

From: [Julie Leadbetter](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Shared Spaces
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 12:36:00 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: Shared Spaces

Dear Supervisors,

I'm writing as a 23 year resident of 716 Valencia Street with a request to partner with the City and County of San Francisco to make shared spaces a livable and equitable program for the residents of Valencia Street. I'm requesting that the planning department as a new agency participating in shared spaces, form a resident advisory board and also conduct a qualitative survey of residents living on Valencia, in partnerships with community groups in the area that have deep relationships with the residents. I'd also like to request that Valencia Merchants Association is not the permit holder, rather that the program is operated instead by the City or a more neutral entity that doesn't have only merchant interests at heart. As a merchant group, the VCMA does not have shared interests of the neighborhood and too date has shown that they are not committed to partnership. The blocks of Valencia that have been "hosting" shared spaces are majority low-income renters, living in subsidized affordable housing or long-term rent controlled apartments. As renters in these types of leases, we do not have the option to move, be transferred to their units in order to get away from the ever present noise and impacts of shared spaces. At the beginning of this program me and a group of neighbors asked Valencia Merchants Corridor Association to have a neighbor advisory board as part of their program. Manny Yuketiel and the Association refused. They actively declined to have an advisory board and also declined several requests to hold a joint Association/neighbor planning process.

Since the beginning of the shared spaces program, two out five long-term neighbors in my building left San Francisco all together. These were not tech flight neighbors, rather working class San Franciscans who could not reasonably hold a job and have a balanced life of any kind while living on this street. They left SF and now commute to their jobs here. Ironically one of them worked for the MTA itself and even the program that the department was designing was not enough to keep their own employee in their long term home. For the last year, I've been staying with friends and relatives, living unstably while doing my best to show up everyday as a leader in a local nonprofit at the center of the emergency response. I lived couch to couch, hoping to ride out the shared spaces program to return to my home after the restaurants get some support for a year and things could return back to a more livable street for all of us. But unfortunately, it seems that the impacts to neighbors have not been documented, acknowledged, or evaluated in any way. I know find myself on the list of people looking for a way out of my home, after 23 years and equal number of years of dedication to my community and SF.

Neighbors need help. We need supervisors and the planning department to give us a fair and equitable voice, help us find mitigation's and compromises, let us participate in design efforts to make a more balanced program.

I cannot make it to public comment today, but I hope and plead that you hear our suffering, and commit to truly learning more and helping us to find a way to live healthily in our neighborhood.

As always, I'm available for a genuine conversation and will participate in an equitable and fair process to make SF better. Unfortunately the VCMA has not proven to allow for this type of partnerships with neighbors and I ask for the City to step in and provide a level playing field.

Thanks for your time,
Julie Leadbetter
716 Valencia Street
415-608-7343

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Land Use and Transportation Committee Hearing Notice, Board File No. 210284
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 5:01:17 PM

From: Steven Pickrell <spickrell89@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Major, Erica (BOS) <erica.major@sfgov.org>; stefanita@sfgov.org; Terry McGuire <tj.mcguire@yahoo.com>
Subject: Land Use and Transportation Committee Hearing Notice, Board File No. 210284

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

July 12, 2021

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA, 94102
VIA EMAIL: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org
RE: Land Use and Transportation Committee Hearing Notice, Board File No. 210284

The Pacific Heights Residents Association wishes to convey its support for the proposed ordinance amending the Administrative Code to rename and modify the Places for People Program as the Shared Spaces Program, and to provide for the conversion of existing Parklet and Shared Spaces permittees to the new program requirements.

We understand how important the “dining parklets” have been to the survival and recovery of many neighborhood restaurants during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, and we realize they are immensely popular with many residents and visitors. At the same time, given the speed with which the parklets were approved and erected, this is a crucial time to revisit important elements of the program. Adoption of the proposed ordinance provides the opportunity to ensure that the existing parklets and any future additions are subjected to reasonable scrutiny for appropriate design, location, operation, and maintenance.

The ordinance should ensure the physical safety of parklet users and the public at large by enforcing appropriate design standards, thoughtful parklet location, safe operating practices and regular upkeep by owners. Safety for parklet users and others should ensure not only the crashworthiness (or impact resistance) of the parklet structures, but just as important, the location of structures within a street block and design features such as size, mass, transparency, and lighting. Location of the

structures on a block matters; parklets located near an intersection present more risk by obstructing motorists' view of the crosswalk and bike lane. The parklets should not have excessive lighting visible from the roadway that could impair motorists' or cyclists' night vision. These are just a few examples; there are many other design and location considerations that the ordinance should reference to provide for safe operation.

Regular maintenance should be enforced through the permit application and renewal process. We support a relatively short permit period (i.e., renewal required every year) to ensure that owners are held accountable for the physical condition and safe operation of the parklet structures. Preexisting parklet structures should be inspected before being extended any post-Covid permit, and if they are found lacking relative to new guidelines, owners should be required to bring them up to standards or remove them.

We are sensitive to the idea that the City should not be creating excessive new “red tape” that would undermine the viability of parklets as a whole. At the same time, it is evident that there is great variability in the design, location, and maintenance of the parklets that sprang up during the emergency order. Some are poorly designed and/or located, and maintenance is erratic, particularly regarding cleanliness and litter. Deficient parklets should be modified, relocated, or removed rather than simply grandfathered in as-is, and permit renewal should be contingent upon ample evidence of ongoing safe operation and proper maintenance.

With clear guidelines and predictable, equitable enforcement, parklet owners will not be deterred from investing in safe, suitable structures and maintaining them properly. A well-crafted program will offer the assurance that if parklet owners play by the rules their permit will be renewed annually without uncertainty, delay, or unexpected cost.

Like any good thing, if the parklets are allowed to proliferate beyond reason, become poorly maintained, or create undue hazards because of poor design or location, negative impacts to the neighborhood will erode their current level of popular support. We encourage your careful review and amendment of the draft ordinance to ensure that the parklets continue to have only positive benefits for resident of the City's neighborhoods, restaurant patrons, and owners.

We thank you for your dedicated service to the people of the City of San Francisco and appreciate your consideration of our suggestions.

Sincerely,

Terry McGuire, President
Steve Pickrell, Vice President
Pacific Heights Residents Association

CC:

Catherine Stefani, District 2 Supervisor

(stefanistaff@sfgov.org)

Erica Major, Assistant Clerk for the Land Use and Transportation Committee

(Erica.Major@sfgov.org)

From: [Gmail Lawson Gen](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:28:49 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Supervisors,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent. I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses. Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities. Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors. I've wondered for years why SF didn't make this possible sooner!

Thank you,
Genevieve

From: [Jessica Kwok](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:13:22 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi SF Team,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses.

Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,

Blake Van Arnam

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Haeryn Kim](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:44:07 PM

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Hi,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

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Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,
Haeryn

Sent from my iPhone

From: jasonlevine3@gmail.com
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff_ \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff_ \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:05:47 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

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Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,
Jason

From: [Eric Müller](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [StefaniStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:56:28 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses.

Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,

Regards,
Eric

From: [Reilly Gallin](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [savesharedspaces@growsf.org](#); [StefaniStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:20:36 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses.

Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,
Reilly

From: [Nick Burgess](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Haneystaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PeskinStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [SafaiStaff \(BOS\)](#); [savesharedspaces@growsf.org](#); [StefaniStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:08:40 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi,

I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

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Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Sam Wallace](#)
To: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 8:03:33 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Preston,

I'm a resident of District 5. I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses.

Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,
Sam

From: [Sohila Sandher](#)
To: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); savesharedspaces@growsf.org
Subject: Please make Shared Spaces permanent!
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 4:52:17 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisor Preston,

I'm a resident of District 5. I am emailing you in support of the Mayor's legislation to make the Shared Spaces program permanent.

I love outdoor dining. During this awful pandemic, it created a safe way for us to eat out and support our local businesses. Even though indoor dining is slowly re-opening, we shouldn't shut down the Shared Spaces program. Outdoor dining has given our neighborhoods a new energy, and has transformed our streets into communities.

Please make outdoor dining permanent so we can continue to enjoy great food outdoors.

Thank you,
Sohila Sandher
530-300-0022

From: [Allen Jones](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); metro@sfchronicle.com
Subject: Proposed agenda item #210284
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:40:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Attention All Land Use & Transportation Committee Members,
I have tried to express my objection to making the Shared Spaces program permanent. I do understand this committee is prepared to send this item to the full board on July 13, 2021, for its assured approval.

I am making this committee aware of the fact, I have filed a complaint with the Department of Justice, in an effort to stop what I believe is an obstacle course for people like me who use a wheelchair, notwithstanding the promises past and present to adhere to ADA rules.

It is my educated belief that there are more than fifteen hundred (1,500+) current ADA violations connected with the Shared Spaces program. Though I have more than a hundred photos and videos of violations, I am sending a few to let you all see how impossible it can be for some of us to navigate Shared Spaces.

Respectfully, this program was good as a "Temporary" solution during a pandemic but to go from 67 permits in March 2020 to more than 3,000 permits today, is not Shared Spaces. This is an obstacle course that must not be allowed.

Allen Jones
jones-allen@att.net
(415) 756-7733
californiaclemency.org









THD Recommendations on Shared Spaces

Telegraph Hill Dwellers, <https://thd.org>

Changing Cityscape

Shared Spaces embodies the notion that a city's public and private spaces work best when they mix, overlap, and interact with each other. An urban setting thrives when barriers are rare, space is uninterrupted, and people share an open and communal presence.

In the midst of the COVID crisis, many businesses invested a significant amount of effort and capital in the construction of the existing structures. In the near term, it is reasonable for business owners to expect a return on their investment, especially while the area is undergoing a period of adjustment. In the long term, for shared spaces to be sustainable, they need to adapt so that they exist in harmony with the surrounding environment and local culture.

Rather than a series of walled forts and plywood cubicles, a street should be a large, open gathering place. Larger streets and intersections should set the stage to connect progressively smaller areas. Public life coexists and merges with smaller, more intimate gatherings, with chairs and tables free of walls and windows. Sit at a sidewalk table in a parklet or shared space, look across the street, and you want to see people, not plywood. You may even want to smile and wave to them.

For example, in this photo, the customers of these restaurants are encased in wooden boxes, isolated from the people sitting in the open-air shared space across the street:



San Francisco has plenty of examples where erecting barriers between the public realm and private space has created dark, lifeless streets. Consider, for example, the Embarcadero Center, where all public life is encapsulated inside concrete courtyards, lining the sidewalks with

tall, dead, monolithic walls. Take a walk down Clay Street in front of the Alcoa Building, and you will see a sidewalk that was dark and deserted long before we even heard of COVID.

Reclaiming Space From the Street

When they occupy the public right of way, tables and chairs from shared spaces make navigation by foot difficult, as servers must cut across the sidewalk to serve their customers. Arranging seating along buildings would minimize this problem. However, many sidewalks are too narrow to allow tables and chairs, essentially forcing them out onto the street.

A high priority should be given to extending the width of certain sidewalks. In particular, the sidewalks on Grant Ave. between Columbus and Filbert can be widened by eliminating a small number of parking spaces. Columbus between Broadway and Bay could also benefit from this change.

Proposal: eliminate parking spaces and widen sidewalks along certain streets, while keeping a small number of spaces available for deliveries and disabled parking.

Aesthetic Considerations

In our neighborhood, the quality of life derives overwhelmingly from the success of its architecture and streetscape. *Everyone* has a right to enjoy the air, the sun, and Architecture. *Everyone* should benefit from the beauty and human-scale layout of our most popular streets. A window pane that creates a kind of fish tank, or a blank plywood wall that conceals and encases a building's facade may make paying customers more comfortable, but that comfort comes at the expense of everyone else.

For shared spaces to work, we certainly need boundaries, both physical and visual. The goal should be to create these boundaries while keeping sight lines as open as possible. To accomplish this goal, any walls surrounding a shared space should be of high quality construction, and no taller than a couple of feet. Keeping these walls short enough will enable people to look around and enjoy the beauty of our neighborhood. Building them with quality materials and workmanship will establish them as integral components of the built environment.

In keeping with the priorities of Vision Zero, structures must not hide pedestrians as they attempt to cross the street. Aside from being short enough, structures need to be set back from the intersection so that someone driving a car can see any pedestrian or animal standing at a crosswalk, no matter how tall they are.

Thanks to the parklet program, a great deal of thought has already been given to the conversion of parking spaces to non-vehicular use. Much of the guidance that applies to parklets can also benefit a shared spaces program. That guidance can be found at:

<https://groundplaysf.org/publication/san-francisco-parklet-manual/>

Proposal: enact standards for construction quality, following parklet-type guidelines where appropriate. Limit the height of any wall such that it is below the line of sight for someone sitting at a table. Do not allow any structure to hide pedestrians who are standing at a crosswalk.

Pedestrians First

Space taken up by parked bicycles, rental scooters, and cars is unusable by humans. For this reason, parking of any type of vehicle should be carefully planned for any sidewalk that has a shared space. Consistent with San Francisco's "Pedestrian First" policy, the sidewalk must be wide enough in all cases for people in wheelchairs to move easily and without obstacles. In many places, parking meters and parking-related street signs can be removed.

Proposal: do not allow bicycles or scooters to be parked on sidewalks when their presence obstructs pedestrian pathways.

People, not Consumers

Much of our neighborhood follows a pattern of ground-floor retail with housing above. This urban pattern has consistently succeeded in establishing a vibrant, rich culture here and around the world. This implies that people who live on such a street have a right to a normal life, without a noise level that induces stress or other unhealthy effects. Therefore, any live music played outdoors must be kept at a volume low enough to allow people who live in mixed-use areas to sustain a sane, healthy existence.

Related to "pedestrians first" is the notion that we should be able to enjoy our city without buying stuff. The public has the right to enjoy public spaces. This means that as many people as possible should be able to sit in shared spaces, even if they are not buying something. When music is performed outside, people should be able to enjoy it without being forced to buy a drink. Consideration should be given to public performance spaces, where anyone can perform live music (or other live arts). Any such performance spaces would need to be located in non-residential areas.

Proposal: allow passing pedestrians to casually enjoy music and other live performances in shared spaces. Maximize the time and amount of space available to the general public.

All Businesses

We have always tried to sustain our community not just as a place to eat out and drink, but as a place where you can access goods and services required to live a normal, everyday life. That implies that operators of bars and restaurants need to respect neighborhood-serving businesses as equals.

Someone should be able to buy groceries, get their dry cleaning done, get a haircut, pick up a box of nails, etc. Which is to say, our neighborhood should continue to be a real place where

real people live. If eating out and drinking at a bar are the only activities available, you don't have a community; you have a resort town.

Shared spaces should not harm local businesses by obstructing the view or access of storefronts, signs, or entryways. Pedestrians making their way to any establishment should not feel intimidated or in any way be impeded by those who are using shared spaces.

A storefront business relies on visibility to the sidewalk and to the street. Each business has a right to visibility, natural light by day, and ambient light by night. For this reason, it's critical for every bar and restaurant to remain a good neighbor, and not obstruct or darken any business next door.



Two public views of the same storefront. Which one is good for business?

The structure for a shared space should not be allowed to spill out into the area in front of someone else's establishment. If a business chooses not to take advantage of the Shared Spaces program, the space in front of it should be required by law to remain open for parking.

Proposal: Do not allow any structure to block neighboring storefront windows, signage, or ambient light. Keep structures for any given business within the street space directly in front of it.

Work with establishments that are not bars or restaurants to determine the best way to allow customers to access their businesses. Establish a number of flexible spaces that can be used for parking during the day, drinking and dining in the evening and on weekends.

Tree Restoration

At a time when climate change threatens our very survival, City Hall has largely neglected its stewardship of San Francisco's urban canopy. As a result, many of the sidewalks that were once shady oases now bake in the heat. In place of trees, we've gotten patio umbrellas and cheap, portable tents. Many tree wells have been filled in and cemented over.

The adoption of shared spaces must include a serious effort to remedy this situation, at least locally, and restore the urban canopy. This starts with planting trees in all of the wells that have been filled in with concrete and paved over. Tree species should be chosen for their ability to withstand life in the city, and to supply shade. With widened sidewalks, more space will be available to plant additional trees.

Proposal: require replanting of all known sidewalk wells with appropriate tree species. Until trees supply adequate shade, allow only temporary solutions, such as umbrellas, for overhead shelter.

No Contribution to Climate Change

A typical patio heater emits about 40,000 BTU per hour, although that number can be much higher for larger heaters. Considering that a gallon of gasoline contains about 116,000 BTU, three of these patio heaters are burning the rough equivalent of one gallon of gasoline per hour. A recent count found 12 of these heaters at one of the larger restaurants. If those heaters are on for 5 hours, they're burning the equivalent of about 20 gallons of gasoline per day, or about 400 one-mile car trips down Columbus Ave.

France has recently announced that it is banning outdoor heaters at restaurants and cafes ([link below](#)). Considering America's cowboy culture, this seems unlikely to occur here. However, all outdoor heaters should be electric. We're banning gas stoves and heaters for indoor spaces; there's no reason to use them outdoors.

Proposal: allow only radiant electric heat, if any, to be used outside. Consistent with the City of San Francisco's movement away from fossil fuels, require that any power used to heat outdoor space comes from a carbon-neutral source.

Welcoming

Any plan must take into consideration the source of many of our visitors. In particular, we need to be aware of the number of people who come from the Central Valley, the surrounding suburbs, or any other place where public transit is impractical. Those people are not arriving on bicycles or buses. They are driving here, and we need to be realistic about that.

As we hand over parking spaces to shared spaces, we must also find a way to replace reduced capacity for those who arrive in automobiles. Pricing for public parking garages should be lower on weekends, and signage should make them easy to find.

If we make it impossible or difficult to park, or if we implement hostile measures like Congestion Pricing, people will not use public transit to get here; they will simply make the rational decision to skip San Francisco.

Proposal: continue to support Transit First, but do not punish people who are unable to use public transit to visit our neighborhood. Be sensitive to the fact that visitors arrive from all over California.

No Hitchhiking

Any legislation should be focused on the issue at hand: Shared Spaces. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case for proposed legislation so far.

Proposal: don't use Shared Spaces legislation as a vehicle for the mayor's other priorities.

Day-to-Day Usage

A business that benefits from a shared space bears responsibility for maintaining it and keeping it clean. This includes the responsibility for removing litter and debris, and quickly removing graffiti. Shared spaces could follow the same guidance for maintenance that has been established for parklets. Businesses, especially bars and restaurants, should ensure that their operations do not spill onto and obstruct public sidewalks or otherwise interfere with pedestrian passers-by.

References

“France to ban heated terraces in cafes and bars”

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53552526>

San Francisco Parklet Manual

<https://groundplaysf.org/publication/san-francisco-parklet-manual/>

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1.0 July 9, 2021



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