



Seattle Special Events Committee Votes to Extend the Suspension of Special Event Permits Through January 31, 2021

The Seattle Special Events Committee has voted to extend an administrative decision to not issue Special Event Permits through January 31, 2021. This extension will go into effect immediately.

On March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order banning public gatherings, which was subsequently amended to allow a phased approach for reopening. At this time, Seattle and King County are in Phase Two, where large gatherings are prohibited. As cases surge in Seattle and King County, gatherings large and small remain prohibited due to the negative impact they would have on public health and our region’s ability to contain the virus.

This decision only applies to events in Seattle that require permits through the Special Event Permit process. A Special Event Permit is not required for stadium events, events contained on Seattle Center Campus, most events in Seattle Parks, business extension permits issued by SDOT, or marches/rallies involving fewer than 50 people that are confined to sidewalks.

The Special Events Committee is currently accepting and will review Special Event Permit applications for events after January 31, 2021. The Committee continues to work with regional, national, and international stakeholders and agencies to develop processes, tools and resources that event organizers and producers can use to incorporate forthcoming State and public health requirements in their event planning.

The Special Events Committee is the 21-member group of City, County, State, and event professional safety and planning agencies and organizations that reviews and approves major Seattle events permitted through the Special Event Permit process. This permitting process requires a minimum of 90 days. Due to continued COVID-related uncertainty of when and how major events may be allowed in the State’s phased approach to protect residents’ health, the committee voted to extend the suspension of issuing permits through January 31, 2021.

This suspension may be extended due to continuing public health measures by local and State health officials. The City of Seattle continues to monitor developments from the Governor's office, and guidance from Public Health - Seattle & King County, the Washington Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention regarding COVID-19, including Governor Inslee’s recent guidelines allowing limited capacity run/walk/ride events in Phases 2 and 3, and outdoor retail in Phase 3. For more information please refer to seattle.gov/special-events-office for updates.

Chris Swenson, Chair
Seattle Special Events Committee