



# Street performer GUIDELINES



As a street performer in New Orleans, you are part of the city's vibrant culture. To ensure everyone enjoys the experience—whether they're performers, residents, or tourists—please follow the guidelines below. These are designed to help you navigate the rules and ensure your performances run smoothly.

## Your Rights & Responsibilities:

1. **You do not need a permit** to perform on the streets of New Orleans.
2. **You are allowed to play** a musical instrument or perform in any public right of way, public park, or recreational area.
3. **Under no circumstances should you block private property**, business entrances, or obstruct the normal use of public rights of way like sidewalks and streets. (Sec. 146-494)
4. **Sound levels should not exceed** an average of 80 decibels at a distance of 50 feet from the source. (Sec. 66-203)
5. **You can ask for donations** during your performance, but it is important to avoid aggressive solicitation. (Sec. 54-412 & Sec. 54-419)
6. **Make sure you are not blocking a sidewalk, doorway, or causing a crowd that blocks pedestrians.** You may be cited for obstruction. (Sec. 146-494b)
7. **Make sure your sound does not compete** with nearby brick-and-mortar businesses. Excessive sound can harm their business and strain relationships.
8. **Amplified sound is prohibited 8 PM–10 AM** in a parks or recreation area unless you have a permit. (Sec. 66-203.3.b)
9. **We recommend downloading the NIOSH Sound Level Meter App** to monitor your sound levels and ensure you stay within the legal limits.
10. **Introduce yourself** to local business owners and vendors and be mindful of other performers in the area. Building relationships helps create a collaborative environment and ensures long-term success for everyone.



Performances are only allowed on **Bourbon Street** between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Sec. 30-1456)

While performing near **St. Louis Cathedral**, be mindful of sound levels during religious services. Sound should not exceed 78 decibels at 50 feet in this designated area. (Sec. 66-208)

If you encounter any issues or have questions about your rights and responsibilities as a street performer, the **New Orleans Office of Nighttime Economy** is here to help. Contact us for support at [nighttime@nola.gov](mailto:nighttime@nola.gov). Thank you for the music!

This guide was created by the New Orleans Mayor's Office of Nighttime Economy (O.N.E.). For more info on O.N.E. or nightlife business resources, visit [www.nola.gov/night](http://www.nola.gov/night).

