Busking in Columbia

Get Your Permits!
Permits can be obtained from the City of Columbia Business License Division located at 1339 Main Street (first floor) between 8:30am and 5pm Monday through Friday. $15 annually (from date of issuance) — $2.50 daily (up to 3 consecutive days) — $5 for replacements

The Regulations

- Permits are required and must be on display during the performance
- Each member of a performance group is required to have an individual busker permit
- Keep at least 50ft of space between you and your fellow buskers and street performers
- Busking hours - 9am - 10pm, but low noise or no noise activities can take place between 10pm-12am at least 100ft from any residential units or hotels
- Clean up after yourself
- Signs requesting donations are allowed, but must be smaller than 12in by 18in and cannot contain advertising
- Selling things is not permitted, but goods can be offered in exchange for donations
- Set up at least 100ft away from schools, libraries, hospitals, funeral homes, or churches while in session
- Stay in the public areas — public sidewalks and parks
- Avoid obstructing sidewalks or doorways and leave at least 5ft open on the sidewalk in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Fire, projectiles, animals, knives or megaphones can’t be used in your performance unless the performance is connected to a city-authorized street festival and with the express permission of the organizer. Permits for dangerous materials or objects must obtain other necessary permits.
- Don’t drink on the job or perform intoxicated.

The full text of the busking ordinance (2012-057) is available here: http://bit.ly/ColaBusking

Who to Contact

City of Columbia
Business License Division
1339 Main Street, Columbia SC
803.545.3345
http://columbiaasc.net

One Columbia for Arts and History
1219 Taylor Street, Columbia SC
803.254.5008
info@onecolumbisc.com
http://onecolumbisc.com