

GUIDE TO GUERILLA ACTION IN MIAMI-DADE

Tactical urbanism projects, urban interventions, or “lighter, cheaper, quicker” projects are a growing field in urban centers. These projects are temporary, short-term, small-scale demonstrations that show how public spaces could be changed, without actually making any permanent physical change. Sometimes it makes sense to start a small or temporary project like these without permission. Here are some good reasons to use public space in Miami-Dade without permission.

1. To demonstrate or show something new or innovative and multi-faceted that’s hard to explain another way.

EXAMPLE: Why would you want to have a party underneath a highway or in an alley? Pop-up dinner parties or activities like spontaneous salsa dancing in the streets or dominos tournaments can activate places that most people would never want to go, and you’ll likely never encounter a police officer. As long as you don’t disturb the public, probably no one will pay you any mind.

2. To build support for an idea from neighbors.

EXAMPLE: Sometimes neighbors can be resistant to change, so if you’re hoping to activate a vacant lot but neighbors are opposing you, you could consider planting very big (fake or real) flowers on the perimeter of the site, to show that your plans are to make the site nicer. It can also help outline the property you want to use. Be sure to invite participation from others, too.

3. To demonstrate public support for an idea.

EXAMPLE: Before the Purple Line’s big event in March 2013, the group’s organizers hosted an unpermitted underpass park for three months during Little Havana’s Flagler Night’s festival. This seemingly “impromptu” gathering demonstrated demand for the official permitted event.

4. To make a point about a safety hazard very visible.

EXAMPLE: In an intersection where crossing the street is very difficult, a tactical urbanism approach could use chalk or temporary paint to show where a cross walk could go, or, like Emerge Miami’s Pedestrian Safety Walk, volunteers in neon jackets could act as “crossing guards”.

5. To have a short term physical transformation.

EXAMPLE: A little bit of green paint can go a long way, and with paint that washes off you can usually get away with painting a bike lane or a plaza perimeter without permission.

6. To clean a space.

EXAMPLE: Picking up litter without permission will hardly ever raise eyebrows.

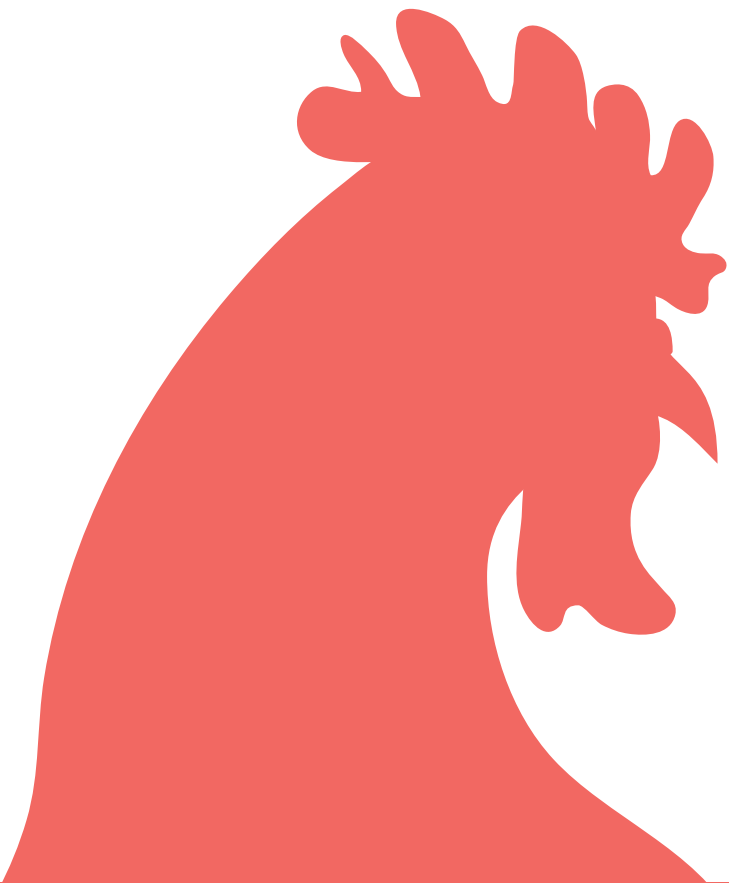


Remember

What you’re doing is not permitted. So if you are caught in the act and reprimanded, ticketed, or fined, you need to accept whatever punishment comes your way. We have constitutionally protected rights to assemble and use public space, but part of tactical urbanism is, by design, disruptive.

Etiquette

- 1. Be polite.** Hostility will get you nowhere. Be polite and friendly and recognize your role as an instigator.
- 2. Invite participation.** You’re doing this because you’re civically engaged. If others want a voice, encourage them to join you.
- 3. Be positive.** You’re trying to make your neighborhood stronger, safer and more sustainable for all. Focus on the benefits your project will bring.
- 4. Amplify your work.** Use socially connected networks like Facebook, Twitter, ioby, and blogs to make your project publicly known.
- 5. Future-tise.** Advertise the future you want by working with a friend or colleague who is a designer or architect to produce images of what the vacant lot, parking space, or whatever space you’re working on could look like. This can help start a conversation and build a broader base of support beyond the normal naysaying neighbor or two.



**PROPS
THANKS
Y'ALL
MUCHISIMAS
GRACIAS**

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