

GLOBAL NIGHTTIME RECOVERY PLAN

CHAPTER 1:

OPEN-AIR NIGHTLIFE AND COVID-19: MANAGING OUTDOOR SPACE & SOUND

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL NIGHTTIME RECOVERY PLAN?

“THE NIGHTCLUB AND THE BAR ARE AMAZING, SPECIAL THINGS - THEY’RE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR CULTURE. THEY’RE WHAT DRAW PEOPLE TO CITIES, THEY’RE WHAT MAKE PLACES FEEL VIBRANT.”

— **Andrew Tuck**, host of Monocle’s The Urbanist

The **Global Nighttime Recovery Plan** is a collaborative practical guide that aims to provide all members of the night-time ecosystem the knowledge and tools to aid their cities in planning for safe, intentional, and equitable re-opening.

Opportunities to Reimagine

Nighttime industries are facing unique pressures, but are also led by strategic and creative problem solvers and collaborative, resourceful organisers. By considering both spatial and temporal dimensions of the 24-hour city, these cross-sector leaders can enable cities to rebound from COVID-19 stronger and more resilient than before.

Each chapter includes:

Guidance from re-opening to re-imagination:

1. **RESOLVE: Analysis** of cities’ immediate actions to contain COVID-19.
2. **RESILIENCE and RETURN: Tools and strategies** to shape recovery.
3. **REIMAGINATION and REFORM: Scenario planning** to define next normal.

Not “Best Practice,” but “Practice”: No one has all the answers yet—the plan highlights various workable approaches in an ongoing, collective learning process.

Challenging “the way things were”: Pre-pandemic, nightlife was already vulnerable, and working close to the margin. As we return, how do we re-envision a better “normal”?

Never one-size-fits all: We know what works in one political or cultural context may not work in all. These models are a starting point for cities to modify and re-contextualize in service of more equitable, just, and inclusive nightlife scenes.

Suggestions for measuring progress: Both stories and data—quantitative and qualitative—are essential to capture progress and success in nightlife landscapes.

Harm-reduction mindset: We recognize that people will always want to gather. Rather than denying that impulse, we wish to help people do so safely. This guide should always be used in the context of local public health guidelines.

We hope this resource is of use in your city, and we’d love to hear how you’re putting it to work. Please stay tuned at nighttime.org, and reach out to us with questions, ideas, and interest: hello@vibe-lab.org.

With warm wishes,
The Global Nighttime Recovery Plan team

THE GLOBAL NIGHTTIME RECOVERY PLAN WILL BE RELEASED CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER OVER THE COURSE OF 2020. FIND THE LATEST INSTALLMENT ON [NIGHTTIME.ORG/RECOVERYPLAN](https://nighitime.org/recoveryplan).



OPEN-AIR NIGHTLIFE AND COVID-19: MANAGING OUTDOOR SPACE & SOUND

INTRODUCTION: OPEN AIR

The reopening of nightlife venues and relaxation of restrictions related to COVID-19 is happening first and fastest outdoors, where the risk of transmission of the virus is lower due to the fresh air, sunshine and greater availability of space for distancing measures. This guide attempts to analyse the problems faced by, and solutions necessary for, venue operators, municipalities, police and other regulatory authorities when adapting outdoor space for safer use during lockdown easing. Recent developments have shown that caution and careful planning are required.

ISSUE STATEMENT

Pent-up demand for social activity combined with the continued restrictions on use of indoor areas has led to a sudden increase in demand for outdoor space.

Health concerns and increased noise levels are generating friction between residents, lawmakers and law enforcement.

Long-standing norms and unwritten conventions are being reimagined. New spaces are being repurposed, taken over and created.

This creates a need for speedy deployment and communication of new regulations—which in turn cause unforeseen problems of enforcement and public acceptance.

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MANAGING SPACE

THIS REPORT WILL CONSIDER ALL THREE USES OF OUTDOOR SPACE FOR NIGHTLIFE:

1. OPEN-AIR DINING

The reopening of nightlife venues and relaxation of restrictions related to COVID-19 is happening first and fastest outdoors.

2. OUTDOOR EVENTS

Long-standing norms and unwritten conventions are being reimagined.

3. FREE GATHERINGS

New spaces are being repurposed, taken over and created.



Photo: Manouk Robina Quint @donotsaycheese_

1. OPEN-AIR DINING

Here we consider the use of private and public space for open-air dining near existing venues, or in spaces created in new areas by the use of temporary buildings, kiosks and foodtrucks. Such spaces operate daily or regularly every week; usually guests are seated at tables. It is common to have table service and to serve food, but this is not always the case.

SPACE	ADVANTAGES	CHALLENGES
Privately-owned terraces and yards	Controllable entrances Existing infrastructure Clear accountability	Enforcement
Pavements	Easy to assign to nearest venue Proximity to bars/kitchens	Restricted space for passers-by Residents often nearby Roads might need to be closed Alcohol consumption laws
Squares and parks	Plenty of space Few obstructions	Connection to utilities Dividing and sharing of space among competitors Alcohol consumption laws

RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

New York City: Public safety and liability questions arise from to-go alcohol sales
<https://ny.eater.com/2020/6/23/21295736/new-york-to-go-cocktails-liquor-restaurants-bars>

SOLUTIONS: BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS TO THE OPEN-AIR DINING CHALLENGES:

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Vilnius	Noise and space conflicts reduced by redirecting traffic to peripheral roads, eliminating the possibility of transit across the city centre	Planning, signage, communication campaign
	Parking spaces converted to parklets by nearby bars	Special street furniture (paid for by the businesses themselves), reduced revenue from parking charges
	Food truck permits simplified, no longer necessary to apply for separate permits for each neighbourhood	Zero
New York	Quick online self-certification process for use of pavements and parking spaces adjacent to existing businesses according to a simple set of rules	Simple application form and database solution
	Takeaway alcohol introduced to increase revenue for bars and cafes even without outdoor space	Zero
Paris	Temporary street closures	Planning, signage, communication campaign
	Street teams deployed to communicate with the public and inform about the changing rules	Training, uniforms

CASE STUDY: VILNIUS

PAVEMENT CAFE LIBERALISATION



Photo: **Saulius Žiūra**, Vilnius City Municipality

Vilnius Municipality announced that all municipality-owned space could potentially be permitted for outdoor dining use, provided pavements were not blocked and tables were kept two metres apart. Initially there was a “two persons per table” rule that was later relaxed, but it was useful in maintaining distancing, because violations were very visible and overcrowding was simply more difficult. All fees for new and pre-existing permits were waived. Regulations on the aesthetics of umbrellas in the UNESCO-protected old town were revoked due to difficulties in ramping up the manufacture of special designs.

Although the scheme was advertised as “a vast open-air cafe”, in reality the distancing rules and narrow pavements meant that the increase in the number of tables was severely limited. No survey of the number of tables or the economic impact of this scheme was carried out and therefore the effect is unknown. The most obvious benefit was to make the city seem alive and vibrant, increasing morale and optimism.

On the other hand, the increased vibrancy gave the public the impression that there is no more crisis in the hospitality sector, even though the scheme was of little economic benefit to many businesses, especially those with large premises and small pavements.

“THE APPEARANCE OF VIBRANCY IN THE STREETS OF VILNIUS LED TO A DECREASE IN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE STILL-STRUGGLING HOSPITALITY SECTOR AS PEOPLE ASSUMED THE ECONOMIC CRISIS WAS OVER”

– **Mark Adam Harold, Chair**, Vilnius Night Alliance

Space was allocated by inviting applications from business owners who marked their requests on a map. Many plazas and parks were also available - not only street spaces immediately near the businesses - but this was made complicated by a national-level rule that alcohol cannot be served in pavement cafes more than 40m from the premises.

CASE STUDY: VILNIUS

Applications were dealt with in three waves:

1. **“No brainers”** – Simple decisions, such as half of a wide pavement directly in front of the premises.
2. **“Street takeovers”** – Repurposing parking spaces or creating new space by implementing traffic restrictions, rerouting.
3. **“Shared spaces”** – Squares where more than one business claimed space. These conflicts were solved either by meetings of residents’ associations or by simply dividing up the space equally between applicants. There was only one dispute recorded, a complaint by a business that failed to attend the residents’ association meeting. Their complaint was rejected because they already had some space allocated before the crisis, which nobody else claimed anyway.

The process took 2-3 weeks, during which time business owners self-organised and space was allowed to be used without permits. People longing to come out of lockdown flooded into the streets. The municipality’s public order officers (community police) did not enforce distancing violations. Distancing regulations changed frequently and this caused confusion and a breakdown of law and order. A backlash started from residents, who complained about noise and distancing violations. The national police began selectively and aggressively picking businesses to attack for violations, even attacking when there were no violations due to confusion about the difference between rules on public and private land. Under pressure, the Mayor promised to enforce the problems more strictly and his community police force started issuing fines for the playing of music, causing another backlash from venue owners desperate to attract customers by arranging musical events outdoors.

Overall, it is possible to say that the majority of problems were caused by lack of planning as bureaucrats struggled to keep up with the changing situation. There was also a severe lack of coordination between national (conservative-controlled) and municipal (liberal-controlled) levels, with both levels having their own rulemaking powers and police forces. This problem was compounded by the fact that all parties were competing for political advantage with elections coming up in the autumn.



Photo: Saulius Žiūra, Vilnius City Municipality

2. OUTDOOR EVENTS

Outdoor events can be one-off events or series of events that have a specific attraction; for example a musical performance or film screening. With a controlled entrance policy, the event can be ticketed, either free-of-charge or paid. Events can be either seated or standing, or both, and are normally registered with the municipality after negotiations around organisational details and safety.

SPACE	ADVANTAGES	CHALLENGES
Controlled events	Controlled entrance Expected attendance figures Allocated seating is possible Clear accountability Possibility to generate income Traceable identity of attendees	Fencing of open spaces Risk of failure to sell tickets Provision of utilities
Open events	Spontaneous attendance Inclusion of a wider range of social groups Attraction of passers-by	Behaviour and crowd control Funding Accountability Provision of utilities No traceability of attendees
Street festivals	Increased city vibrancy and morale Many opportunities for collateral services and economic activity	Huge and uncontrollable attendance figures Mobility of attendees over a wide area increasing contact risks No traceability of attendees Policing Added noise of attendees moving around the city

SOLUTIONS: BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS TO THE OUTDOOR EVENTS CHALLENGES:

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Vilnius	Free stages provided by the municipality to encourage controlled outdoor events	Stage rental, sound and light, €200k budget
	Regulated events license fees waived	Lost revenue
	Outdoor cinema organised on closed airport territory	Commercial sponsorship

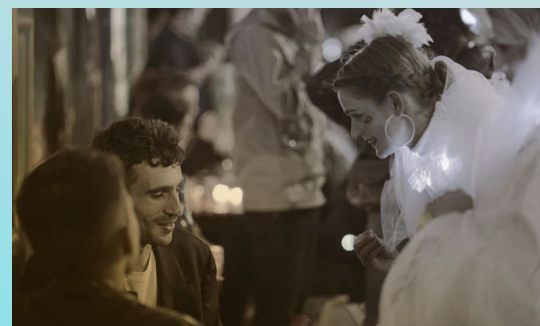


Photo: © Les Pierrots de la Nuit

“DUE TO THE BAN ON BIG EVENTS AND THE CLOSURE OF NIGHT CLUBS, WE ARE SEEING YOUNG PEOPLE DISREGARD SAFETY RULES RELATED TO COVID-19, ORGANISING UNLICENSED EVENTS IN PUBLIC SPACES. SO WHY NOT PROVIDE LICENSES FOR THOSE EVENTS AND IMPLEMENT THE MOST EFFECTIVE PROTECTION POSSIBLE?”

– **Thierry Charlois**, Paris municipality

3. FREE GATHERINGS

'Free' means unrestricted, unregistered and unlicensed. But free can also mean unpredictable, untraceable and sometimes uncontrollable. Many cities allow alcohol in public, many do not. Illegal gatherings can be either gatherings that go beyond the agreed legal limits, or occur unlawfully in places without any permission, or occur illegally in private spaces, where the authorities have little power to monitor the gathering and enforce legal restrictions on social contact and distancing.

SPACE	ADVANTAGES	CHALLENGES
Streets	People adapt and fill small unused spaces dynamically	Noise in new places Blocked pavements, roads Safety near cars Reduced revenue for bars and cafes
Parks	Space is already designed for free gatherings	Behaviour and distancing Large groups can form quickly and easily
Private land	Fills demand where regulation is slow to react	Safety of location Rule of law issues Difficulty of lawful monitoring in private spaces

RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

Paris: "ProjetX" – Clashes between illegal ravers and police

<https://fr.news.yahoo.com/lon-sait-soir%C3%A9e-projet-x-090355686.html>

Manchester: Illegal raves leading to murder, drug dealing and rape

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8467745/Drug-barons-bankrolling-DJs-organise-illegal-festival-sized-raves.html>

SOLUTIONS: BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF SOLUTIONS TO THE FREE GATHERINGS CHALLENGES:

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Berlin	65 places throughout Berlin analysed via different criteria (noise, access etc.). Gatherings piloted in one area, to reduce bureaucracy and create adaptable model Event checklist for open air organisers Liaisons for event registration appointed in three districts	Reduced costs due to less bureaucracy
Paris	Communication campaign directed at the public Mediators and municipal police deployed to encourage and enforce	~40K EUR Extra planning
Vilnius	Simple event permit application process online, allowing late night events where neighbours are not disturbed, reducing the need for illegal events	No extra costs

CASE STUDY: BERLIN

FREE OPEN AIRS

Many cities worldwide have responded to COVID-19 by imposing curfews and restricting dancing, especially indoors. Berlin was no exception—but as of June 23, outdoor gatherings of up to 1000 people, including dancing and music, were allowed once again. This shift in regulation is especially significant as Berlin's musical and cultural landscapes have long been shaped by outdoor events, especially "free open-air", in the city's plentiful green and open spaces. This practice takes on new significance amidst COVID-19.



Photo: **Mio Schweiger** | Fotografie | Berlin

"FREE OPEN-AIRS AND PARTIES PLAY AN IMPORTANT SOCIO-CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ROLE...AND ARE THEREFORE AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE URBAN LANDSCAPE. IN OUR SELF-PERCEPTION, MUSIC CREATES A FREE SPACE FOR ENCOUNTER ACROSS ALL BORDERS."

— **Berlin Free Open Air Scene Charta**

"Free open-air" are self-organised, non-profit-oriented events with music, art, and/or other cultural activities, including electronically amplified music and dance. Such events may be large, officially-permitted gatherings, or informal and "underground", typically occurring in public parks, formerly-industrial areas, or privately owned land. These events strive to be particularly inclusive, and have played an important role in the development of Berlin's cultural scene.

In recent months, Berlin's public discourse on outdoor gatherings has been fueled not only by the June 2020 protests against police violence and racism, but also by rallies and demonstrations, and events incorporating music and dance—most notably, late May's boat demonstration on Kreuzberg's Landwehrkanal. These events, though controversial, seemed to produce no spike in COVID-19 infection rates, and have also kept the dire financial situation of Berlin's clubs, venues, and culture workers at the fore of political and public discussion.

"OUTDOOR GATHERINGS SEEM TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER RISK OF COVID-19 INFECTIONS THAN INDOOR EVENTS. NOW IT'S THE TIME TO CREATE A FRAMEWORK FOR SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE OPEN AIR POLICIES TO PROVIDE LEGAL ALTERNATIVES TO ILLEGAL EVENTS."

— **Lutz Leichsenring**, VibeLab

CASE STUDY: BERLIN

The events of this spring have intensified work already in progress. Since 2013, Berlin Clubcommission has been facilitating dialogue with event organisers, policymakers, researchers, and business associations to identify appropriate spaces for outdoor gatherings, educate organisers on best practices, and simplify processes for holding safe, legal, and sustainable events.

“WE WANT TO SHOW THAT THIS CULTURE CAN ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE—BUT TO DO THAT, WE NEED LEGAL SPACES.”

— **Ilja Minaev**, Berlin Clubcommission

Those long-term efforts have laid the groundwork for COVID-responsive innovation and experimentation now taking place:

OPEN-AIR GATHERING COVID-RESPONSIVE INNOVATIONS, SUMMER 2020:

Berlin Clubcommission (nighttime governance organization)	Convening multi-stakeholder discourse and organiser information sessions Identifying suitable open-air event locations across city and facilitating pilot events Publishing an updated Open-Air Event Checklist with COVID-19 safety information
City-level government	Supporting collaborative efforts toward legal event pathways, to dissuade illegal events
Local (district) governments	Appointing liaisons to manage legal outdoor gathering permits through September 2020 (3 Berlin districts)
Open-air organizers	Holding demonstrations/politically-focused events in order to secure event permissions and permits; Building concepts for masks, distance, and/or sound management and hygiene into the design of events.

“WE STRIVE FOR A NEW AND FAIR REGULATION FRAMEWORK THAT SUPPORTS PANDEMIC-SAFE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE EVENTS BY FACILITATING EASY REGISTRATION AND PROVIDING SUITABLE PUBLIC SPACES. WE ENVISION THAT THIS WILL ENABLE MUSIC CITIES LIKE BERLIN TO BETTER ADDRESS RESIDENTS’ AND CULTURAL ACTORS’ NEEDS, AND ALSO HELP TO PREVENT RECKLESS, ILLEGAL AND POTENTIALLY LIFE-THREATENING EVENTS.”

— **Steffen Lepa**, Technisches Universität Berlin



Photo: **Mio Schweiger** | Fotografie | Berlin

In this unprecedented situation, cities can choose to fall back on tactics of policing, control, and “business-as-usual”. Or they can rise to the occasion with small-scale experiments and creative tactical urbanism; through communication, collaboration, and partnerships between city administration, nighttime advocates, event producers, and local residents. This willingness to work together, experiment, and rethink uses of open spaces will be essential for the months and years ahead.

Diana Raiselis

MANAGING SOUND

THIS REPORT WILL CONSIDER DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF
MANAGING NOISE/SOUND:

1. ENGAGEMENT

4. MONITORING

2. COMMUNICATION

5. MEDIATION

3. TIME RESTRICTIONS

6. TRANSPARENCY

*THERE IS A NEED FOR SPEEDY DEPLOYMENT AND COMMUNICATION
OF NEW REGULATIONS, WHICH IN TURN CAUSE UNFORESEEN
PROBLEMS OF ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.*



Photo credit: Saulius Žiūra, Vilnius City Municipality

ENGAGEMENT

The local community must be involved at all stages in round table discussions with business-owners, lawmakers and law enforcement.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Paris	Close links with unions and business associations to provide assistance and dialogue, clear information for event organisers	Simple website, organising meetings
Orlando	Main Street America has ten districts in Orlando working on business development and providing a channel for dialogue	Zero (NGO)



Photo: NYC Office of Nightlife



COMMUNICATION

Make sure your regulations are clearly understood and respected by both citizens and authorities, avoid over-complicated unenforceable rules.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
New York	“It’s up to you, New York” infographic campaign clearly explained the rules and encouraged responsible behaviour, self-policing, continued caution.	Low, design and poster printing, online ads
Orlando	Downtown Ambassadors network created for tourism and resident liaison now provides a channel for communicating safety regulations, delivering PPE and collecting feedback from the street level	Budget of \$1.1M/year

“WE COMMUNICATE WITH PARTICIPANTS IN NIGHTLIFE TO ENCOURAGE CLEANLINESS AND RESPECT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, REDUCE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AND STOP STREET HARASSMENT AND OTHER INCIVILITY.”

– Thierry Charlois, Paris Municipality

RISKS AND CHALLENGES:

On June 26, Florida state announced a second shutdown of bars with a single tweet from its Department of Business and Professional Regulation, giving no warning to lower levels of government. This led to chaos as local authorities scrambled to disseminate the news and answer questions they had no answers to, damaging their reputation in the eyes of the public.

TIME RESTRICTIONS

The temptation to impose time-restrictions without logical basis should be resisted, plenty of economic and cultural activity can take place without assuming it always ends in public order offences. Identify trouble hotspots instead of assuming all actors and activities create the same risk level after dark.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Vilnius	Nightclubs allowed to operate all night with capacity limits and distancing	Zero

“THE NIGHT ECONOMY AND ALL-NIGHT LICENSES PLAY AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN VILNIUS CITY PLANNING, HELPING TO DEVELOP THE CITY’S NIGHTLIFE CULTURE AND BOOST CREATIVITY.”

- **Deimantė Rimkutė**, Vilnius City Councillor and Chair of the Night Economy Commission

MONITORING

The new normal is unpredictability – monitor noise frequently and actively in many places with dB meters and foot patrols, not just passively with complaints hotlines.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Paris	Permanent monitoring stations	Technology, staff, ~70k EUR/year
Berlin	Event organizers are encouraged to measure their own noise levels to show good will and encourage responsible behaviour	Phone app is good enough for rough measurements

MEDIATION

Use mediation before you use enforcement.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Paris	Scheme of official Mediators responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breaking up minor brawls and dealing with incivility• Caring for those from vulnerable social groups• Spotting technical problems such as broken lighting	Training and equipping a large network of mediators (100 mediators with 20 specialising in prevention of escalation of violence)
	“Les Pierrots de la Nuit”, an NGO for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising public awareness via outreach on site• Helping nighttime professionals to develop good practices	100k EUR/year grants from the municipality

TRANSPARENCY

Collect, analyse and publish statistics widely and frequently, and make them accessible; to increase public confidence, compliance and trust, help law enforcement to distribute resources.

CITIES	SOLUTIONS	COSTS
Philadelphia, London and others	Open data dashboards and application programming interfaces (APIs) publishing regular feeds of crime, non-criminal incidents, code violations, spatial data, and administrative data sets	High startup costs to develop databases and dashboards. Costs partially mitigated by value added from the creation of analytics by private groups

SUMMARY

While all cities have different layouts and all countries have different levels of infection, there are two common themes that have repeated themselves during the preparation of this report.

The instinct to socialise is universal

Nobody reported a lack of a desire to socialise. All cities reported lockdown violations and difficulties controlling a fast-changing situation, as the public and business owners pushed rules to the limit or ignored them entirely. Although there are some reports of people scared to go out or reluctant to reopen their businesses, the instinct to socialise is strong enough to cause problems everywhere. These problems are highly visible to nearby residents because they are happening outside instead of indoors.

In cities where there are no legal alternatives - dangerous illegal alternatives are found. In cities where lockdown easing takes place too soon - people quickly relax and push the limits, creating the need for a second lockdown. In cities where infection rates are low, a false sense of security develops, leading people to act as if the virus no longer exists and the economic problems have disappeared. This can affect vigilance and allows politicians to ignore still-struggling businesses.

The instinct to socialise is strong enough to distort people's perception of risk, and when combined with drugs and alcohol—public order and safety problems become more dangerous than the virus itself.

“AS NEW AND URGENT AS THE “OPEN-AIR HOSPITALITY” CONCEPT IS FOR THE UNITED STATES, IT IS VITAL THAT WE LEARN FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES. CONVERTING FROM “THE WAY THINGS WERE” BEFORE COVID-19 TO THE “NEW NORMAL” WILL REQUIRE EXPERTISE THAT WE SIMPLY DON’T HAVE JUST YET. FORTUNATELY, THE CRITICAL NECESSITY OF OPEN-AIR EATING, DRINKING AND SOCIALIZING IN THE WAKE OF THIS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS HAS ALREADY SUMMONED INDUSTRY INNOVATORS TO RE-IMAGINE!”

— Dominique Greco, City of Orlando

Outreach is more important than ever

It has always been a goal of municipalities to work in partnership with residents and business-owners, but never has it been more obvious that we really do need genuine local government by the people, for the people. The pressure caused by the pandemic has shown that city authorities need to be close to their populations, to communicate clearly with their residents, to win the trust of their business communities and to encourage genuine partnership and cooperation between all interest groups.

Cities that learn to do this well - by implementing and supporting best-practice night economy development projects - will be at a significant advantage as we recover from this crisis, and they will be more than ready to deal with the next. The discussion about managing and regulating the nighttime economy has truly come out into the open, and now is the time to engage all efforts to ensure the next generation of nightlife provides benefits for everybody.

LOOKING FORWARD...

The coming year will be a supreme test for nighttime economies and creative industries - they rely on assemblies of people in order to operate profitably. Assembling people is an often unreasonable risk in the presence of COVID-19. As the weather turns cold in the northern hemisphere, open-air options for commerce and socialising will “hibernate”, and the luxury of space will diminish. Soon we will have to apply 24-hour thinking to exploit space more completely by making more use of the day. We will also have to continue financial support for many businesses and individuals that had a brief respite from hard times through use of open air events.

In the spring, and perhaps thereafter, the lessons learned by tactical and sudden use of the streetscape for social life and commerce should stay with us. Thinkers in the world of urban design, micro-mobility, and landscape architecture have created a vibrant variety of ideas for open streets, parks, and plazas that have informed the ad-hoc street experiments of 2020. The experience can now be analysed, tailored, community-resourced and put into practice in the new and better cities of tomorrow.

The overarching theme in this chapter is “flexibility.” Hopefully, some of this newfound flexibility - in such a highly-regulated environment like nightlife - will remain. Innovation always precedes regulation. In this case, these innovations are blurring the lines between public and private spaces, encouraging novel ways to socialise safely. Ideally, codes and regulations will adapt to the new ways in which people are using space, and not the other way around. The next chapters in the Global Nighttime Recovery Plan will address these topics and more in the coming weeks.

Michael Fichman and Andreina Seijas

FURTHER READING

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES:

London Crime Data Dashboards

<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/>

Main Street America COVID-19 Advice

<https://www.mainstreet.org/howwecanhelp/resourcecenter/mainstreetforward>

National Restaurant Association (USA) State Alcohol Delivery Laws/Orders/Regulations

https://restaurant.org/downloads/pdfs/business/covid-19_restaurant-alcohol-resources-biweekly-upd.pdf

Nottingham legal rave compared to Leeds and Manchester illegal raves

<https://novaramedia.com/2020/06/22/rave-culture-is-culture-instead-of-starting-a-moral-panic-the-government-should-make-raves-safe/>

Paris Night Mediators

<https://www.paris.fr/pages/la-tranquillisation-des-quartiers-et-des-evenements-festifs-4792>

Paris advice for night professionals

<https://www.paris.fr/pages/professionnels-de-la-nuit-3996>

Paris permanent noise monitoring system

<https://www.bruitparif.fr/>

Paris street teams “Les Pierrots de la Nuit”

<http://www.lespierrotsdelanuit.org/fr/accueil/bienvenue.html>

Streetsblog Op-Ed: It's Time to Legalize Public Drinking for All New Yorkers

<https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2020/06/28/op-ed-its-time-to-legalize-public-drinking-for-all-new-yorkers/>

Wine Institute: COVID-19 Guidance from State ABCs (Alcohol Beverage Control) (USA)

<https://wineinstitute.org/our-work/compliance/covid-19-guidance-from-state-abcs>

DOWNLOADS:

Berlin Clubcommission open-air event checklist

https://www.clubcommission.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/06/200629-ENG_-_Open-Air-Checklist-2.0.pdf

Berlin Free Open Air Charta

<https://kiez-toolbox.de/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/03/151128-charta-of-berlins-free-open-air-scene.pdf>

New York “It’s up to you” campaign downloads

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mome/nightlife/nightlife.page>

Noise level Measurement Apps For your Phone

<https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/47805-The-best-phone-apps-to-measure-noise-levels>

<https://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov/have-you-heard/cdc-niosh-app>

Orlando outdoor dining temporary permit

<https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/covid19/Taskforce%20Report.pdf>

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