

SHOP the BLOCK

June 15, 2020 – December 15, 2020

Open Air Food, Beverage & Shopping
Permit to Extend Business's Operational
Area during COVID-19



AUSTIN CENTER
FOR EVENTS

SHOP THE BLOCK

Shop the Block is a pilot program operational during COVID-19 to help businesses during the pandemic. This program allows businesses to apply for a 30-day permit, renewable for up to 6 months during the pilot period. Businesses can expand operations outdoors onto their private parking lots and public sidewalk – while maintaining ADA compliance – as well as onto the public parking spaces in front of their establishments, for customer waiting or service. Open air dining and shopping will serve to attract more business activity, help boost the local economy, and create a pedestrian-friendly environment.

The City of Austin is committed to employing innovative measures that increase resiliency for small business owners and their employees, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shop the Block permitting begins June 15, 2020 through December 15, 2020. Businesses must still operate safely with adequate social distancing measures to protect customers.

WHO CAN APPLY?

This pilot program allows an adjacent retail store, restaurants and bars to sell or provide goods, food, and beverages on City streets, sidewalks, or rights-of-way, including city on-street parking spaces.

Eligible applicants include:

- Retail stores
- Restaurants
- Cocktail lounges, taverns & bars
- A group of retail stores, restaurants, or cocktail lounges, taverns & bars that share a private parking lot or are located on the same two blocks of a street, sidewalk, or city right-of-way

WHAT DOES THIS DO FOR MY BUSINESS?

Applicants can extend their outdoor space for:

- Sidewalk café
- Outdoor area into public parking spaces
- Street or alley or request a travel lane closure
- Private parking lot

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Before applying have the following ready:

- Occupancy load form
- Site plan
- You will need your neighbors to be aware of and in agreement with your plan
- Visit [Shop the Block](#) for application and more details on permit approval rules

HOW TO APPLY

Apply at austintexas.gov/ace on the [Shop the Block](#) page. Permits expire and must be renewed every 30 days. If you plan to serve alcohol outside there may be additional requirements with TABC.

WHAT ARE THE PERMIT FEES?

Permit fees and insurance requirements apply.

Sidewalk and Parking Space Closures

- Application fee: \$100.00
- Usage fee: \$50 every 30 days
- Inspection fee: \$76.00
- Deposit: \$50.00 - Refundable
- Tent fee: \$204 or \$51 each if done as part of Outdoor Event Permit
- Insurance requirements remain

Street or Alley or Travel Lane Closure

- Application fee: \$250
- Usage fee: \$200 per block per day
- Inspection fee: \$76 per day
- Deposit: \$2000.00 – Refundable
- Tent fee: \$204 or \$51 each if done as part of Outdoor Event Permit
- Insurance requirements remain

WHERE DO I GO FOR HELP? austintexas.gov/ace or specialevents@austintexas.gov