

## Weekend Walks 2016 // Expressions of Interest

If you are interested in organizing a Weekend Walk in your neighborhood, please complete the following form (pp. 3–4). Doing so does not bind you or your organization to any particular proposal for any particular date, but will mark the starting point in a dialogue with DOT to develop a successful plan.

### Background

Weekend Walks are multi-block, multi-day events on commercial streets. Businesses, cultural organizations, and community groups host Weekend Walks on roads that are temporarily closed to motor vehicles and opened to walking and various activities. To see photos and learn more about Weekend Walks, visit [www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks](http://www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks).

Weekend Walks are conceived, planned and organized by business improvement districts (BIDs), cultural organizations, local merchants' associations, and/or community-based groups. If your application is selected, DOT will provide technical assistance with permitting; help coordinate with city agencies; and connect you with other organizers to share best practices.



Restaurants may bring their seating to the curb during Weekend Walks events. *LIC Walks at Vernon Blvd.*, Long Island City, Queens.



NYPD's climbing wall at *Boogie on the Boulevard*, Grand Concourse, Bronx.

DOT provides some moveable furniture and pop-up tents that are shared among participating organizations. DOT may provide a limited amount of funds to cover qualifying event-related expenses. The amount is subject to budget availability. DOT does not provide an event planner for these events.

## Guiding Principles

### ***What a Weekend Walk Is***

- A temporarily pedestrianized street
- Multi-block: two or more blocks located in a commercial corridor, with cross streets remaining open to traffic
- Multi-day: it occurs on regularly recurring dates (e.g., every Sunday in July or every Saturday over the winter holidays). This schedule creates a regular public space, which is the aim of the program
- Led or co-sponsored by a merchants' association, BID, cultural organization, Community Board, or civic group,
- Supported by the local Community Board and NYPD precinct
- Engages and supports local businesses and organizations
- Held in an area where existing uses and activities could be positively enhanced by more space for walking and outdoor activity.



Vending is not allowed at Weekend Walks but local merchants can display products on the sidewalk for purchase inside their stores. *Summer Plazas on Fifth Avenue, Sunset Park, Brooklyn.*

### ***What a Weekend Walk Is Not***

- A street fair with vending
- An event on a side or residential street
- A block party – i.e., a one-day/one-block event
- A group walk to raise funds for charities
- A race or other sporting event requiring public participants to pre-register
- A parade that fills the space vacated by motor traffic

### ***What Works***

- Building support in merchant and residential communities
- Engaging local merchants, community-based organizations, artists, and musicians to provide programming
- Communicating regularly with your NYPD precinct and Community Board
- Marketing the event
- Meeting regularly with your partners and DOT to refine the event



Sod covers the street at *Williamsburg Walks*, Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

## Weekend Walks Expression of Interest Form

Please complete the following form. This form is not binding – if your site is selected your answers will be considered a starting point for further conversation. Priority will be given to proposals outside of the Manhattan core (i.e., north of 110<sup>th</sup> Street). DOT will follow up to explore your proposal with you further.

Please send your completed form by email ([weekendwalks@dot.nyc.gov](mailto:weekendwalks@dot.nyc.gov)) or fax (212 839 2980) by **close of business Friday, November 20, 2015**.

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed dates of the Weekend Walk:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Location of the Weekend Walk:**

*First Choice*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

From (street): \_\_\_\_\_

To (street): \_\_\_\_\_

*Second Choice*

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

From (street): \_\_\_\_\_

To (street): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe the character of the proposed site and indicate if it is mostly commercial, residential, or mixed:**

**Please explain why you think this would be a good site for a temporary pedestrian street:**

**Are there any potential challenges to selecting this site? (These challenges do not disqualify your site, but are helpful to take into account during pre-planning.) For example, are there bus routes, hospitals, fire houses, etc.? If so, please list them:**

**Have you or your organization ever planned any events in your community before? If so, please describe; if not, please explain other experience you believe is relevant to organizing a temporary pedestrian street:**

**Please list and describe any potential organizing or programming partners here (optional):**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_