

SIDEWALK ACCESSORIES

A guide book to clarify the City of Mobile's Downtown Development District (DDD) Code regarding sidewalk accessories: sandwich board signage, bicycle racks, cafe seating and planters.



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DISCLAIMER

This guide book has been developed, compliments of the Downtown Mobile Alliance, to clarify the City of Mobile's Zoning Ordinance and the Downtown Development District (DDD) Code regarding sidewalk accessories such as; sandwich board signage, bicycle racks, cafe seating and planters, with user friendly terms, diagrams and images.

The information provided in this guide book is a work in progress and should be viewed strictly as informative. All new development within the DDD must adhere to the DDD Code 64.3.I. (04/25/17).

PERMITTING PROCESS

1. All work in the right of way will require a right of way (ROW) permit.
2. Most, if not all, **non-utility construction** will require the additional step of a non-utility use agreement. A committee reviews and approves/denies these applications on a once a month basis. Examples of some of the items which would require this are balconies/galleries, planters, gates/fences, chairs/tables, staircases, railings, brick mailboxes, and private bike racks. Trees are an exception to this requirement and just need a ROW permit.
3. ADAAG/PROWAG needs to always be followed; mainly, a minimum 4 foot pathway needs to be maintained and all ramps need to be to the appropriate standards. Also required is a minimum of 7 feet of vertical clearance above the sidewalk.

PERMITTING QUESTIONS?

City of Mobile
Engineering - Right of Way
251-208-7457
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City of Mobile
Planning & Zoning
251.208.5895
planning@cityofmobile



SIDEWALK CAFES



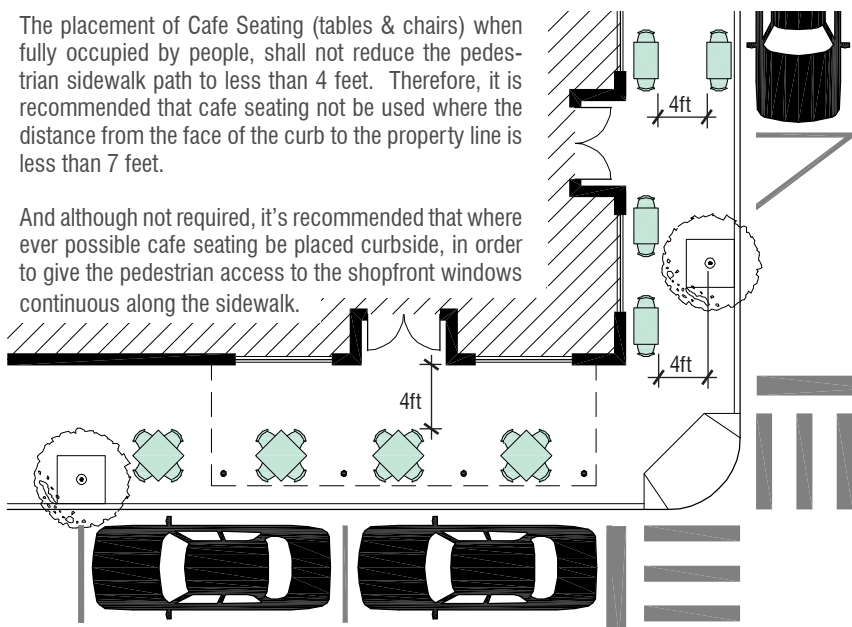
Photo by: Karrie Maurin, DMA



SIDEWALK CAFE DIAGRAM

The placement of Cafe Seating (tables & chairs) when fully occupied by people, shall not reduce the pedestrian sidewalk path to less than 4 feet. Therefore, it is recommended that cafe seating not be used where the distance from the face of the curb to the property line is less than 7 feet.

And although not required, it's recommended that where ever possible cafe seating be placed curbside, in order to give the pedestrian access to the shopfront windows continuous along the sidewalk.



Sidewalk cafes benefit from streets with great walk appeal, but they are a major contributor to a street's appeal as well.

"That's because the most interesting thing to someone walking is seeing other people. And while you might see someone for a moment on a sidewalk, they are likely to be sitting at the cafe seating and drinking for an hour or more. Or if you're in Paris, they might be there all day."

- Steve Mouzon from his blog & his book: *The Original Green*.

The City of Mobile DDD Zoning Code does not address cafe seating, but the diagram on this sheet shows the recommended layout to maintain the required pedestrian path clearance of 4 ft under typical conditions.

See page 1 for ROW permitting process.

SIDEWALK CAFE EXAMPLES

15 cafedeusa.com

16



Karrie Maurin, DMA 17



18

19 spitzerssidewalkcafe.jpg

20

thetigerrestaurant.com 21

15, 17 & 18 Curbside cafe seating provides the pedestrian with direct access to shopfront windows.

16 Parisian style cafe seating is a very pedestrian oriented arrangement with seats facing out - perfect for people watching!

19 & 20 Cafe seating along facade of building affords patrons coverage with canopy above.

21 Cafe seating grouped at restaurant entrance surrounded by architectural boundary.



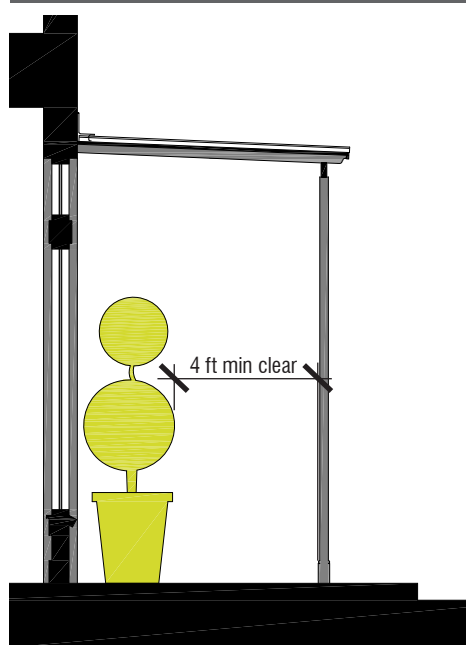
SIDEWALK PLANTERS



Photo by: Karrie Maurin, DMA



SIDEWALK PLANTER DIAGRAM



A good planter design goes a long way to enhance street appeal. The City of Mobile's Zoning Ordinance doesn't currently have any rules established, but this guidebook recommends the following:

When placing them along the sidewalk and in the right of way (ROW), be sure to maintain a continuous 4 ft clear pathway on the sidewalk for pedestrians.

And of course, commit to perpetual maintenance of the plant material!

SIDEWALK PLANTER EXAMPLES



inspirowaninatura.pl 22



fab.com 23



26 Karrie Maurin, DMA



gardendesign.com 24



27 restorationhardware.com



25 notinerd.com

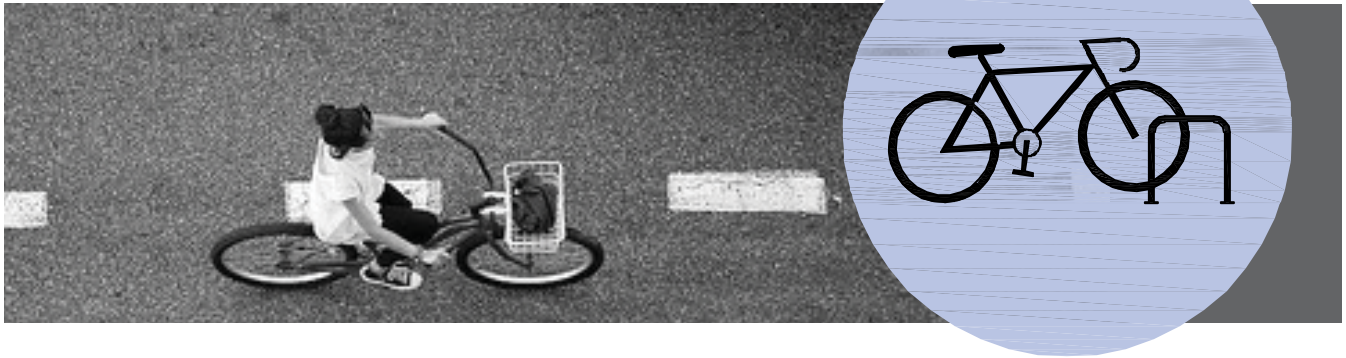
22 Planters can be used to provide trees along the sidewalk, where tree wells are not advisable. Tree planters provide shade and cover to pedestrians.

23,25& 27 Not only is the plant material contained within the planter important to the street scape and your brand, but so is the design & style of the planter itself themselves.

24 Consider incorporating lighting into the design of your planters for a dramatic effect on the street scape.

26 Always maintain the 4'-0" minimum pathway clearance for pedestrians when accessorizing your sidewalk.

BICYCLE RACKS



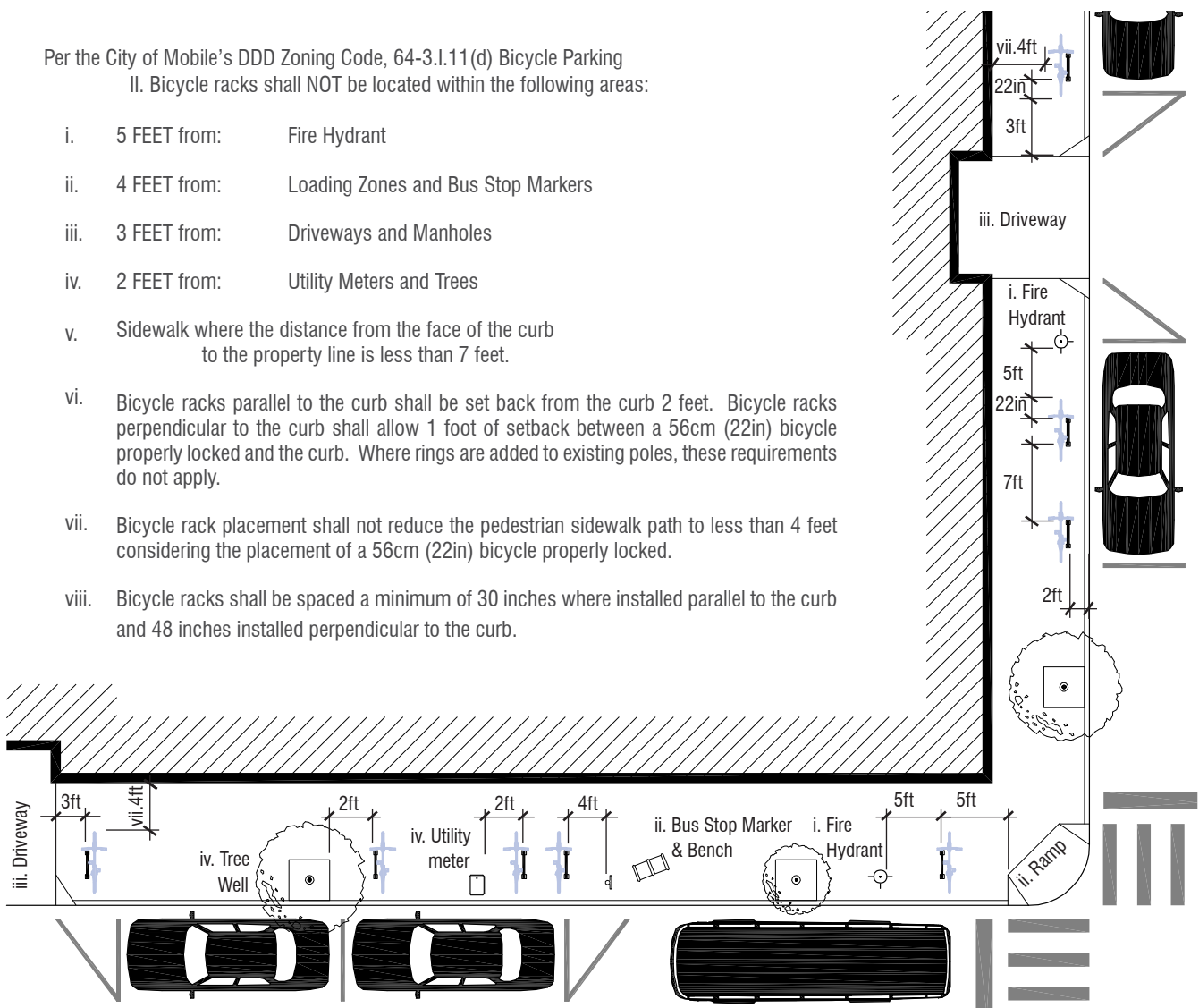
As our downtown continues to redevelop, walk appeal as is a central theme for the goals of the Map for Mobile and the Downtown Mobile Alliance. But we shouldn't forget that bicycle access is a key actor to the development of walk appeal in any city. Bicycle parking is currently only provided by private businesses and property owners and not the City of Mobile. As with any accessory to be placed in the Right of Way (ROW) in downtown Mobile, it must be permitted and comply with the DDD Code zoning ordinance. The following graphics are provided to clarify the rules for bicycle parking as described in the DDD Code.

BICYCLE RACK PLACEMENT RULES + DIAGRAM

Per the City of Mobile's DDD Zoning Code, 64-3.1.11(d) Bicycle Parking

II. Bicycle racks shall NOT be located within the following areas:

- i. 5 FEET from: Fire Hydrant
- ii. 4 FEET from: Loading Zones and Bus Stop Markers
- iii. 3 FEET from: Driveways and Manholes
- iv. 2 FEET from: Utility Meters and Trees
- v. Sidewalk where the distance from the face of the curb to the property line is less than 7 feet.
- vi. Bicycle racks parallel to the curb shall be set back from the curb 2 feet. Bicycle racks perpendicular to the curb shall allow 1 foot of setback between a 56cm (22in) bicycle properly locked and the curb. Where rings are added to existing poles, these requirements do not apply.
- vii. Bicycle rack placement shall not reduce the pedestrian sidewalk path to less than 4 feet considering the placement of a 56cm (22in) bicycle properly locked.
- viii. Bicycle racks shall be spaced a minimum of 30 inches where installed parallel to the curb and 48 inches installed perpendicular to the curb.



BICYCLE RACK STYLES PERMITTED

Per the City of Mobile's DDD Zoning Code, 64-3.1.11(d) Bicycle Parking

I. Bicycle racks shall be Inverted-U, Pole and Ring or Removable Ring Types.

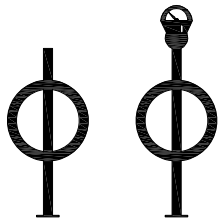
INVERTED-U



A style appropriate for multiple uses; two points of ground contact. Can be installed in series on rails to create free-standing parking area in variable quantities. Available in many variations.

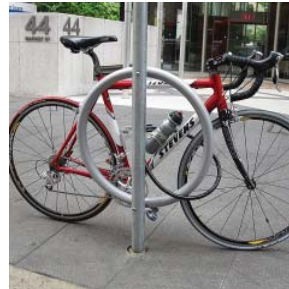


POST AND RING



A style appropriate for multiple uses; one point of ground contact. Compared to the Inverted-U, these are less prone to unintended perpendicular parking.

Versions of this product exist for converting existing parking meter posts.

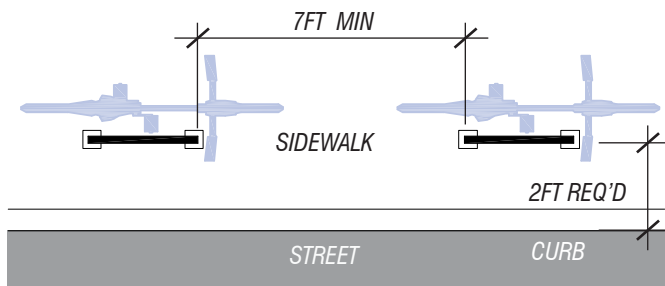


BICYCLE RACK PLACEMENT DIAGRAMS

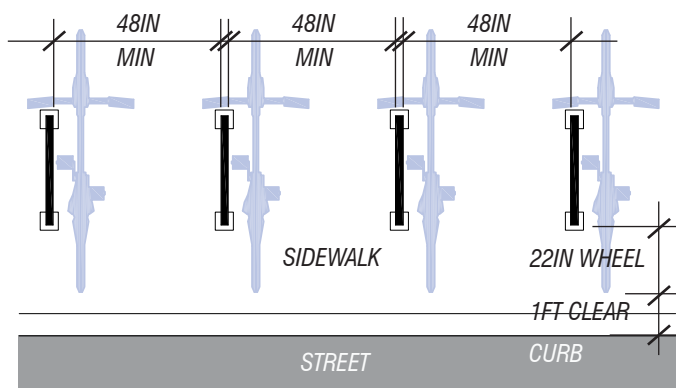
Per the City of Mobile's DDD Zoning Code, 64-3.1.11(d) Bicycle Parking

II. Bicycle racks shall NOT be located within the following areas:

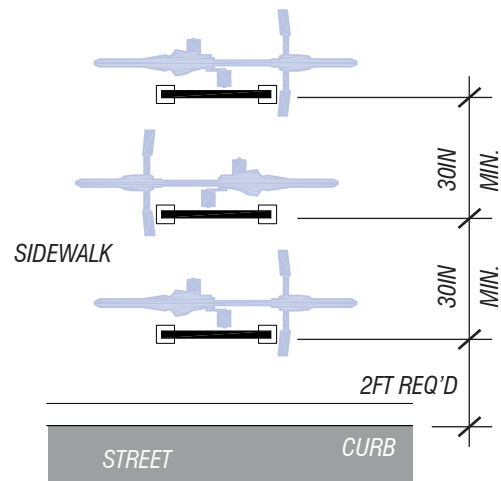
RECOMMENDED



viii. PERPENDICULAR



viii. PARALLEL



SANDWICH BOARD SIGNS



Photo by: mnprairieroots.com

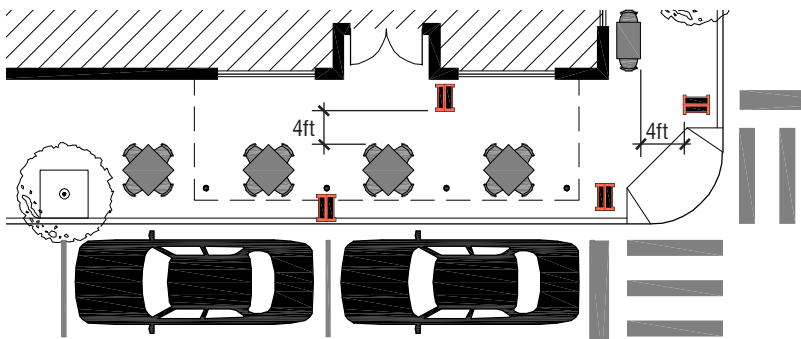


Sandwich board signage is a great tool for businesses to attract the attention of pedestrians and drive by traffic in a way that static or fixed signage can't. It is signage that is temporary, flexible and customizable on a daily basis. And when designed and placed thoughtfully, the sandwich board sign will also enhance a street's walk appeal.

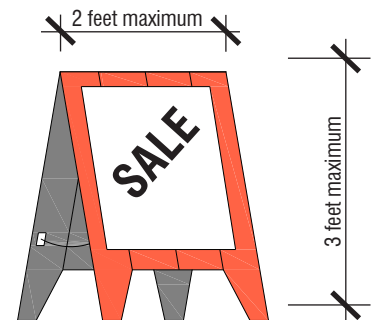
Thoughtful sandwich board signage is defined by three sections within the City of Mobile's Zoning Ordinance. And copies of those sections are provided on the following page.

SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE DIAGRAM

LAYOUT



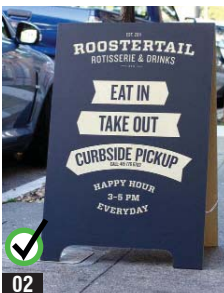
ELEVATION



SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE



EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS PERMITTED BY CODE



- 01 Wood A-frame sign with enamel finish.
- 02 Wood A-frame sign with chalk finish for announcements.
- 03 Wood A-frame with painted logo.
- 04 Metal A-frame with painted metal sign panel.
- 05 Metal A-frame with painted metal sign panel.
- 06 Wood A-frame with painted sign panel.
- 07 Wood A-frame sign with chalk finish for announcements and planter.
- 08 Metal A-frame sign with painted logo.
- 09 Wood A-frame sign with painted logo.



SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE - ZONING ORDINANCES

Per the City of Mobile's DDD Zoning Code, 64-3.1.16 Building Specifications: Signage Standards

- (a)1. Signage may be permitted according to Table 5, that specifies the type, location and size of each allowed sign type in the DDD. Per this table, Sandwich Board Signage is allowed in Sub-districts: T-4, T-5, T-6 and SD-WH and the sign can be sized a max. 2 ft wide by 3 ft tall. Sandwich Board Signage is limited to one for each separate business.
- (a)3 Sandwich Board Signs shall be constructed of painted wood, metal or metal composite material.
- (3) Sandwich Board type signage must also comply with the City of Mobile- Code of Ordinance 64-1: Signage Regulation Provisions for permitting.

Per the City of Mobile's Code of Ordinances, 64-11.7 Signs in historic districts along Government Street

- (c)34. Definitions and interpretations: Sandwich board sign is defined as a two-sided, A-frame style, self-supporting sign, which is not permanently affixed to the ground and is designed to be movable.

Per the City of Mobile's Code of Ordinances, 64-11.8(c) Standards by Use: Commercial and Industrial Districts

- (6) Sandwich Board signs are permitted within the Corporate Limits of the City of Mobile as follows:
 - (a) Sandwich boards shall be in front of the business location for which it is permitted. Exact location to be indicated in the application for approval to the Urban Development Department, Planning Section, CRC Review. If the business is located within an historic district, the and shall not obstruct pedestrian ways or reduce them to less than four (4) feet in width. Approval by Traffic Engineering, Engineering Right-of-Way, and/or Historic District may also be required.
 - (b) Each business shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) sandwich board sign.
 - (c) Sandwich board signs (including frames) shall be no larger than twenty-four (24) inches in width and thirty-six (36) inches in height.
 - (d) Illuminated sandwich boards are not permitted.
 - (e) A twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) permit fee is required for all sandwich board signs.
 - (f) All sandwich board signs shall be removed each day, before the close of the permit holder's business each day.
 - (g) Before any permit provided for herein is issued, the applicant must submit a hold harmless and release agreement satisfactory to the city.
 - (h) Failure of the permittee to comply with any of these conditions shall result in the revocation of the permit and any display of the sandwich board sign thereafter is prohibited.

SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS/ TYPES NOT PERMITTED BY CODE



- 10,13&14 Contrary to popular demand, **plastic** A-Frame signs are not permitted by the code in downtown Mobile.
- 11 **Plastic** letterboard signs & lettering are not permitted by the code.
- 12 **Plastic** weighted and water filled base type signs are not permitted by the code.



SANDWICH BOARD SIGNAGE - GUIDE SPECIFICATION

The sandwich board sign is a great tool for capturing the attention of potential customers passing by your business in a way that static or fixed signage can't. It is mobile and customizable from one day to the next. Consequently, it has a direct effect on the character of a community.

For all signage, especially this type because it is so close to the pedestrian, the quality of materials and design will either enhance or detract from one's experience of our downtown sidewalks and streets.

Therefore the City of Mobile regulates sandwich board signs in (3) Sections of the Zoning Ordinance - copies of those sections are provided on page 7 of this guidebook.

The Downtown Mobile Alliance recommends custom designed & fabricated sandwich board signage over the pre-fabricated "signs-to-go" that currently detract from our downtown streets. Below, the DMA offers a code compliant design guide specification for custom sandwich board signs:



- | | |
|---|---|
| ① | Stainless steel piano hinge, installed continuous along top of the sign panels |
| ② | Consider installing handles, "D-ring" type shown, for ease of transportation. |
| ③ | "Safety Stay" scissor hinge (with hold-open option) or chain (to hold panels open). |
| ④ | Castors: Stem mount, 360 degree radius, and lockable on one side of the sign only. |



www.oakleighwoodworks.com/

This local custom wood shop fabricated the sandwich board sign for the Urban Emporium at 260 Dauphin Street. They also advised the Downtown Mobile Alliance on the guide specifications provided above.

