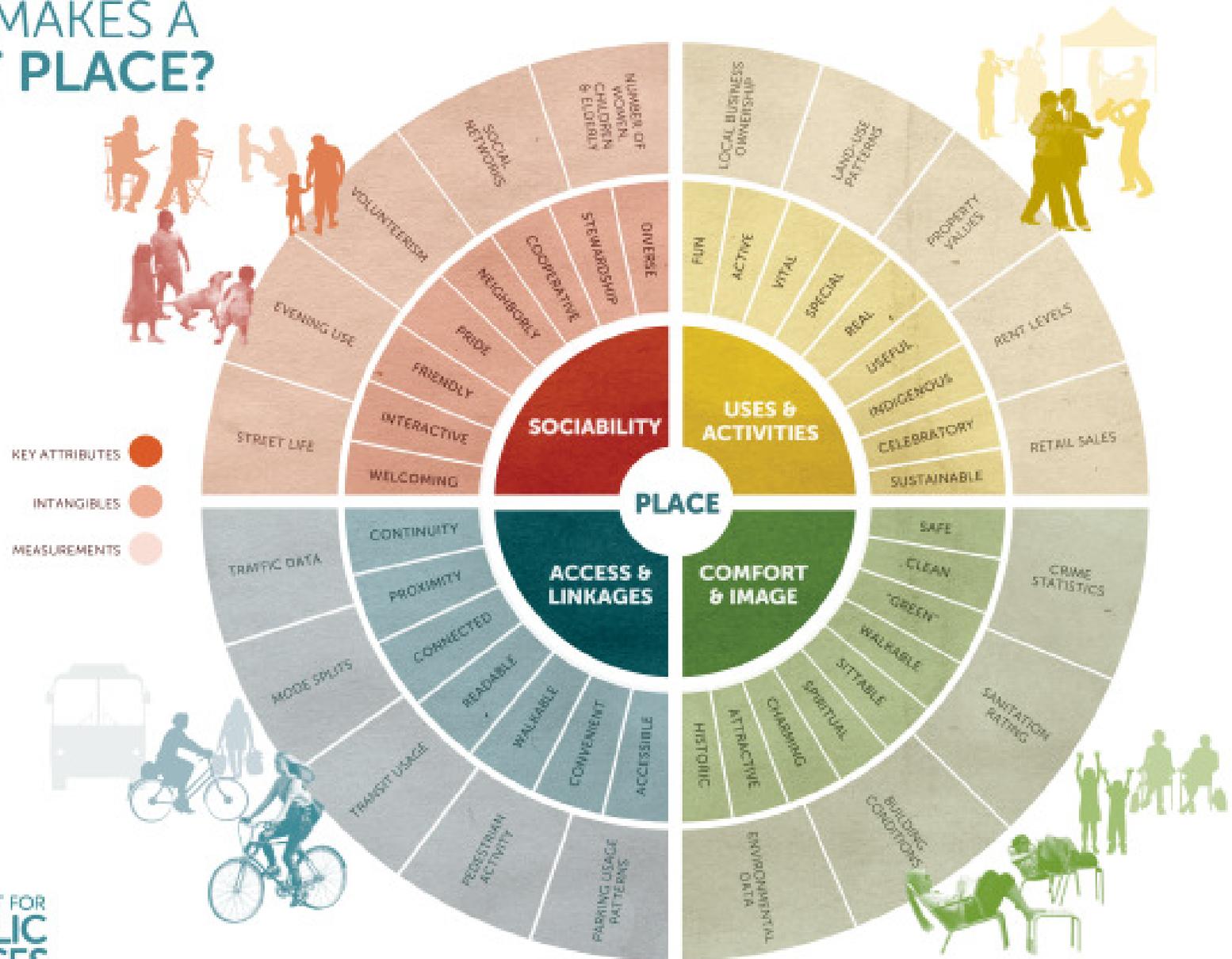
Downtown Public Space Management



PSC Consideration

- Downtown Enhancement Plan – July 2014
- Street Performances and Vending
 - September 2014
 - April 2015
 - Direction for continued research of options

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?



Downtown Public Space Management



Street Performances

- Welcome and important!
- Is one of many uses that adds to the sense of 'place' - managed in a fashion that fosters a balance
- Popular attraction which draws spectators to crowded and beyond capacity sidewalks
- Can compromise pedestrian safety



Downtown Public Space Management



Public Safety – Street Performances



Downtown Public Space Management



Street Performance Public Safety

- Overcrowded sidewalks
- Pets not controlled during performances
- Pedestrian crowding in roadways
- Motorist safety
- Blocked crosswalks, handicap access, ingress and egress
- Sharp/dangerous objects utilized during performances



Downtown Public Space Management



Street Performance Community Concerns

- Noise complaints
- Sharp/dangerous objects utilized during performances
- Blocking of business entrances and bus stops
- Amplification
- Amount of space performers are taking up on sidewalks



Downtown Public Space Management



Street Performance Related Calls

April - September 2014

- 35 calls
 - Noise and blocking of business entrances
 - Complaints of buskers “running customers off”

April 2015 – Present

- 41 calls
 - Noise, blocking of business entrances, crowd overflow to streets

Asheville App

- 2 complaints
 - Amplification and noise



Downtown Public Space Management



Street Performance Major complaint areas:

1. Flat Iron
2. Woolworth Walk
3. Biltmore Avenue/ Patton Avenue
4. Haywood/College



Downtown Public Space Management



Flat Iron & Woolworth



Road to iron
13.9'

Iron to building
12.9'

Building to fence
10.5'

Road to building
17.5'

Pole to building
10.8'

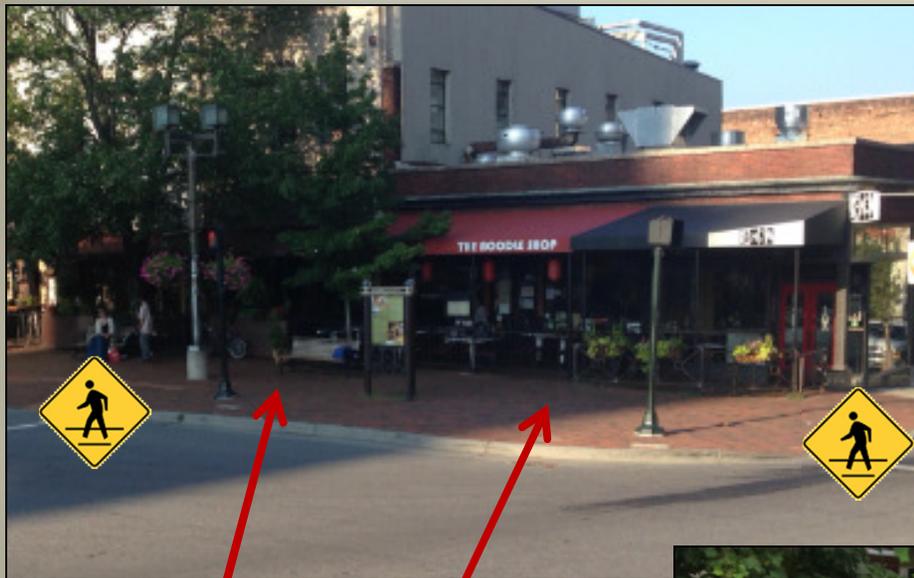


Downtown Public Space Management



**Biltmore Avenue/
Patton Avenue**

Haywood/ College



**Bench to road
21.1'**

**Fence to road
28'**

**Building to pole
20'**



Downtown Public Space Management



Complaints



Using bus shelters as performance spaces

Selling CD's



40' Rule

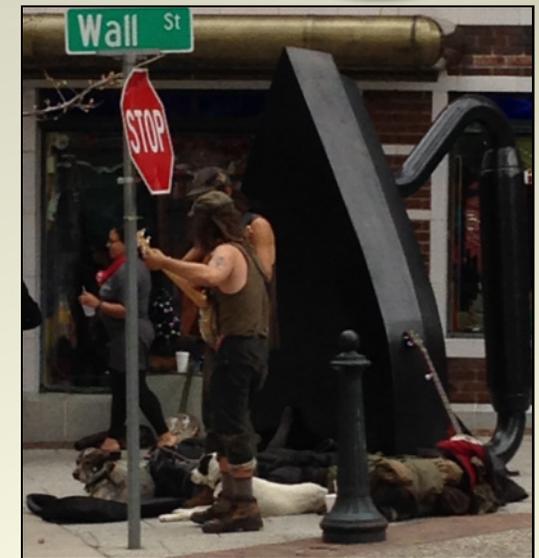
Downtown Public Space Management



Complaints



Performance equipment taking up sidewalk space



Pets not controlled during performances (unleashed)

Downtown Public Space Management



Complaints



Crowd overflow into the street causing cars to cross double yellow line

Overcrowding sidewalk makes it hard for pedestrians to pass; blocking business entrances



Downtown Public Space Management

Complaints



Utilizing electrical box for performance



Large 5-6 piece bands causing overcrowding issues on sidewalks



Downtown Public Space Management



Crowding sidewalk space, blocking crosswalks, dogs not secure, equipment taking up sidewalk space



Downtown Public Space Management



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

From 2008-2012, the City of Asheville had the highest pedestrian accident rate among the largest 10 metro areas in the state (NCDOT study)

“Watch For Me NC” will run from August to November.

- Comprehensive campaign aimed at reducing the number of pedestrians and bicyclists injured in crashes with vehicles
- Enforcement and education

Downtown Public Space Management



STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Downtown Public Space Management



Downtown High Impact Area Pilot Program

- Three designated spaces for street performances
- Other street performance areas would not be regulated other than through then-current ordinances
- Other than proposed ordinance changes, other applicable regulations would remain in effect
- Monitor impacts through August 2016 and return to PSC and Council with data and recommended next steps
- Any adjustments could be proposed as warranted during and after the initial period

Downtown Public Space Management



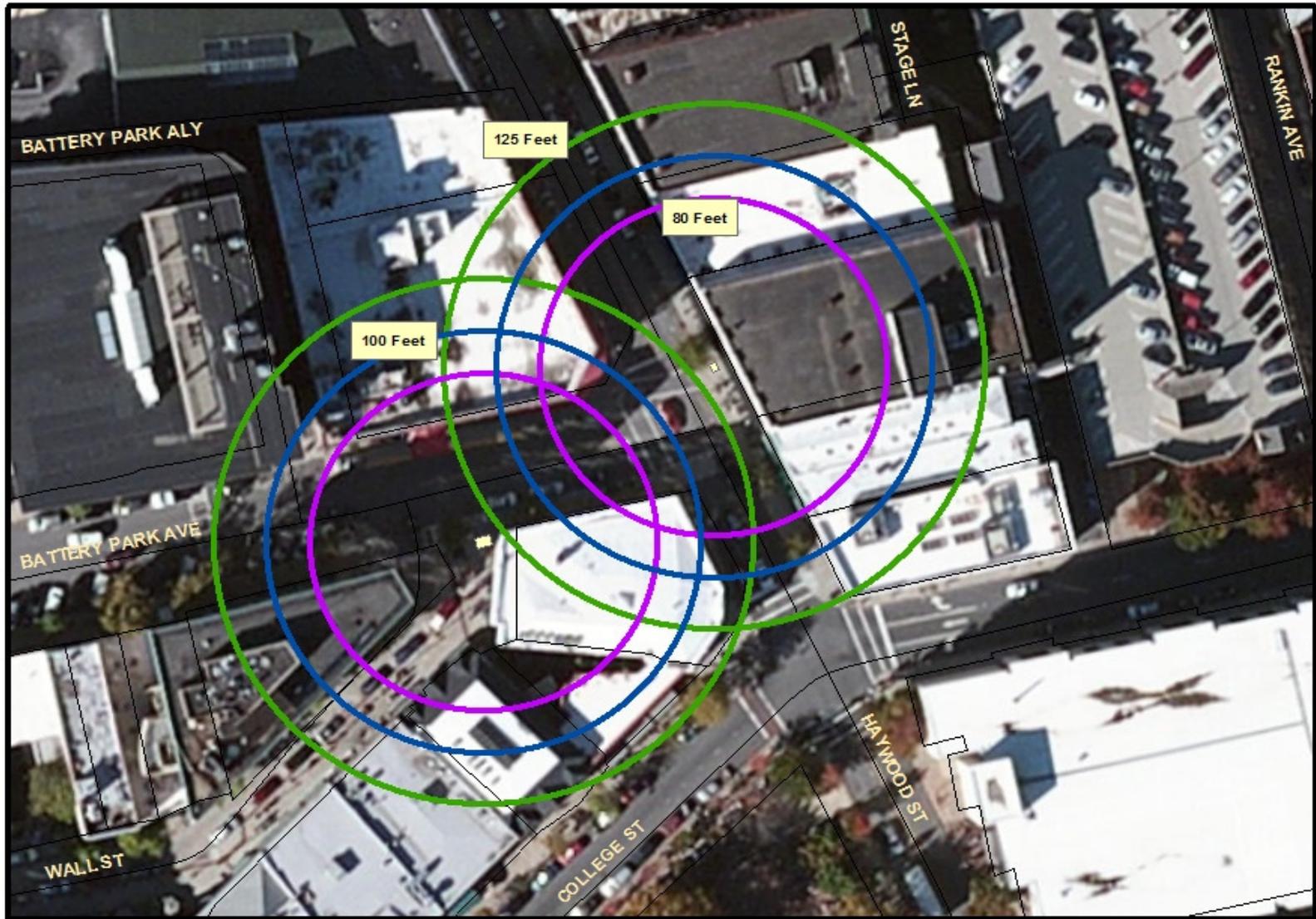
Haywood Street in Front of Woolworth Walk

- Performance space limited to one performer
- Area of 3x4 feet located next to building or adjacent to street curb
- No other performers or performances within 100 feet in all directions

Flat Iron at Battery Park Avenue and Wall Street

- On flat side of Flat Iron sculpture
- Performance space of 5x6 feet
- No other performers or performances within 100 feet in all directions

Haywood Street Area



Downtown Public Space Management



Pack Square – south west side of Biltmore Avenue near Rhubarb

- Performance space of 4x8 feet adjacent to Biltmore Avenue curb
- No other performers or performances within 100 feet in all directions

Pack Square Area



Downtown Public Space Management



Public Engagement Efforts

Prior to Committee and Council Action

- Following Committee direction, designated areas would be marked for feedback from stakeholders and public
- Presentation to Downtown Commission
- Return to Committee for input and action
- Presentation to Council for consideration and action

After Committee and Council Action

- Communication plan of adopted pilot program and ordinance changes
- Measurement of outcomes during the pilot

Downtown Public Space Management



Public Engagement Efforts

August 2016

- Reconnect with stakeholders
- Understand impacts of pilot including sense of 'place', vibrancy, public safety and bricks and mortar businesses

Downtown Public Space Management



RECOMMENDED ORDINANCE CHANGES

Downtown Public Space Management

Summary of Recommended Ordinance Changes



Sec. 16-141 – Definitions

Add definition of Performance Space: “a space designated by marking on the sidewalk, within which performers of sidewalk entertainment may conduct performances”

Related to Designated Performance Space Pilot

Downtown Public Space Management

Summary of Recommended Ordinance Changes



Sec. 16-145 – Performers of sidewalk entertainment

Refer to performance and performers rather than entertainer/ entertainment	On-going; not based on pilot
Require performers to cease performing if pedestrians are stopped and observing the performance from the street	On-going; public-safety related; not based on pilot
Prohibits use of knives, swords, torches, axes, saws, fire or other dangerous objects or activities	On-going; public safety related; not based on pilot
Prohibits performers being accompanied by or in custody or possession of dog or cat	During performance; on-going; public safety related;
Prohibits sale/ donations for goods	On-going; not based on pilot

Downtown Public Space Management

Summary of Recommended Ordinance Changes



Sec. 16-145 – Performers of sidewalk entertainment

All performances shall take place only within designated space

Pilot - designated performance space only

No other performance may take place within designated distance measured from edge of performance space

Pilot - designated performance space only

All performers associated with performance must remain entirely within performance space – including equipment

Pilot - designated performance space only

All equipment and personal items in designated space must be accompanied by performer and must be removed at conclusion of performance

Pilot - designated performance space only

Downtown Public Space Management

Summary of Recommended Ordinance Changes



Sec. 16-145 – Performers of sidewalk entertainment

Performers are encouraged to be courteous to other performers and generally limit themselves to performing for no more than two hours in any designated performance space

Pilot - designated performance space only

Downtown Public Space Management



Other Recommendations

Sidewalk Vending

No Changes

Regulation of Street
Performance Signs

No Changes

Downtown Public Space Management



Committee Direction

- No action requested
- Designated high impact performance spaces
 - Number and locations
 - Distances from each performance space
- Ordinance changes
 - General
 - Related to designated high impact performance spaces
- Sidewalk Vending
- Regulation of Street Performance Signs
- Public Engagement Efforts
- Next Steps