



Granville Island **BUSKERS**

2008/2009 Busker Guidelines Busker Hotline: 604-683-0846

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1.0 GENERAL BUSKER GUIDELINES FOR ALL BUSKERS

Only registered buskers are permitted to perform on Granville Island.

- a) **Buskers must demonstrate a reasonable degree of proficiency in their performances.** Granville Island Cultural Society (hereinafter referred to as “GICS”) reserves the right to determine the standard of proficiency and suspend performing privileges if complaints regarding a busker are received and/or if the busker is unable to consistently maintain the necessary standard. Suspended Buskers will be required to audition at GICS’ convenience before receiving consideration to perform again on Granville Island.
- b) **Buskers must have a neat and clean appearance.**
- c) Buskers must be entertaining in their own right and include, but are not limited to musicians, dancers, jugglers, magicians and circle shows. Buskers, for the purpose of these guidelines, do not include face painters, portrait artists, painters, crafts people, etc., or any person or artist who provides a service or produces a product.
- d) Buskers under the age of 18 years must be present during registration and must also have a parent or guardian present when registering and the parent or guardian must cosign the registration form.
- e) Buskers under the age of 16 years must have a responsible adult accompanying them at all times while performing on Granville Island.
- f) **Buskers must bring their valid pass to the outdoor lottery and clearly display a pass during all performances.**
- g) Buskers must conduct themselves in a **safe, professional and cooperative** manner and abide by the Busker Guidelines in order to receive and maintain permission to perform on Granville Island. Undesirable conduct or failure to uphold the Busker Guidelines will lead to temporary or permanent suspension of performing privileges. Such suspension to be determined at the discretion of GICS.
- h) Buskers must ensure that they are legally permitted to perform in Canada and obtain all permits, clearances, licenses, and performance rights to material presented.
- i) Buskers must abide by the City of Vancouver Noise by-law.
- j) **Buskers must fully cooperate with their fellow Buskers, merchants and GICS staff** and not interfere with, obstruct or inconvenience the performances of another registered busker.
- k) Buskers acknowledge that they are performing for a **family audience** and must refrain from the use of lewd or offensive conduct or language in the course of their performances.
- l) Buskers must acknowledge that the safety and enjoyment of the public is of paramount concern and must always ensure their performance does not directly or indirectly compromise the safety and enjoyment of Granville Island visitors.
- m) Buskers may receive donations for their performances, but must not charge a minimum or set fee for performances. Aggressive or persistent solicitation of donations is not permitted.
- n) Buskers may not sell or distribute products or merchandise without GICS’ permission. Permission will only be granted for the sale of recordings of the busker’s own work available for sale only during their performance.
- o) Buskers may not advertise, endorse or promote products or sponsors without the written permission of GICS. Signs, banners or displays that are not integral to the performance are not permitted. GICS reserves the right to remove any sign, banner or display that obstructs or interferes with pedestrian or traffic circulation, interferes with normal business activity or obstructs views or other signs.
- p) Buskers must not act or represent themselves as agents or employees of Granville Island.
- q) Performances shall only occur on the designated spots shown on Map 1, Map 2 or Map 3 (see attached). **Only quieter, non-amplified unobtrusive performances are permitted at the acoustic locations.** GICS reserves the right to restrict the locations and times available. GICS will provide reasonable advance notification of closures whenever possible.
- r) GICS reserves the right to halt performances that restrict or disrupt the normal business activity, safety or enjoyment of Granville Island for merchants, customers and visitors.
- s) The busker agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Granville Island Cultural Society and CMHC Granville Island from all costs, loss, damages, proceedings, actions, claims, demands and expenses incurred by the busker and sustained or caused by, or arising out of the buskers’ performance and behaviour on Granville Island.

2.0 ANNUAL REGISTRATION

Buskers must apply annually to busk on Granville Island. Buskers will be granted permission in the form of a pass. Passes are valid for one year from May 1, 2008 until April 30, 2009. A non-refundable processing and registration fee must be paid at the time of registration (Cash, Visa or MasterCard).

There are three different types of passes at three different prices.

- 1) **Individual Acoustic** Pass for \$30 allows a busker to play at indoor and outdoor acoustic locations only (Maps 1 and 3).
- 2) **Individual All Access** Pass for \$50 allows a busker to perform at any and all designated busking locations, both amplified and acoustic (Map 2 for amplified locations). They may play acoustically at the amplified locations but not amplified at the acoustic locations.
- 3) **Group** Pass for \$110 for groups of 3 or more and is an outdoor only pass. A group is 3 or more buskers who perform as a group but never separately. Groups whose members wish to have the option to perform in different configurations (i.e. as individuals and other times as a group) must purchase individual passes for all group members instead of purchasing a single group pass.

Lost passes must be replaced, and are subject to a nonrefundable \$15 processing and registration fee. Upgrading of the Acoustic pass to an All Access Pass is available at an administrative charge of \$25. Passes are not transferable. GICS reserves the right to limit the total number of passes available. Passes may also be restricted for certain instruments and performance types.

Buskers must present the **registration fee, valid picture identification and address confirmation** when registering. Buskers must ensure that all registration information remains current and notify GICS of changes to address or telephone numbers. GICS reserves the right to deny registration without valid identification. At GICS' discretion some Buskers may be asked to audition prior to applying for a pass.

3.0 INDOOR BUSKING

There are six indoor busking locations: Petit Ami, Pizza Pzazz, Blue Parrot, Market Grill, A La Mode and The Net Loft. (See map). Only silent acts may perform at A La Mode.

- a) **Buskers must have their Busker Pass visible to the public at all times.**
- b) Prior to 9:30 AM each day, sign up sheets will be posted at each indoor location.
- c) Locations are available in 30-minute blocks from 9:30am to 7:00pm with restrictions clearly noted. PLEASE NOTE: The Net Loft location is only open from 11:00am until 5:00pm.
- d) **Buskers may sign-up for one 30-minute block per location per day.**
- e) Performances shall be a maximum of 30-minutes in length-including time for set up and take down of props and instruments.
- f) All props and equipment must be set up and completely removed from the locations within the time block allocated to that busker. **For no reason may a busker perform into the next 30-minute time block.**
- g) Sign-up is in person only. Spots are available on a "first-come, first-serve basis." Agents or representatives are not eligible to sign-up on a busker's behalf.
- h) No more than two buskers may perform together at any given indoor location.
- i) Locations are held for a maximum 10 minutes after the start time. The location then becomes available to other Buskers.
- j) **Buskers who start late may not perform beyond the end of the time block even if that means they perform less than 30 minutes total.**
- k) Changes to the posted schedule are to be made by GICS only.
- l) Granville Island Public Market Coordinators, GICS staff and CMHC representatives reserve the right to immediately cancel, at their discretion, any performance that is inappropriate or disruptive.
- m) Locations may be occasionally unavailable for performances.
- n) **No amplifiers, pre-recorded music, loud music or loud sounds are permitted indoors.**
- o) Buskers who receive repeated volume and noise complaints without resolution, or an active attempt to resolve the issue, may, at GICS discretion, be limited in their locations or asked to move outside to busk.
- p) Buskers who regularly draw too large a crowd or otherwise obstruct or disrupt pedestrian movement or business activity will not be permitted to perform at the indoor locations.
- q) **Buskers performing at any of the indoor locations must respect the businesses surrounding their performing area and keep volumes low.**
- r) **Buskers are not permitted to use public seating areas, tables or chairs for their performances.**
- s) Buskers must accept all donations but may not aggressively request donations.
- t) Signage must be no larger than 11"x17." Inappropriate signage will be removed at the discretion of GICS.
- u) Some instrument and performance restrictions apply. See page 5 for details.

4.0 OUTDOOR AMPLIFIED BUSKING

There are six outdoor, amplified busking locations on Granville Island. They include: Triangle Square, The Market Courtyard, The Fire Lane, The Keg, Ocean Art Works and The Ferry Landing.

Locations are available in one-hour blocks from 11:00AM to 7:00PM. In other words, 8 blocks at each location are available each day at the discretion of GICS.

The Keg, The Fire Lane, Ocean Artworks, and the Ferry Landing are “**Amplified Lite**” locations. Please see Section 5.0 “Amplification” for details.

The Triangle Square and Market Courtyard are pre-programmed on Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays from May 17 through September 14; on Fridays from 11:00am-3:00pm in June and from 11:00am-7:00pm in July and August. For more information please see the Summer Entertainment on Granville Island (SEGI) Program information pages.

The outdoor amplified locations are selected each day by lottery. The lottery takes place at the Picnic Pavillion located next to the Cat’s Meow Restaurant. All Buskers who wish to play at the outdoor amplified locations must attend the lottery at 10:00am. Numbers are distributed to each busker. The numbers are then put in a hat and drawn one at a time, until all the numbers are drawn. The busker who draws the #1 picks one location, the busker who draws the #2 picks any other spot, and so on until all Buskers have picked one spot. It then goes back to #1 to select a second spot and so on until the spots are taken.

- a) Sign-up is in person only. One member may represent groups. **You must show your valid Busker Pass to be allowed to draw.**
- b) Individuals are not permitted to select locations both as individuals and as members of a group.
- c) **Buskers who miss the sign up will not be allowed to sign up late.**
- d) Buskers must have their Busker Pass available to the public at all times.
- e) Buskers may not trade, switch, sell or exchange their number or spot with another busker; doing so will result in both Buskers losing their sign up privileges.
- f) Any and all changes to the posted schedules are to be made only by GICS.
- g) Buskers who do not receive a spot may replace Buskers who miss or give up their spot but are not assured of a spot.
- h) Buskers who sign up for spots and do not perform may lose their sign up privileges.
- i) Outdoor performances must start on the hour and be a maximum of 45 minutes in length.
- j) Buskers may break their performance into sections or sets but the total length of all sections or sets must not exceed 45 minutes.
- k) All props and equipment must be completely removed from the stage and seating areas at the end of each performance. All props and equipment must be setup and removed within the time allocated to that busker.
- l) Locations are held for up to a maximum of 15 minutes after the start time. The location then becomes available to other buskers. **Buskers wishing to use unclaimed spots must contact GICS 604-683-0846 prior to performing.** In all cases, the one-show-per-location and instrument restrictions will apply.
- m) Some instrument and performance restrictions apply. See Section 6.0 for details.
- n) Buskers must ensure that the audience does not block or impede traffic in any way. Buskers must actively move people forward, and off the roadway, throughout the entire performance. Groups or individuals not respecting this guideline will be prohibited from performing. A non-performing member of the group may be needed to ensure that the audience does not occupy the roadway.

5.0 AMPLIFICATION

Amplification may be used outdoors, at designated amplified locations only, and must be used with care and consideration for the visitors, tenants and nearby residents of Granville Island. We abide by the City of Vancouver Noise by-laws.

Amplification is a privilege on Granville Island. Should the GICS or CMHC decide that buskers are consistently playing too loud because of their amplification, this privilege will be withdrawn.

There are two levels of amplification:

- 1) **“Amplified Locations”**- Sound Levels at Triangle Square and The Market Courtyard will be set by the decibel meter at 70-75 dB, at 6 metres, with the range being between 65-80 dB, to allow for high and low notes.
- 2) **“Amplified Lite Locations”**-Sound Levels at the Keg, Ocean Artworks, the Fire Lane and Ferry Landing will be set by the decibel meter between 65- 70 dB, at 6 metres, and the maximum being 75 dB, to accommodate the businesses that work around these locations and the way that the sound travels.

Buskers wanting to be amplified will have their levels set at two locations, one from each of the Amplified and Amplified Lite locations. **Changing of amplification equipment will require a new level set.**

Buskers must comply with the requests of GICS to reduce their volume. Periodic monitoring of sound levels with a decibel meter will be conducted to ensure reasonable levels. Repeated amplification infractions will be dealt with independently of other infractions and may result in suspension of amplification privileges.

An independent **three-hole punch system** is used and three amplification punches will result in the **suspension of amplification privileges** for a week and every subsequent punch will result in another week’s suspension. Continued amplification infractions may result in suspension of amplification privileges for the season.

Acoustic Locations: The levels at the new acoustic locations will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Absolutely no amplification is allowed.

6.0 INSTRUMENT AND PERFORMANCE RESTRICTIONS

Note: This list may be added to at any time at GICS’ discretion.

Set Lists: Buskers who routinely play three or more days per week need to have **three or more hours** of repertoire performance-ready and must conscientiously **vary their sets daily** to avoid repetition. Buskers who perform less than three days per week must continue to expand their repertoire and may not play the same song more than once in a half-hour or hour period. Indoor buskers must be aware of the proximity of the three market locations-Petit Ami, Pizza Pzazz and the Blue Parrot and vary their sets between those locations. GICS reserves the right to further limit repertoire at their discretion

Backing tracks: The concept of busking is not to create a CD studio sound but a live experience. The use of backing tracks on Granville Island will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Also, any act using pre-recorded backing tracks may at GICS’ discretion have the tracks turned off at any time. A diverse sampling of backing tracks to be used must be submitted for approval by GICS. The parameters followed will include but not be limited to that backing tracks must **enhance but not create the musical experience**. They must be original and created by the user. They cannot overpower the live musician. They must fill out the sound rather than create it. They must **focus on the person not the tracks**. They cannot be instrument style karaoke where the instrument plays over a song.

Psychics and tarot card readers: Busking passes for these and other ‘intuitive arts’ are not available.

Amplified flute artists: Only three registered amplified flute artists are allowed to perform year-round on Granville Island. They are selected through an annual spring audition process. Each act and repertoire must be unique from the rest, and precedence may be given to those acts whose repertoire contains a greater percentage of unique or original music. Precedence may also be given to those acts that use more minimal, or fewer, backing tracks. The standard set by the audition performance must be maintained throughout the year. If all three passes are taken, there will be no more available that year unless one is permanently released. Amplified flutes may not play back to back at any location. There is a maximum of three flute acts per location per day. Amplified flute performances may be further restricted during SEGI. Touring flute-based acts may be accommodated at GICS’ discretion.

Secondary flute artists: Those artists who use an amplified flute in less than 50 percent of their repertoire are not required to audition for one of the Amplified Flute Passes.

Bagpipers: One pass is available to bagpipers. Performance locations are limited to the Keg, Ocean Artworks and the Market Courtyard. Ocean Artworks is only available for bagpiping on weekends and holidays. If the one pass is taken, there will be no more available until that pass is released. Smallpipes may be accepted on a case-by-case basis at GICS’ discretion.

Electronic and other types of keyboards are not permitted at any indoor locations.

Didgeridoos are not permitted to play at any of the indoor locations.

Violins: Violins and fiddles may not play back to back at any location, indoor or outdoor.

Accordion locations may be restricted at GICS' discretion.

Drums: Hand and kit drums are limited at GICS' discretion at all outdoors performance locations. Steel drums are not permitted on Granville Island.

Roving Performance Artists: Due to the unique nature of Rovers they are dealt with on a case-by-case basis at GICS' discretion. Please contact the Busker office for more information.

Statue Performance Artists: Due to the unique nature of Statues they are dealt with on a case-by-case basis at GICS' discretion. Please contact the Busker office for more information.

Balloon Performance Artists: Balloon performance artists must follow all the regular guidelines outlined for all buskers in terms of performance opportunities, time constraints and locations. **No fixed price may be charged for balloon creations.** All donations, regardless of the amount, must be accepted without comment. No other product or item other than balloons can be offered. Balloon performance artists must have a selection of "freebie" balloon art as well as more complex designs. They must ensure the busking areas remain clean. Artists are not permitted to use public seating areas, tables or chairs for their performances. Balloon performance artists are not permitted to approach visitors in the seating areas. A balloon performance artist pass does not guarantee balloon distribution exclusivity.

7.0 SALES OF MUSICAL RECORDINGS

Buskers wishing to sell recordings must complete the Sale of Musical Recordings form.

Buskers may only sell recordings of their own work, listed as on the Sale of Musical Recordings form.

Groups or bands may only sell work of the registered group or band.

Compilations of artists will only be permitted if the busker makes a significant contribution to the entire collection.

One copy of each recording must be left with GICS, prior to sales commencing, to replace defective products and ensure originality.

GICS will also sell copies of the CDs on behalf of buskers.

Buskers are responsible for ensuring they have acquired the necessary rights, licenses, clearances and permission to sell recordings.

Buskers are required to collect and remit all taxes and fees arising from the sale of recordings.

Buskers may only offer recordings for sale during their performances. Sale of recordings must be subtle and inconspicuous, must not be aggressive and must be passive in nature. Only small displays may be used.

Buskers must not aggressively or frequently promote the sale of recordings.

Buskers must ensure the recordings offered for sale are of good and lasting quality.

Buskers must offer customers a complete refund or replacement of defective recordings.

GICS reserves the right to suspend sale of musical recording privileges if a busker does not uphold the Guidelines.

Recordings left in GICS' office after a pass expires and not renewed will automatically be donated to charity within six months from pass expiry if not collected by the artist.

8.0 FIRE AND DANGEROUS PROPS

Buskers must demonstrate a high level of skill and control when handling, juggling or using fire or dangerous props.

GICS reserves the right to refuse permission to perform or halt a performance if the use is considered unsafe.

Under no circumstances can fire or dangerous props be used in indoor performance locations.

A defined separation of 3 to 5 meters or more must be created and maintained between the performance and audience when fire or dangerous props are used.

Gasoline may not be used as a fuel.

Buskers using fire must have an approved fire extinguisher in good working order readily available and clearly visible to the audience during performances.

Buskers must be familiar with first aid locations and emergency procedures. Buskers are responsible for any injury or damage to persons or property.

Buskers using fire or dangerous props must complete a separate Fire and Dangerous Props Declaration.

9.0 ELECTRICAL POWER

Electrical power may be available at the outdoor stages.

Buskers need a 50' extension cord to play at some locations.

Buskers must ensure that their equipment, cables and cords meet current safety standards.

Cords or other equipment must not cross roadways or in any way interfere with the safe and convenient movement of pedestrians. Cords may not directly cross a pedestrian walkway.

Cords and cables should be taped down to prevent accidents.

GICS reserves the right to disconnect any equipment that is likely to cause injury or damage.

Power may not be available due to maintenance, repairs or safety concerns. Power is available only at the discretion of CMHC.

GICS assumes no responsibility for any damage that may occur to a Buskers' equipment-including damage or loss caused by interruption of power or disconnection or removal of equipment.

If a busker notices a problem with the power, he/she should notify GICS immediately in order to repair the problem.

10.0 ENFORCEMENT OF GUIDELINES

The Granville Island Buskers Busker Guidelines will be enforced by a **three-punch system**. Each time a busker breaks a rule, the busker will have his/her busking pass hole punched.

Amplification infractions will be dealt with in a separate manner that is outlined under section 5.0 Amplification.

For all other infractions, once a busker acquires three punches in his/her card, the busker will be suspended for one week. The busker will not be reinstated until they have met with the Busker Coordinator or a GICS representative. It is the responsibility of the suspended busker to schedule the meeting.

Each additional punch after three will result in a one-week suspension and possible revocation of the pass and performance privileges altogether. Any and all levels of guideline enforcement are entirely at GICS' discretion. It is important that buskers read and understand all of the busking guidelines.

It is the busker's responsibility to become familiar with the rules and guidelines.

Certain behaviour will result in immediate suspension, or registration restriction:

1. Physical or verbal abuse to anyone on Granville Island, including fellow Buskers
2. Any inappropriate or dangerous behavior or performance

Inappropriate behavior includes, but is not limited to: swearing, yelling, intoxication, intimidation, belligerence, harassment, manipulation etc. Buskers may receive permanent suspension of performance privileges if they show continued disrespect for the program.

11.0 BUSKER MANAGEMENT

GICS manages the Granville Island Buskers Program on behalf of CMHC-Granville Island. All queries and concerns about busking performances on Granville Island should be directed to GICS at 604-683-0846. GICS retains the right to change or amend the Guidelines at its own discretion. Granville Island Cultural Society also reserves the right to refuse to issue a pass to an individual or group at its discretion.

Buskers may pass on their kudos, comments and concerns to

Granville Island Cultural Society at 604-683-0846

Or by mail to 101-1398 Cartwright Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6H 3R8

Or email: gibuskers@telus.net

Regular office hours are Monday to Friday 11:00am to 1:00pm. After 1:00pm and weekends are by appointment only.