

# San Francisco Office of Cannabis

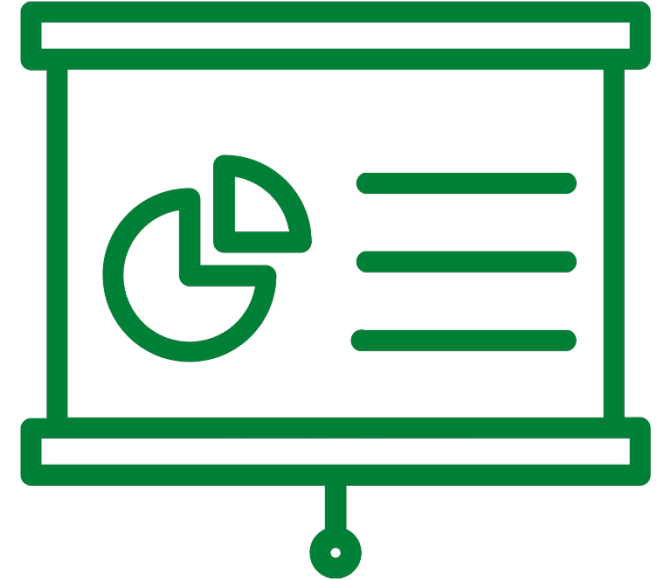
---

Temporary Cannabis Events  
COC – 06/12/2024



# Presentation Agenda

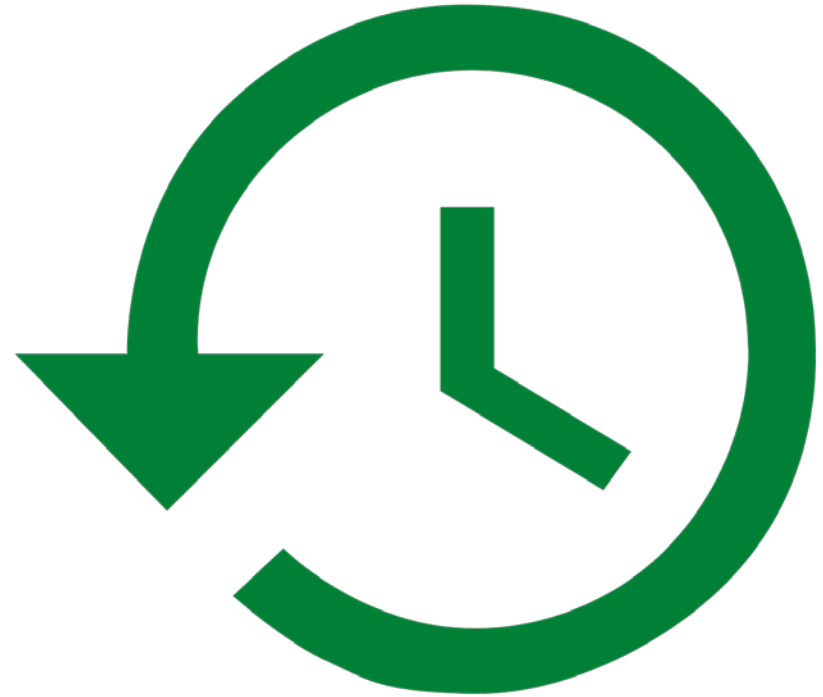
- Review of Regulations (Local & State)
- Looking Forward – Possibilities for Expansion
- City Partners – Project Update
- Gauging Interest & Soliciting Feedback



# Brief Summary

---

## Cannabis Event Regulations in San Francisco



**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**OFFICE OF CANNABIS**



**Office of Cannabis**  
**City and County of San Francisco**  
49 South Van Ness Suite 660, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(628) 652 - 0420  
[officeofcannabis.sfgov.org](https://sf.gov/departments/office-cannabis)  
<https://sf.gov/departments/office-cannabis>

# Events: Regulatory Overview

- In order to obtain a Temporary Cannabis Event license, operators in San Francisco must abide by multiple sets of regulations (including but not limited to):
  - **State:**
    - Department of Cannabis Control
    - Commercial Cannabis Regulations
    - Business and Professions Code
    - Health and Safety Code
  - **Local:**
    - Article 16 of the San Francisco Police Code (including Pilot Program)
    - CCSF City Partners Regulations:
      - DPH, SFPD, SFFD, Recreation and Parks, OEWD, etc.

# **Local: Temporary Events Pilot Program**

- Pilot Program (Section 1621.5(k)) requires:
  - The event had previously been held on a regular basis
  - The event, in prior years, had received a City-issued permit
  - The event had significant unregulated cannabis sales or consumption
- Currently set to expire December 31, 2024

# State: Events Application Process Overview

## 1: Obtain a Cannabis Event Organizer License

The DCC requires temporary cannabis event organizers to obtain two separate licenses, the first of which is the “Cannabis Event Organizer License” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 15600). Only cannabis event organizers licensed by the DCC can move forward through the process and eventually obtain the second required license (a “Temporary Cannabis Event” license).

## 2: Obtain Written Local Jurisdiction Approval

Afterward, event organizers must secure “written approval from the local jurisdiction authorizing the applicant to engage in onsite cannabis sales to, and onsite consumption by, persons 21 years of age or older at the temporary cannabis event at the proposed location.” Locations such as stadiums and concert halls are explicitly allowed, but other restrictions apply (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 15601(e)).

## 3: Obtain a Temporary Cannabis Event License

Organizers must apply to the DCC at least 60 days in advance for a Temporary Cannabis Event License, which can be issued for 1 – 4 consecutive days (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 15601(c)). Obtaining a Temporary Cannabis Event License requires meeting a host of additional State requirements, which will be outlined in the following slides.

# State: Events Regulations

---

- Location restrictions (*§15601(e)*)
- Alcohol and tobacco restriction (*§15601(f)*)
- Security presence (*§15601(h)*)
- ID Checks (Must be 21+) (*§15602(a)*)
- Must have a designated retail section (*§15602(b)*)
- Cannabis transportation – licensed distributors (*§15602(g)*)
- Must have secured storage on site (*§15602(h)*)
- Retail requirements (*§15602(i - p)*)
- Public visibility must be obscured (*§15603(b)*)
- Alcohol and tobacco restrictions (*§15603(c)*)
- Local regulation compliance (*§15603(d)*)

# Looking Forward

---

## The Future of Cannabis Events in San Francisco





# Practical Effects of State Regulations

---

- Cost prohibitive for event organizers (especially small and mid-sized events)
  - Fencing, mesh coverage to obscure public visibility, security personnel
- Time intensive process
  - Identifying a viable location is very challenging
- **Overall, State regulations favor large, outdoor events backed by significant financing**

# Possibility for an Expanded Pilot Program

---

- **Key Goals to Balance:**
  - Draw on lessons learned from the current pilot program
  - Provide more access to event organizers, cannabis businesses, and venues in San Francisco to plan and host temporary cannabis events
  - Any expansion must fall within the existing local and state regulations
- Proposal to expand the Pilot Program to eligible indoor locations across San Francisco (art studios, theaters, event venues, etc.)

# Possibility for an Expanded Pilot Program

---

- **Who can apply?**
  - Any holder of a State Event Organizer license
  - In partnership with venues that would have the other necessary City permits to host an indoor event
- **For what?**
  - Temporary cannabis event permit to sell all cannabis products & to consume only non-smokable cannabis
- **How?**
  - Through an application process to be implemented by the OOC

# Why this kind of Expansion?

---

- Furthest reaching and most innovative approach (within present regulations)
- Presently feasible within the constraints of limited City and OOC staffing resources
- Will increase the frequency of events and expand eligible locations
- Pairs cannabis with existing entertainment
- Increased exposure and opportunities for cannabis businesses
- More cost effective for event organizers
- To act as a testing ground for further expansions to larger indoor venues
- Allows City to be ready to be more expansive if State regulations change

# Ongoing Constraints

- Consumption is limited to consumption lounges due to indoor smoking ban, as well as general restrictions on smoking
  - No waivers for smoking rules exist
- State requires multiple licenses and State application deadlines require a minimum of a two month runway
- State regulations forbid consumption lounges from ‘leasing’ out their space for events
  - No State guidance concerning bars and restaurants
  - Any expansion would be ‘experimental’ at best, and event organizers would need to be prepared for the State to deny their event permit

# What has already been done?

---

- This is a City-wide effort:
  - OOC has engaged with the Controller's Office - City Performance (CON), the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), SF Recreation and Parks, the Department of Public Health (DPH), SF Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA), San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD), and the City Administrator (ADM)
- Looking to expand to smaller venues (such as art studios, small event venues, the OOC has inquired about bars and restaurants) across the City
- Connected with the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) for soft approval of possible location types

# City Performance Project Updates (1)

---

The Controller's Office City Performance team...



Researched and analyzed existing event venue data



Interviewed departments involved in cannabis event permitting



Outlined program options and potential eligibility criteria

# City Performance Project Updates (2)

## Departments & Agencies Interviewed

- Department of Public Health
- Recreation and Parks Department
- Fire Department
- Municipal Transpiration Agency
- Entertainment Commission
- Police Department
- City Attorney's Office



## Interview Findings

1

Permit Process Takeaways

2

Application Takeaways

3

Interdepartmental  
Collaboration Takeaways



# City Performance Project Updates (3)

City Performance is collaborating with OOC to inform the Pilot Program expansion

What other city permits  
do applicants need to host  
a successful event?

Potential application  
eligibility criteria

Balancing event permit  
volume with city  
processing constraints

Creating applicant support  
systems

Shaping the application  
process

# City Performance Project Updates (4)

---

- Location specific permits required to host indoor events in San Francisco:
  - **Place of Assembly Permit** issued by SF Fire Department (50+ Occupancy)
  - **Place of Entertainment Permit** issued by the Entertainment Commission
  - **One Time Indoor Entertainment Event Permit** issued by the Entertainment Commission

# City Performance Project Updates

---

Next step...



City Performance will reach out to potential applicants to gather feedback and assess demand for the proposed pilot expansion

# Next Steps for the OOC

- Continued partnership with City & State partners to ensure all parties have buy-in and are on the same page
  - Internalizing the information gathered by CON into any potential expansions
- Gathering recommendations from stakeholders on ways to make the expanded Pilot Program more effective

# Gathering Input from Stakeholders

---

- We would like to hear what kind of support or interest there is in this type of expansion (from operators, consumers, and other stakeholders)
  - What do you like?
  - What are you concerned about?
  - What kind of indoor venues would be appealing for temporary events?
  - What other feedback do you have?

# Thank You!

---

## **Contact Information:**

officeofcannabis@sfgov.org

(628) 652-0420

## **San Francisco Office of Cannabis**

49 South Van Ness, Suite 660

San Francisco, California 94103



**Office of Cannabis**  
**City and County of San Francisco**  
49 South Van Ness Suite 660, San Francisco, CA 94103  
☎ (628) 652 - 0420  
🌐 [officeofcannabis@sfgov.org](https://sf.gov/departments/office-cannabis)  
🌐 <https://sf.gov/departments/office-cannabis>