

ORDINANCE NO. 26-53

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
ORDINANCE 006-75 WHICH  
GOVERNS RULES REGARDING  
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES ON CTA  
PROPERTY

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2006, the Board passed Ordinance Number 006-75, which among other things, governs performance on property owned, operated, or maintained by the Chicago Transit Authority (“Authority”); and

WHEREAS, On June 11, 2014, the Board passed Ordinance No. 014-60, amending Section 2.8 of Ordinance No. 006-75; and

WHEREAS, On September 14, 2016, the Board passed Ordinance No. 016-110, amending Sections 1 through 5 of Ordinance No. 006-75, while leaving Sections 6 through 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75 in full force and effect, and leaving Ordinance No. 014-60 in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, On July 15, 2020, the Board passed Ordinance No. 020-060, amending Ordinance 016-110 with the addition of a Rule 37 requiring facial coverings on Authority property, while leaving Sections 6 through 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75 in full force and effect, until the State of Illinois and City of Chicago ended such mask requirements, and the Rule 37 facial coverings requirement on Authority property was terminated in April 2022; and

WHEREAS, On January 18, 2024, the Board passed Ordinance No. 024-2, amending the rules of conduct while leaving Sections 6 through 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75 in full force and effect, and leaving Ordinance No. 014-60 in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, The Authority has over 80 permanent public art installations throughout its rail stations, facilities and terminals, which improve the customer and employee experience; and

WHEREAS, Sections 6 through 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75 provide for performers being able to perform on four designated station platforms; and

WHEREAS, The Authority seeks to expand Ordinance No. 006-75 to allow for temporary performing arts and arts installations (“Activations”) on Authority property, and to allow for compensation for these Activations; and

WHEREAS, The Authority wishes to establish the Community Arts Activation Program and an efficient process under which the Authority can solicit, review, and enter into agreements for these Activations, which may include the input of local community organizations and representatives so that the Activations are representative of the communities the Authority serves; and

ORDINANCE NO. 026-53  
(Continued) -2

WHEREAS, The Authority wishes to establish a not-to-exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) limit for each Activation; and

WHEREAS, The Authority seeks now to update, supplement, and restate Sections 6 to 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75; now, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD  
OF THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. Sections 6 to 17 of Ordinance No. 006-75 are hereby amended and restated in their entirety as follows:

SECTION 6. The following terms are defined for purposes of this ordinance:

- (a) "Activation" means (1) easily removable/reversible visual media applied to or placed in CTA-owned, operated or maintained property such as murals, paintings, sculptures, signage or mosaics, (2) a performance, or (3) other temporary artistic expression, in each case, in an Activation Area and that is on display for less than one year.
- (b) "Activation Area" means an area located in the unpaid and paid areas of CTA stations and/or areas directly adjacent to CTA stations or bus facilities which the CTA owns, operates or maintains.
- (c) "Activation Agreement" means an agreement entered into between the CTA and an Activation Party.
- (d) "Activation Guidelines" means the guidelines posted on CTA's website with respect to the solicitation, evaluation and award of Activations.
- (e) "Activation Party" means an organization, group or artist performing an Activation.
- (f) "Designated Performance Areas" means an area located on the platforms in the following stations:
  - 1. Lake Street Station (Red Line);
  - 2. Jackson and State Streets;
  - 3. Washington and Dearborn Streets; and
  - 4. Jackson and Dearborn Streets.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-53  
(Continued) -3

The Designated Performance Area on each platform is located between the pair of stairwells descending from the station platform to the transfer tunnel and is bounded on the north and south by the stairwells and on the east and west by imaginary lines extending from and connecting both sides of each of the stairwells.

- (g) "Perform" or "performance" means expressive activity such as, but not limited to acting, dancing, singing, painting, playing musical instruments, juggling, pantomime, magic, oration, rapping or reciting, whether done by an individual or group.
- (h) "Permitted Performer" means an individual who possesses a valid permit and identification badge issued pursuant to this ordinance for performing the Designated Performance Areas.
- (i) "Performance Area" with respect to an Activation means the specified Activation Area in the Activation Agreement, or otherwise means the four Designated Performance Areas identified in a permit issued to a Permitted Performer;

SECTION 7. Except as otherwise provided by this ordinance, no person shall engage in any performance on property owned, operated or maintained by CTA.

SECTION 8. For Performances other than Activations:

- (a) Performances on CTA property are permitted only in the Designated Performance Areas and only by Permitted Performers. If a group of persons wishes to perform in any of the Designated Performance Areas, each person in the group must possess a valid permit and identification badge.
- (b) Applications for permits for performances in the Designated Performance Areas shall be available from CTA. An application for a permit shall contain the applicant's name, address and telephone number and a signed statement by the applicant agreeing to abide by the regulations set forth in this ordinance. Upon receipt of a person's signed application and a ten dollar (\$10.00) annual processing fee, CTA shall issue that person a permit and identification badge and a copy of this ordinance. Permits and identification badges are not transferable. Permits and identification badges are not valid as a paid fare.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-53  
(Continued) –4

- (c) Permits and identification badges shall be valid for a period of one (1) year and are applicable to performance in any of the Designated Performance Areas. The Designated Performance Areas are available for performances on a first-come, first-served basis.
- (d) When performing in any of the Designated Performance Areas, each Permitted Performer must display prominently his or her identification badge.

SECTION 9. With respect to Activations:

- (a) The Chief Infrastructure Officer will, from time to time, release a list of designated “Activation Areas” on the CTA website.
- (b) Interested parties may submit proposals outlining the nature, dates, budget, and other pertinent information of their proposed Activation for the Activation Areas, and information about their organization and qualifications, all as provided in the Activation Guidelines.
- (c) Activation proposals will be reviewed using the criteria in the Activation Guidelines by a committee of stakeholders established by the Chief Infrastructure Officer and the Chief Planning and Innovation Officer (which may include external participants). The review committee will make a recommendation to the Chief Infrastructure Officer and the Chief Planning and Innovation Officer with respect to each received Activation proposal.
- (d) After receiving a recommendation from the review committee, the Chief Infrastructure Officer and the Chief Planning and Innovation Officer will confer and will notify the proposer as to whether the CTA desires to discuss the proposed Activation further.
- (e) The Chief Infrastructure Officer, with the assistance of Law, will negotiate a Temporary Public Art Agreement with any Activation Party approved by both the Chief Infrastructure Officer and the Chief Planning and Innovation Officer.
- (f) CTA reserves the right to refuse to consider any Activation proposal, reject any Activation proposal received at any time, and engage in no Activations.

SECTION 10. All Permitted Performers and Activation Parties must confine their performances to their Performance Area and may not litter, deface or destroy these areas or any areas appurtenant thereto.

SECTION 11. No Permitted Performer or Activation Party may obstruct, interfere with, or hinder the orderly flow of vehicular or foot traffic, including but not limited to ingress to and egress from the paid areas of CTA rail property. No Permitted Performer or Activation Party may use any CTA bench during any performance. All Permitted Performers and Activation Parties must be prepared to vacate immediately their Performance Area in the event of an emergency.

SECTION 12. No performance or Activation in any Performance Area may generate any sound exceeding 80 decibels when measured from a distance of 10 feet. In no event may the noise levels generated by performances or Activations in any performance area interfere with the ability of persons to hear announcements over the public address system or by CTA employees or agents or Chicago Police or other law enforcement officials, or interfere with the ability of sight-impaired persons to utilize transit facilities or services.

SECTION 13. Activation Parties must additionally comply with any further restrictions provided in the Activation Agreement, and Permitted Performers with any further restrictions provided in their permit.

SECTION 14. If a Permitted Performer violates Sections 7 through 13 of this Ordinance, the CTA may have the performer removed immediately from the property, confiscate his or her permit and revoke said permit for a period of up to 1 year. No permit may be revoked unless the CTA holds a hearing concerning that revocation, written notice of such hearing having been given to the performer no fewer than 7 calendar days prior to the hearing. Such notice shall set forth the facts constituting the basis for the proposed revocation. The performer may appear at the hearing and make comments or answer questions or both. Within 10 business days of the hearing, CTA shall send the performer written notice of the determination of CTA and, if the determination is to revoke the permit, then the written notice shall contain a statement of the reasons for that determination.

SECTION 15. If an Activation Party violates Sections 7 through 13 of this Ordinance, the CTA may have the Activation Party removed immediately from the Activation Area, terminate the Activation Agreement, and pursue any other remedies available at law or equity.

SECTION 16. Each Permitted Performer and Activation Party shall indemnify and hold harmless CTA and its directors, officers, representatives, employees and agents from any all claims, demands, liabilities or causes of action of any kind, including costs and attorney's fees, arising out of such Permitted Performer's performance or Activation Party's activities as applicable.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-53  
(Continued) -6

SECTION 17. If, as a result of a final judicial determination, CTA is not permitted to limit performances (other than Activations) to the Designated Performance areas, then no performances shall be permitted on any property owned, operated or maintained by CTA.

SECTION 2. Any other Section of Ordinance No. 006-75 remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Ordinance No. 014-60 remains in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. The Chicago Transit Board authorizes the establishment of the Community Arts Activation Program and its Activation Guidelines, as outlined and established in the procedures in Exhibit A hereto.

SECTION 5. The Chicago Transit Board authorizes the update and revision of the Activation Guidelines from time to time by the Chief Infrastructure Officer upon consultation with the General Counsel.

SECTION 6. The Chicago Transit Board authorizes the Chief Infrastructure Officer to enter into Temporary Public Art Agreements for Activations that will each have a not to exceed value of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) and a term of less than one (1) year.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED:

PASSED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 13, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

May 13, 2026