

Quick Guide for Placement of Temporary Installations on Public Sidewalks and Plazas

A few key points for the placement of items on city sidewalks and plazas, taken from Boston Complete Streets; these are just a few things to keep in mind. For a complete guide, please see Boston's Complete Streets guide here: boston.gov/departments/transportation/boston-complete-streets

1. A 5 ft wide, straight and continuous path of travel should remain clear for pedestrians; some high-volume sidewalks may require a minimum of 8 ft clear.

- Any installations should be placed outside the “pedestrian zone”.



(Image showing the various sidewalk zones: frontage zone, pedestrian zone, and furnishing zone)

2. Installations should not obstruct pedestrian ramps.

- No installations should be on any part of a pedestrian ramp, including the wings, the detectable warning panel, or the level landing; nor should they block the accessible path of travel to the ramps.

3. Installations should not be placed in the sidewalk area adjacent to a OSAP (On Street Accessible Parking) space

4. For installations with projecting pieces, those parts should not extend into the path of travel

- Care should be taken when placing installations with projecting pieces, as they may pose a hazard to those who are blind or have low vision.

5. For plazas, make sure installations are not on the accessible route.

- Some plazas may have marked accessible paths across them. Any installations should not be on or obstructing such paths

6. For murals or other work that involves painting a sidewalk, plaza, or other pedestrian area, make sure the paint is non-slip and low contrast.

- Any pedestrian ramp should be kept unpainted, including the wings, the detectable warning panel, and the level landing