New York City Department of Transportation Pop-up Café: Design Guidelines





Design Guidelines

- The platform should be as flush with the sidewalk as possible. At a minimum 12' of the platform must be flush with the sidewalk to provide wheelchair access.
- Curbside drainage must not be impeded.
- The Pop-up Café must allow for easy access to the space underneath.
- A Pop-up Café must be load-bearing: at least 750lbs per square foot.
- A Pop-up Café must be publicly accessible and signed as such.
- Each Pop-up Café should have some vertical elements (e.g. planters, umbrellas) so that it is visible from vehicles.
- Each Pop-up Café should be finished with quality materials, preferably using recycled or sustainably harvested products.
- A Pop-up Café may include plantings.
- A Pop-up Café must include a continuous physical barrier along the street facing perimeter while maintaining clear visual sightlines to the street.



The platform should be as level with the sidewalk as possible.



A Pop-up Café must be publicly accessible and signed as such.

Design Guidelines Continued

- The sidewalk-facing side of a Pop-up Café should be open to pedestrians.
- A Pop-up Café must not be wider than 6 feet, in order to be narrower than surrounding parked cars.
- The maximum length of the Pop-up Café may not be longer than the frontage of the applicant's establishment.
- Chairs and tables must be brought indoors or locked and stacked outside each night.
- DOT will assess each site and will determine necessary traffic safety improvements, including but not limited to, traffic markings, flexible bollards, and wheel stops.
- Successful applicants will be required to execute an agreement substantially in the form of the maintenance agreement located at: www.nyc.gov/dot/popupcafe.



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