



June 17, 2021

Subject: Codifying Coordination of the Shared Spaces Program [BF 210284]

Dear Honorable Supervisors and Clerk Calvillo,

We are writing regarding the need for the Shared Spaces Program to have comprehensive, holistic management by the SF Planning Department. The coordinating agency should have expertise integrating land use, transportation, public space, urban design, and equity considerations into policy planning and implementation strategy. The Planning Commission is charged by both our city charter and state law with addressing such cross-departmental policy issues. The Planning Department has coordinated Shared Spaces and its predecessor programs for over ten years and is best positioned to guide the consolidated program through its next phases of change.

Disrupting programmatic roles at this point would add unnecessary risk for small businesses and to economic recovery and would jeopardize the care-taking responsibilities we have made over the last ten years to meet neighborhood livability and vibrancy goals. Eliminating Planning from its current coordinating function would require significant restructuring, resulting in slower response times and negative impacts to both the experiences of customers and neighbors.

The public wants a single point of contact who can liaise effectively with all the various reviewing and permitting agencies. This makes the program easier and far less confusing for businesses to use and makes the program more equitable and responsive to public concerns. Permitting agencies need to focus on review of their jurisdiction's permits; while relying on Planning to be the program contact. We've seen the benefits of having a single point of contact function live with a department not charged with issuing most of the related permits.

SF Planning has dedicated policy and community engagement staff who lead up public education, outreach, and communications. SF Planning committed data analytics staff to the project who are developing dynamic dashboard mapping tools to increase access to permit and enforcement data for your staff and the public. Planning spearheaded the development of a new interagency permit intake system that can coordinate with all the agencies approving the permit. These efforts need to stay on track.

A program that is steadily managed will lead to a faster recovery. This will, in turn, lead to more entry level jobs. Generally, increases in demand for entry level workers will also put more upward pressure

on wages. We understand that the program raises many important policy issues, such as access and use of public rights-of-way and therefore, we stand ready to discuss these issues, as needed. We believe that our interagency team can best deliver on its mission by keeping our leadership structure intact.

Thank you,

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Public Works

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FUNCTIONS and TASKS	LEAD	SUPPORT
Policy Coordination		
Strategic planning and change management	PLN	
Integrated land use, transportation, public space and urban design planning	PLN	MTA
Convene policy & interagency operations	PLN	
Racial and Social Equity Strategies		
Coordinate equity program (grants, technical assistance, materials)	PLN	OEWD
manage equity-driven projects	PLN	
Impact studies and Reporting	PLN	CON
Public Education, Marketing, and Community Engagement		
Produce public education, communications, and marketing collateral	PLN	
Produce websites , manuals , and other technical assistance materials	PLN	DS
Single point of contact for public inquiries, front-line triage of all inbound emails and communication	PLN	
Business Services		
Interagency Permit database, including intake portal (built, maintain, report)	PLN + DS	
Fee Collection and distribution	TTX	
Interagency Compliance and Enforcement database (built, maintain, report)	PLN	311, DT
Public data dashboard and webmap (built, maintain; version 3 launch summer 2021)	PLN	
Project Permitting (review, inspect, approve, issue); Compliance and Enforcement		
Sidewalk	DPW	MOD, FIR, ADC
Curbside 'no parking zones' and 'parklets'	MTA + DPW	MOD, FIR, ADC
Roadway 'shared streets'	MTA	FIR, POL, ENT
City-Owned Parking Lots	MTA	FIR, ENT
City-Owned Lots	DRE	DBI, FIR, ENT
Private Lots	PLN	DBI, FIR, ENT
Port Streets + Lots	PRT	PLN
Entertainment	ENT	PLN