

CITY OF VICTORIA | Arts, Culture and Events

Block Party Guidelines

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Many Victoria neighbourhoods enjoy coming together to celebrate. If you are planning a block party on a City street, sidewalk or other public space, a permit is required. These guidelines explain how to apply and what is required to host a safe and successful event.

Application process

To host a block party, you must complete the following steps:

- 1) Review these guidelines carefully. If you have questions, email culture@victoria.ca.
- 2) Submit the event permit application at least four weeks before your event.
- 3) Email a site map to culture@victoria.ca that clearly shows:
 - the road closure area
 - barricade locations
 - any event infrastructure placed on the street
- 4) City staff will review complete applications. You may be asked to provide additional information, such as a resident sign-off form.
- 5) Once approved, you will be asked to submit proof of insurance. The permit will then be issued at no cost.

Event requirements and restrictions

Block parties must meet the following conditions:

- Events may take place between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- Events are limited to Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays
- All residents on the street must be notified and a majority must agree to hosting the event
- Alcohol is not permitted on public property
- Amplified music must not disturb nearby residents who are not participating
- The organizer is responsible for the behaviour and conduct of all participants

Safety requirements

Emergency access must be maintained at all times:

- A 20-foot emergency lane must remain clear on any closed street
- Tables and structures must be placed along the sides of the street or be easy to move if emergency access is required

Road closures and barricades

- Street barricades are provided free of charge by the City of Victoria
- Barricades will be delivered to the boulevard before the event and collected afterward
- Organizers are responsible for setting up barricades and returning them in good condition
- Lost or damaged barricades will be billed to the organizer
- Organizers are strongly encouraged to use blocker vehicles at each end of the closure to reduce the risk of accidental or hostile vehicle entry

Use of City space

The street may only be used for the purpose approved in the permit

- Organizers are responsible for any damage to public property
- Nothing may be attached to trees, planters or other City property without approval
- Vehicles are not permitted on sidewalks, pathways or grass unless approved in advance

Cleanup and sustainability

- Organizers are responsible for cleaning the event area after the block party
- The City encourages recycling and other environmentally responsible practices to reduce waste

Insurance and liability

By applying for a block party permit, the organizer agrees to indemnify and release the City of Victoria from any claims related to the event.

- General liability insurance is required
- Coverage is available through [Instant Risk Coverage](#)
- The insurance certificate must name the applicant as the insured party
- Proof of insurance must be submitted to culture@victoria.ca before a permit can be issued

Fees

- There is no cost for the permit or City-supplied barricades
- Organizers are responsible for any costs related to damage, cleanup, lost equipment or additional equipment required to safely host the event

Neighbour notification

- All homes on the street and any directly affected properties must be notified
- Organizers must provide contact information for residents with questions or concerns
- A majority of residents must agree to the event
- First-time block parties require a completed resident sign-off form submitted to culture@victoria.ca
- For repeat events, organizers must notify the same list of residents

Sound management

If music or amplified sound is part of your event:

- Organizers must manage volume and sound type to avoid disturbing the surrounding neighbourhood
- Any sound-related complaints must be addressed promptly

Cancellation

The City of Victoria may cancel a block party at any time, including during the event, if there is an emergency or the event does not comply with permit conditions, such as excessive noise. Organizers must designate an on-site liaison with authority to take immediate action, including reducing sound levels or ending the event if required.