

# Guidelines for Neighborhood String Lights

There are two types of string lights permitted under Love Our Neighborhoods:

- Tier 2 string lights follow a sidewalk. They run parallel to the street and in a continuous line above the sidewalk (without zigzagging across the sidewalk).
- Tier 3 string lights are those string lights which go across a street identified as being in a commercial corridor or zone in the SF Planning Code.

## Tier 2 String Lights:

Tier 2 String lights should take the following into consideration when planning:

- Tier 2 lights may not zigzag or cross the sidewalk; they need to run parallel to the street or curb.
- String lights should be hung so that all parts of the string are between twelve (12) and eighteen (18) feet above the sidewalk.
- A power (dis)connect must be located at twelve (12) feet or lower for fire and safety access.
- String lights cannot be attached to street signs, traffic control signs or poles, curbstones, benches, hydrants, walls, fences, transit shelters, or fire escapes.
- String lights may be hung from street trees, but it must be done in a way that does not harm any part of the tree. Hard attachments such as staples, zip ties, nails, screws, or wires are not allowed. See program regulations for more details on hanging string lights from trees or ask the analyst for recommendations.

## Tier 3 String Lights:

Tier 3 String Lights also need to note the following:

- String lights may not be suspended across any street with overhead SFMTA lines.
- Hang heights for Tier 3 string lights are subject to federal, state, or local requirements for objects placed over roadways.

## All String Lights:

In addition to general requirements for application materials, string lights should also consider the following:

- If you plan to attach to any PUC or MTA pole, or to any private property, you will be asked to provide permission from the pole or property owner.
- Power pulled from private property will need to ensure an outdoor rated outlet per the California Electrical Code. Building and Electrical permits from the San Francisco Department of Building Inspection may be required if a power supply is being installed as part of the project.
- Power connections to buildings must run at ninety (90) degree angles from the string lights to the building face.
- Clearly labeled elevation-style site plans of where you wish to hang the lights.
  - Addresses
  - Hang heights at high and low points
  - Attachment points and methods
  - Power (dis)connect locations
  - Any Shared Spaces (parking spaces converted to seating/gathering space) or vertical street elements, including poles, trees, parking meters, trash cans, etc. and their heights/dimensions.

Please refer to Love Our Neighborhoods Regulations for complete placement requirements.