



Joint Edinburgh Fringe Street Events Charter

This charter has been co-created by the Street Performers' Council (representing the wider street performance community) and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

The purpose is to outline a shared purpose and commitment between both parties.

Background

In 1999, the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) asked the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society to manage the street performance spaces in the Old Town; this was to be done in the interests of public safety and include event management, audience management and respect for residents. The Society's role is to facilitate, support and raise money to deliver the Street Events; CEC and EventScotland also support the delivery of the project.

The Society recognises that street performance is a vital part of the Fringe and wants to ensure it can continue.

Joint Charter

The Charter for Street Performers outlines a set of values shared by the Fringe Society and the street performing community, as represented by the Street Performers' Council. This will act as a set of overarching principles for decision making and outlining commitments for both parties, both now and the future. These values cover areas including valuing artists, artists' collective voice, diversity and equality, mental health and wellbeing, social responsibility, and health and safety.

For the purposes of this document:

- Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society will be referred to as EFFS
- the Street Performers' Council will be referred to as SPC (but will be distinct from the wider street performance community)
- the City of Edinburgh Council will be referred to as CEC.



Valuing street performers and partnership

Commitments from street performers

- Street performers understand that the historic street performance sites are shared spaces within the public realm; the continued use of these spaces is not guaranteed and requires ongoing negotiation and collective thought and work.
- As the convening body of the wider street performing community, SPC will communicate with EDFS, and revert to EDFS on all issues and matters that relate to Fringe Street Events.

Commitments from EDFS

- EDFS will work with street performers and CEC to protect, to the best of its ability, the use of the historic street performing circle and busking pitches at:
 - the Royal Mile
 - West Parliament Square
 - Mercat Square
 - the Mound Precinct.
- EDFS commits to providing a registration service for street performers including artist advice and support (covering areas such as visa processes for international performers) through its Artist Services team.
- EDFS will ensure any third party delivering the Street Events understands the terms of the Charter and agrees to working within these parameters.





Shared commitments

- We have mutual respect for the important roles we each play in ensuring the Edinburgh Fringe is the best performing arts festival in the world, for artists and audiences alike.
- We will work in partnership towards a renaissance of the Street Events in 2022 and beyond, as part of an overall Fringe renaissance.
- We will work together to identify and explore the feasibility of any new pitches within the licenced Fringe footprint.
- We will work in partnership to ensure street performers' needs, as well as those of funders / sponsors and CEC, are met.
- We will collaborate on developing a clear process to manage any grievances or disputes.

Indicators of success

- Clarity and joint agreement of obligations for both street performers and EFFE.
- Clear processes and procedures for communication.

Artists' collective voice

Commitments from street performers

- Street performers will maintain a council of representatives (SPC) from the street performer and busking community as a means of communication, consultation and engagement with EDFS. SPC and its members will be publicly visible on edfringe.com so street performers know who represents them.
- SPC should have a fair and transparent process for electing its members; this process should be communicated to EDFS.
- SPC members will:
 - play an active role in representing the street performance community
 - embody the breadth of variety of street performance to ensure positive, practical and robust representation
 - act as a conduit of information between EDFS and the wider street performance community
 - take ownership over outcomes and be responsible and answerable to their community.
- SPC will work with EDFS to celebrate Fringe milestones such as the Fringe's 75th anniversary.





Commitments from EFFT

- EFFT will work to ensure that any changes to the Street Events, which may arise as necessary by direction from CEC or government, are approached with full consultation and engagement of street performers.
- Where possible EFFT to ensure that any street performers featured in images or videos used by EFFT are credited appropriately and in consultation with SPC.

Shared commitments

- EFFT and SPC will meet at regular intervals (three to four times per year) to establish robust communication and monitoring of all issues relating to street events in Edinburgh.
- SPC and EFFT will work together to ensure any corporate partnerships share our collective values and bring genuine added value, benefit and resource.

Indicators of success

- Street performers' voices are heard.
- Street performers have input at early stages of key developments or projects.
- Street performers have a clear route of communication with EFFT.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Commitments from street performers

- Street performers will support EFFE's commitment to accessibility at the Fringe.

Shared commitments

- EFFE and street performers will work together to ensure the Street Events remain open access and free for all to join, removing barriers to participation wherever possible.

Indicators of success

- Recognising and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion through general and creative practices.
- Recognising and promoting accessibility for artists and audiences.

Mental health and wellbeing

Commitments from street performers

- SPC to nominate Mental Health First Aiders for August.

Shared commitments

- EFFE and street performers will develop a plan to align with current support services used by artists who register shows at the Fringe.

Indicators of success

- Create and demonstrate effective processes in supporting street performers throughout the year and during the festival.





Social responsibility

Commitments from street performers

- Street performers will support and commit to working towards EFFF's sustainability goals.

Commitments from EFFF

- Artists contracted for any performances arranged or facilitated by EFFF will be paid in line with Street Performer Union rates.

Shared commitments

- EFFF and SPC will ensure regular meetings and conversations take place with key partners (including CEC), and allow for a dedicated debrief of the previous year and planning for the next season.
- SPC will work with EFFF to understand more of the wider picture of the Fringe and reach a broader range of audiences.

Indicators of success

- Develop a space to engage with community stakeholders.
- Street performers will be paid for networking and sharing their skills.
- Shared commitment to sustainability.
- Engagement with a wide range of audiences.

Health and safety

Commitments from street performers

- All artists who register with EFFE will ensure they have the relevant public liability insurance and licencing where relevant.
- Street performers to meet health and safety requirements as set out by CEC in event licence.

Indicators of success

- Providing safe and healthy environment for artists.



Photography by David Monteith-Hodge.
Featuring Malachi Frost, Laura Silverstone, Maple Staplegun,
Circus Patrick and Chirimbolo.