

# Daily Breeze

## San Pedro's proposal for outdoor dining wins LA approval, could be ready by summer 2020



*The city of Los Angeles has approved a pilot program to install outdoor dining platforms, such as this one, or sidewalk patios at 12 businesses in downtown San Pedro. Courtesy Photo from City Fabrick*

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Los Angeles city officials on Monday, Sept. 23, approved San Pedro's long-sought dream to install [sidewalk and street dining spaces](#) throughout its historic downtown shopping and restaurant district.

The city's Board of Public Works approved installing outdoor spaces for 12 businesses located on Pacific Avenue, and Sixth and Seventh streets. But that is only an initial list for the pilot program, and more could be added later.

Construction could start by the end of the year, said Lorena Parker, executive director of the [Property Owners' Business Improvement District](#), which has sponsored the effort.

[City Fabrick](#), a nonprofit design group in Long Beach, assisted in the initial improvement district research phase and now will continue working to design and install the 12 San Pedro locations.

Brian Ulaszewski, executive director of City Fabrick, said he hopes the patios and platforms can all be in place by summer 2020.

"It all takes time," he said.

Some of the platforms in other cities, he said, have been constructed offsite in large pieces and then put together at the location.

"I'd love nothing more than to be up and running before next summer," said Ulaszewski, who is working with the company's landscape architect, Mina Emamifar.

The process also will involve working with individual property and business owners on designs.

"We'll go from the permitting phase to the design and construction phase," Parker said after the meeting. "I don't want to skip a beat and want to keep things moving along as quickly as possible."

One of the locations will use the outdoor space for art exhibits, but others will use the areas for food and drink service.

Adding [outdoor sidewalk dining](#) has been on the community's wish list for more than a decade. But with narrow sidewalks and a host of other logistical and city code hurdles, the goal wasn't easy to attain.

In January 2018, the improvement district launched the pilot program, which began with gathering information on how neighboring cities, including Long Beach, have managed to use curbside street space to build dining platforms.

Helping the idea move along was Los Angeles' existing [parquet program](#), which allows using some portions of streets, usually on corners, to create public spaces.

The platforms will take up one curbside parking space. But, Parker said, she's heard no complaints yet. Business leaders, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and Neighborhood Council representatives were among those offering support for the proposal.

"From everyone I've talked to, I've had zero objections," Parker said. "I've had overwhelming support."

Andrew Silber, owner of the Whale and Ale at 327 W. Seventh St., one of the sites chosen, said the additions will go a long way toward further sprucing up the downtown's appearance and ambiance. In essence, he said, it serves as visual advertising that an area is welcoming and busy.

"It's similar to putting up the (overhead) [Tivoli lights](#)," he said of one of the district's earlier projects. "It's more of a visual sign that you're open and that food and drinks are being sold."

### **Pilot project businesses**

**Sidewalk patios:** San Pedro Cafe, 605 Pacific Ave.; Parkhurst Gallery, 439 W. Sixth St.; Siren's Java and Tea, 402 W. Seventh St.; Roku Ramien, 362 W. Sixth St.; Port Town Brewing Co., 285 W. Seventh St.

**Decked Parklets (platforms built into the street):** Baramée Thai, 354 W. Sixth St.; San Pedro Brewing Co., 311 W. Sixth St.; Pappy's Seafood, 301 W. Sixth St.; La Buvette, 335 W. Seventh St.; The Whale and Ale, 327 W. Seventh St.; Sebastian's, 309 W. Seventh St.

**Painted Parklet (painted area on Mesa Street):** Niko's Pizzeria, 399 W. Sixth St. (on the corner of Sixth and Mesa).