NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

A GUIDE TO THE BUSKING SCHEME IN SINGAPORE



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ABOUT THE BUSKING SCHEME

Interested in showcasing your talent and creative expressions? The Busking Scheme is for you. Introduced in 1997, the Busking Scheme enlivens city life and energises urban spaces by providing opportunities for individuals to share their creative expressions with audiences at designated busking locations island wide.

To be part of the scheme, buskers are required to attend an audition. Those who are successful will be offered a Letter of Endorsement (LOE) which enables them to busk at designated busking locations within a validity period. Busking is only allowed in Singapore under the conditions of the Change to Public Entertainments (Exemptions) Order (refer to the Terms & Conditions on page 22).

If you are keen to join the scheme, this guidebook provides important information and useful tips on getting started. For more information on the Busking Scheme, visit **go.gov.sg/busking**.



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THE BUSKING JOURNEY

BEFORE THE AUDITION | **DURING THE AUDITION** | **AFTER THE AUDITION**

1. Apply for audition
2. Audition with a 5-minute live performance
3. Receive the audition results within 2 weeks
4. Upon passing the audition, collect your LOE
5. Login via your e-service account to book or ballot for your slots





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HOW TO JOIN THE BUSKING SCHEME?

1 Before The Audition
2 During The Audition
3 After The Audition

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HOW TO APPLY FOR AN AUDITION?

Am I Eligible?
All Singaporeans and PRs are eligible to apply for an audition. Foreign residents must hold a valid Student, Employment or Overseas Networks & Expertise (ONE) Pass. The validity of your Pass must cover the duration of your LOE.



Apply online

go.gov.sg/buskingauditionapplication

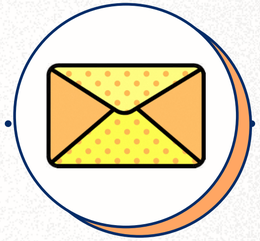
Applications open 5 weeks before each audition cycle and slots are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Fill in your details

For group performances, only one person needs to submit the form and indicate the names of the group members and group name (if applicable).

Applicants below 18 years old will need to submit a parental or guardian consent form with their application.



Prepare for the audition

You will receive an email confirmation within 3 weeks of the application.

If you have been allocated an audition slot, an information pack will be sent to you to help you prepare for your audition.



Attend the busking audition

Please refer to NAC's website for the latest audition dates.

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DURING THE AUDITION

The audition is meant to simulate actual busking on the streets. You will be given 5 minutes to perform your act and the panellists will assess you based on the following:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

COMPETENCY & SKILL IN PERFORMANCE

- Let your well-practised and skilful performance take centre stage.
- Have a wide repertoire at your fingertips.
- Ensure that all your equipment is set up properly.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE AUDIENCE

- Connect with your audience by introducing yourself and your act, make eye contact, and grab their attention.
- Create an engaging and lively experience!

EXPRESSIVENESS & CONFIDENCE

- Be prepared to bring your A-game.
- Show off your confidence in your busking act.
- The more comfortable and confident you are, the better!

INNOVATION & ORIGINALITY

- Stand out from the crowd with your unique style and presentation.
- Get creative and showcase that X-factor!



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DURING THE AUDITION

Busking acts fall generally into three art form categories: Music, Street Theatre and Visual Arts.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE AUDITION

MUSIC

Guitar and singing, drumming, singing with keyboard, performance with musical instruments, etc.

- Prepare a rich and wide repertoire of songs.
- Familiarise yourself with the operation of your equipment, including your instruments and amplifiers.
- Solo singing acts must have live music accompaniment (with the exception of acapella groups).

MOVEMENT & STREET THEATRE

Dance, acrobatic arts, juggling, mime, etc.

- Come in full costume and make-up.
- Ensure that all props are prepared for your act.

VISUAL ARTS

Drawing, portraits and caricatures, dough-figurine making, etc.

- Demonstrate live drawing, painting, or craft-making skills within 5 minutes.
- Be quick and accurate.
- Display samples of your artworks in a professional manner.



For more details on the use of dangerous object or implements, please refer to ***police.gov.sg/e-Services/Police-Licences/Arms-and-Explosives-Licence***

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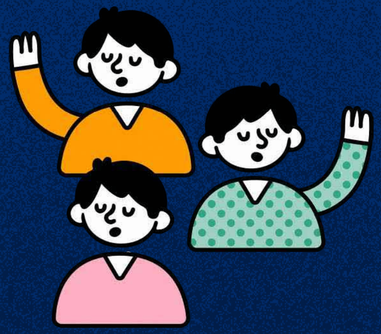
REMINDER!
THINGS TO BRING



Bring your NRIC/Student Pass/Employment Pass/ ONE Pass for verification.



Bring all equipment, instruments and props you need to showcase your act and ensure that they are in good working condition.



For groups, all members must audition as only those who are present will have their names included in the LOE.



Any electrical equipment used to support your busking activities must be battery powered.

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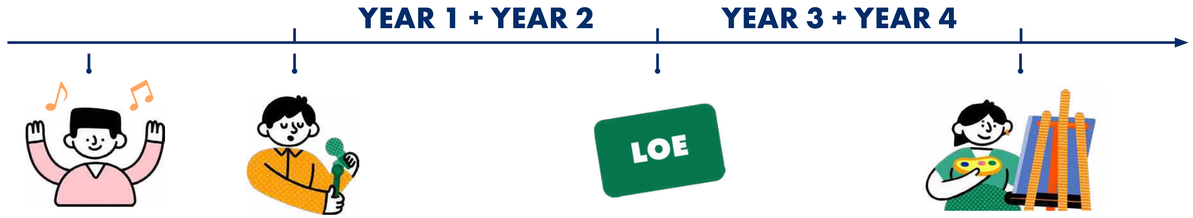
AFTER THE AUDITION

You will be notified of the results of your audition within 2 weeks. If your audition is successful, details on the issuance of your LOE will be sent to you.

Do note that LOEs not collected within 2 months from the date of issue will be voided.

Upon receiving your LOE, you may begin to book or ballot to busk at designated locations. Please refer to the next section on how to use the Busking E-service.

LOE VALIDITY



Audition for a 1-year LOE

Audition for a 2-year LOE

Apply online for renewal and receive a 2-year LOE

Audition for a 2-year LOE

At the end of year 4, buskers need to audition for a 2-year LOE to repeat the Year 1 to Year 4 cycle.

For first time buskers and those with lapsed* LOEs, you need to

- Audition for a 1-year LOE;
- At the end of the first year, audition for a 2-year LOE;
- Apply online to renew the LOE for an additional 2 years.

**Refers to LOEs that have expired before passing the second audition.*

For Student Pass, Employment Pass and ONE Pass holders

- Your passes must be valid for the full duration of your LOE.

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ABOUT THE BUSKING E-SERVICE

1. E-service Overview
2. Your Bookings
3. Best Practices

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ABOUT THE BUSKING E-SERVICE

The Busking E-service is a one-stop portal to book or ballot[1] for busking slots. Here you can:

- Stay updated on busking locations;
- Let the general public know where you will be performing;
- Manage your busking schedule and profile details.

eservices.nac.gov.sg/busking

Sign in using **singpass**

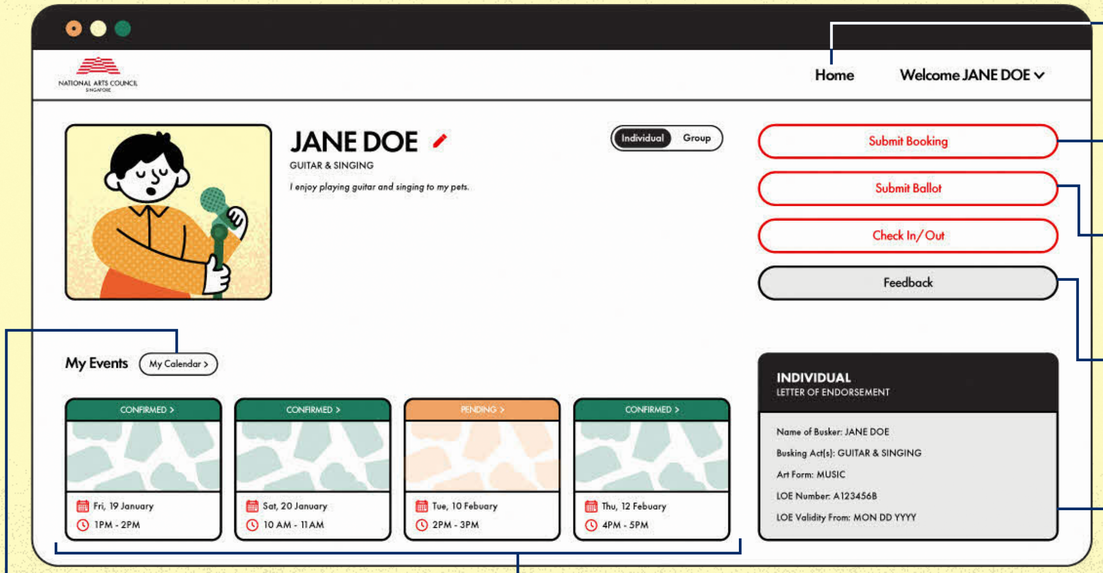
Your e-service account will only be **activated on the first day** of your stated LOE period

[1] *Visit **go.gov.sg/busking** for updated details of the booking and balloting schedule.*

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YOUR DASHBOARD

Upon successful login, you will be directed to your dashboard. Here, you will be able to get an overview of your account.



Check out where other buskers will be performing.

Book for busking slots.

Ballot for busking slots.
This will only be made available during the balloting window period.

Share your feedback or report technical issues in the portal here.

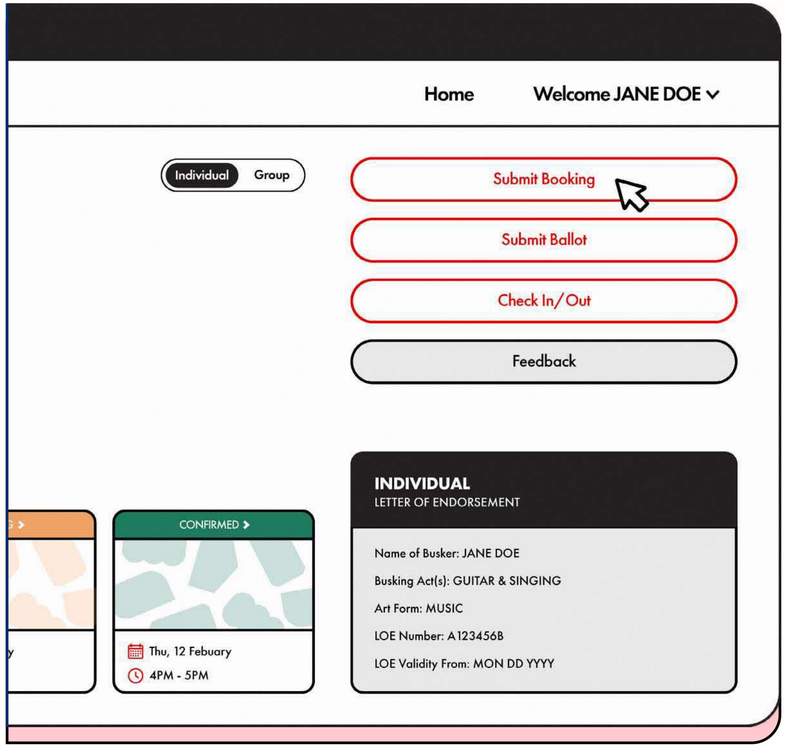
View your LOE information here.

View your booked and balloted slots in calendar view.

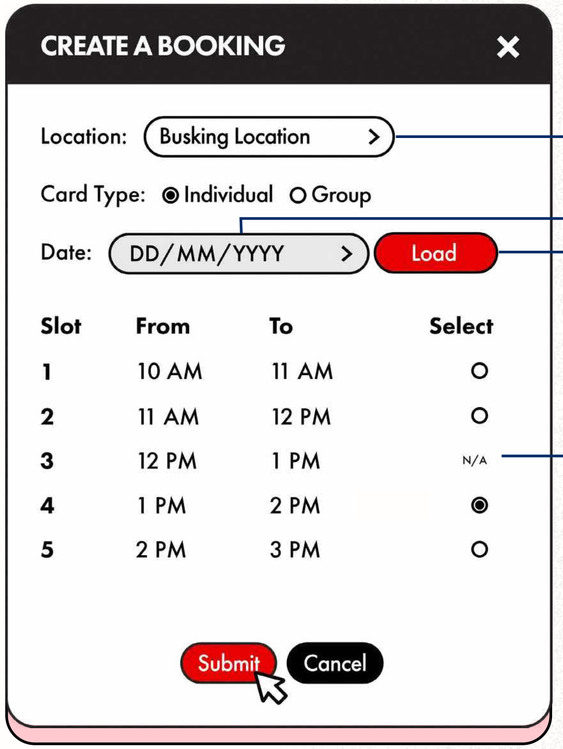
View all your booked and balloted slots.

HOW TO BOOK OR BALLOT FOR BUSKING SLOTS?

1 Click Submit Booking or Submit Ballot **on dashboard**



2 Enter details in pop-up and Submit



Please note that booking is on a first-come, first-served basis while balloting applies only to popular busking locations.

You are allowed to book or ballot a maximum of 6 one-hour slots per day.

Choose your busking location.

Choose preferred date to busk.

Load available slots for booking or balloting.

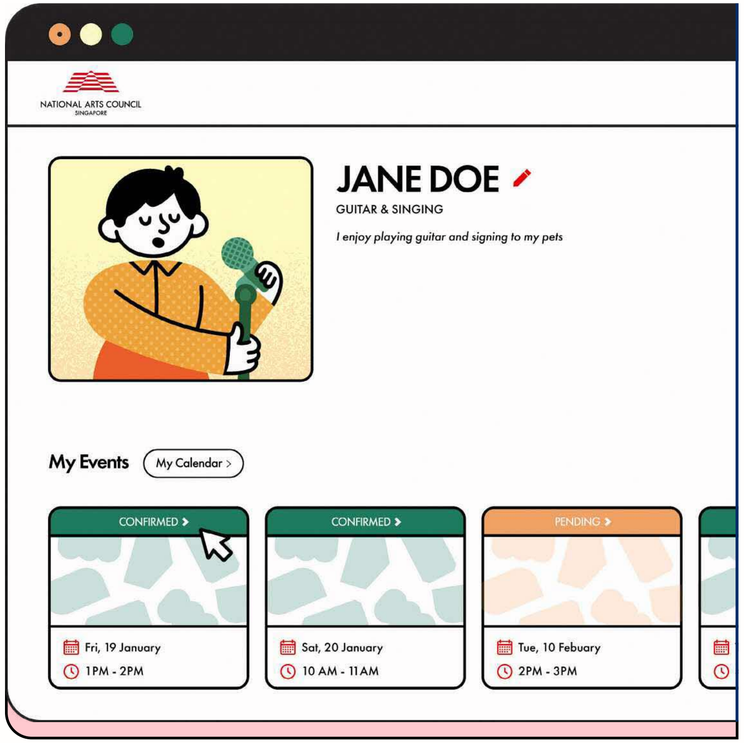
UNAVAILABLE SLOTS

Some slots may be unavailable from time to time as venues may close due to events or renovation works, or another busker may have booked or balloted for the slot.

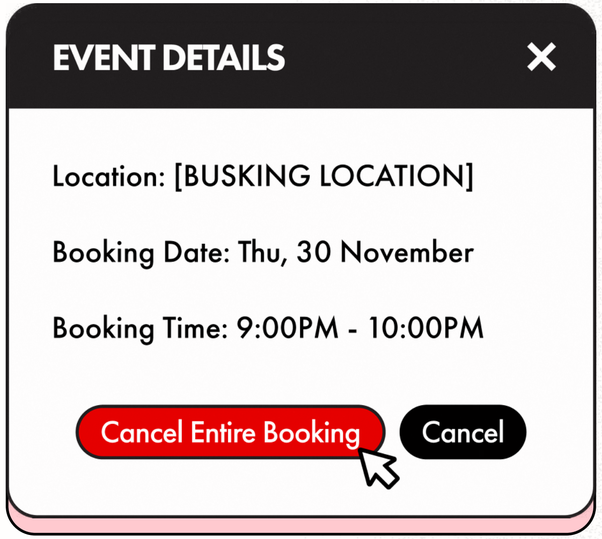
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HOW TO CANCEL YOUR BOOKED OR BALLOTED BUSKING SLOTS?

1 Click CONFIRMED > **on dashboard**



2 Select Cancel Entire Booking **in pop-up**



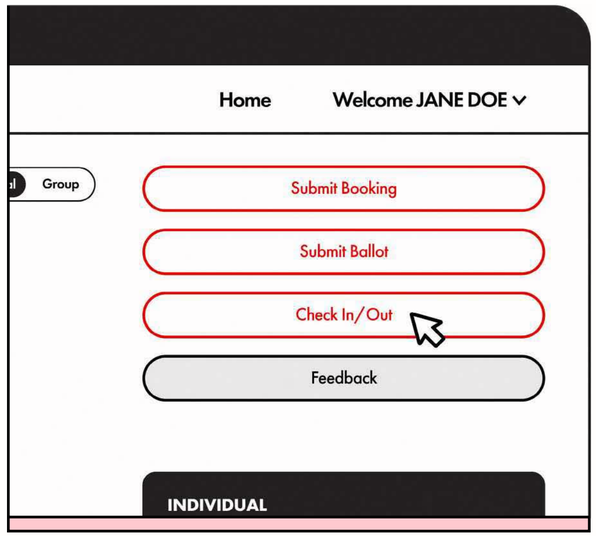
If you are unable to make it for your busking slot, please cancel it to free up opportunities for other interested buskers.

If you wish to edit your busking slot, you will need to cancel it and resubmit your booking or ballot based on available slots.

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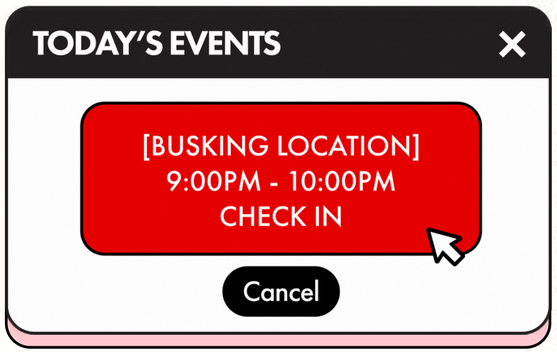
HOW TO CHECK IN/OUT OF YOUR BUSKING SLOT?

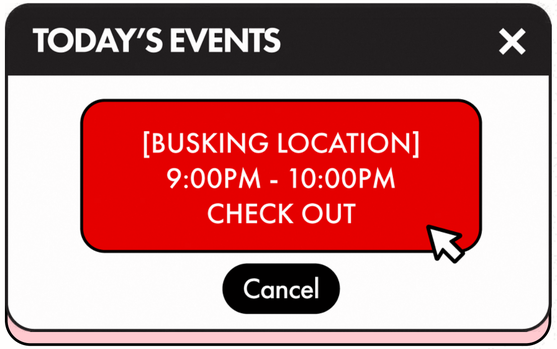
❶ Click Check In/Out on dashboard



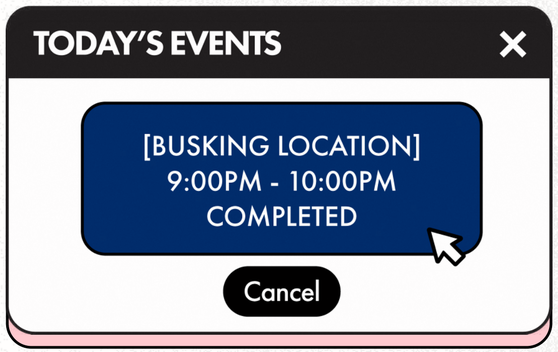
You are highly encouraged to check in before your slot starts and check out after it ends, for a clearer record of your busking activities.

❷ Click pop-up to confirm





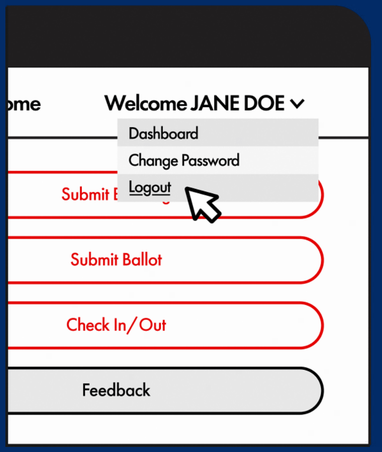
❸ Receive confirmation



You will be notified that you have successfully checked in or out of the busking location.

AND DON'T FORGET TO LOG OUT!

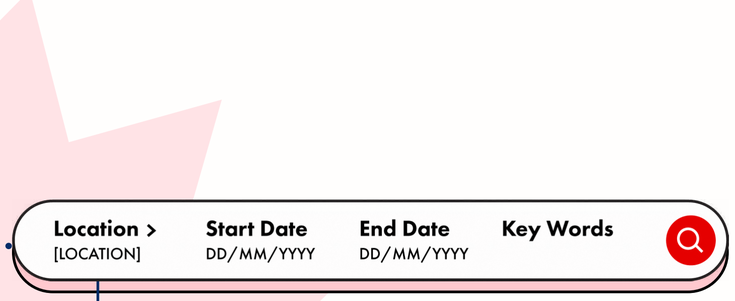
Log out at the end of your session as failure to do so might affect future logins.



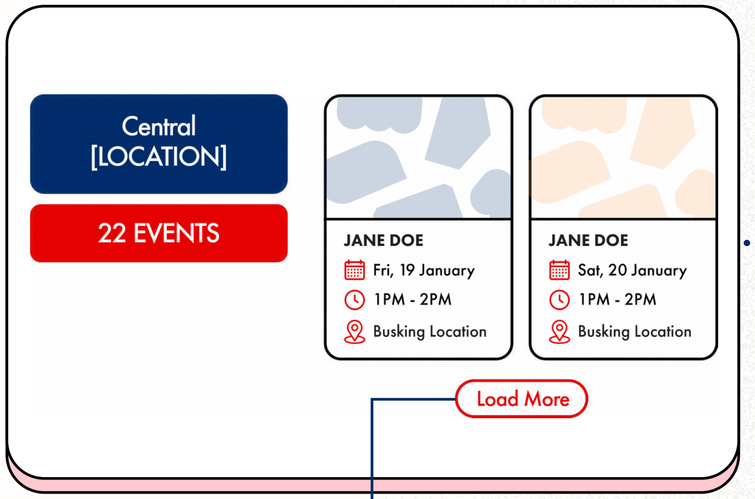
Log out by clicking on the top right-hand corner of your screen and select "Logout" on the dropdown menu.

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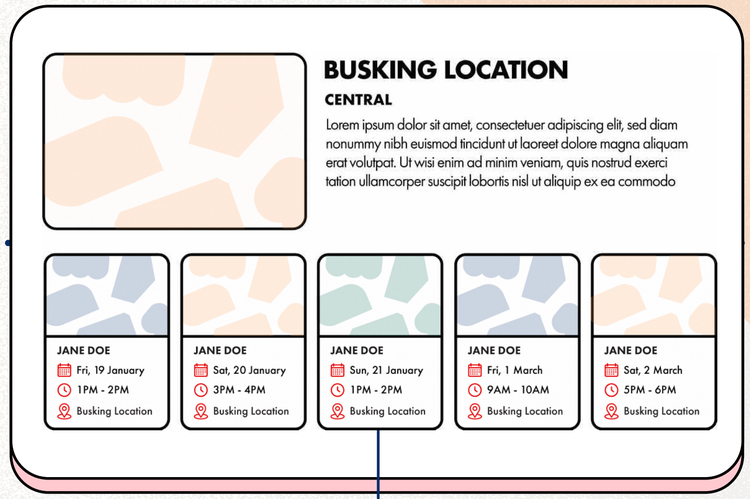
VIEWING ONGOING BUSKING ACTIVITIES



Click here to select a location and search for busking events.



Click here to view full list of busking events in your selected location.



You can view the names and profiles of buskers who will be busking at the selected location.

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BEST PRACTICES

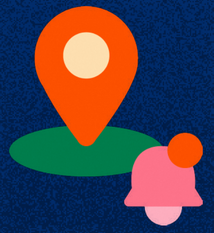
FOR BOOKING/BALLOTING BUSKING SLOTS



Set calendar reminders to check for the opening of booking and balloting calendars.



Log in using only one device as multiple logins with different devices will cause an error. Do also log out after each session as failure to do so may affect future logins.



Check NAC's website for latest updates on busking locations (e.g. updated busking hours, changes in venues etc.).



Do cancel your busking slots if you are unable to make it to free up opportunities for other interested buskers.

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GOOD PRACTICES WHEN BUSKING ON THE STREETS

Engage Your Audience

- Create a positive first impression and connect with your audience.
- Know who your audience is at each location.
- Vary your repertoire to engage the audience.

Know Your Locations

- Choose and book a location that is suitable for your act.
- Note the location of amenities nearby in case you require them.



Cooperate with Venue Partners

- Build good relationships with venue stakeholders and partners who have made these locations available to the Busking Scheme.
- Work with them to coexist with other events and activities taking place at these venues.

Be Considerate

- Manage your volume, especially in residential areas.



Safety First

- Stop/Pause your performance when necessary to allow better pedestrian flow and ensure safety for everyone.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

- **I am a foreigner visiting Singapore on a Social Visit Pass. Can I apply for the Busking Scheme?**
  No, only foreign residents who hold a valid Student, Employment or ONE Pass are eligible to apply to join the Busking Scheme. Additionally, the validity of your Pass must cover the duration of the LOE.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Can I include more than one busking act in my busking application form?**
  Yes! Please indicate in your application form if you plan to audition for more than one busking act.

- **Is there a registration fee to apply for the Busking Scheme?**
  There is no registration fee.

- **How do I check on my application status?**
  You may contact the appointed busking agency to check on your application status if you have not heard from them within 2 weeks of submitting your application.

- **For busking groups, does every member need to submit an application form?**
  No, each group can nominate a representative to complete and submit the application form with the particulars of all the group members.

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AUDITION

When and where is the audition held?
Please refer to **go.gov.sg/busking** for the latest details.

Can I send a video of my previous busking acts instead of auditioning in person?
The audition is held in-person as it reflects an actual live busking act on the street.

Can I sing with pre-recorded music on playback?
As busking emphasises live performances, singing acts (with the exception of a capella groups) have to be accompanied by live music accompaniment and not pre-recorded playback.

What happens if one of my group members is unable to make it for the audition?
Only group members who are present at the audition will be endorsed to busk if the audition is successful.

Can my friends or family members accompany me for the audition?
If you require assistance to set-up your act, you are allowed to have your friends or family members to help set up. However, they will have to leave the audition space before your audition starts.

What if I am already on the Busking Scheme but want to audition with a new act or instrument? What if my group has a change of members?
Buskers who want to change their act substantially, or change their group members will need to audition for a new LOE and begin a new busking journey. They will need to pass 2 consecutive auditions (completing a 1-year LOE validity in between) before entering the 4-year cycle.

What happens to buskers whose LOEs lapse (i.e. LOE expires before they apply for renewal or pass an audition)?
If a busker's LOE expires before renewal (through applying online or passing the audition), it would be deemed to have lapsed. This means that the busker will need to restart their busking journey and pass 2 consecutive auditions (completing a 1-year LOE validity in between) before entering the 4-year cycle.

BUSKING ON THE STREETS

How do I know if I am eligible to start the 4-year cycle with a 2-year LOE?
Buskers will need to pass 2 consecutive auditions (completing a 1-year LOE validity in between) before entering the 4-year cycle. If the busker applies for the second audition in a cycle earlier than the one right before their LOE expires, they will be directed to apply for the correct audition cycle.

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Why do I have to display my LOE?

In line with the Public Entertainments (Exemptions) Order, buskers are required to possess and display a valid LOE when busking. This is to inform the public and the authorities that you are endorsed to busk under the Busking Scheme.

Can individual buskers gather and busk as a group?

If you intend to busk as a group, please submit an application form with your group member's particulars to audition and apply for a separate LOE for your busking group.

There are buskers who insist that I cannot busk at a certain location because they were there first or have been busking regularly at that spot, what should I do?

Buskers do not have exclusivity over any designated busking location. As stated within the Busking Scheme Terms and Conditions, always book and ballot for slots through the Busking E-service and adhere to confirmed slots.

If a venue manager gives me "special permission" to busk at their venue, can I do so?

No. Please note that busking can only take place at designated busking locations. Any busking taking place at non-designated busking locations will be in direct infringement of the Public Entertainments Act and liable to enforcement actions by relevant authorities.

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Can I put up signboards and/or inform the public that I am busking to raise funds for charitable causes or my personal endeavours (e.g. school fees, travels, etc.)?

This is prohibited as the Busking Scheme is not a platform for fundraising and/or advocating for a cause. Signboards or communication to the public that are deemed to be soliciting for any gratuity are not allowed. If you would like to solicit donations or raise funds for a cause, you will need to apply for a House to House and Street Collections Licence from the Singapore Police Force.

OTHER GENERAL QUESTIONS

Is the Busking Scheme a welfare support initiative?

The Busking Scheme is not a welfare support initiative. If you require welfare assistance, please approach your nearest Community Development Council, Citizens' Consultative Committee or a Family Service Centre for more information on the types of assistance available. Alternatively, you may also call the ComCare Hotline at 1800-222-0000 to enquire about the assistance programmes available.

Can I list NAC as my employer since I am busking full-time?

While the Busking Scheme is managed by NAC, buskers should not list NAC as their employer as they are not employees of the Council.

BUSKING SCHEME TERMS & CONDITIONS

The National Arts Council's ("NAC") issuance of the Letter of Endorsement ("LOE") to you is conditional on your acceptance of the following T&Cs applicable to NAC's Busking Scheme.

GENERAL TERMS AND INDEMNITY

1. By accepting this LOE, you agree that:
   - **a.** You have satisfied all Eligibility and Assessment Criteria stated on the busking website. If, at any point during the validity of your LOE, you no longer satisfy the Eligibility Criteria for application to the Busking Scheme, NAC reserves the right to immediately cancel or suspend the LOE.
   - **b.** Your LOE is personal to you and not transferrable.
   - **c.** You shall report any lost or stolen LOE to the Police and NAC immediately.
   - **d.** You shall obtain, at your cost, all necessary licenses, permits and approvals for the use of any materials (dangerous or otherwise), equipment, props, and/or intellectual property (including but not limited to copyright and composer's fees) during the busking act.
   - **e.** You shall be liable for and shall indemnify and hold NAC and all Venue Partners harmless from and against all claims, demands, losses, damages, penalties, expenses and liability of any kind arising from your acts, omissions or negligence.
   - **f.** Although NAC and Venue Partners have taken steps to ensure that the busking locations provide you a safe environment, neither NAC nor Venue Partners shall be responsible for any loss, damage to property, physical illness, injury or death you encounter while busking or otherwise arising from busking under the Busking Scheme, to the extent permissible under Singapore law.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

2. A busking LOE is an endorsement from NAC for the person(s) specified in the LOE to be exempted from obtaining a Public Entertainment License in order to perform in public, based on passing an Audition. Aligned with the **Public Entertainments Act 1958** read together with the **Public Entertainments (Exemptions) Order**, the following conditions must therefore be complied with:
   - **a.** Busking should only take place at a place designated by NAC, after first confirming their slots by booking or balloting via the Busking E-service.
     - **i.** There should not be any sale or purchase of busking slots.
     - **ii.** Buskers should not book slots on behalf of other buskers.
   - **b.** The LOE must be displayed conspicuously. Buskers must provide their LOE along with other forms of identification documents (e.g. NRIC/passport) for verification by the authorities, personnel of NAC's Venue Partners and NAC's appointed management agency, as required.
   - **c.** Buskers should not obstruct, or cause obstruction to, pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
   - **d.** Buskers should not actively solicit any donation, display any signboards or collaterals that are used for the purposes of touting, fundraising or soliciting for any gratuity from the public, or promote any entity or cause with or without advertising collaterals.
   - **e.** Buskers should not price any items/merchandise for sale (i.e. hawking).
   - **f.** Buskers should not use any sound amplification device, other than those that are battery operated. The sound level generated from the busking act should not exceed the decibel levels stated on the Busking E-service for each location.
   - **g.** The busking act performed should not substantially differ from what was endorsed in the Audition in style and/or substance. This is including but not limited to the following:
     - **i.** Difference in art form or instruments used;
     - **ii.** Difference in group members or performers.
3. In the interest of public safety and order, buskers should not engage in or display any of the following behaviours **during busking acts**:
   - **a.** Behaviour that interrupts the busking acts of other buskers, and/or causes alarm or distress to members of the public, including audience members and other buskers. Such behaviour includes, but is not limited to, fighting, harassment, damaging of property, vandalism, endangering public safety, and indecent exposure;
   - **b.** Refusing to comply with directions or guidelines from Venue Partners, on-site Managing Agents, and/or NAC-appointed representatives, vendors or agencies (e.g. security officers); and/or
   - **c.** Behaviour or speech that:
     - **i.** Is vulgar or obscene;
     - **ii.** Is derogatory to or defamatory of any third party;
     - **iii.** Brings disrepute to or prejudices NAC in any way whatsoever;
     - **iv.** Advocates or lobbies for lifestyles seen as objectionable by the general public;
     - **v.** Denigrates or debases a person, group or class of individuals on the basis of race or religion, or serves to create conflict or misunderstanding in our multicultural and multi-religious society;
     - **vi.** Undermines the authority or legitimacy of the government and public institutions, or threatens the nation's security or stability; and/or
     - **vii.** Has a political or religious agenda or proselytises any particular faith, save in accordance with the law.
4. In the above situations stated in Clause 2 and 3, contingent on the outcome of investigations by enforcement agencies, and depending on the severity and circumstances of each incident, NAC reserves the right to take a range of actions on the errant busker, **including but not limited to**:
   - **a.** Suspending access to the booking of busking timeslots for the period of investigation by enforcement agencies;
   - **b.** Immediately cancelling or suspending the LOE; and/or
   - **c.** Legal action.

NAC reserves the right to revise these T&Cs at any time, at its sole discretion. You acknowledge that, by performing at the designated locations, you may be subject to a separate set of directions and guidelines from the Venue Partners, who may pause or discontinue your performance, where they deem necessary.

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NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

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Contact Details

For all applications and enquiries:
NAC_artsforall@nac.gov.sg

For more information about the Busking Scheme:
go.gov.sg/busking

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