

SAN FRANCISCO

ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY22-23 & FY23-24



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1. JURISDICTION



THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION WAS CREATED BY LEGISLATION IN JULY 2002. IN NOVEMBER 2002, MEASURE F AMENDED THE CHARTER TO SPLIT THE APPOINTMENTS BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

SEC. 4.117. ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION.

The San Francisco Entertainment Commission shall consist of seven members nominated and appointed pursuant to this section. The Mayor shall nominate four members to the commission, and the Board of Supervisors shall appoint, by motion, three other members to the commission. Each nomination of the Mayor shall be subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors and shall be the subject of a public hearing and vote within 60 days. If the Board of Supervisors fails to act on a mayoral nomination within 60 days of the date the nomination is transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the nominee shall be deemed approved. Appointments to the commission shall become effective on the date the Board of Supervisors adopts a motion approving the nomination or on the 61st day following the date the mayoral nomination was transmitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors if the Board of Supervisors fails to act upon the nomination prior to such date.

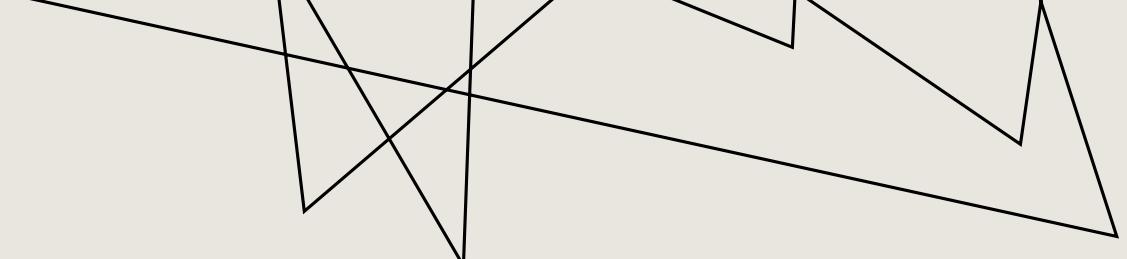
Of the four members nominated by the Mayor, the Mayor shall nominate one member to represent the interests of City neighborhood associations or groups, one member to represent the interests of entertainment associations or groups, one member to represent the interests of the urban planning community, and one member to represent the interests of the law enforcement community. Of the three members of the commission appointed by the Board of Supervisors, one member shall represent the interests of City neighborhood associations or groups, one member shall represent the interests of entertainment associations or groups, and one member shall represent the interests of the public health community.

To stagger the terms of the members, the initial appointments to the commission shall be as follows: the Mayor shall nominate two members to serve terms of four years, one member to serve a term of three years, and one member to serve a term of two years. Of the three remaining members of the commission, the Board of Supervisors shall appoint one member to serve a term of four years, one member to serve a term of three years, and one member to serve a term of two years. Except for appointments to fill a vacancy, all subsequent appointments shall be for a term of four years. Members of the commission nominated by the Mayor may be suspended by the Mayor and removed by the Board of Supervisors only as set forth in Section 15.105. Members of the commission appointed directly by the Board of Supervisors may be suspended by a motion of the Board of Supervisors approved by six votes and may be removed by the Board of Supervisors only as set forth in Section 15.105 (Added November 2002).

SEC. 90.1 DECLARATION OF POLICY

It is the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to have a system of coordinated planning and permitting for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments throughout the City to promote such establishments and events for the economic and cultural enrichment of San Franciscans and visitors to San Francisco, and to celebrate the diverse communities within San Francisco.

To facilitate this goal, it is the policy of the City to have the San Francisco Entertainment Commission:



1. Assist the organizers and operators of cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments to apply for, and obtain from the commission and other City departments when the applicant satisfies the requirements therefore, all necessary permits from the City;
2. Promote the responsible conduct and operation of such events and establishments;
3. Promote the development of a vibrant entertainment and late-night entertainment industry within the City;
4. Promote the use of City facilities for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events that generate revenue for the City;
5. Foster harm reduction policies, including but not limited to reduction of risks from substance use, hearing protection, heat exhaustion, and relevant health and safety measures;
6. Develop and recommend to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors “good neighbor policies” that appropriately balance the cultural, economic, employment and other benefits of a vibrant entertainment and late-night entertainment industry with the needs of residents and businesses in the vicinity of entertainment venues;
7. Mediate disputes between persons affected by cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events and establishments, and the organizers of such events and operators of such establishments;
8. Assume responsibility from the Police Department for issuing entertainment-related permits;
9. Plan and coordinate City services for major events or which there is no recognized or adequate organizer or promoted, such as Halloween bacchanalia in the Castro District and New Year’s Eve festivities; and
10. Provide information regarding venues and services appropriate for conducting events and functions ancillary to conventions held within the City, including conventions at the Moscone Convention Center. (Added by Ord. 164-02, File No. 020784, App. 7/26/2002).



2. POWERS AND DUTIES

SEC. 90.4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION

In addition to the powers and duties set forth in Sections 4.102, 4.103 and 4.104 of the Charter, the commission shall have the following powers and duties:

- (a) Accept, review, gather information regarding, and conduct hearings upon applications for entertainment-related permits; and rule upon and issue, deny, condition, suspend, revoke or transfer entertainment-related permits in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The commission may authorize the executive director or permit administrators, or both, to rule upon applications and grant, deny, condition, transfer or modify specified types of entertainment-related permits deemed by the commission to be routine and unlikely to pose significant negative impacts on persons in the vicinity of the event or establishment for which the permit is sought; provided, that any City department with an interest in the permit or person having a right to appeal to the Board of Appeals under Section 30 of the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code may, in writing, (i) request that the permit application be heard in the first instance by the commission, or (ii) request reconsideration by the commission of the executive director's or permit administrator's decision. If the commission grants a request for reconsideration, it may hear the matter *de novo*, or may limit its review to the administrative record that was before the executive director or permit administrator at the time of his or her decision.
- (b) Impose reasonable conditions upon the issuance or renewal of entertainment-related permits consistent with the applicable law, regulations and the good neighbor policy or policies for the location or locations of the establishment or event for which the permit is sought.
- (c) Suspend, revoke or withdraw entertainment-related permits in accordance with the law and regulations governing such permits.
- (d) Coordinate with all relevant City departments for the conduct of any inspection or investigation necessary or appropriate for the full and fair consideration of applications for the issuance, renewal or transfer of entertainment-related permits, including without limitation the Police Department and the Department of Public Health.
- (e) Promote the use of City facilities for cultural, entertainment, athletic and similar events that generate revenue for the City, in consultation with the City departments having jurisdiction over such facilities.

- (f) Develop and recommend to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors "good neighbor policies" that balance competing interests and promote the health, safety and welfare of San Franciscans and visitors to San Francisco.
- (g) Mediate disputes between persons affected by cultural, entertainment and athletic events and establishments permitted by the City and the organizers of such events and operators of such establishments.
- (h) Plan and coordinate the provision of City services for major events for which there is no recognized organizer, promoter or sponsor, or where identified organizers, promoters or sponsors cannot, in the opinion of the commission, provide adequate planning and coordination for the size, geographic distribution or nature of the event. For purposes of this Chapter, "major events" means an anticipated gathering of persons on or adjacent to public property or roadways that is likely to require police services, fire services, toilet facilities, traffic control, the availability of potable water or other City services to protect the health, safety and welfare of participants, neighbors or other persons likely to be affected by the event, including but not limited to spontaneous gatherings on Halloween, Pride events (including Pink Saturday), St. Patrick's Day and New Year's Eve.
- (i) Prepare and submit to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors a report analyzing the commission's effectiveness in advancing the policies specified in Section 90.1 and the laws governing entertainment-related permits, and making recommendations related thereto. The commission shall submit the report to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors within one year of effective date of this Chapter, and not less than once every five years thereafter.

With the approval of the Recreation and Parks Commission or Port Commission, as the case may be, exercise the powers and perform the duties set forth in this Section with respect to events and establishments to be held or operated upon property or within facilities under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Commission or Port Commission. (Added by Ord. 164-02, File No. 020783, App. 7/26/2002)

3. IMPORTANCE OF ENTERTAINMENT IN SAN FRANCISCO

Entertainment and nightlife aren't just cultural benefits; they are also major economic drivers.

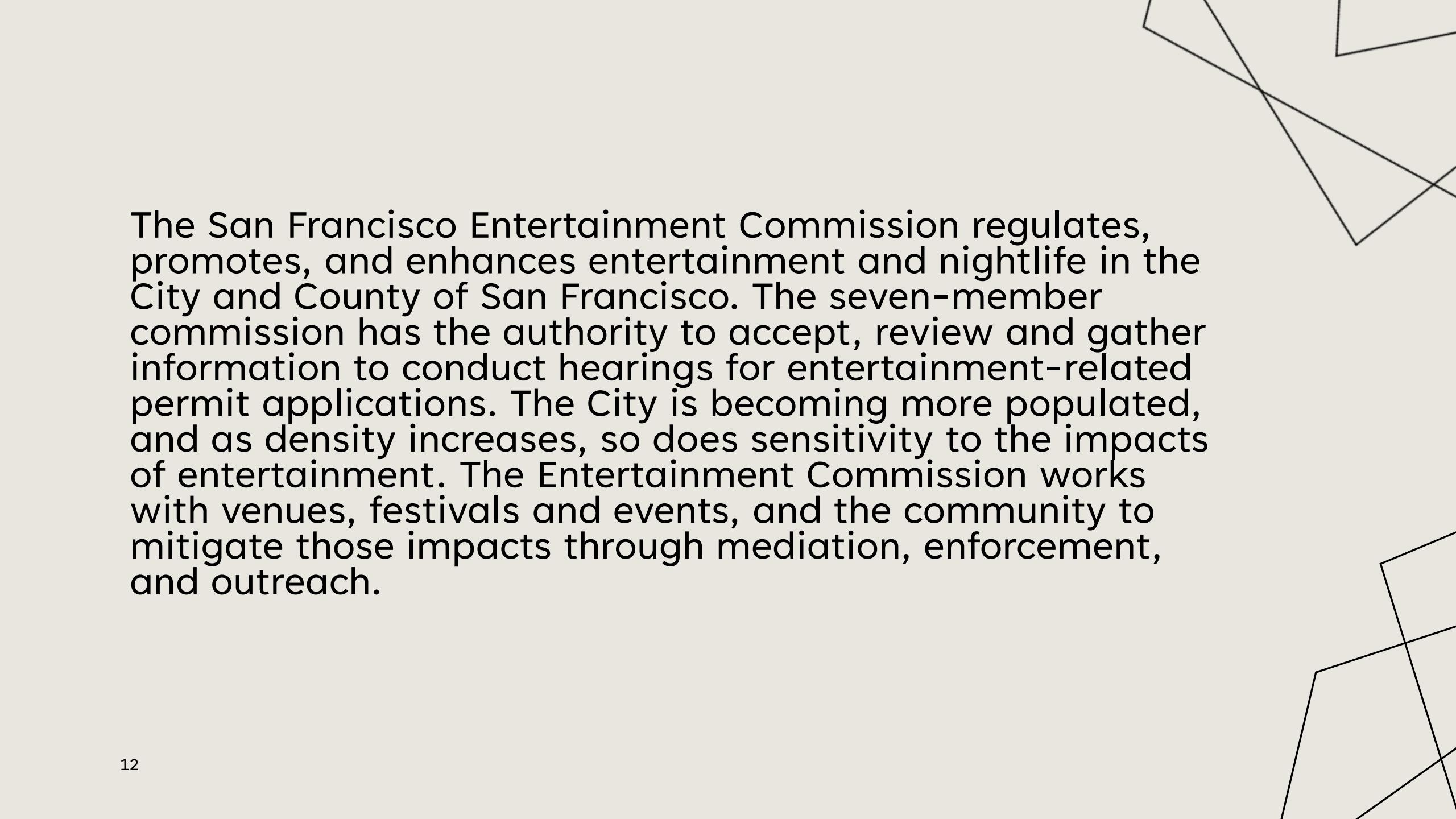
Visit NightlifeSF.org for news about programs to support the growth of the nightlife industry.



- In March 2012, the Controller's Office released an economic impact study of San Francisco's nightlife businesses that illustrates the importance of nightlife to San Francisco. This study was subsequently updated in 2016. Additionally, in April 2015, the Controller's Office conducted a study of the economic impact of outdoor events in San Francisco. Among the findings:
- In 2019, over 3,850 nightlife establishments citywide employed over 64,000 workers, and generated an estimated \$7.2 billion in economic impact. These establishments also contribute over \$80 million in payroll taxes and sales taxes to the City annually. As of 2021, the sector contained 3,670 businesses and over 39,600 workers, with an estimated \$5 billion in spending.
- From 2010 to 2019, the City added over 16,000 nightlife jobs, or a 25% increase. Between 2010 and 2019, all nightlife industries added employment. Restaurants are by far the largest of the industries, however venues/nightclubs, bars, performing arts companies, and art galleries all increased employment during the eight-year period.
- Notably, nightlife employment largely plateaued between 2017 and 2019, from 63,713 to 64,005 employees, with an increase in venue employment almost entirely offsetting slight declines in other subsectors. 2018 was the first year to see a year-over-year decline in total nightlife employment since at least 2010.
- Nightlife is vital to San Francisco's tourism industry. The 2012 study found that 94% of Bay Area residents visited the City at night to patronize a nightlife business. For 31% of visitors from outside of San Francisco, a live music venue or nightclub was the main reason for their visit. On average, Bay Area patrons spent an average of \$105 per night on nightlife, while San Francisco residents spent an average of \$61 per night.
- The nightlife industry also supports the City's economy by purchasing \$1.6 billion annually in services and supplies from local businesses, ranging from food and beverages to performers.
- In 2014, 3.3 million people attended 79 outdoor events, where they spent an estimated \$290 million.
- On average, food spending at outdoor events is equivalent to 10% of citywide spending at restaurants and bars.
- Survey data reveals that visitors to San Francisco represented 58% of attendees, and 85% of them reported that the main reason they visited San Francisco was to attend the event.
- The spending of these visitors has a \$1.1 billion direct and indirect impact on the city's economy, and supports 9,300 private sector jobs in the retail, food services, accommodations, transportation, and other industries.
- Outdoor events sustain a significant share of jobs in the hospitality industry, including an estimated 7% of restaurant and 6% of hotel employment.

4. WHAT DOES THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION DO?



The background of the slide features abstract geometric shapes in black, including a large 'X' in the upper right and several overlapping triangles and rectangles in the lower right and center. The shapes are thin-lined and white-filled.

The San Francisco Entertainment Commission regulates, promotes, and enhances entertainment and nightlife in the City and County of San Francisco. The seven-member commission has the authority to accept, review and gather information to conduct hearings for entertainment-related permit applications. The City is becoming more populated, and as density increases, so does sensitivity to the impacts of entertainment. The Entertainment Commission works with venues, festivals and events, and the community to mitigate those impacts through mediation, enforcement, and outreach.



5. WHO IS THE COMMISSION?

The Commission is made up of seven members: four appointed by the Mayor and three appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and each representing a specific constituency.

APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR:

Commission President, Industry Rep	Ben Bleiman (2017-Current)
Commissioner, Law Enforcement Rep	Dave Falzon (2018-2023), Leonard Poggio (2024-Current)
Commissioner, Neighborhood Rep	Al Perez (2009-2025), Jordan Wilson (2025-Current)
Commission Vice President, Urban Planning Rep	Cyn Wang (2020-Current)

APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Commissioner, Neighborhood Rep	Anthony Schlander (2024-Current)
Commissioner, Industry Rep	Steven Lee (2012-2022), Stephen Torres (2022-2024), Maria Davis (2024-Current)
Commissioner, Public Health Rep	Laura Thomas (2016-Current)

COMMISSION STAFF

Maggie Weiland	Executive Director
Kaitlyn Azevedo	Deputy Director
Dylan Rice	Project and Communications Manager
May Liang	Permit Administrator and Commission Secretary
Andrew Zverina	Senior Inspector
Asa Jungreis	Inspector
Alex Adams	Inspector
Michael Fiorentino	Inspector (2018-2023)
Syd Zelenak	Inspector (2023-2024)

6. PERMITS ISSUED AND SERVICED



THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION ISSUES A VARIETY OF PERMITS. THE MAJORITY ARE THE FOLLOWING:

Place of Entertainment (POE)

Limited Live Performance (LLP)

Extended Hours Premises (EHP)

Mechanical Amusement Device (MAD)

Billiard Parlor (BP)

One Time Events (OTP)

THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION ISSUED THE FOLLOWING NEW FIXED PLACE PERMITS FROM 2022-2024

Permit Type	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Billiards Parlor (BP)	2	3
Dance Hall Keeper (DHK)	0	0
Extended Hours Premises (EHP)	0	1
Fixed Place Amplified Sound (FPAS)	4	8
Limited Live Performance (LLP)	35	51
Mechanical Amusement Device (MAD)	0	2
Place of Entertainment (POE)	12	11
Total	53	76

BRICK AND MORTAR LICENSE RENEWALS

Permit Type	FY2022-2023	FY2023-2024
Billiards Parlor (BP)	96	86
Dance Hall Keeper (DHK)	6	5
Extended Hours Premises (EHP)	79	76
Fixed Place Amplified Sound (FPAS)	-	10
Limited Live Performance (LLP)	135	195
Mechanical Amusement Device (MAD)	64	56
Place of Entertainment (POE)	302	293
Total	628	721

ONE TIME PERMITS



In FY22 - 23, the Entertainment Commission issued **161 Just Add Music (JAM) permits, and **215** one-time event permits.**



Fun Fact: 677 JAM permits were issued since the pandemic program launched in September 2020. The program ended March 31, 2023, and was replaced by the One Time Outdoor Event permit.



In FY23 - 24, the Entertainment Commission issued **452 one-time event permits.**



In addition to granting new permits, the Entertainment Commission is responsible for regulating fixed place permits throughout the year. Valid permits are kept up-to-date with licenses issued and renewed annually by the Tax Collector.



7. STAFFING AND BUDGET

The Entertainment Commission office is staffed with:

Executive Director (1)

Deputy Director (1)

Senior Analyst (1)

Commission Secretary / Permit Administrator (1)

Senior Inspector (1)

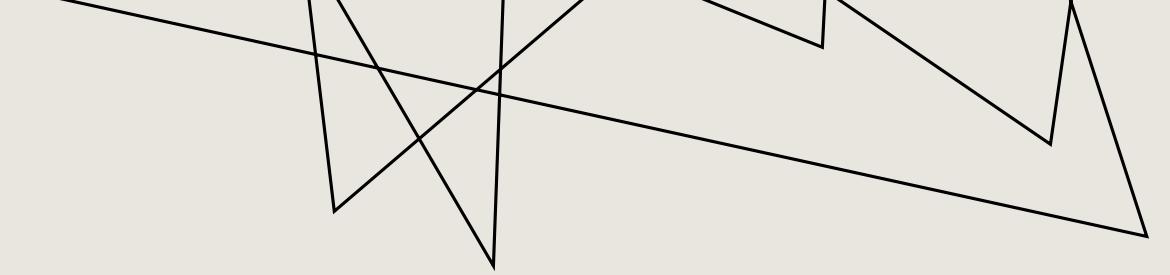
Part-Time Inspectors (2)

The operating budget for the Entertainment Commission in FY23-24 was approximately \$1,682,000

7. ENFORCEMENT



- The Entertainment Commission is tasked with ensuring that nightlife venues are complying with their permit conditions and our Good Neighbor Policy (GNP). The GNP is a list of 8 conditions under which all venues should operate to create and maintain harmony with their neighbors.
- The Deputy Director oversees the enforcement team comprised of one full-time Senior Inspector position, and two part-time Inspector positions. The Inspectors visit venues regularly to monitor compliance with their permit conditions and the Good Neighbor Policy. They also follow up on complaints from residents and reports from the San Francisco Police Department and other City agencies, including real-time complaints from 3-1-1. Typically, a first violation results in a Notice of Violation, with citations issued for repeated violations. Serious or repeated violations can result in a Director's Order, and in very serious circumstances, a suspension or revocation of a permit.
- In FY 2022 - 2023, the Entertainment Commission issued 26 Notices of Violations, 22 Citations, and 3 Director's Suspensions. No revocations were issued.
- In FY 2023 - 2024, the Entertainment Commission issued 16 Notices of Violations, 29 Citations, 1 Director's Suspension, and 1 Permit Revocation.
- As San Francisco's population increases and housing is developed in areas that were previously industrial or commercial, so does the potential for conflicts between nightlife and residents.
- Most of the time, the inspectors are able to work with the venues and the residents to come up with a solution, rather than issue citations or suspensions. The Entertainment Commission and staff also facilitate meetings between residents and venues to resolve issues so that residents and nightlife can coexist.



9. CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PRESERVE NIGHTLIFE IN SAN FRANCISCO

ADMIN CODE CHAPTER 116: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND NIGHTLIFE COMPATIBILITY

Bursting at the seams with a population of 808,437 within 47 square miles, San Francisco is the second most densely populated major American city, trailing only New York, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The second tech boom continues to bring many new residents into the City, and as a result, an increase in residential development. With only a finite amount of available land to develop, new housing has been constructed mainly in mixed-use areas where residential and commercial spaces neighbor one another. Oftentimes, these commercial spaces are home to music venues, or what the Entertainment Commission refers to as Places of Entertainment.

In an effort to reduce potential conflict between existing Places of Entertainment and new residential development in San Francisco, the City and County envisioned and passed legislation championed by Supervisor London Breed together with the Entertainment Commission in 2015 under Administrative Code Chapter 116 called Compatibility and Protection for Residential Uses and Places of Entertainment.

In brief, the law does three things:

- It authorizes the San Francisco Entertainment Commission to hold a hearing on any proposed residential development located near a Place of Entertainment and allows the Commission to provide written comments and recommendations to the Planning Department and Department of Building Inspection about any noise issues related to the proposed project.
- It requires lessors and sellers of residential property near Places of Entertainment to disclose to new lessees and purchasers about the potential for noise and other inconveniences potentially associated with nearby venues before they rent or buy.
- It establishes that no permitted Place of Entertainment located near a new residential development shall be a public or private nuisance on the basis of noise, if the venue operates in compliance with its permits and appropriate laws.

To learn more about the Compatibility and Protection for Residential Uses and Places of Entertainment ordinance, or to take the first steps in this process as a developer or project sponsor, please visit www.SF.gov/EntertainmentCommission

Residential Development Review Program Measures:

- # of Projects Reviewed to date: 152
- # of New Residential Dwelling Units Reviewed to date: 11,064
- # of New Hotel/Motel Bed Reviewed to date: 1,958

10. FY22-23 AND FY23-24 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ENFORCEMENT

- Responded to just over 1,100 sound complaints submitted through 3-1-1
- Responded to nearly 1,100 sound complaints submitted through 3-1-1

LEGISLATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Established criteria for reviewing applications for Just Add Music (JAM) permits whose applicants are formalizing their outdoor activity under a Brick and Mortar (BAM) permit to be on the consent agenda at our hearings, allowing for a more streamlined process for the applicant and the Commission.
- New Legislation:
 - Worked with OEWD to draft legislation to provide application and initial license fee waivers for JAM to BAM permit holders.
 - Refunded the cost of just over \$15,000 for 22 brick and mortar permit applications and 16 initial license fees.
 - Waived the cost of \$10,500 for 14 brick and mortar applications and 9 initial license fees since January 2024.
 - Waived over \$10,000 for the costs of 19 One Time Outdoor Event permit applications to help businesses continue their entertainment operations while awaiting approval of their Shared Spaces permit.
 - In FYs 22 – 24, waived application fees for 60 brick and mortar permits and 29 One Time Event permits, totaling just over \$105,700, as part of the Treasurer and Tax Collector's First Year Free (FYF) program to help support and revive small businesses.
 - Modernized Municipal Police Code, including authorizing the Director to issue Billiard Parlor (BP) permits without a hearing and requiring Limited Live Performance (LLP) permit holders to submit a security plan if necessary to protect the safety of persons and property.
- Improving digital tools and user experience:
 - In July 2022, completed migration of the Entertainment Commission sfgov.org webpages to the SF.gov platform.
 - In January 2023, worked with Digital Services to digitize our six brick and mortar permits into one digital application to create a streamlined process.
 - Integrated and update quarterly a map of current EC permitted businesses into the website

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF DOWNTOWN

- Worked with the Mayor’s Office, OEWD, Planning, and City arts agencies on developing initiatives to support the Mayor’s Roadmap to Downtown SF’s Future, announced in February 2023.
- The EC is focused on supporting a key strategy in driving SF’s economic recovery—“Transform Downtown into a leading arts, culture, and nightlife destination”—to help entertainment and nightlife businesses start, grow, and thrive for long-term success.
- Continued working with the OEWD, Mayor’s Office, Planning, and City arts agencies on implementing Downtown Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (ACE) Recovery Strategies. Led by OEWD, these strategies include:
 - Providing new funding to support existing businesses.
 - Providing new tools to support businesses and explore new business models.
 - Supporting new and existing outdoor events downtown.
 - Advocating for broader relief and recognition for the sector citywide.
- Continued to support OEWD in the implementation of these strategies through feasibility research, sharing new policies and opportunities with the local industry, and facilitating fee waivers to provide financial relief.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

- In 2022, held the 13th Annual SF Nightlife and Entertainment Summit, convening venue operators, event organizers, government officials, and other entertainment/nightlife stakeholders to address the issues facing the industry and discuss ways to work together toward long-term recovery.
 - 105 attended in person and 397 watched the livestream on YouTube.
 - Added a resource fair of eight City departments to increase stakeholders' access to City services and share information impacting the industry.
- Conducted an annual survey in September–October 2022 to understand the financial and social impacts of the pandemic and to assess needs and priorities a year after reopening in order to inform strategies to support the recovery efforts of the industry.
 - Received feedback from 134 respondents
 - Two-thirds of respondents gave the Entertainment Commission a rating between 8 and 10 (“Very Responsive”) when asked to rate the EC’s responsiveness to their needs or questions during the pandemic.

- Launched the Overdose Prevention in Nightlife campaign in June 2023 in partnership with SF Dept. of Public Health to raise the industry's awareness of the fentanyl overdose crisis and to increase the industry's access to Narcan, trainings and education to prevent and reverse an overdose from fentanyl.
 - Produced an overdose prevention training video starring drag queen Kochina Rude. The video is a step-by-step tutorial on how to identify the signs of a fentanyl overdose, how to reverse an overdose using Narcan, and how to use fentanyl test strips to detect the presence of fentanyl.
 - The video had the highest engagement of any EC-produced video to date with 109,000+ views and 5800+ likes
 - Created a resource page on EC's website to coincide with the video launch to provide information on accessing trainings, supplies and service organizations
 - In June 2023, held the first outreach event at Midnight Sun, where Narcan training/supplies and fentanyl test strips were dispensed.
- Shared the latest rules and resources relevant to the industry via newsletters and social media posts:
 - Sent 23 newsletters to 3,100+ subscribers. 53% average open rate from March–June 2023.
 - Engaged with 2,100+ followers via 95 posts across all social media platforms.
- In August 2023, hosted 2 outreach events in the nightlife community as a part of the Overdose Prevention in Nightlife campaign in partnership with SFDPH and Drag Queen Kochina Rude. Held at Oasis SF and El Rio, these events raised the community's awareness of the opioid overdose crisis and increased community access to Narcan and fentanyl test strips, a new training video, and other resources, with the ultimate goal of saving lives. 500+ attendees.

- Shared the latest rules and resources relevant to the industry:
 - Sent 22 newsletters to 3,300+ subscribers. 53% average open rate.
 - Engaged with 2,400+ followers via 112 posts on social media platforms.
- In Fall 2023, partnered with the Office of Small Business and the Assessor-Recorder's Office to co-chair the APEC Community Advisory Committee to provide outreach to small businesses and the nightlife community leading up to the APEC conference in November.
 - Shared impacts on traffic and access, guidance on how they can prepare, and a platform to promote their events to attendees and media.
 - Partnered with DEM to create a calendar of special events happening with the goal of improving situational awareness for first responders.
- In December 2023, celebrated our 20th Anniversary with a social media campaign that engaged elected and other government officials to share what nightlife and the EC mean to them, and to celebrate the holiday season.
- Conducted the annual business survey to understand the continued financial and social impacts of the pandemic on the industry, and to assess its changing needs and priorities. These findings inform strategies to support the long-term recovery of the industry.



THANK YOU

San Francisco Entertainment Commission
49 South Van Ness Ave., Suite 1482
San Francisco, CA 94102

628-652-6030

entertainment.commission@sfgov.org

sfgov.org/entertainmentcommission