ATX MUSIC

Sound Permit FAQs

Sound Permit Categories

- 24-Hour Sound Permit
- Multi-Day Sound Permit; May include up to four consecutive days or four days spread out over one month. A maximum of four Multi-Day permits, totaling 16 days may be issued to one site or property per calendar year. Multi-Day permits may not be issued within 30 days from the last event date to a new event date. No more than one permit may be issued for the same site or property during the Spring Festival Season.
- Annual Outdoor Music Venue (OMV) Sound Permit

Applications and Web Links

- 24-Hour and Multi-Day application: Austin Center for Events Application
  Link: http://austintexas.gov/department/special-event-permits
- OMV application: Outdoor Music Venue Application
  Link: http://austintexas.gov/department/musicamplified-sound

Submission Deadlines

- 24-Hour permit applications must be received a minimum of 21 days before the event.
- Multi-Day permit applications must be received a minimum of 30 days before the start of the first scheduled event.

Hours of Amplified Sound (unless further restricted by the Music Office Sound Impact Plan)

- Warehouse or Sixth Street Entertainment: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m.
- Outside either district: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels or up to 70 decibels at a restaurant general (51% food sales).
  - 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday
  - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Thursday
  - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. midnight Friday and Saturday
- Outside either district within 600 ft. of a property with residential zoning & use: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels or up to 70 decibels at a restaurant general (51% food sales).
  - 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday (extension to 10:00pm possible with Music Office approval)
  - 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday (extension to 10:00pm possible with Music Office approval)

Decibel Levels (unless further restricted by the Music Office Sound Impact Plan)

- Restaurants: 70 dB
- Outdoor music venues and other event locations: 85 dB

Contact: 512-974-1000 music@austintexas.gov

Fees

- Notification Fee: (a check is due at the time of application for Multi-Day and OMV applications)
  - Multi-Day and OMV permit applications require a $302.00 fee for notification of single-family owners within 600 feet of the site, multi-family use located adjacent to the site, or registered neighborhood organizations whose declared boundaries are within 600 feet of the site.
  - 24-Hour applications do not require notification.
- Permit Fees: (if approved, a check is due at the time the permit is picked up by the applicant)
  - OMV Permit Fee: 64.08
  - 24-Hour and Multi-Day Permit Fees:
    - $11.44/day for matters of public interest or political campaign
    - $22.88/day for a private party
    - $34.32/day for an advertising event
    - No fee for a charitable organization or government agency

Music Office Review

- A permit may not be issued for use of sound equipment within 100 feet of property zoned and used as residential.
- After receiving a permit application, the Music Office conducts an investigation of the site, which includes on-site inspections and sound measurements, discussions with nearby residents and business owners, and any additional research to assess potential impacts.
- Based on the investigation we create a Sound Impact Plan (SIP) recommending approval (with possible restrictions) or denial of the application. If necessary to protect public health and safety, the Music Office may recommend limits on attendance and capacity and more restrictive decibel limits and hours of operation.
- For 24-Hour and Multi-Day applications, the Music Office may recommend any appropriate restrictions for stage construction and orientation; size, location and orientation of speakers; appropriate sound buffering; and on-site decibel meters.

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