



MARDI GRAS VENDING GUIDE

If you wish to be a vendor during carnival season you are required to obtain the necessary permits according to of the Code of the City of New Orleans. Additionally, Chapter 150, Section 150-627 of the municipal code states that all businesses participating as Mardi Gras vendors may be subjected to audit and/or review. If you are selected for audit, please have available all accounting records pertaining to your business. These records include, but are not limited to cash register tapes, purchase invoices, beginning and ending inventory sheets and sales records. This review may include auditors monitoring sales at your designated spot during the Mardi Gras season. Failure to comply with this review will result in suspension of participation in future carnival events. **The code is available at http://www.municode.com/Library/LA/New_Orleans.**

Overview of Regulations for Mardi Gras Vendors (Chapter 34 of Municipal Code):

- A specific location can be assigned but not guaranteed by the city.
- Vendors at fixed locations on public streets may set up their vehicles during "parade time" only.
- When the use of fixed location would interfere with a parade along a particular route or interfere with public safety, the city shall have the option to deny the use of such location for such period of time as may be necessary.
- Vendors selling from fixed locations shall comply with all provisions of Chapter 154 relative to traffic regulations, especially, but not exclusively with regard to distances from fire hydrants and intersections.
- All vendors selling from fixed locations shall have the mayoralty permit as provided for in Section 34-35 publicly displayed at his place of business and failure to do so shall constitute a violation of this article.
- No Mardi Gras mayoralty permit shall be issued for vendors from fixed locations on public streets, sidewalks, alleys, parks or squares in the Vieux Carre' as defined in Chapter 166
- All applicants for Mardi Gras mayoralty permits to sell food and/or drinks on public or private property must show proof of compliance with all regulations and requirements of the state department of health and the department of fire, fire prevention bureau, before a permit can be issued by the department of finance.
- Vendors selling from fixed locations shall not conduct sales from the side of his location that faces the street or on the immediate street side of his location.
- No person, individual, or corporation shall copy, reproduce, or counterfeit, or cause to be copied, reproduced or counterfeited, any permit issued pursuant to this article by any form or process, or to otherwise represent something to be a valid permit when it is not.

Failure to comply with these regulations will be considered a violation of this Chapter and may result in enforcement action or suspension of participation privileges in further carnival season activities.

Regulations for Mardi Gras Vendors:

All vendors are required to purchase an original City of New Orleans Occupational License, an original Mayoralty Permit and I.D. badge for each category. These documents must be in your possession and visible at all times when conducting sales.

Mardi Gras Polices for the Bureau of Revenue:

- Novelties-A small, inexpensive toy, ornament and piece of jewelry or trinket that is treasured for the memories associated with Mardi Gras.
- Vendors may not sell T-shirts and/or clothing, CD's, DVD's, VCR tapes or items that are not defined as novelties.
- The sale of Alcoholic Beverages is Strictly Prohibited without the necessary permits.

Operational Requirements & Restrictions:

- Mardi Gras Vending permits are **NOT VALID** in the (French Quarter\Vieux Carre) or in the 100 blocks of Bourbon, Royal, and Chartres Streets.
- Vending time shall be consistent. Commencing two (2) hours before the start of a parade and ending two (2) hours after the parade ends.
- Vending is not allowed in the CBD (the River to Claiborne Avenue and Esplanade Avenue to Howard Avenue) before 6:00 p.m. for parades that are scheduled during **WEEKDAYS**.
- Walkers' are required to keep moving at all times except when making sales. Tables or stands are strictly prohibited.
- Walkers' boundaries extend two blocks in either direction of the street used by various parades while the parade is in progress.
- During the Mardi Gras season, it shall be unlawful for any peddler or vendor of prepared food to cook, sell, or vend from a trailer, or other mobile or temporary facility, or a vehicle, or on foot, any food or merchandise on the sidewalk on the same side of the street, in the street, or on the neutral ground (median) in front of any lawfully operating restaurant, cafeteria, public or private school, or any concession operated by a booster club sanctioned by the department or recreation.
- All fixed location vendors must comply with all regulations and requirements of the Department of Health, Safety and Permits (electrical and build inspections), the Fire/Bureau of Fire Prevention, Police and Finance.
- Trailers, vans and any appendant thereto from which a vendor sells shall not exceed 30 feet in length or 9 feet in width. All vendors must sell and display from a vehicle, No stands, card table, etc. are allowed on public streets, sidewalks, alleyways, park squares and or neutral grounds.
- Fixed location vehicles must not block intersections, sidewalks or fire hydrants. Must at all times comply with [Chapter 154](#) of the code of the City of New Orleans, as it relates to traffic regulations, especially, but not exclusively with regard to distances from fire hydrants and intersections.
- When the use of a fixed location interferes with a parade along a particular route or interferes with public safety, the City shall have the option to deny the use of such location

for the period of time deemed necessary.

- Vendors selling from fixed locations shall provide containers sufficient for storage, in a sanitary manner, for all trash, garbage, or any other refuse generated by their business activities at each authorized location during “parade time” as defined in [Section 34-216](#) of the Code of the City of New Orleans.

A lottery will be held to determine the order of location selection. Lottery placements are NON-TRANSFERABLE.

Private Vending Locations

Fixed locations are permitted on private property that is located along parade routes. These locations are subjected to zoning approval from Department of Safety and Permits. If food is sold at the specified location, a Health Certificate is also required from the State Department of Health.

City-Owned Vending Locations

A specific location can be assigned but not guaranteed by the City, and no fixed location shall contain more than one (1) vendor from each of the following categories:

1. Sandwiches, cooked foods and drinks (other than alcoholic beverage)
2. Candy, nuts and confections
3. Novelties

Mardi Gras Fees for Walkers

Description		Cost
Occasional Occupational License	Per Walker	\$ 150.00
Mayoralty Permit, per category	Per Walker	\$ 100.25
I.D. Badge	Per Walker	\$ 5.00
Sales Tax Deposit, per permit	Per Walker	\$ 200.00
Total Fee Per Walker		\$ 455.25

Mardi Gras Fees for Fixed Location Vendors

Description		Cost
Occasional Occupational License	Per Location	\$ 150.00
Mayoralty Permit, per category	Per Location	\$ 500.25
I.D. Badge	Per Location	\$ 5.00
Sales Tax Deposit, per permit	Per Location	\$1,000.00
Total Fee Per Location		\$1,655.25

Mardi Gras Fees for 1-Day Location Vendors

Description		Cost
Occasional Occupational License	Per Location	\$ 150.00
Mayoralty Permit, per category	Per Location	\$ 50.25
I.D. Badge	Per Location	\$ 5.00
Sales Tax Deposit, per permit	Per Location	\$ 50.00
Total Fee Per Location		\$ 255.25

Sales Tax & Sales Tax Deposits

Sec. 34-37. - Vendors in a fixed location; permit requirements and regulations.

There shall be a \$1,000.00 deposit on each permit to guarantee payment of sales tax at the end of the Mardi Gras season. This deposit will be forfeited 30 days after Mardi Gras if the taxpayer has not filed his sales tax return. This provision shall not restrict the authority of the Director of Finance to assess and collect sales and use tax in accordance with [Section 150-441](#) et seq.

*****IMPORTANT*****

The local sales tax due at a rate of 5% will NOT be deducted from the sales tax deposit. All participants are required to file a sales tax return within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Mardi Gras season. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in enforcement action, including but not limited to jeopardy assessments, liens, levies or restriction in participating in future carnival events.

Parking Meter Requirements

All fixed location mobile vendors with a parking meter at their location will have to contact the Parking Control Division to rent meters for the Mardi Gras season:

PARKING CONTROL
1340 POYDRAS ST 8th Floor
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 658-8200
Hours: 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a citation or tow of your vehicle or trailer.

All fees, deposits and sales tax remittance must be made by cashier's check or money order only, made payable to: THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. Cash will not be accepted.

VENDOR CHECKLIST-To be used on the day you apply

Walkers

- STEP 1. Obtain a State Health Certificate from the Office of Sanitarian Services of the State of Louisiana:**
- ☐ If selling food, call (504) 568-7970 to apply for a permit and schedule an appointment.
 - ☐ Provide a listing of all items to be sold as well as the supplier name where the items were purchased.
 - ☐ Bring permit fees
 - ☐ **NOTE: WALKERS ARE ONLY PERMITTED TO SELL PRE-PACKAGED FOOD**
- STEP 2. Obtain an Occupational License, Mayoralty Permit(s) and Vendor Identification and Badges:**
- ☐ Department of Finance, Bureau of Revenue
CITY HALL - 1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W15
(504) 658-1600, (504)658-1666, (504)658-1645 or (504)658-1661
HOURS: 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.
 - ☐ Complete Mardi Gras registration application, Schedule A, if you do not currently have a Revenue account number. Food and beverage vendors must submit a valid Health Certificate before application is processed as well as a valid picture I.D.
 - ☐ Sign the Payment Voucher Form in order to process the sales tax deposit refund at the conclusion of the carnival season. Obtain a blank sales tax form to file sales in order to pay sales taxes. The form is due at the conclusion of the carnival season. Failure to pay within thirty (30) days will result in further enforcement action.
 - ☐ Pay permit fees-\$455.25 per cart, per category.

It is illegal to sell Silly String and Stink Bombs as well as “snap-pops” and guns of any kind. Vendors selling novelties must only sell items which are clearly defined by the novelty definition.

Fixed Locations

- STEP 1. Sign-in at City Hall, Room 1W15 at the receptionist desk. You will be called based upon your placement in the Lottery Selection process. You then:**
- ☐ Select a Fixed Location when your number is called. The location must be approved by a Revenue Supervisor before final issuance.
 - ☐ Complete the registration application, Schedule A if you do not currently have a Revenue account number. Food and beverage vendors must submit a valid Health Certificate before application is processed as well as a valid picture I.D.
 - ☐ Pay permit and license fees - \$655.25 per category.
 - ☐ Sign the Payment Voucher Form in order to process the sales tax deposit refund at the conclusion of the carnival season. Obtain a blank sales tax form to file sales in order to pay sales taxes. The form is due at the conclusion of carnival season. Failure to pay within thirty (30) days will result in further enforcement action.

STEP 2. Contact the Health Department to apply for a Health Certificate and schedule an appointment for an inspection of the vehicle or trailer to be used:

- ☐ State Department of Sanitarian Services
(HEALTH DEPARTMENT—If selling food)
1450 Poydras St. Suite 1204
(504) 568-7970
HOURS: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
- ☐ Provide a listing of all items to be sold as well as the supplier name where the items were purchased.
- ☐ Bring permit fees.

STEP 3. Schedule a vehicle inspection appointment if food and beverages are being sold:

- ☐ New Orleans Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention
317 Decatur St., 2nd Floor
(504) 658-4700
HOURS: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
- ☐ Schedule a vehicle inspection appointment if food and beverages are being sold.
- ☐ Bring permit fees.

MOBILE VENDORS MUST RETURN WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS TO THE BUREAU OF REVENUE WITH A VALID HEALTH AND FIRE PERMIT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A MAYORALTY PERMIT, OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE AND I.D. BADGE OR THE LOCATION YOU SELECTED WILL BE REASIGNED.

Fixed Locations on Private Property

STEP 1. Submit an affidavit from the property owner granting authorization to use said property. Affidavit must include the address of the property, days to be used as well as the purpose of the use of the property.

- ☐ Complete a Revenue Form with a valid case number and submit to Bureau of Revenue, City Hall Room 1W15.

STEP 2. Contact the LA State Health Department to apply for a Health Certificate and schedule an appointment for an inspection of the vehicle or trailer to be used:

- ☐ State Department of Sanitarian Services
(HEALTH DEPARTMENT—If selling food)
1450 Poydras St. Suite 1204
(504) 568-7970
HOURS: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
- ☐ Provide a listing of all items to be sold as well as the supplier name where the items were purchased.
- ☐ Bring permit fees.

STEP 3. Schedule a vehicle inspection appointment if food and beverages are being sold:

- ☐ New Orleans Fire Department, Bureau of Fire Prevention
317 Decatur St., 2nd Floor
(504) 658-4700
HOURS: 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.

- Schedule a vehicle inspection appointment if food and beverages are being sold.
- Bring permit fees.

STEP 4. Complete the registration application, Schedule A, if you do not currently have a Revenue account number. Food and beverage vendors must submit a valid Health Certificate before application is processed as well as a valid picture I.D.:

- Department of Finance, Bureau of Revenue
CITY HALL - 1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W15
(504) 658-1637, (504)658-1661, (504)658-1645 or (504)658-1630
HOURS: 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.
- Pay permit and license fees-\$1,655.25 per category.
- Sign the Payment Voucher Form in order to process the sales tax deposit refund at the conclusion of the carnival season. Obtain a blank sales tax form to file sales in order to pay sales taxes. The form is due at the conclusion of the carnival season. Failure to pay within thirty (30) days will result in further enforcement action.
- Submit your State Health Certificate and Fire Prevention Certificate.

It is illegal to sell Silly String and Stink Bombs as well as “snap-pops” and guns of any kind. Vendors selling novelties must only sell items which are clearly defined by the novelty definition.

FOR ALL VENDORS WALKERS AND FIXED LOCATIONS

- REGISTER WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TAXATION
1450 POYDRAS STREET, SUITE 800 (504)568-5233.
HOURS: 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
OPEN TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS ONLY
- Complete state registration for the collections and payment of State of Louisiana sales taxes, a rate of 4%.

There will be a City of New Orleans illegal vending hotline to report vendors who are not registered. The number is (504)658-2020.

Mardi Gras Locations

Canal Street Intersections

Street Name	Major Intersection	Location	Categories	Meter Rental	Stipulations
N. Rampart St.	Canal St.	Downtown/Riverside	1,2	No	20 ft. from corner, move for parade
University Place	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside (Uptown/Riverside Permissible)	1	No	Move for parade, freight zone/hotel passenger zone
Baronne St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2	No	20 ft. from corner
Baronne St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Riverside	1,2	Yes-2	15 ft. from fire hydrant
Carondelet St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2,3	Yes	15 ft. from fire hydrant
Camp St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2	Yes-2	
Camp St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Yes-2	Cab stand
Magazine St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2	No	20 ft. from corner

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St. Charles Avenue Intersections

Street Name	Major Intersection	Location	Categories	Meter Rental	Stipulations
Common St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1	No	Hotel passenger zone
Gravier St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	No	20 ft. from corner
Gravier St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	No	
Union St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Lakeside	1	Yes-2	
Poydras St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Yes-2	15 ft. from fire hydrant

Street Name	Major Intersection	Location	Categories	Meter Rental	Stipulations
Poydras St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	Yes-2	15 ft. from fire hydrant & 3ft from driveway
Poydras St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1,2	Yes-2	15 ft. from corner
Girod St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1,2	Yes-2	20 ft. from corner
Girod St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Lakeside	1	Yes	
Julia St. (pending construction)	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Lakeside	1	Yes	15 ft. from fire hydrant
Julia St. (pending construction)	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	Yes-2	
Julia St. (pending construction)	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1	Yes-2	
Julia St. (pending construction)	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Yes	
St. Joseph St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1	Yes	
St. Joseph St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Lakeside	1	Yes	
St. Joseph St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	Yes	15 ft. from fire hydrant
St. Joseph St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	No	
Clio St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1	No	
Thalia St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Yes-2	20 or more feet from the intersection
Melpomene St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1,2	No	70 ft. from the corner
Terpsichore St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	No	
Euterpe St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1(No food) ,2	No	
Euterpe St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	No	Parade passes on opposite side of the street, construction

Street Name	Major Intersection	Location	Categories	Meter Rental	Stipulations
Felicity St.	St. Charles Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Yes-2	
St. Mary St.	St. Charles Ave.	Downtown/Riverside	1	Yes	5 ft. from fire hydrant

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One-Day Fixed Locations

Street Name	Major Intersection	Location	Categories	Parade	Stipulations
Bienville St.	Carrollton Ave.	Downtown/Lakeside	1	Endymion	
Canal St.	Carrollton Ave.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2	Endymion	
Carrollton Ave.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1,2	Endymion	
Carrollton Ave.	Canal St.	Downtown/Riverside	1,2	Endymion	
Jefferson Davis Pkwy.	Canal St.	Uptown/Lakeside	1	Endymion	
Broad St.	Canal St.	Uptown/Riverside	1	Endymion	Bus stop
Odeon St.	Gen. Meyer Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	NOMTOC	
Pace St.	Gen. Meyer Ave.	Downtown/Belle Chase Side (1200 Block)	1	NOMTOC	
Behrman Hwy.	Gen. Meyer Ave.	Uptown/Jefferson Side (1000 Block)	1	NOMTOC	
Wagner St.	Gen. Meyer Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	NOMTOC	
Sumner St.	Gen. Meyer Ave.	Uptown/Riverside	1	NOMTOC	

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