

# 2018 Play Streets Program Guidelines

The guidelines below ensure the integrity of Play Streets' mission to empower San Francisco neighbors to transform their street into a platform to promote active play, with a focus on walking, biking, and community building.

The magic of the program is powered by amazing *Organizing Teams* made of community members like you. Thank you in advance for adhering to the guidelines below to ensure the success of your Series and the Play Streets Program for communities across San Francisco!

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## 1) What is Play Streets?

Play Streets is a program that empowers residents to temporarily transform their city block on a regularly occurring schedule into a car-free space for children, their families, and neighbors to come together and get active.

First launched as a two year pilot program in 2017, Play Streets is run by the nonprofit Livable City in partnership with the City of San Francisco, SFMTA, SFPDPH, DCYF and SF Planning.

## 2) Who can organize a Play Streets?

Play Streets are organized by neighbors like you who form an *Organizing Team*. **All Organizing Teams must include at least one resident from the proposed block.**

A four-person team is recommended, with members from neighborhood nonprofits highly encouraged.

## 3) Where can I host a Play Streets?

Play Streets are intended to take place within one residential block and cannot take place on a commercial corridor.\* Play Streets can not include the temporary closure of intersections.

**In general we are not able to approve Play Streets permits for blocks that have:**

- Bus stops or routes
- Parking meters
- Commercial storefronts
- More than one lane of traffic in each direction

We recommend a block that is flat and free of sharp curves. We also recommend choosing a block with with dense housing on both sides of the street and avoid sites that are adjacent to a park or schoolyard.

\*Waivers on certain requirements may be extended to *Organizing Teams* based in Chinatown and Tenderloin, as geography and zoning provide limited sites for Play Streets to occur in these neighborhoods. Please contact [playstreets@livablecity.org](mailto:playstreets@livablecity.org) for questions.

#### **4) How many Play Streets do I have to host in a Series and how long is each Session? When can I start?**

All Play Streets Series must include a minimum of 3 separate Play Streets events and maximum of 10 Sessions.

Each Session must be a minimum of 3 hours in length.

For the 2018 Play Streets season, we are only accepting citywide applications for Play Streets Series that begin after August 1st, 2018.

#### **5) What can I do at a Play Streets?**

Play with your neighbors! A mix of active games, seated activities, and icebreaker exercises are highly recommended. Popular Play Streets activities include:

- Hula hoops
- Jump ropes
- Tug of war
- Potato-sack races
- Movement games like freeze dance
- Seasonal arts and crafts projects
- Sidewalk chalk art
- Bubble-blowing and
- Card or or table-top games
- Bouncy houses
- Hosting a private picnic for your neighbors
- Gardening

#### **The following activities are not allowed at Play Streets:**

- Food sales or public food giveaways
- Distribution of individual, single-use plastic water bottles
- Vehicles or vehicle shows
- Amplified sound (beyond basic battery powered Bluetooth speakers)
- Use of tobacco/smoking products or alcohol

#### **6) What is expected of an *Organizing Teams*?**

Play Streets *Organizing Teams* assume full responsibility for the following:

- Completing a Play Streets Bootcamp and permit application
- Executing an outreach plan that includes:
  - Door-knocking and signature gathering prior to the first Session
  - Car flyering 3 days prior to each Session
  - Hanging No Parking signs 3 days prior to each Session

- Recruiting a minimum of two volunteers per Play Streets Session. (Additional volunteers to host activities is highly recommended.)
- Ensuring each Play Streets Session offers a minimum of three active play activities.
- Ensuring all Play Streets Session adhere to permit requirements including
  - Procuring and using proper street closure equipment
  - Maintaining a straight 14' emergency access lane at all times during the street closure.

#### **7) Who is eligible for the Community Assistance Program?**

*Organizing Teams* that reside in a Communities of Concern as defined by the [Metropolitan Transportation Commission](#) as well as on blocks in or adjacent to public and low-income housing sites are eligible to apply for our Community Assistance Program.

Not sure if you're eligible? Email us at [playstreets@livablecity.org](mailto:playstreets@livablecity.org) to find out more.