

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 renewable permit. Businesses can expand operations outdoors onto their private parking lots, public sidewalk, public parking spaces and streets or alleyways in front of their establishments.

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 and private parking lots.

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

*Includes bars who have retooled with TABC for > 51% of food sales.

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

SUPPORT BEFORE YOU APPLY

We have dedicated Austin Center for Events staff available to support you through the application process. Contact us before you apply to ask questions, review site plans, schedule a site visit or for support with any part of the application process. Email specialevents@austintexas.gov for help.

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. However, you may be able to expand up to 49 people without additional fees. Contact us to help you through the process and for one on one support.

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