

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 15, 2025

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts, & Culture Committee

SUBJECT **Parklets also known as Dallas Street Seats Update**

Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) is coordinating with Convention and Event Services – Office of Special Events (CES-OSE) is updating the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture regarding the City of Dallas Parklet program, also known as Dallas Street Seats.

Background

CES-OSE launched the Temporary Parklet Program on May 18, 2020, as authorized by the COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Assistance Ad Hoc Committee. On June 24, 2020, the City Council approved amendments to the Special Events Ordinance - Chapter 42A (Ordinance No. 31557), allowing for the permitting of temporary parklets through December 31, 2020. As the COVID-19 situation evolved, the City Council extended the program multiple times through Ordinance Nos. 31708, 31841, and finally through February 2022, via Ordinance No. 32017.

On December 9, 2020, alongside the Temporary Parklet Program, the City Council approved additional amendments to Chapter 42A, establishing the Dallas Street Seats pilot program through Resolution No. 20-2252. This amendment enabled the CES-OSE to permit more permanent seating structures in public right-of-way areas.

In June 2023, the City Council made the Dallas Street Seats program permanent and added language to allow for the submission of individual parklet designs with applications by Resolution No. 23-0876.

On October 18, 2024, Assistant City Managers Dev Rastogi and Robin Bentley issued a memo to the Mayor and City Council reassigning management of the Dallas Street Seats program from CES-OSE to TPW. The departmental oversight change became effective on January 1, 2025.

Update

The program has always required a significant level of financial investment and involves a more complex safety review process as each location is unique. On average one new application is received per year, and a list of currently permitted locations is maintained.

Currently there are four activations that have successfully applied for permits under the program:

- Chimalma Taco Bar (Council District 14)
- La Toxica Mariscos y Micheladas (Council District 2)
- Eno's Pizza Tavern (Council District 1)
- The Heights (Council District 14)

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In the past two years, one application was denied because the location did not meet the safety requirements outlined in the application. Additionally, two street seats have closed due to their businesses relocating.

During the transition from CES-OSE to TPW efforts are underway to address the approval process within the current program. In addition, CES-OSE and TPW have worked collaboratively to ensure the program does not conflict with the Vision Zero plan adopted by the City Council in June 2022. CES-OSE is working with TPW to find potential compromises.

Future updates on the program will be provided to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee due to the program being moved to the Sustainability portfolio. If you have any questions, please contact Ghassan Khankarli, Director of Transportation and Public Works, at 214-671-8451 or via email at Ghassan.khankarli@dallas.gov.

Service First, Now!



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