Sidewalk Dining

What is it?
The City of San Luis Obispo supports outdoor dining, the temporary placement of chairs and tables on the sidewalk in conjunction with restaurant or other food/beverage services.

Who Can Apply?
Restaurants, Cafes, Coffee Shops, and Bakeries or other legally permitted food and beverage establishments.

How Does it Work?
A tables and chairs or sidewalk café permit is meant to promote outdoor dining opportunities on the public sidewalk, including the placement of chairs, tables, awnings, and umbrellas. These provisions are intended to encourage local restaurants to take advantage of their sidewalk space for outdoor dining.

How to Apply?
Application for sidewalk dining can be made at the Community Development Department at 919 Palm Street.

New for 2010: Incentives for the implementation of outdoor seating and dining:
• A reduction of application fees.
• Encroachment fees waived in most cases.
• Parking fees can be waived for use of public sidewalks.
• Additional flexibility in determining the minimum allowable sidewalk width following installation of sidewalk dining.
• The addition of a Table and Chairs Permit with reduced annual fees for small, temporary installations.

Application Requirements:
• Application fee for administrative approval.
• A detailed site plan, noting dimensions of the area proposed for outdoor dining; the proposed number and location of tables, chairs, and other furnishings to be included in the dining area; and all sidewalk obstructions in the vicinity.
• A detailed description of the type, color, and material of all proposed outdoor furniture, such as tables, chairs, barriers, planters, umbrellas, signs, and lighting.
• Signed consent of business owner(s) and property owner(s).
• A statement of proposed hours of operation; and any other information deemed necessary by the Community Development or Public Works Directors.
• Proof of liability insurance.
• A liability release agreement.
Sidewalk Café:
The installation of sidewalk dining including seating, tables, umbrellas, and complete food services.

Guidelines:
- Allows for alcohol consumption.
- Outdoor dining is allowed within the frontage of an existing or proposed restaurant, coffee shop, bakery, or other eatery.
- Movable barriers are required to delineate outdoor dining areas.
- Hours of operation for Sidewalk Dining shall not begin prior to 7:00 a.m. nor extend later than 10:00 p.m.
- Path of travel for pedestrians (eight feet of clear space) shall be maintained free and clear of any existing obstacles including any street furniture, trees, and utilities.
- Where umbrellas or awnings are used, a vertical clearance of at least seven feet must be maintained. The placement, color, style, and types of outdoor furniture and barriers shall be consistent with and complement the design and appearance of the affected building to the satisfaction of the Community Development Department.
- Requires an annual sidewalk lease fee: $1.00/s.f./month/annually.
- Permanent barrier must be in place when alcohol is being served.
- Direct line of travel recommended to front door.
- Minimum 6’ clearance for pedestrians.
- Permanent barrier must be in place when alcohol is being served.
- Direct line of travel recommended to front door.
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Tables and Chairs:
The temporary placement of chairs and tables on the sidewalk in conjunction with a restaurant or other food/beverage service.

Guidelines:
- Applications are valid for one year.
- No Alcoholic beverages may be served.
- Consists of a small installation of seating for no more than six people.
- There is an annual permit fee.
- Tables and Chairs permits are not subject to sidewalk use fees nor encroachment fees.
- No barrier may be installed on sidewalk.
- No annual approval required.
- No limit to the size of the installation.
- On-site bicycle parking may be required in lieu of vehicle parking spaces.
- Items used within the outdoor dining areas may not be left outdoors overnight or when not in use.
- Outdoor dining areas shall be used for sit-down food and beverage services only. No stand-up or take-out service is permitted.
- Hours of operation for Tables and Chairs shall not begin prior to 7:00 a.m. nor extend later than 10:00 p.m.
- Tables and Chairs are allowed within the frontage of an existing or proposed restaurant, coffee shop, bakery, or other eatery.
- Path of travel for pedestrians (eight feet of clear space) shall be maintained free and clear of any existing obstacles including any street furniture and utilities.
- Items used within the outdoor dining areas may not be left outdoors overnight or when not in use.

For More Information:
Community Development Department
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San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401-3249
(805) 781-7170
www.slocity.org