



Downtown Public Space Management



Posted 9/11/2015
Last Revised 10/12/15

Timeline

2015

Fall – Report at Public Safety Committee

September 22 - Small group stakeholder meeting

August 24 - Staff report to Public Safety Committee

June 1 - Public Safety Committee, Updates on ordinances for street performances and sidewalk vending

April 27 - Public Safety Committee, Report on status of street performance and sidewalk vending ordinances

January through end of March - ADA and buskers meet to review potential changes to local street performer ordinances

2014

December 16 - ADA Buskers Forum

September through December - ADA works with Busker's Collective to study concerns related to street performances in CBD

September 22 – Public Safety Committee update on Downtown Enhancement Plan

September 17 - ADA convened the first meeting with stakeholders about public safety issues associated with street performers

What's Happening Now

Over the last year, public safety concerns have been raised about an important and valued component of the downtown Asheville experience: street performances. Concerns include overcrowded sidewalks, pedestrian crowding in roadways, motorist safety, blocked crosswalks and handicap access.

The timeline to the left outlines public input and staff presentations to City Council's Public Safety Committee regarding street performances. Staff has sought committee guidance while developing options to address safety concerns. Respecting the importance of public input and information sharing, no recommendation for action has been presented to the committee to-date.

After the August 24 meeting and a request for guidance related to a possible pilot program, staff is moving forward with a small group meeting of stakeholders representing the busking community, business community and Asheville residents. This group will 1) react and discuss the idea of the pilot study presented at the August 24 meeting and 2) offer additional solutions for maintaining public safety and sense of place in downtown Asheville.

The next step in the public input process will be determined after the group meeting.

Why It's Happening

Downtown Asheville is a bustling and vibrant place. The unique mix of uses contributes to a unique atmosphere appreciated by residents and out-of-town visitors alike.

Placemaking is one of the tools local governments use to engage the community in sustaining an area's character. Its key attributes include (a) sociability; (b) uses and activities; (c) access and linkages; and (d) comfort and image. A successful 'place' is a reflection of a community's effort to create an appropriate balance of these important components. The challenge and importance of taking steps to balance the various components becomes all the more important as the number of people and uses in downtown Asheville grows.¹

¹"What is Placemaking?" Project for PublicPlaces, www.pps.org/reference/what_is_placemaking/.

Supporting Information

[Input from September 22, 2015 Meeting](#)
[Additional input from Asheville Buskers Collective](#)
[September 22, 2014 Downtown Enhancement Plan Update](#)
[April 27, 2015 Public Safety Committee Staff Report](#)
[June 1, 2015 Public Safety Committee Staff Report](#)
[August 24, 2015 Public Safety Meeting Packet](#)
[Public Space Management Presentation](#)

Comments/Inquiries

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