

STREET ENTERTAINMENT BYLAW

A BYLAW OF THE CITY OF VICTORIA

The purpose of this bylaw is to prescribe regulations and a licence scheme for street entertainment on City streets and public places.

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Under its statutory powers, including sections 8(3)(b) and (h), 8(4), 15, 36, 46, 62, 64, 65 and Part 8 of the *Community Charter*, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Victoria in an open meeting assembled enacts the following provisions:

Title

- 1** This bylaw may be cited as the “Street Entertainment Bylaw”.

Definitions

- 2** In this bylaw:

- (a) “Assistant Director” means the person employed by the City in the position of Assistant Director, Business and Community Relations, or successor position in function.
- (b) “Director” means the person employed by the City as the head of its Business and Community Relations department or successor position in function.
- (c) “public place” includes a park, plaza, square, or other place open to the public that is not a street.

- (d) “street” includes a highway, boulevard, median, sidewalk, path, lane or other public way.
- (e) “street entertainer” means a person who performs street entertainment.
- (f) “street entertainment” means the provision of amusement for the public on a City street or public place including music, juggling, chalk art, balloon art, living statues, dancing, and other forms of theatrical, musical or artistic expression.

Street Entertainment Licence

- 3** (1) A person must not perform or carry out street entertainment:
- (a) without a valid and subsisting street entertainment licence; and
 - (b) except in accordance with this bylaw and the terms and conditions of a street entertainment licence.
- (2) A person who wishes to perform street entertainment must apply for a street entertainment licence in the form prescribed by the Assistant Director or Director, and pay a licence fee of \$50.00.
- (3) If a group of two or more people wish to perform street entertainment:
- (a) one person must apply on behalf of the group for a street entertainment licence and pay the fee in accordance with subsection (2); and
 - (b) each person in the group must be named on the street entertainment licence application.
- (4) A separate business licence under the Business Licence Bylaw or street occupancy permit under the Streets and Traffic Bylaw is not required for street entertainment permitted under a street entertainment licence.
- (5) A street entertainment licence is valid for 12 months beginning on January 15th each year.

Street Entertainment Regulations

Time

- 4** A street entertainer must not perform:
- (a) before 10:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.;

- (b) in the same location for longer than one hour per day.

Location

5 A street entertainer must not perform:

- (a) within one block of another street entertainer who has initiated a performance;
- (b) within two blocks of the same location at which the street entertainer has previously performed during the same day;
- (c) in a park other than Centennial Square or Bastion Square; or
- (d) within a location the street entertainer is required to vacate for the purposes specified in section 9(1) or (2).

Noise

6 A street entertainer must comply with the Noise Bylaw, except that notwithstanding the Noise Bylaw, a street entertainer must not use any amplification, recorded or broadcast music or sounds, or any other means of increasing the volume of their performance unless expressly permitted to do so by the City for a special event.

Obstructions

- 7** (1) A street entertainer must not block, obstruct, interfere with or hinder vehicular traffic, bike lanes, pedestrian flow on streets, or access to or from businesses or residences.
- (2) A street entertainer must:
 - (a) not use objects, props or things in a manner that poses a danger to public safety or contravenes subsection (1);
 - (b) promptly clear all objects, props, things or property placed by the street entertainer at the end of each permitted performance time; and
 - (c) dispose of garbage and litter generated by their performance in waste receptacles.

Identification

- 8** (1) A street entertainer, including each street entertainer in a group, must display their identification badge issued by the City for the duration of their performance.

- (2) A street entertainer must pay a \$35.00 fee for the replacement of a lost or damaged identification badge.

Delegated Authority

- 9
 - (1) The Director, Assistant Director, a bylaw officer or police officer may require a street entertainer to vacate a City street or public place, with or without notice, to accommodate:
 - (a) a film production or special event;
 - (b) an emergency;
 - (c) unsafe or hazardous conditions; or
 - (d) City operations, services or works.
 - (2) A bylaw officer may require a street entertainer to temporarily cease performing or move to a different location where, in the opinion of the bylaw officer, the street entertainer is causing a nuisance or creating noise that is unreasonably disturbing the public.
 - (3) The Assistant Director and Director are each delegated with authority to issue a street entertainment licence.
 - (4) The Director is delegated with authority to refuse, suspend or cancel a street entertainment licence in accordance with this bylaw, and the Director's decision is final.
 - (5) The Director may impose conditions on a street entertainer for continuing to hold a street entertainment licence related to the interference with or obstruction of traffic or pedestrian flow, performance locations, nuisance or noise disturbances, or any other public safety matter.

Refusal to Issue or Renew Licence

- 10
 - (1) The Director may refuse to issue a street entertainment licence to an applicant if the Director is satisfied that:
 - (a) the applicant has not completed the application in the prescribed form or paid the prescribed fee; or
 - (b) the applicant has provided false or misleading information in the street entertainment licence application.

- (2) The Director may refuse to renew a street entertainment licence:
 - (a) if any of the circumstances in subsection (1) apply;
 - (b) the applicant, including any member of a street entertainer group, contravened the regulations under this bylaw or the conditions of the licence on two or more occasions within the preceding 12 months;
 - (c) the applicant has outstanding fines payable for contravening a City bylaw; or
 - (d) for any other reasonable cause.

Suspension or Cancellation of Licence

- 11** (1) The Director may suspend or cancel a street entertainment licence:
 - (a) where the licensee, including any member of a street entertainer group, contravenes the regulations under this bylaw or the conditions of the licence on two or more occasions within the term of the licence; or
 - (b) for any other reasonable cause.
- (2) The Director must provide, on request by the applicant or licensee, with written reasons for a decision to refuse, suspend or cancel a street entertainment licence.
- (3) Where a licensee has had a street entertainment licence refused for renewal or cancelled, the licensee may not apply for another street entertainment licence for a period of one year from the date of refusal or cancellation.

Removal of Property

- 12** (1) The Director, a person authorized by the Director, a bylaw officer or a police officer may remove, seize, and impound or cause the removal, seizure or impoundment of any property or thing that unlawfully occupies, or has been unlawfully placed or left in a street or public place, and such item will be dealt with in accordance with the Property in Custody Bylaw.
- (2) Any action taken under this section does not preclude the prosecution of a person who contravenes a provision of this bylaw.

Offences

- 13** (1) A person commits an offence and is subject to the penalties imposed by this bylaw, the Ticket Bylaw, the Bylaw Notice Adjudication Bylaw and the Offence Act if that person:
- (a) contravenes a provision of this bylaw;
 - (b) consents to, allows, or permits an act or thing to be done contrary to this bylaw; or
 - (c) neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this bylaw.
- (2) Each day that a contravention of a provision of this bylaw occurs or continues constitutes a separate offence.

Penalties

- 14** A person found guilty of an offence under this bylaw is subject to a fine of not more than \$50,000 for every instance that an offence occurs or for each day that it continues.

Severability

- 15** If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed, and the remainder of the bylaw remains valid.

Repeal

- 16** The Street Vendors Bylaw is repealed.

Effective Date

- 17** This bylaw comes into force on adoption.

READ A FIRST TIME the	11th	day of	June	2026
READ A SECOND TIME the	11th	day of	June	2026
READ A THIRD TIME the	11th	day of	June	2026
ADOPTED on the	18th	day of	June	2026

“CURT KINGSLEY”
CITY CLERK

“MARIANNE ALTO”
MAYOR