



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

81-451 - Theater waiting space

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 5/28/2026

81-451 - Theater waiting space

LAST AMENDED

8/6/1998

Theater waiting space shall be an unobstructed area providing outdoor waiting space for a theater audience, located immediately adjacent to the sidewalk and to a theater listed in Section [81-742](#) (Listed theaters) or a new theater designed and intended to show live theatrical performances. Theater waiting space may be located on the same #zoning lot# occupied by a theater or a #zoning lot# immediately adjacent to a theater, and shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) such space shall adjoin and open onto a sidewalk or sidewalk widening for its entire length and shall have a minimum length of 30 feet measured parallel to the #street line# and a minimum clear depth of 10 feet measured perpendicular to the #street line# exclusive of any columns. Its level shall be entirely the same as that of the adjoining sidewalk. When located under an overhanging portion of a #building or other structure#, it shall have a minimum clear height of 15 feet and be free of any obstructions except for #building# columns;
- (b) such space shall provide direct access to a #building's# entrance or the theater's lobby. Where the theater and the theater waiting space are on separate #zoning lots#, a plaque shall be provided within the theater waiting space adjacent to the theater stating that the space is available as a waiting area for the theater audience. Such plaque shall be placed between four feet and six feet above #curb level#, and shall be visible from the sidewalk;
- (c) such space shall not adjoin a driveway or an off-street loading berth; and
- (d) the entire theater waiting space shall be illuminated with a minimum level of not less than eight horizontal foot-candles (lumens per foot).

The theater waiting space may overlap with an arcade, a #building# entrance recess area, a corner arcade, a corner circulation space or a sidewalk widening. However, the area of overlap may only be counted once toward the fulfillment of the required minimum area of pedestrian circulation space.