

In January 2017, City Council approved a [temporary pilot program](#) to extend the number of hours the Red River Cultural District outdoor music venues can play amplified music.

The Red River Cultural District music venues are important to the local culture and live music industry, but rising property values and rents are making it challenging for them to remain viable. The City is committed to ensuring that these venues continue to serve as incubators for local musicians, and to protecting the quality of life for residents and visitors.

The Red River Extended Hours Pilot Program will collect meaningful data to determine the impact of extended hours of live music for venues, local musicians and the public.

Program Details

- The Pilot Program will temporarily extend sound permit hours for five outdoor venues within the Red River Cultural District from May 1, 2017 until Nov 1, 2017.
- Extended hours include the following:
 - Thursdays until 12 Midnight (current end time is 11pm)
 - Fridays and Saturdays until 1:00 am (current end time is 12 midnight)
- Music programming up until the extended curfew limit is not mandatory.
- City staff will provide the Music Commission and City Council with an update every 90 days of the pilot program.
- At the conclusion of the pilot City staff will provide an evaluation that summarizes the data collected, identifies stakeholder feedback, and includes any recommended changes to City code.
- To speak with Music & Entertainment Division staff who will be working in the field every Thu, Fri and Sat night please use the hotline 512-593-9221. This will help us better understand and investigate nighttime sound concerns related to the Red River Extended Hours Pilot Program while they are occurring.
- To report a sound complaint please call 3-1-1.

Sound Monitoring

The Music & Entertainment Division will place sound monitoring units at the property lines of each participating venue, as well as in nearby neighborhoods, residential units and hotels on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights during the pilot.

These sound measurement levels may be viewed in real time by the public via:

- Online at <https://sentinel.bksv.com/cityofaustin/redriver>
- The NSStakeholder app, which is available as a free download on [iTunes](#) or [Android](#)

Weekly sound monitoring reports will be posted below:

[May 4, 2017 - March 24, 2018](#)

[May 4, 2017 - February 3, 2018](#)

Updates

[August 23, 2017](#)

[October 10, 2017](#)

[March 7, 2018](#)

Background

The Red River Cultural District forms a creative community that provides deeply-rooted and authentic local music, food, and cultural experiences for every artist, fan and guest. The District recently formed a Red River Cultural District Merchants Association in an effort to create a unified vision and set of goals that will further sustain and enhance the cultural assets that contribute to the authentic character and economic vitality of the district.

Music venue owners in the Red River Cultural District have reported an increase in rents and taxes that have put pressure on operating budgets. Venues are seeking solutions that would allow them to increase revenues to cover these higher costs, support additional local talent and further sustain the district as a destination. The Red River Extended Hours Pilot Program provides an opportunity for venues to operate additional hours, increase revenue and support local musicians. Of the thirteen venues in the Red River Cultural District, five qualify for the study due to their current sound regulation limits. The other eight venues within the district either provide only indoor music or already have extended sound hours due to their location within the Sixth Street District's boundaries. The current Sixth Street District supports 24 music venues with extended hours up to 2:00am.

Contact Information:

If you would like to learn more information about the Red River Extended Hours Pilot Program or have additional questions please contact redriverpilot@austintexas.gov