



Safer 6th St. Initiative

Downtown Commission Update

June 21, 2023



Vision

Sixth Street should be a welcoming, vibrant, safe and well planned entertainment district with both a wider variety of nightlife and entertainment activities catering to a diverse demographic of Austinites and tourists, and more types of businesses including bars, clubs, live music and comedy venues, restaurants, cafes and retail that people can enjoy during the day, evening and late night.



Overall Approach

- Law enforcement and policing are critically important for a safe 6th St, and APD has an entertainment district policing strategy and significant resources dedicated to the district, but policing alone isn't sufficient
- The City Council Safer 6th St. resolution asked staff to complement policing, by taking a comprehensive approach to planning and management of the 6th St entertainment district that contributes to a safe district in a holistic and sustainable way



Key Goals

- **Public Space Design:** Improving public space design to bring more organization and pedestrian infrastructure to the space
- **Bar Operator Partnerships:** Creating better partnerships with bars to work together on organization and safety
- **Diverse Uses & Activities:** Encouraging more diverse nightlife and entertainment activities and businesses

Pubic Space Design

- **Lighting**

- 6th St decorative poles already had LED bulbs and the brightness is programmed to be turned up at closing time
- All old style fixtures in the district were replaced with LED bulbs (approx. 10% were not working)
- Any future redesign of the street are recommended to include dedicated pedestrian lighting
- We will be encouraging establishments to install security lighting and turn it on at closing time





Public Space Design

Streetscape

- **Goal:** More organized space for pedestrians and lines, reduce congregating in the travel lanes since it hinders pedestrian mobility and leads to a chaotic environment since it is not designed for gathering
- Potential Interventions
 - Wider sidewalks that can accommodate larger crowds and lines
 - Bollards integrated into the street infrastructure
- We have explored pilots and tactical interventions like temporarily widening sidewalks and limited re-opening of travel lanes, but don't have a solution to do these cost-effectively and safely on a temporary basis



Bar Operator Partnerships

- **Goal:**
 - Enhance safety through communication, training and increased operating standards for bars, and better organization of the public space
- **Approach:**
 - Building relationships and trust
 - Focus on prevention, guidance, training, and support
 - Increasing establishments coordination and communication with APD, City Depts and each other



Bar Operator Partnerships

- **Programs**
 - **Nightlife Establishment Training Program**
 - Provide training and support to operators
 - Increase coordination with the City
 - 1st training took place on 4/27/23
 - **Nightlife Establishment Accreditation Program**
 - Enhance establishment operating standards
 - Recognize responsible operators
 - Build a coalition of businesses that work together and hold each other accountable.
 - Program implementation coming soon

Nightlife Establishment Training Program

Active Shooter Response and Stop the Bleed Training

- April 27, 2023
- 35 bar owners, managers and staff registered and attended





Bar Operator Partnerships

Nightlife Establishment Training Program

- **Potential Upcoming Trainings**
 - Harm Reduction and Narcan Training for overdose prevention
 - De-Escalation training for bar staff
 - Door Staff Training
 - Sexual Assault Prevention/Bystander Intervention Training



Nightlife Establishment Accreditation Program

How Do Establishments Get Accredited?

- Adopt Required Policies & Procedures
- Implement Best Practices
- Participate in Required Training

Key Themes

- Security & Door Policies
- Preventing & Responding to Disorderly Conduct and Violence
- Responsible Alcohol Service
- Managing Lines, Crowds & The Space in Front of the Bar
- Diversifying Activities
- Preventing Sexual Harassment & Violence
- Harm Reduction



Nightlife Establishment Accreditation Program

Progress

- Accreditation criteria developed in consultation with bar owners, operators and property owners

Next Steps

- Finalize and publish criteria
- Partner with DAA, 6th St. Property Owners, and other Entertainment District Associations to promote the program
- Promote the program with establishments
- Secure funding for grants to accredited bars to make security enhancements
 - Metal detectors, Security Cameras, Lighting, Line Management Stanchions, ID Scanners etc.



Diversify Uses & Activities

- We believe that enhancements in public space design and bar operator partnerships will contribute to making the district more conducive to diverse uses and activities
- We recognize that achieving this goal involves stakeholders and activities that go well beyond the Safer 6th St Initiative
- We want to emphasize and amplify this aspirational goal since it is central to the vision for a vibrant, safe and well-planned entertainment district



Thank you!