Open for Business KC
How-To Guide

A RESOURCE FOR GOING BACK TO BUSINESS BY EXPANDING OUTDOORS
STEP 01
GO TO COMPASSKC TO GET STARTED.

STEP 02
CHOOSE YOUR APPLICATION TYPE.

STEP 03
COMPLETE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION.

STEP 04
WAIT FOR STAFF REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

STEP 05
RECEIVE APPROVED PERMIT VIA EMAIL.

STEP 06
BUILD YOUR CAFE OR PARKLET.

STEP 07
LOCATION SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

HOW TO CREATE SIDEWALK CAFES, STREET CAFES + PARKLETS

STEP 01
DOWNLOAD AND COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION.

STEP 02
EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO POD@KCMO.ORG

OPEN STREETS
The City of Kansas City, MO recently adopted an ordinance permitting temporary closures for open streets and open cafes to help the city get back to business while maintaining social distancing.

If you are considering reopening your business during the coming months, you may want to consider expanding to the outdoors to allow your customers and staff to maintain social distancing.

FOR THE LATEST OFFICIAL INFORMATION, CHECK OUT THE KCMO WEBSITE:

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MO
PARKING LOT DINING SPACE*

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An extension of an eating or drinking place in a private parking lot that provides restaurant or beverage service.
This guide includes do-it-yourself instructions that are easy to build, install and use. Cityfi, in partnership with Street Smarts Design + Build has compiled this resource for Midtown KC Now and other community stakeholders in support of businesses during COVID-19. In addition to these designs by Street Smarts, we have included other references and resources herein to help you get started.

STREET FURNITURE

DEFINITION:

PARKLETS

A PARKLET IS A SMALL SEATING AREA OR GREEN SPACE, OFTEN TEMPORARY, CREATED WITHIN A ROADSIDE PARKING SPACE.

IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING VISIBILITY THAT YOU ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS, PARKLETS ADD SPACE FOR YOU TO OPERATE WHILE ALLOWING YOUR CUSTOMERS TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

PARKLETS CAN BE USED FOR OUTDOOR DINING, LEISURE, RETAIL SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT, BICYCLE AND SCOOTER PARKING WITHOUT IMPEDING THE SIDEWALK.

BUDGET

SIDEWALK CAFES, STREET CAFES AND PARKLETS CAN VARY SIGNIFICANTLY IN QUALITY, AMENITIES, AND SIZE. CONSEQUENTLY, SO TOO WILL THE BUDGET. IF YOU HAVE EXISTING OUTDOOR FURNITURE OR ARE HANDY ENOUGH TO BUILD YOUR OWN FURNITURE, YOU CAN KEEP COSTS DOWN. WE ESTIMATE THE AVERAGE OPEN BUSINESS SPACE COSTS APPROXIMATELY $2500.
DIY TABLE
Tables for dining or lounging can be relatively easy to construct (see next page) and install. Alternatively, you can purchase or repurpose tables. Consider your available space and choose a size and design to safely distance.

DIY BENCH
Seating will ensure your customers come to visit and stay a while. This DIY bench can be simply constructed to various widths depending on the sidewalk cafe, street cafe or parklet space you are working within.

MULTI-PURPOSE SEATING
This is a versatile piece that can be used as a place to sit or for short-term scooter and bicycle storage. It also serves as a partition from adjacent uses as a street cafe or open space.

PLANTERS
Bringing in living plants can help make the space feel softer, cooler and quieter when there is otherwise a lot of concrete and asphalt. This planter is more complicated to construct but store-bought planters can also work well.

SHADE
A swing is not only a whimsical element but, in this case, also incorporates shade which can be essential on streets without a tree canopy. Consider umbrellas or shade structures to improve the comfort of your customers.

PARTITIONS
You may want to consider screens or other barriers to clearly mark the edges of your open business space. This will help communicate how to access the space and serve as a visual buffer to enhance the experience.

PLAY SPACES
Play spaces are engaging for all ages and are a fun way to keep your customers longer. Consider how you might integrate play elements into your parklet space and how you will maintain them for cleanliness.

GET INSPIRED.
SEARCH ONLINE FOR MORE INSPIRATION.

[IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT]
LODZ, POLAND
TORONTO, CANADA
CINCINNATI, OHIO
MATERIALS NEEDED
Lumber:
- Two (2) 4" x 4" x 8’ [cut: 4-40” legs]
- Two (2) 2” x 4” x 8’
- One (1) 2” x 4” x 12’ [cut: 4-30” stretchers]
- Six (6) 5/4” x 6” x 8’

Hardware
- 3” Deck Screws

Tools
- Miter or circular saw (or have your hardware store make the cuts)
- Drill
- Finish nailer (optional)

DIY COST ESTIMATE
- $65

DIY Table

01. CUT THE TWO 4X4” POSTS INTO FOUR 40” LEGS.

02. USE THE DECK SCREWS TO FASTEN THE 2X4S TOGETHER AS A FRAME.

03. CUT THE 12-FT 2X4S INTO FOUR 30” PIECES.

04. USE THE DECK SCREWS TO SECURE THE LEGS INTO THE FRAME.

05. SECURE THE 5/4 BOARDS TO THE TOP OF THE TABLE.

06. PAINT, IF DESIRED. TAKE IT OUTSIDE. ENJOY.
DIY Bench

MATERIALS NEEDED
Lumber:
- One (1) 4" x 4" x 8' [cut: 4-40" legs]
- One (1) 2" x 4" x 12' [cut: 2-72" apron]
- One (1) 2" x 4" x 3' [cut: 4-16" stretchers]
- Three (3) 5/4" x 6" x 6' [cut: 3-72" seat planks]

Hardware
- 3" Deck Screws

Tools
- Miter or circular saw (or have your hardware store make the cuts)
- Drill
- Finish nailer (optional)

DIY COST ESTIMATE
- $30–$40

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04. USE THE DECK SCREWS TO SECURE THE LEGS INTO THE FRAME.

05. SECURE TO THE TOP OF THE TABLE.

06. PAINT, IF DESIRED. TAKE IT OUTSIDE. ENJOY.
With reopening efforts now underway, Marquee Event Rentals would like to offer you different ideas for expanding outdoor storefronts and restaurant space so that businesses can start operating safely with the new restrictions put in place.

BikeWalkKC is working with regional partners to assist with “Open Streets” efforts that may close neighborhood streets to through traffic. We will make our Lending Library’s bollards ONLY available for this purpose as requested.

Better Block KC helps Kansas City visualize the potential for great, walkable and vibrant neighborhoods. With a strong design team and the help of local volunteers, Better Block KC gives us the opportunity to feel the impact of investing in our neighborhoods.

KCMO is rethinking its streets to better support active transportation. This guide, a KCMO partnership with the Better Block Foundation, illustrates how to maximize the KCMO Neighborhood Open Streets project. Includes DIY barriers and signage resources.

Street Smarts Design + Build has carved out a niche in micromobility parking, small placemaking projects, and tactical urbanism. DuRon can advise you on what elements work best for your space and can construct any number of elements for your space.

With guides and resources for all aspects of design, policy and best practices, NACTO inspires work across the country through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. The Urban Bikeway Design Guide is directly referenced in the Neighborhood Streets How-To Guide (see left).

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STREETSMARTS DESIGNBUILD.COM
DuRon Netsell
duron.netsell@gmail.com

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Marquee Event Rentals
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NTL ASSOCIATION OF CITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
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SHARE YOUR OPEN STREET, CAFE + PARKLETS.  
#OPENSTREETSkc

The volunteers who created this guide are not responsible for the accuracy of any of the how-to information or for any of the referenced resources contained herein.

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