



The 519 Church Street Community Centre Space Use Policy Addendum

December 2010

SPACE USE POLICY

The 519 Church Street Community Centre (The 519) has a comprehensive Space Use Policy in place that establishes the framework to make decisions on the allocation and management of space at the Centre. The policy was approved by the Board in October 1995 and subsequently amended in 1999, and most recently in 2006. This addendum should be read in conjunction with the complete Space Use policy.

BACKGROUND

In 2010, the Board reviewed the existing Space Use Policy and determined a need to more clearly define the expectations regarding use of the facility. This review was in response to a series of protests related to the Centre's space use decisions. The following policy outlines The Centre's expectations regarding the behaviour of all space users.

OUR COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The 519 is committed to providing high quality community programs, services and accessible public space for the local community, broader LGBTQ communities and the general public.

The 519 is committed to creating a Centre that fosters community and civic engagement and provides leadership and/or supports community opportunities that generate positive transformative social, recreational, and educational programs and services and improves the well being of our communities.

We embrace the principles of community volunteerism, advocacy in support of social justice, human equality and we are committed to providing and maintaining an open, accessible welcoming space where all people have a right to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect.

In our commitment to the Community, The 519 strives to:

- * Promote a positive public profile
- * Provide leadership to enhance our communities
- * Create an equitable, supportive, welcoming environment for the community, general public, employees, volunteers and the board
- * Successfully advocate on issues that are relevant to our communities
- * Establish a broad stable resource base in order to be able to effectively support the community and meet our mandate

SPACE USE EXPECTATIONS

The 519 is committed to creating and fostering a space that is safe and welcoming for all people. We will not tolerate or condone behaviours that violate our Anti-Harassment and Discrimination or Workplace Violence Policy or create an unsafe/unwelcoming environment including behaviours such as the following:

- harassment, discrimination, verbal or physical abuse
- violent, aggressive, threatening and/or intimidating behaviours
- illegal activity including the illicit use of alcohol and restricted substances

All people who come to The 519 are expected to abide by this policy and strive to create a safe welcoming space for all. Where appropriate, The 519 will restrict access and take appropriate remedial, disciplinary and/or legal action according to the circumstances related to violations of these policies.

COMPLIANCE WITH ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY

As a condition of space use all organizations, community groups, renters, etc. must comply with The Centre's various related policies including but not limited to:

- Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Workplace Violence Policy
- Commitment to Creating an Accessible Community Centre Policy
- Crisis Intervention and Service Restriction Policy
- Complaints and Appeals Policy
- Space Use Policy

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The 519 is an independent board of management of the City of Toronto. The Centre is responsible for the safety, security and management of the premises. This includes but is not limited to:

- Restricting access or services to the general public or community members who pose a risk to others including community participants, the general public, volunteers and staff
- Managing protests in and around the building

At no time should any space user group undertake security measures or assume security responsibilities on behalf of The 519, without the express written consent of the Centre.

Any user group that suspects there may be a security or safety risk is required to report that risk to the Office Manager (designate) and discuss the appropriate response strategies that mitigate risk of violence. A written safety plan may be developed and implemented.

POLICE PRESENCE

The 519 does not permit police agencies to manage the safety, security or access to our premises without our express written consent. The Centre expects that members of the police service who are undertaking their duties as officers of the law will report and identify their presence in the building to the Front Desk staff whenever possible. The 519 recognizes that the police reserve the right to act according to legislative and regulatory law.

PUBLIC VS PRIVATE MEETINGS

The Centre recognizes that there is a difference between public and private events. Public meetings are broadly accessible to the general public while private functions are restricted to invited or permitted guests as established by the space user.

Except in cases where such restriction is a violation of the policies noted above, all approved space users have a right to meet free from excessive disruption. The 519 acknowledges the right of space users to ask unwanted or uninvited guests to leave their event or meeting.

COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

The 519 recognizes that from time to time members of the community or general public may disagree with decisions we make as a Centre, or disagree with the content of meetings or events held in our space. We recognize that diverse opinions and perspective exist within our communities and that groups using our space may not agree with each other including working at cross purposes. If requested, the 519 may where and when possible facilitate a dialogue between these groups in order to resolve issues/concerns.

Decisions regarding space allocation do not consider these differences rather applications for space use are based on the overall eligibility requirements outlined in the Space Use policy. At all times, The 519 reserves the right to determine who has access to our building and facilities. The Centre is committed to making decisions according to the Board approved Space Use policy and other related policies.

The 519 expects people to utilize the Centre's Complaints and Appeals Policy to identify and resolve complaints including those related to space use.

The 519 recognizes that peaceful protests do not necessarily constitute a threat and can be best managed by allowing protestors to voice their concerns and then end their protest. In the event that people chose to peacefully and respectfully protest our decisions regarding space use or individuals or organizations using space at The 519, they are welcome to do so outside of the building. Protests may not impede or disrupt normal centre operations or block access to the building.