

ভেডরের ক্ষমতা! 街贩力量! قَوْةُ الْبِيّاعِين! ¡Sí Se Puede!
A GUIDE TO STREET VENDING IN NEW YORK CITY

There are more than 10,000 street vendors in New York City, and they play an iconic role in urban life. What could be more New York than a hot dog in Times Square or DVDs on Canal Street? Selling things from a table or cart might seem simple, but in New York it's hard — long hours for low pay in a confusing system of regulations. This is a guide to the complicated, and sometimes unfair, rules that govern street vending in New York City.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

वाश्रेनात व्यक्षिकांत्रक जानुन। 懂得你的权力 اعرف حقوقك Conozca Sus Derechos



If you follow the rules, you have the RIGHT to vend on a public sidewalk. Store owners and security guards can't make you move.

আইনকে অনুসরণ করে রাস্তার পাশে আপনি ভেন্ডার ব্যবসা করতে পারেন। দোকানের মালিক বা সিকিউরিটি গার্ড আপনাকে সরাতে পারবে না।

如果你遵守规则,当你工作在公共人行道时, 店员和保安人员不能够让你离开。

اذا تمشي على القانون, من حقك ان تبيع على الرصيف العام. ليس من حق ارباب المحّلات والحرّاس ان بمشّك من مكانك.

Si usted sigue las reglas, usted tiene el DERECHO de vender en una acera. Los propietarios de tiendas o almacenes y los guardias de seguridad no le pueden hacer mover.

Police can't make you move, unless:
পুলিশও আপনাকে সরাতে পারবে না। যদি না,
在以下的几种情况下,警察有权力让你离开:
ليس من حق الشرطة ان يمشّك من مكانك الا اذا:
La policia no le puede mover, a menos que:



There is an emergency. (Fire!) কোন ধরনের অগ্নিকান্ডের সূত্রপাত



There is a big event. (Parade!) বড় ধরনের প্যারেড

在有大型活动情况下(如游行)

هناك مناسبة كبيرة. مسيرة احتفاليّة! Haya un acontecimiento grande.

(¡Un desfile!)

If you get a ticket: তাঁহলে: 如果你得到罚单: انا عطوك (الشرطة) تيكت: Si le ponen una multa:



Take a photo or video of your spot. You can use these in court.
কোর্টে ব্যবহার করার জন্য আপনার ভেডরের জায়গার (স্পট) ছবি ও ভিডিও তুলে রাখুন।
尽量拍下照片或是录像,可以作为法庭的证据

خذ صورة او فيديو لمكانك والحدث لكي تستخدمهما قي المحكمة.

Tome fotos o video de su lugar. Usted puede utilizar éstos en un tribunal.



Get names and badge numbers of the police.

জরিমানা প্রদানকারী (টিকেট দানকারী) পুলিশের বেজ নম্বর ও নাম লিখে রাখুন। 尽量记下警察的名子和警号。

سجّل اسم ورقم بادج الشرطي.

Consiga los nombres y números de insignia de la policía.



File a complaint if the police abuse your rights or are disrespectful.

পুলিশ যদি আপনার অধিকার ও মর্যাদাকে ক্ষুণ্ণ করে তাহলে তার বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ করুন। 如果警察侵犯你的权力或找你的麻烦,你有权力投诉他。

سجّل شكوة اذا الشرطة انتهكوا حقوقك او تعاملوا معك بعدم احترام.

Haga una queja formal si la policía abusa sus derechos o le trata con una falta de respeto.



Show up in court. If you don't, you'll be fined more.

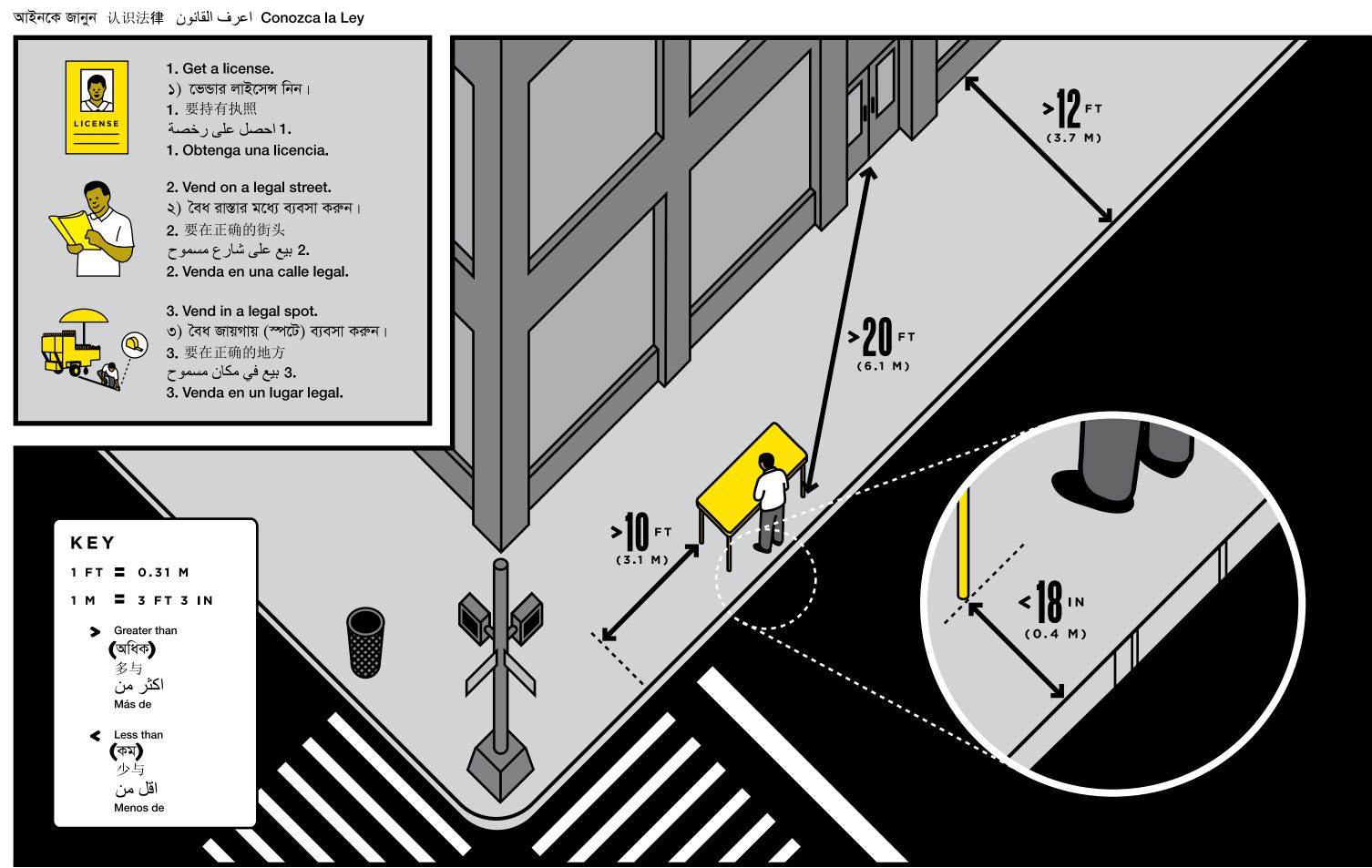
কোর্টে হাজিরা দেন। হাজিরা না দিলে, আপনার উপর ৰেশী জরিমানা করা হতে পারে।

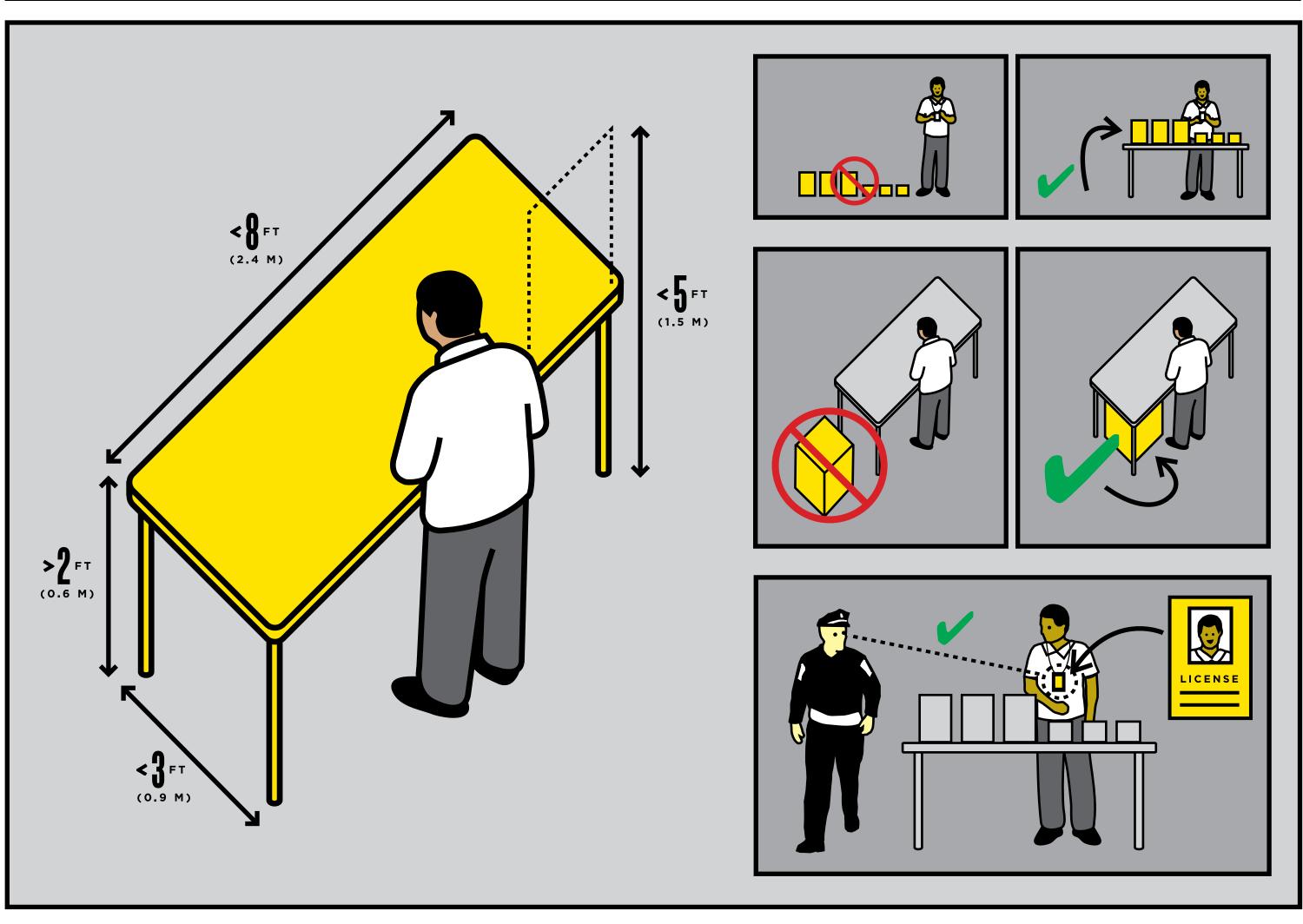
一定要准时出庭。如果没有到庭,你将会被加重罚款。

احظر الى المحكمة إذا لا تحظر سيغرمونك اكثر

Aparezca en el tribunal. Si no lo hace, será penalizado con mayores multas.

KNOW THE LAW



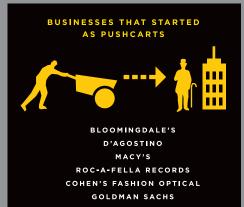


GET TO KNOW YOUR STREET VENDORS

n New York, street vending has always attracted ambitious, hard-working men and women with limited economic options. Successive waves of immigrants — Jewish and Italian in a previous era, now Chinese, Bangladeshi, Afghan, and Senegalese — have used vending to gain a foothold in their new country. Its low start-up costs, independence, and flexibility make vending a traditional first stop for small business entrepreneurs.

But vending isn't an easy way to get ahead. Throughout New York City's history, merchants resentful of "unfair" competition have joined forces with city officials concerned with congestion, modernization, and "quality of life" to bar vendors from streets and regulate them excessively. These complex and shifting laws force vendors back and forth across the border between the formal and informal economies, making it difficult for vendors to serve the public and make a decent and honest living.

Here are four basic ways the City can make vending laws work better for vendors, their customers, and everyone else.







TYPES OF

VENDORS





peddlers set up

pushcarts along

Lower East Side,

leading to the first

New York City. The

evolved on Grand

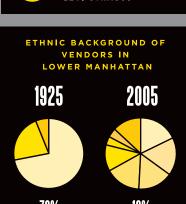
Manhattan, and









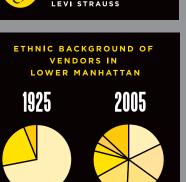


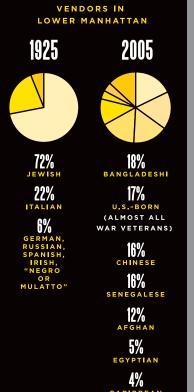
New York was sold

New York City

featured an exhibit in the World's Fair

called "The Life and





12%

COST OF FOOD VENDING PERMIT

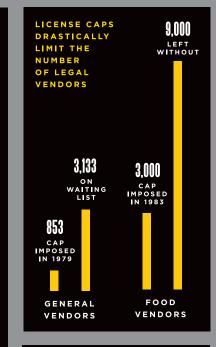
**** 444444444 444444444 444444444 444444444 444444444 444444444 444444444

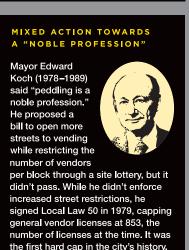
444444444

. LIFT THE CAPS

\$6,000 - 8,000

t's virtually impossible to get a vending license in New York City because of strict caps, or limits placed on the number of vendors in the 1970s and '80s. The estimated wait for a general vending license is several decades. By setting the caps far below vendor supply and public demand, the City unintentionally creates a hriving and exploitative black market for permits and licenses. Legal vendors have to buy licenses from illegal middlemen at exorbitant prices. Other vendors are driven underground, where hey're unlicensed and unregulated. To bring vendors into the legal mainstream, the City should raise the caps to realistic levels and crack down on the black market in licenses









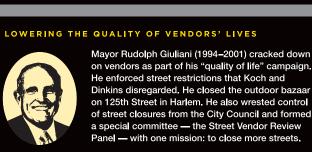


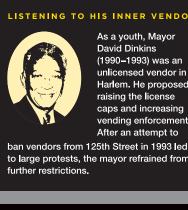


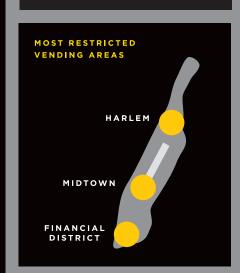
HE WILD WEB OF STREET RESTRICTIONS

2. INCREASE STREET ACCESS

Vendors need foot traffic to survive, but waves of street restrictions have forced them farther away from the areas of the city that can support them. Pressure from merchant associations in the 1970s and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in later decades led to widespread restrictions, and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani made street restrictions a centerpiece of his "quality of life" campaign. Even on open streets, complex rules make it difficult to vend legally. The City should review street closings according to set criteria and rescind restrictions not founded in legitimate concerns about safety and street congestion. It should also simplify time-of-day restrictions to make them easier for vendors to understand and follow.





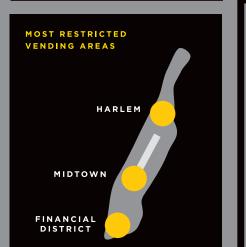






and other obstructions to prevent

vendors from operating on their street







PARKING

SIDEWALK-

BLOCKING TICKET

FOR STORES

MAXIMUM

In 2005, Mayor Michael Bloomberg quadrupled

the maximum fines for street vendor violations

from \$250 to \$1,000. A few tickets for parking a

cart more than 18 inches from the curb or less

than 20 feet from a store entrance can wipe out

months of earnings. Other businesses pay less

for more serious violations while having a

greater ability to pay. Vendors are entry-level

small business owners who cannot absorb

fines as a cost of business. The City should

TBACKS AND STEPS FORWARD

reduce fines to pre-2005 amounts — a level that

Mayor Michael Bloomberg (2002-present) is

responsible for increasing fines from \$250 to

bill in 2008 which grants specialized vending

permits that allow vendors to sell fruit in low

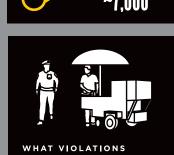
income neighborhoods. While limited in scope, it

is the first increase in vending permits in decade

\$1,000 and for banning vending near the World

Trade Center. He did, however, sign the Greencar

deters violations but doesn't put vendors out



VENDORS GET TICKETED FOR

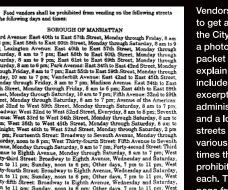
LICENSE NOT VISIBL



ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Vending regulation is a patchwork of policies from the last hundred years that vendors and police find hard to understand. The rulebook is a series of photocopied and unformatted excerpts from the city code — rough going, even for native English speakers. As a consequence, vendors who want to follow the rules get tickets for violations they don't understand, and police who want to enforce the rules give tickets for violations that don't exist. To increase compliance, the City should simplify vendor regulation and create a new rulebook that clearly explains the rules in English and a few of the many languages vendors speak.





o get a license from the City also receive



SANITATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

VENDOR LANGUAGE

N LOWER MANHAT

HI, I'M MUNNU DEWAN

they think I can give so much?

sell hot dogs and pretzels in front of 2 Lafayette Street. I moved here from Bangladesh in 1991, and I have been a street vendor for 17 years. I love it, but this is not easy. I haven't gotten a ticket in three years, but before that I got around 100 tickets. One time I got a ticket because my jacket covered my license. And then I have to pay a \$1,000 fine. Do you have \$1,000 in your pocket? You don't have it! I don't have it! This is a small business. I sell 20 hot dogs a day. This hand makes money, and the other hand finishes it very fast. How do



HI, I'M MOR DIOP

I'm here at 55th Street, and I sell handbags. If it's very cold, I sell scarves and gloves. But that job is not easy. My family is in Africa. I send some money back to them. If I have anything, I send \$100, \$150, but it's not enough for my family. My wife, my children, my mother is over there. Working outside is very hard. I wear jackets, gloves, and three pairs of pants. Sometimes I can only stay out here for 4 or 5 hours. I'm going to finish this month and see. If it's not good after this month, I'm going to stop and give the city my license back. Maybe I could drive a taxi or get a job in a restaurant. I have no other possibilities. I don't want to stay at home.

HI, I'M XIAN LING DONG

I sell paintings in Times Square on 52nd and 7th Ave. I came here from Qingdao, China, and I've lived in the U.S. for six years. I've been vending for five. I enjoy vending because it allows me to work when I want, which you can't do working at a restaurant. It is also good for my husband, who for health reasons cannot work another job. The trouble with the job is the way the police bother me and the tickets they give. Sometimes they say my display is too high, sometimes they say I am too far from the curb. They say all kinds of things, but I know the law, and I know that everything I'm doing is exactly right! When I am not vending I like traveling — San Francisco and Las Vegas are two of my favorite spots. [Translated from Mandarin]

[(5)



HI, I'M BERT STEIN

VENDOR

TICKET

IOLATION

On the street they call me Mr. B or Mr. Bert. That's because I'm 73 and a disabled war veteran and they show some respect. I started vending when my printing business went bankrupt after 9/11. I sell neckties, perfume, scarves in winter. A lot of people come to New York strictly because of the street vendors. They can get things here that they can't get other places. The police don't know the rules. The book is written in such a way that everybody scratches their heads and wonders what they're talking about. Sometimes the police will take your merchandise away, and they move it around — downtown, to Brooklyn, to Queens — and no one's keeping track. It took me three days of constant calling to track down my merchandise, and I was shown not guilty. But it took three days, and I lost a lot of money.



make tamales, arroz con leche, and champurrado like I did in Morelos, where I'm from. I start cooking at 2 a.m., and head out at 6 a.m. I'm selling in the cold, in the heat, every day by the hospital at East 149th in the Bronx. The doctors and nurses get off the bus or pull over in the car to get one. I sell about 60 a day, sometimes 50, sometimes 70, enough to send some money to my mother in Morelos. I have a cooler, so the police watch me and make me move sometimes. But if I'm not here my clients start to call me! [Translated from Spanish]



DEFINES FOOD VENDORS

COMMON ITEMS SOLD

bagels, burritos, falafel, halal, tamales,

arepas, dosas, roasted nuts, pretzels



lot dogs, coffee, fruit, ice cream, donuts, are available. The average wait time to

NUMBER OF VENDORS

receive one is 5-10 years.

GENERAL VENDORS



gloves, belts, neckties, perfume,

umbrellas, cell phone accessories

COMMON ITEMS SOLD

NUMBER OF VENDORS

general vending licenses at 853 (excluding

veteran vendors). The waiting list for

licenses has been closed since 1992.



FIRST AMENDMENT VENDORS





Books, newspapers, CDs, DVDs, paintings, photographs, handmade crafts and jewelry, items with political

NUMBER OF VENDORS



Since 1982, vendors who sell expressive material have been protected by the First Amendment and do not need a license. There are around 1,000 First Amendment vendors.

VETERAN VENDORS

COMMON ITEMS SOLD

Anything from the General Vendor category: gloves, neckties, cell phone accessories, scarves, t-shirts, handbags, watches, belts, perfume, umbrellas

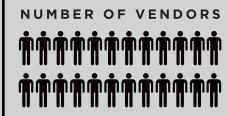
NUMBER OF VENDORS

discharged U.S. military veterans may receive a general vending license despite the 853-vendor cap. There were 1,704 veteran vendors on record in 2005.

UNLICENSED VENDORS



Anything from the previous categories: umbrellas, tamales, ice cream, handbags, scarves, watches, perfume, DVDs



(nobody really knows). Only half of vendors are licensed due to license caps.

GET INVOLVED

সংশ্লিষ্ট হউন 踊跃参加组织活动 الشنرك Unase



Street vending is an important but challenging job in New York City. By working together we can create positive changes for our community. The Street Vendor Project is a union of more than 700 NYC street vendors of all kinds. To learn more: join a meeting, call 646-602-5679, or visit www.streetvendor.org.

নিউইয়র্ক সিটিতে স্ট্রীট ভেভিং দরকারী ও চ্যালেঞ্জিং কাজ। একসাথে কাজ করলে আমরা কমিউনিটিতে ইতিবাচক পরিবর্তন আনতে পারি। নিউইয়র্ক সিটির সব ধরনের ৭ শতাধিক স্ট্রীট ভেভরসকে নিয়ে 'দ্য স্ট্রীট ভেভর প্রজেক্ট' গঠিত। এ বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য, আমাদের কোন একটি সভায় যোগ দিতে (৬৪৬) ৬০২-৫৬৭৯ ফোন করুন অথবা আমাদের ওয়েবসাইট www.streetvendor.org ভিজিট করুন।

在纽约,街头商贩是一个重要的行业。 如果大家团结起来,我们能够增加我们的力量和利益。我们的组织现在有大约700多成员。我们希望有更多的人加入。如果你有兴趣加入,请打 646-602-5679或上网查询。www.streetvendor.org

البيع في الشارع في مدينة نيويورك عمل مهم ولكن فيه تحديّات. من خلال العمل الجماعي نستطيع ان ندخل تغيّرات اجابيّة لجاليتنا. "مشروع الباعة المتجوّلين" The Street Vendor Project هو نقابة متكوّن من اكثر من 700 بيّاع متجوّل من كل نوع. لتتعلّم اكثر, تعال الى احدى اجتماعاتنا, اتصل هاتفيّا على 5679-660 او زور www.streetvendor.org.

En la ciudad de Nueva York el trabajo de vendedor ambulante es importante pero difícil. Trabajando juntos, nosotros podemos crear cambios positivos para nuestra comunidad. The Street Vendor Project es una coalición de más de 700 vendedores ambulantes de todo tipo. Para aprender más, venga a una de nuestras reuniones, llame al 646-602-5679, o visite nuestra página web: www.streetvendor.org.



CREDITS

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Making Policy Public is a project of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) that pairs policy advocates with graphic designers to produce fold-out posters like this one. CUP chooses project participants through a jury process and facilitates their collaboration. www.makingpolicypublic.net

COLLABORATORS

Sean Basinski (The Street Vendor Project), Candy Chang, John Mangin (CUP), Rosten Woo (CUP)

THE CENTER FOR URBAN PEDAGOGY (CUP) CUP produces creative education about places and how they change.

www.anothercupdevelopment.org

THE STREET VENDOR PROJECT

The Street Vendor Project, part of the Urban Justice Center, is a membership-based organization of more than 700 vendors who work together to protect the rights of vendors and promote vendor-friendly reform. www.streetvendor.org

CANDY CHANG

With a background in graphic design and urban planning, Candy Chang likes to make city information more accessible and engaging through design and the creative use of public space, www.candychano.com

BIG THANKS TO

Lei Bai, Rupa Bhattacharya, Ryan Devlin, Mark Foggin, Cesar Fuentes, Ali Issa, Serge Martinez, Valeria Mogilevich, Elizabeth Stanton, Sam Stark, Abu Taher, Paula Winograd, Tina Wu

Support for this project was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

© 2009



