

Guidelines for Filming Scenic B-Roll and "Iconic" Seattle

Requirements for Capturing B-Roll and Scenic Footage

The Seattle Office of Film + Music is here to make permitting as easy as possible for capturing simple b-roll, scenic, and "walk and talk" filming on public City property in Seattle neighborhoods, sidewalks and parks! To qualify for this type of "Low Impact" permit, your production must meet the following criteria:

- No more than five or less cast and crew on-site at any one time
- One camera or tripod on-site only. No additional equipment allowed
- No electrical generation, wires, cables run, or lights set-up
- Outdoor production only – no coverage for interior city-owned properties
- No traffic control allowed – pedestrian or vehicle
- Public parking will not be impacted
- **No filming at private locations, including iconic landmarks such as:** Pike Place Market, Space Needle, Chihuly Garden and Glass, The Great Wheel, Olympic Sculpture Park, MoPOP, and more
- Production must specifically state the City of Seattle Parks locations they would like to film at on the Film Permit Application

Sidewalks and Streets: Public City of Seattle sidewalks are included in the "Low Impact Shoot" Seattle Master Film Permit. No vehicle or parking control permission is allowed in "Low Impact Shoots," so any filming on vehicle right of way or parking reservation would require a "Standard Filming on Location" permit (see below).

Parks: Parks can be included in your "Low Impact Shoot" as long as they meet all requirements as listed above. As part of your permit you are required to be flexible, and work around existing activity, as well as yield control of park areas to other permitted events happening in the during your filming. If you would like to exercise any kind of control over a Park space, your permit is no longer considered low impact, and you'll need to apply for a "Standard Filming on Location" shoot type on your application for that specific park.

Private Locations / Neighborhoods: Part of the benefit of the b-roll permit is that we do not need to know the specific locations or dates and times of where you'll be filming as long as you meet the criteria. This is to allow you to have more flexibility during your production. With this, you do not need to state exact addresses or neighborhoods on your permit application. **While our permit does not cover footage filmed on interiors of private locations** – the b-roll permit will also extend to exterior shots of private locations you may be working with for your shoot as long as you meet the criteria – for example, talent walking into a business or residence, or footage of signage.

Any activity that does not meet all stated criteria stated means your shoot is no longer considered "Low Impact," and you'll need to provide the Film Office with more specific details on your shoot. Please read page 2 of this document for more details.

To apply for a b-roll shoot, please select "**Low Impact Shoot**" in the shoots section of your Film Permit Application. On the first "**Street / Road**" line please type in "**Roving**," and on subsequent Street / Road lines list any Parks you wish to film in individually. Then please fill out the rest of the information on the application and submit.

Filming Beyond B-Roll

If your shoot does not meet **all** criteria stated on page one, then you need to fill out a **“Standard Filming on Location”** form on your film permit application. This shoot type asks a more robust set of questions that helps us assess the impacts. You will be required to nail down exact dates and times for “Standard Filming on Location” shoots, as well as provide maps illustrating our activity. Please refer to our [Film Manual](#), for a more robust explanation of the City of Seattle Film Permit process.

City of Seattle Landmarks and Famous Locations

Many famous Seattle landmarks are NOT city-owned, therefore are not covered by the master film permit. Please do not include the following locations, or other private businesses, in your film permit application – instead please reach out to the facility management directly to discuss their unique process. Please inquire with the Film Permit Specialist if there are other locations you have ownership questions on.

Pike Place Market

Madison Bristol
Senior Public Relations and Program Specialist
Pike Place Market Preservation & Development Authority
206.724.8142 / madison.bristol@pikeplacemarket.org

Space Needle and Chihuly Garden and Glass

Randy Coté randyc@SpaceNeedle.com
Karen Olson kareno@SpaceNeedle.com

Seattle Monorail

Megan Ching
General Manager, Seattle Monorail
meganc@seattlemonorail.com / 206.905.2602

Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)

Janelle Doig
Sr. Manager / Event Sales,
Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP)
janelled@mopop.org / 206.262.3464

Hiram M. Chittenden Locks / Ballard Locks

Bill McDowell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
william.r.dowell@usace.army.mil / 206.764.3464

The Great Wheel / Miner’s Landing / Pier 57

Andria Smith
Ticketing and Guest Services Manager
andria@pier57seattle.com / 206.602.1800

Olympic Sculpture Park

Rachel Eggers
Manager of Public Relations, Seattle Art Museum
rachele@seattleartmuseum.org / 206.654.3151

Washington State Ferries

Jadwiga Kellock
Operations Program Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
kellocj@wsdot.wa.gov / 206.234.3554

Filming in Washington State (Outside of the City of Seattle)

Vicky Berglund-Davenport
Production Services Manager
[Washington Filmworks](http://WashingtonFilmworks.org)
vicky@washingtonfilmworks.org / 206.264.0667

Contact Us

Please direct all permitting questions to:

Taylor Durand-Scaggs
Film Permit Specialist
filmoffice@seattle.gov / 206.233.3948