



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager
From: Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning & Community Development
Ali Carter, Economic Development Coordinator
Date: March 16, 2021
Re: Economic Development Recovery Task Force Recommendations for Outdoor Performance

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture (ACAC) are working together with the Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force to develop a framework, including draft regulations, for the Town to allow outdoor performance in 2021. The framework will align with concurrent phasing of the State's Reopening Guidelines and, if approved, create a process by which local businesses, musicians, and artists can provide entertainment in a limited number of Arlington's public spaces. Performance dates, times, and spaces will be limited and determined in advance by the Department of Health and Human Services, Recreation, DPCD, and the ACAC.

Our goal is to translate, for individual artists and for arts organizations, the state and local regulations into one set of requirements for approving outdoor performances in Arlington. With Massachusetts cultural organizations reporting over \$483 million in lost revenue, and individual artists reporting over \$20 million in lost revenue, over the last year, it is imperative that this sector be given every opportunity to get back to work safely. (Findings reported in Mass Cultural Council surveys, further details available here: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/blog/survey-shows-continued-staggering-impacts-of-covid-19-on-states-cultural-sector/>)

Incorporated throughout this document are the Commonwealth's current Phase 3, Step 2 sector-specific reopening guidelines for Theater and Performance Venues, which govern outdoor performances of all kinds. We propose that these regulations align with current state Reopening Guidelines as they continue to evolve. Underlined text indicates what is required of the local presenting individual/organization to meet those standards.

DRAFT Arlington Outdoor Performance Regulations

Section I: Venues and Capacity

Venue capacity must be limited to the maximum allowed group size in alignment with Massachusetts Reopening Plan sector-specific guidelines for Theaters and Performance Venues and concurrent phasing. Each outdoor venue must monitor customer entries and exits and limit occupancy at all times to:

- 50% of the venue's maximum permitted occupancy as documented in its occupancy permit on record with the municipal building department or other municipal record holder, but in no event shall the venue admit or host more than 500 persons.
- Venues for which no permitted occupancy limitation is on record may allow up to 10 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible space, and never more than 500 persons. All occupant counts must include all customers, patrons, and attendees, but may exclude workers and performers.
- Limit group sizes to no more than 6 people per group attending together for outdoor theaters and performance venues.

The presenting organization will be responsible for establishing occupancy and entrance and exit paths, and marking, signage, and monitoring and enforcing audience behavior during events. Producers of events on privately owned property would be required to follow Town's Outdoor Performance regulations or, in the case of drive-in movie screenings, must follow the [State's sector-specific guidance for Drive-in Movie Theaters](#). Per the State Reopening Guidelines, [restaurants](#) that wish to have musicians perform for their guests must also follow the State's Theater and Performance Venue guidance, and therefore would be subject to the town's Outdoor Performance Regulations.

Public Outdoor Performance Locations:

Crosby Field
Robbins Farm Park
Hurd Field
Summer Street Field
Hill's Hill
Pierce Field
Robbins Memorial Garden
Spy Pond Park (subject to Conservation Commission permission)
Whittemore Robbins House lawn
Mill Pond Park
Arlington Farmer's Market at the Russell Common Parking Lot
Public parklets as designated and approved by the Town

Section II: Public Health Guidelines for Performers

Health guidance for performers must comply with Massachusetts Reopening Plan sector-specific guidelines for Theater and Performance Venues and concurrent phasing. The following special protocols shall be followed for close contact between live performers:

- Performers are to wear face coverings during performances whenever feasible.
- Performers should remain at least 6 feet apart even if wearing masks. Any activity requiring performers to be closer than 6 feet must be as brief as possible.
- Prohibit direct interaction between performers and audience before, during or after performances. No backstage or post-performance meet and greets.
- Disinfect shared equipment before use by another worker.

- Prohibit any mutual touching of customer or worker equipment without sanitation between uses.
- For live performances, singing and the playing of brass and wind instruments is discouraged. Singing is not permitted in indoor performance venues. For performances involving singing or brass or wind instruments, special distancing must be followed:
 - At least 10 feet between performers
 - At least 25 feet between performers and first row of the audience

Section III: Public Health Guidelines for Guests; Signage and Communications

Public Health measures for outdoor performance must comply with Massachusetts Reopening Plan sector-specific guidelines for Theater and Performance Venues and concurrent phasing. Communicating, monitoring, and enforcing all the responsibility of the presenting organization.

- Post clearly visible signage regarding the need to maintain 6 feet of social distancing and not to enter a room until that distancing can be maintained.
- Post visible signage throughout the site to remind customers and workers of hygiene and safety protocols.
- Require face coverings for all workers and customers, except where unsafe due to medical condition or disability. Audience members may remove face coverings while seated and eating or drinking but must otherwise wear face coverings.
- Establish directional pathways to manage visitor flow for foot traffic, to minimize contact (e.g., one-way entrance and exit to shows, one-way pathways). Post clearly visible signage regarding these policies.

This requires that the presenting organization make and post signs and monitor and enforce behavior during the event.

Ensure separation of 6 feet or more between individuals where possible:

- Install visual social distancing markers to encourage customers to remain 6 feet apart (e.g., lines for equipment if applicable, checkout lines, lines to use the restroom)
- Reconfigure seating areas to ensure 6 feet distancing between customers not in the same group.
- Distance shall be measured from the closest boundary of one customer recreation or seating area to the closest boundary of another customer recreation or seating area.

This requires that the presenting organization mark seating areas, and stage, to ensure social distancing.

- Contactless payment methods and / or digital ticketing are encouraged.
- Performances that are shorter in duration are encouraged.
- Intermissions should be avoided in order to limit time of performance and to prevent congregating and close contact with others.
- Encourage the use of electronic versions or no-touch displays in place of commonly touched physical materials (such as menus and playbills) where possible. All commonly touched physical materials must be discarded or sanitized between use.

Producer is responsible for either providing no touch displays or making sure that commonly touched physical materials are discarded or sanitized between use.

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol shall be made available at entrances, exits and throughout floor areas for workers, performers, and customers.

Presenting organization is responsible for making hand sanitizer available.

Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission, including:

- Social distancing, handwashing, proper use of face coverings

- Self-screening at home, including temperature and symptom checks.
- Importance of not coming to work if ill.
- When to seek medical attention if symptoms become severe
- Which underlying health conditions may make individuals more susceptible to contracting and suffering from a severe case of the virus

ACAC/DPCD will provide for download a flyer using Board of Health approved language to presenting organizations and performer(s) upon application for license.

Venues must screen workers at each shift by ensuring the following:

- Worker is not experiencing any symptoms such as fever (100.0 and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Worker has not had “close contact” with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. “Close contact” means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Worker has not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official.
- Workers who fail to meet the above criteria must be sent home.

Presenting organization must provide form for workers, volunteers, and performers to self-certify, including all above and questions about out-of-state travel. Presenting organization responsible for saving forms for contact tracing.

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