

Busking in Victoria Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

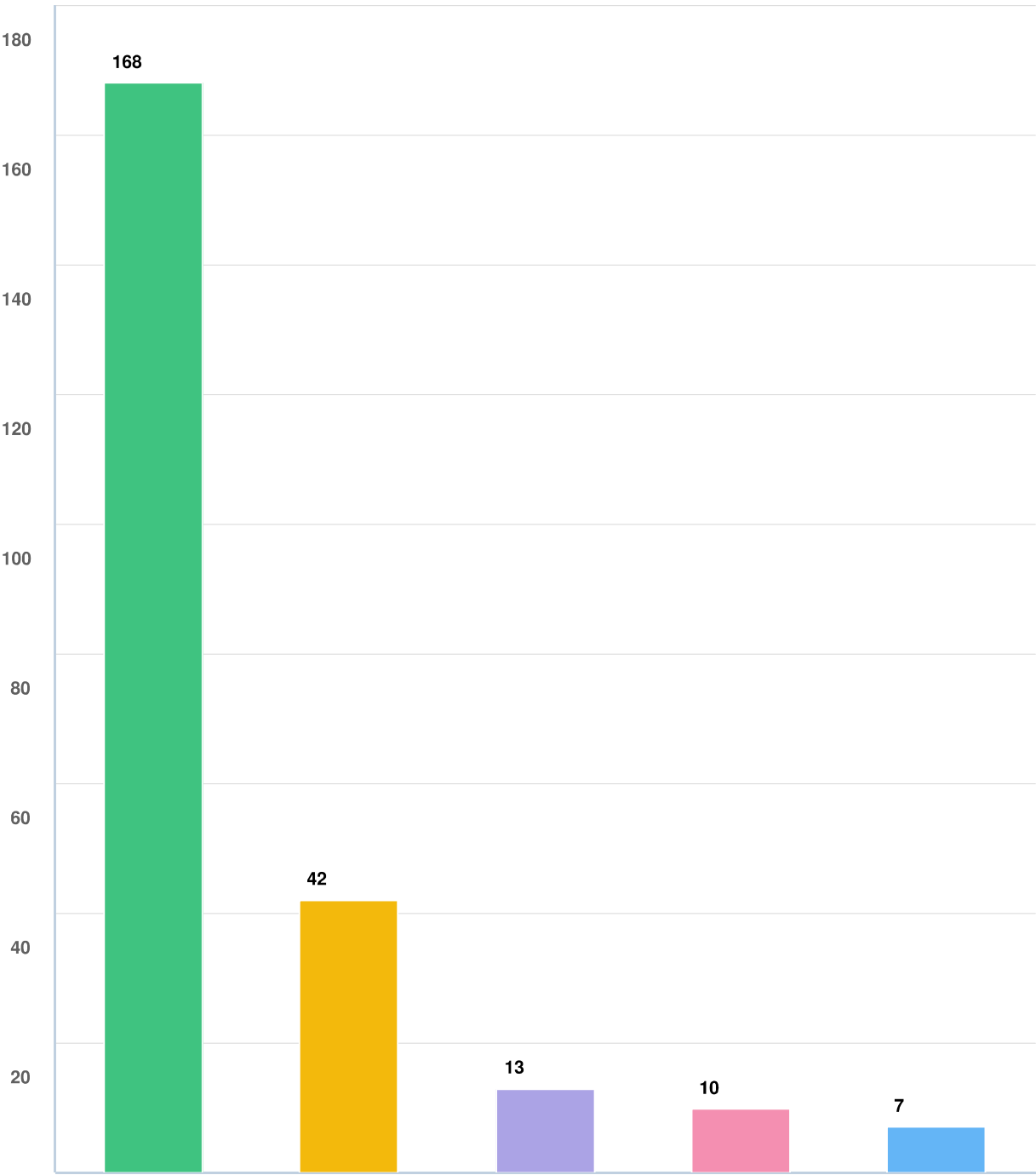
25 June 2024 - 03 September 2024

PROJECT NAME:
Busking in Victoria



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you believe busking enhances the vibrancy and cultural appeal of our downtown?

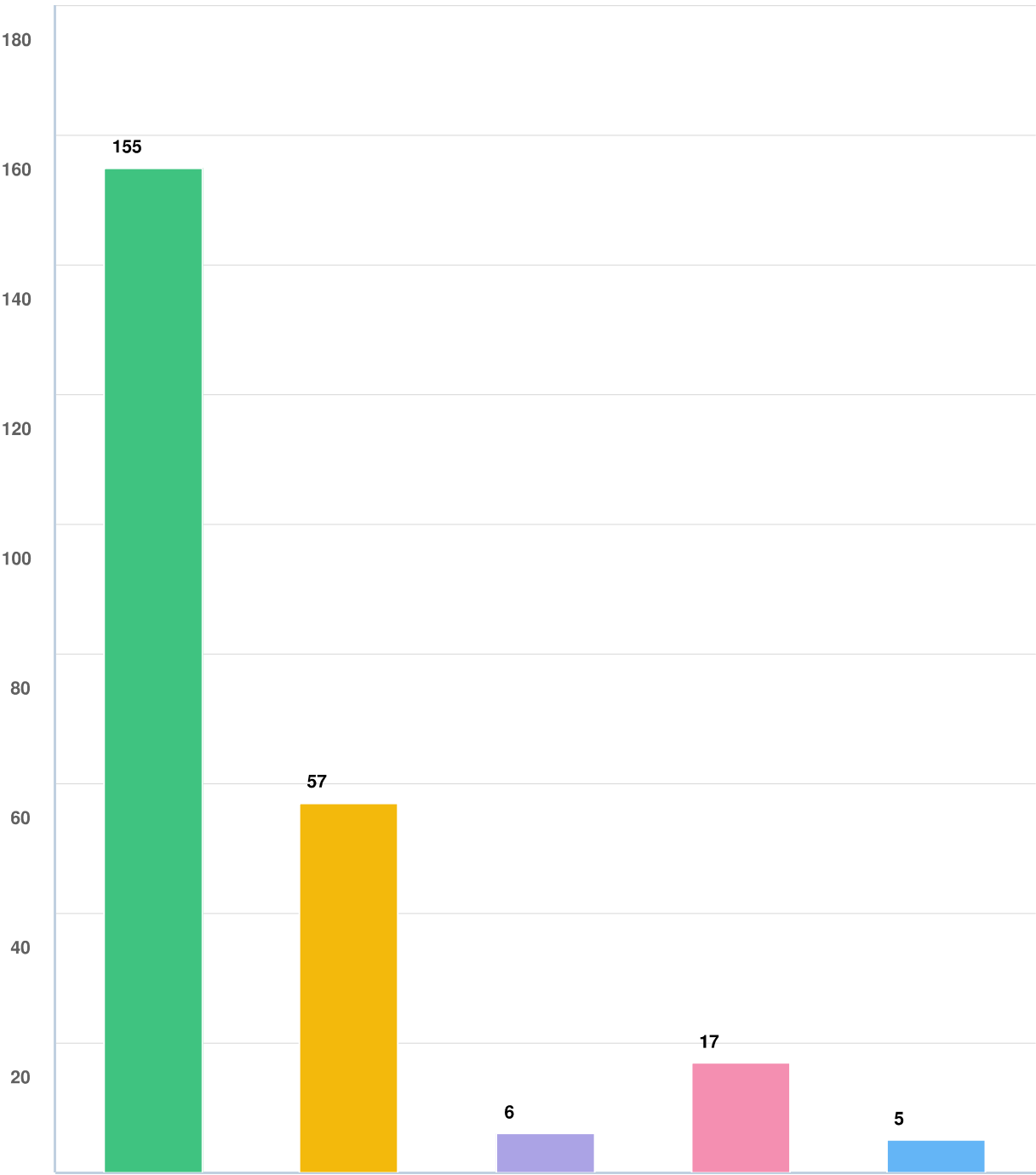


Question options

Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

Optional question (239 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 What is your level of support for busking in downtown Victoria?

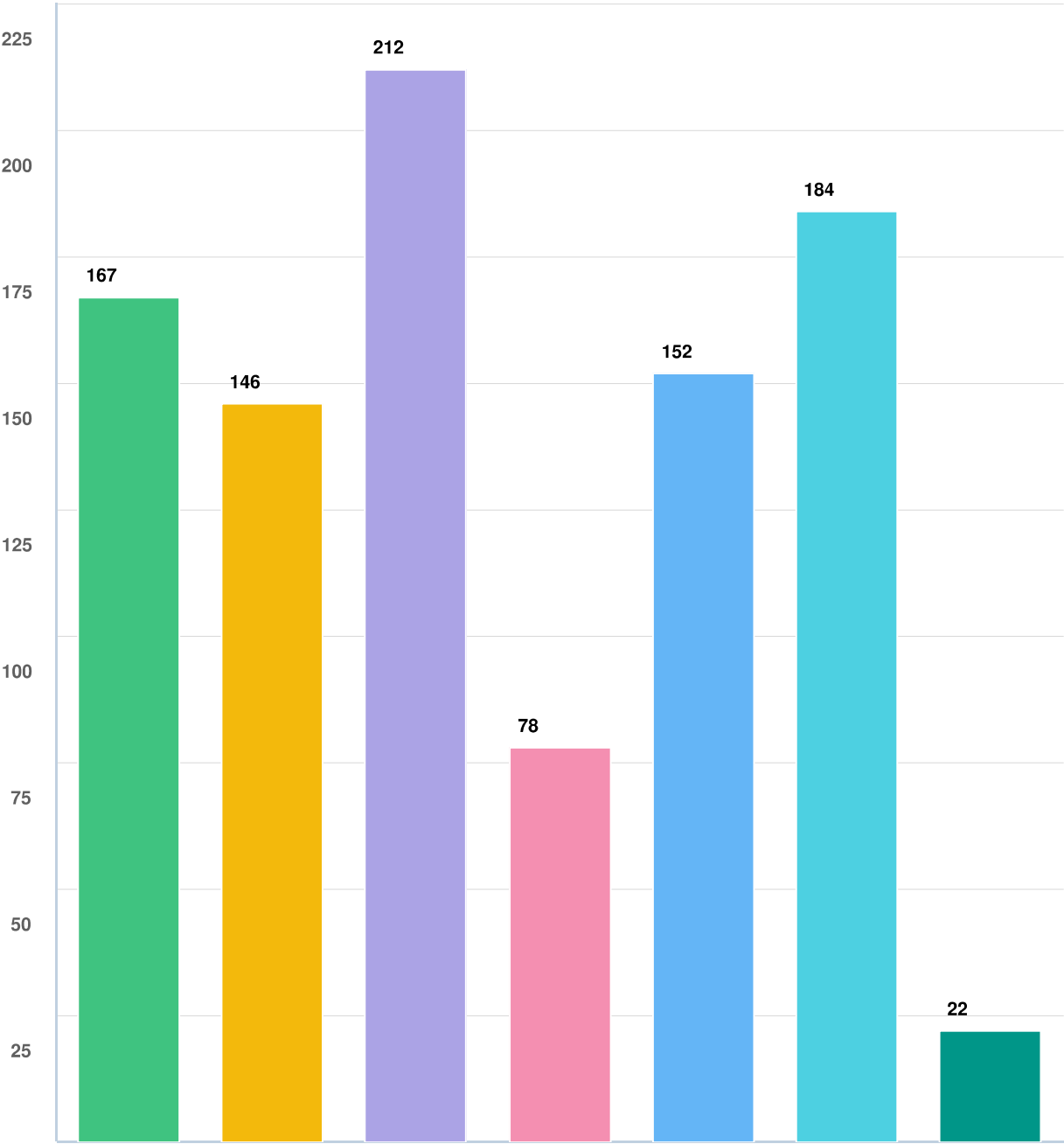


Question options

Strongly Support Support Neutral Don't Support Strongly Don't Support

Optional question (239 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q3 Which types of busking would you like to experience downtown? (Select all that apply.)

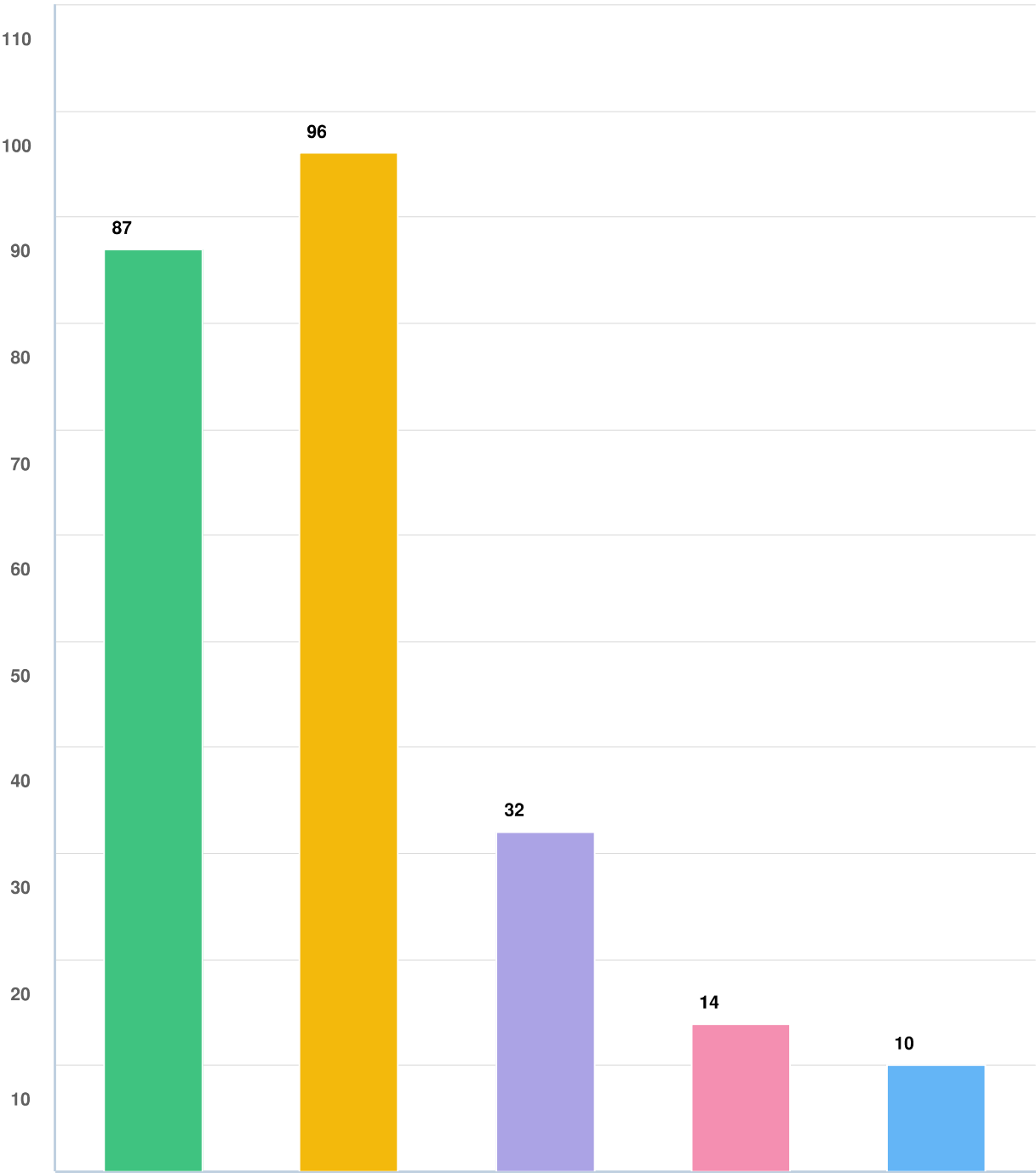


Question options

- Dance (i.e., acrobatics, ribbon dancing, hula hooping, etc.)
- Magic tricks and slight-of-hand
- Music (i.e., singers, musicians)
- Poetry
- Street theatre (i.e., comedy, miming, clowning, storytelling, etc.)
- Visual arts (i.e., painting, chalk art, sketching, etc.)
- Other (please specify):

Optional question (234 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 What is your level of support for a juried process to audition licensed buskers to perform at scheduled dates/times at specific "elevated" busking locations?

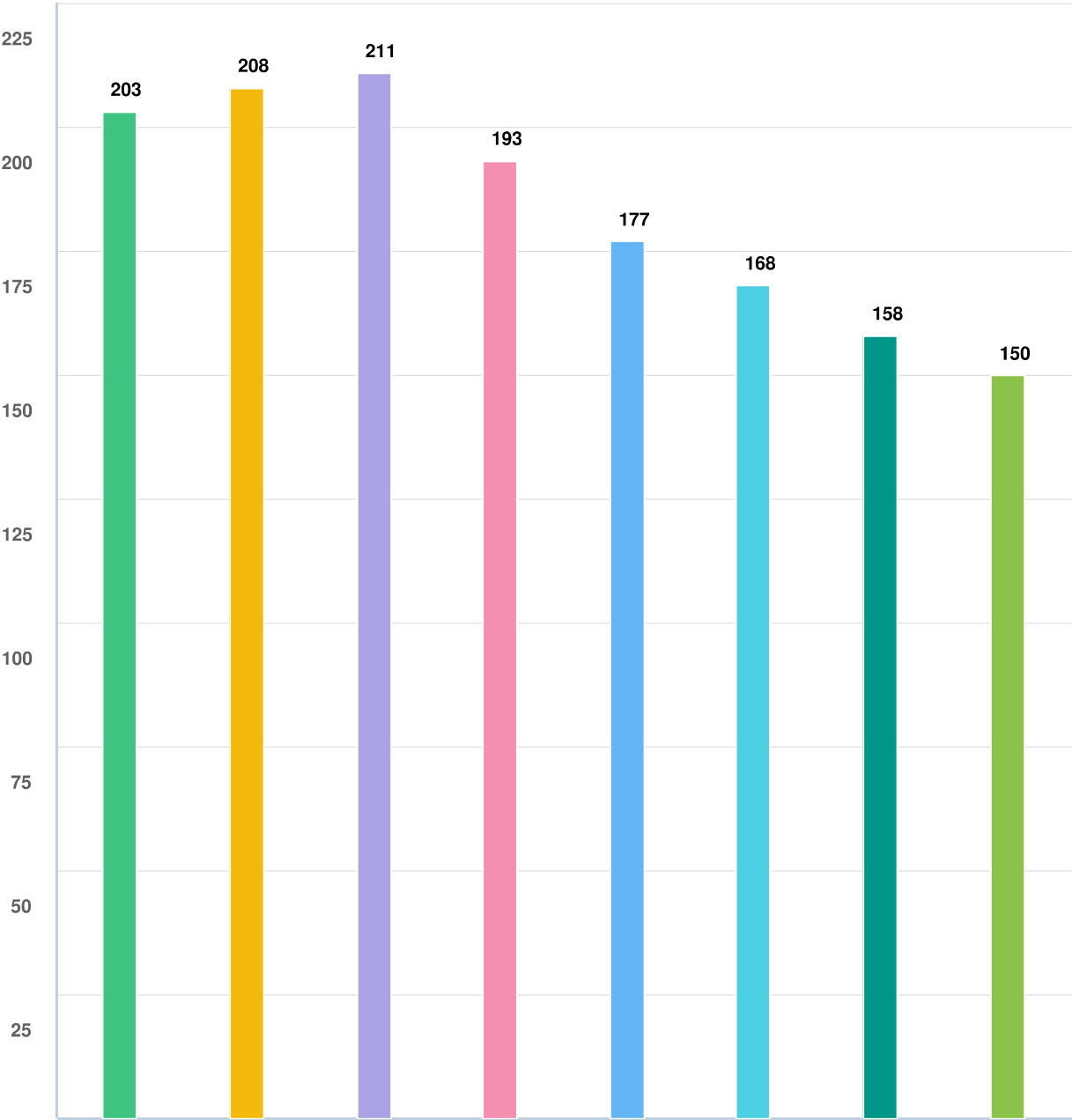


Question options

Strongly Support Support Neutral Don't Support Strongly Don't Support

Optional question (238 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 This map identifies "elevated" busking locations that will be piloted this summer to feature scheduled auditioned/juried buskers. Please select the "elevated" busking location(s) you support. (Please select all that apply.)

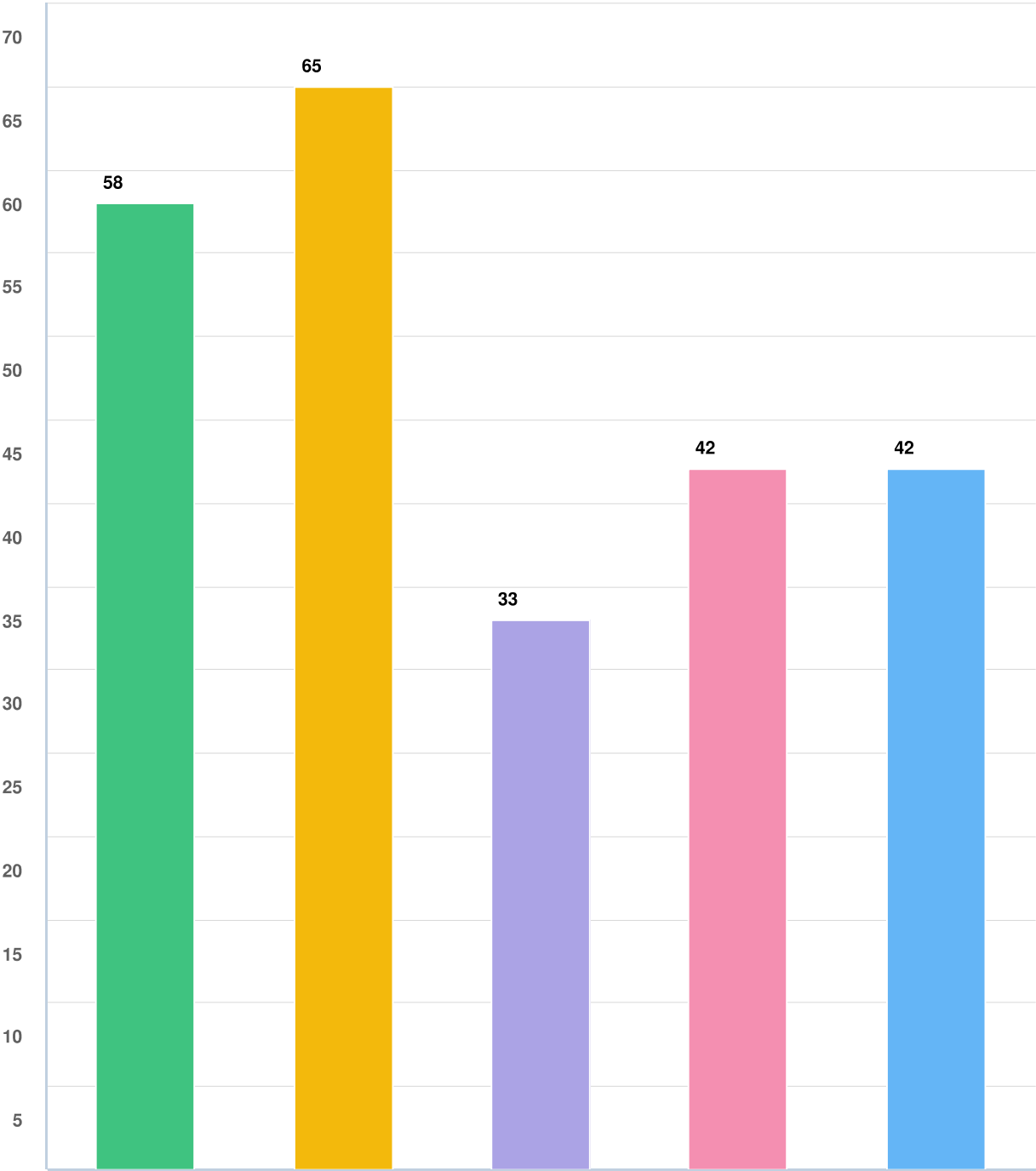


Question options

- Upper Causeway near the Visitor Centre
- Ship Point
- Bastion Square (plaza area near Wharf Street)
- Bastion Square (southwest corner of Langley and Bastion Streets)
- Johnson Street plaza
- Northwest corner of Broad and Fort Streets
- Northeast corner of Broad and Yates Streets
- Northeast corner of Douglas and Broughton Streets

Optional question (225 response(s), 14 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

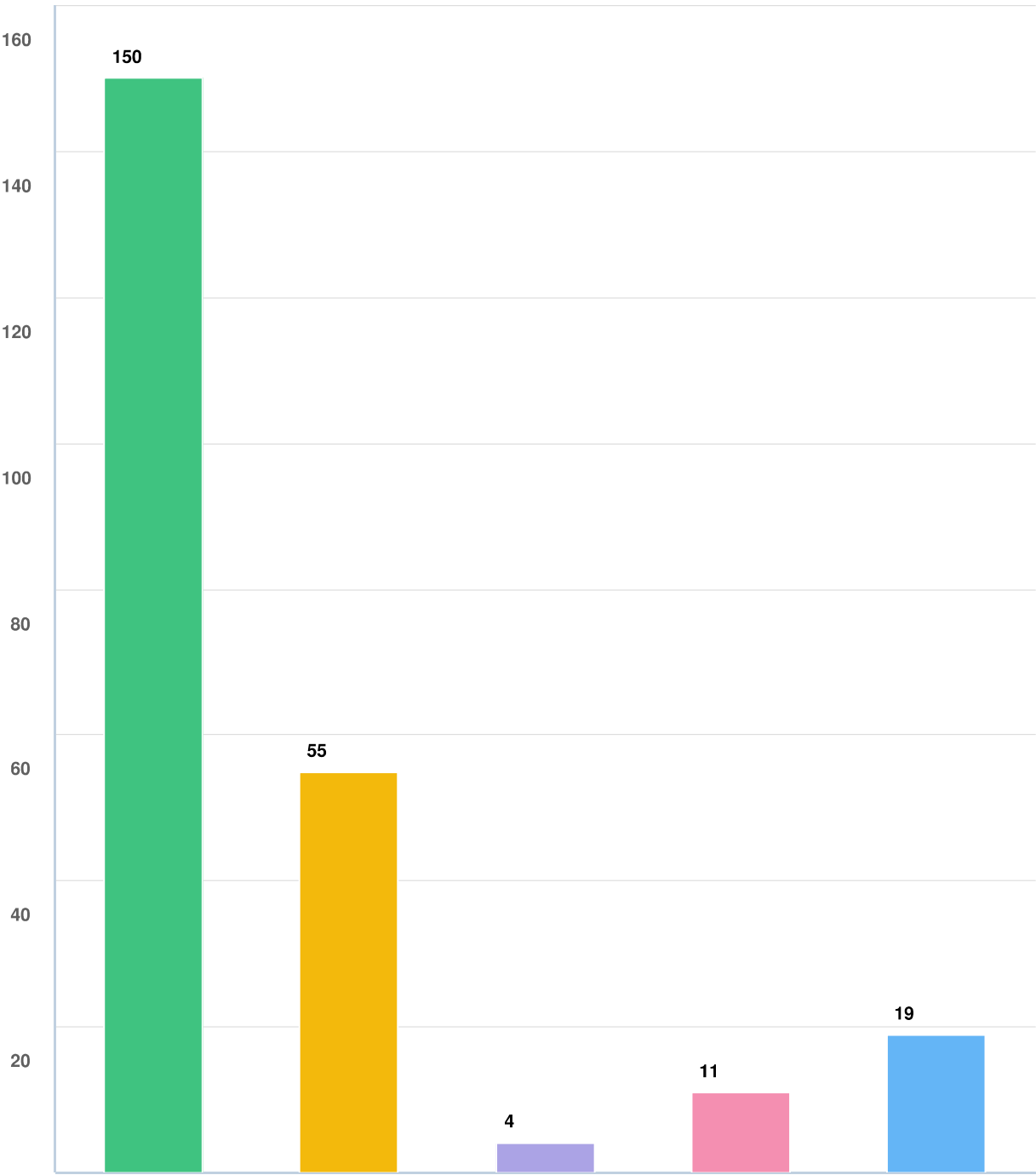
Q6 What is your level of support for sound amplification at specific "elevated" busking locations featuring auditioned/juried buskers?



Question options
Strongly Support Support Neutral Don't Support Strongly Don't Support

Optional question (239 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q7 What is your level of support for busking along Government Street?

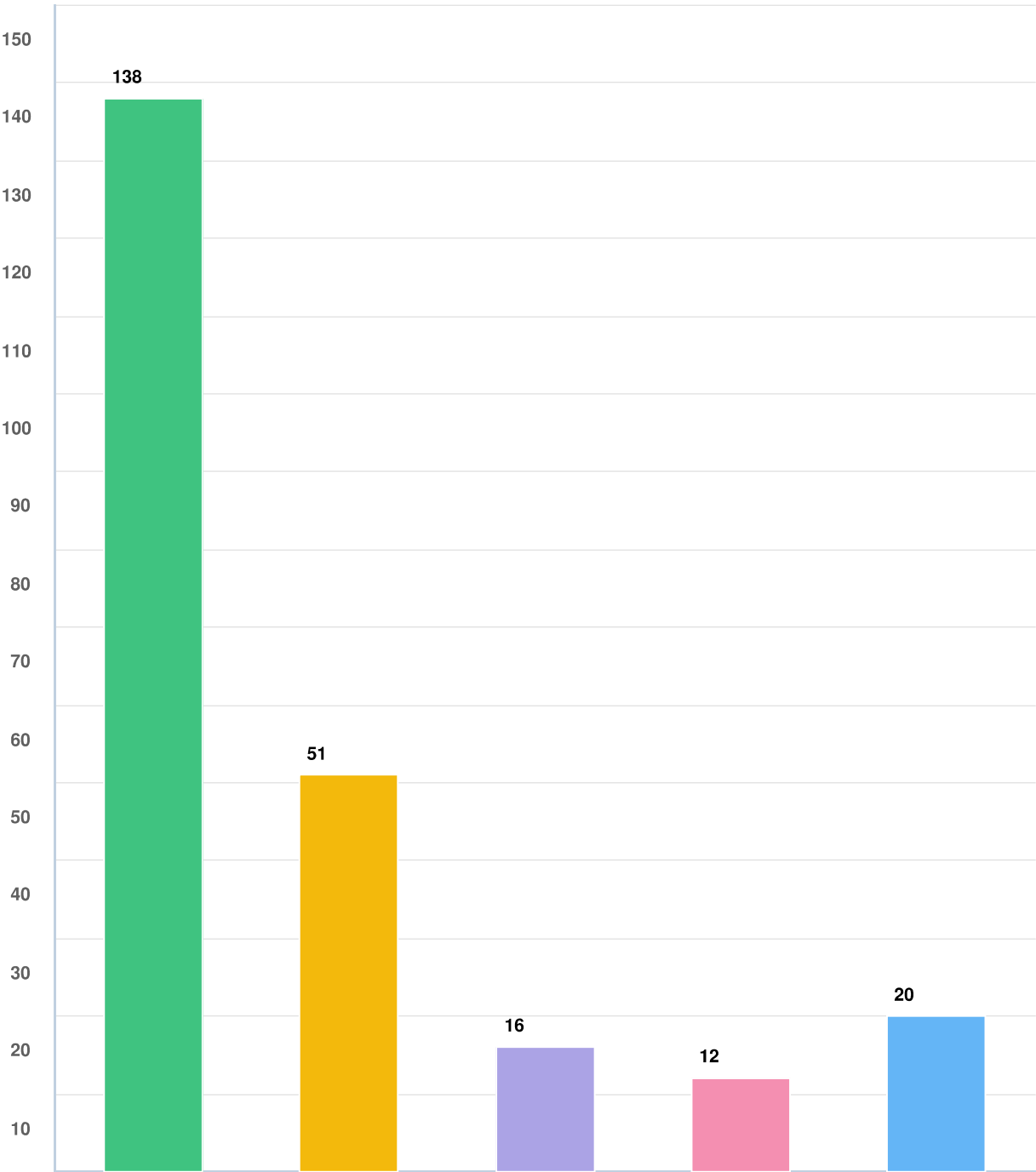


Question options

● Strongly Support ● Support ● Neutral ● Don't Support ● Strongly Don't Support

Optional question (238 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

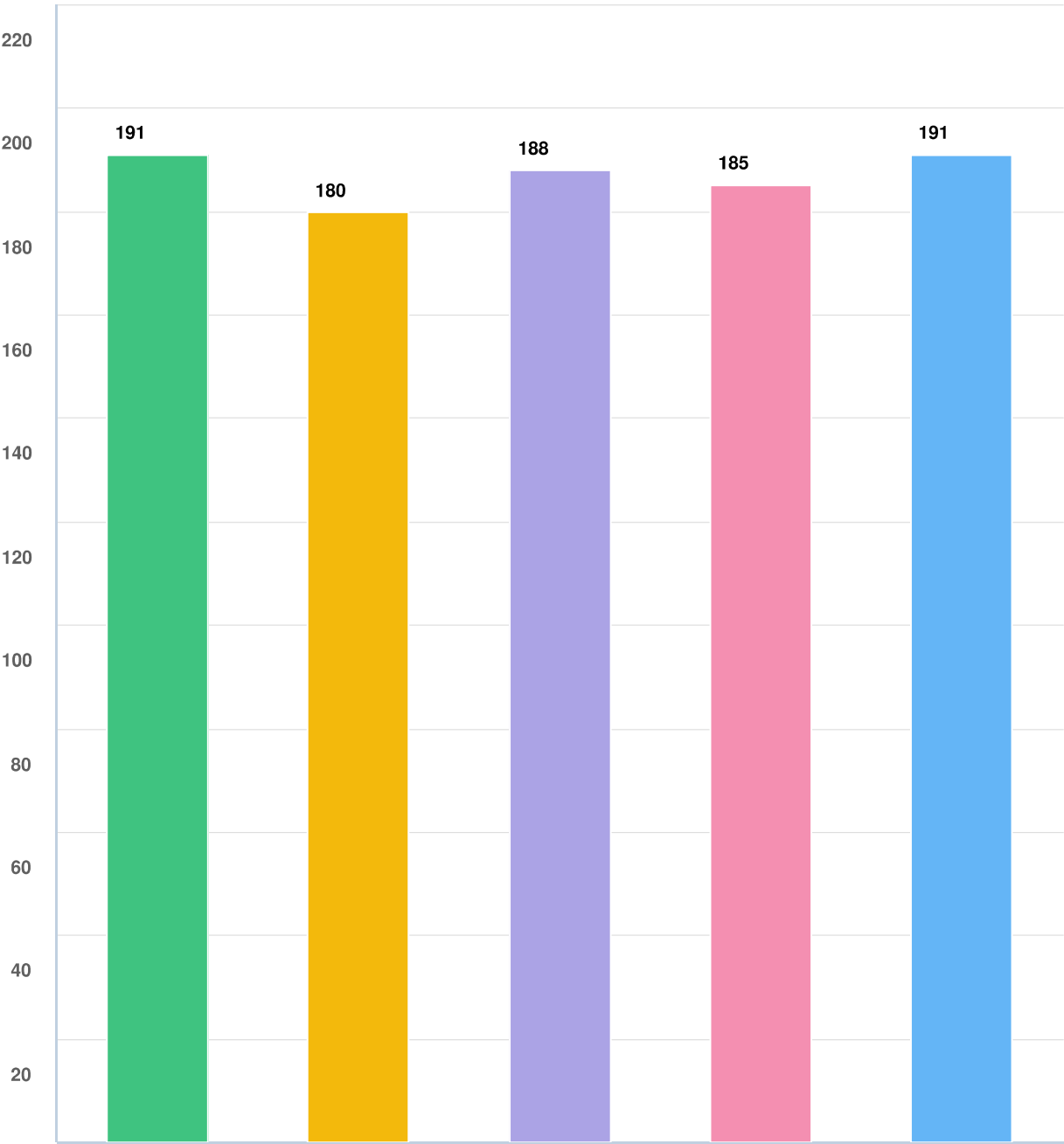
Q8 This map identifies five designated busking locations on Government Street between Yates and Wharf Streets that the City is piloting this summer. What is your level of support for having designated locations for busking on Government Street where I...



Question options
Strongly Support Support Neutral Don't Support Strongly Don't Support

Optional question (236 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q9 Which of the following five designated locations being piloted on Government Street do you support? (Please select all that apply.)

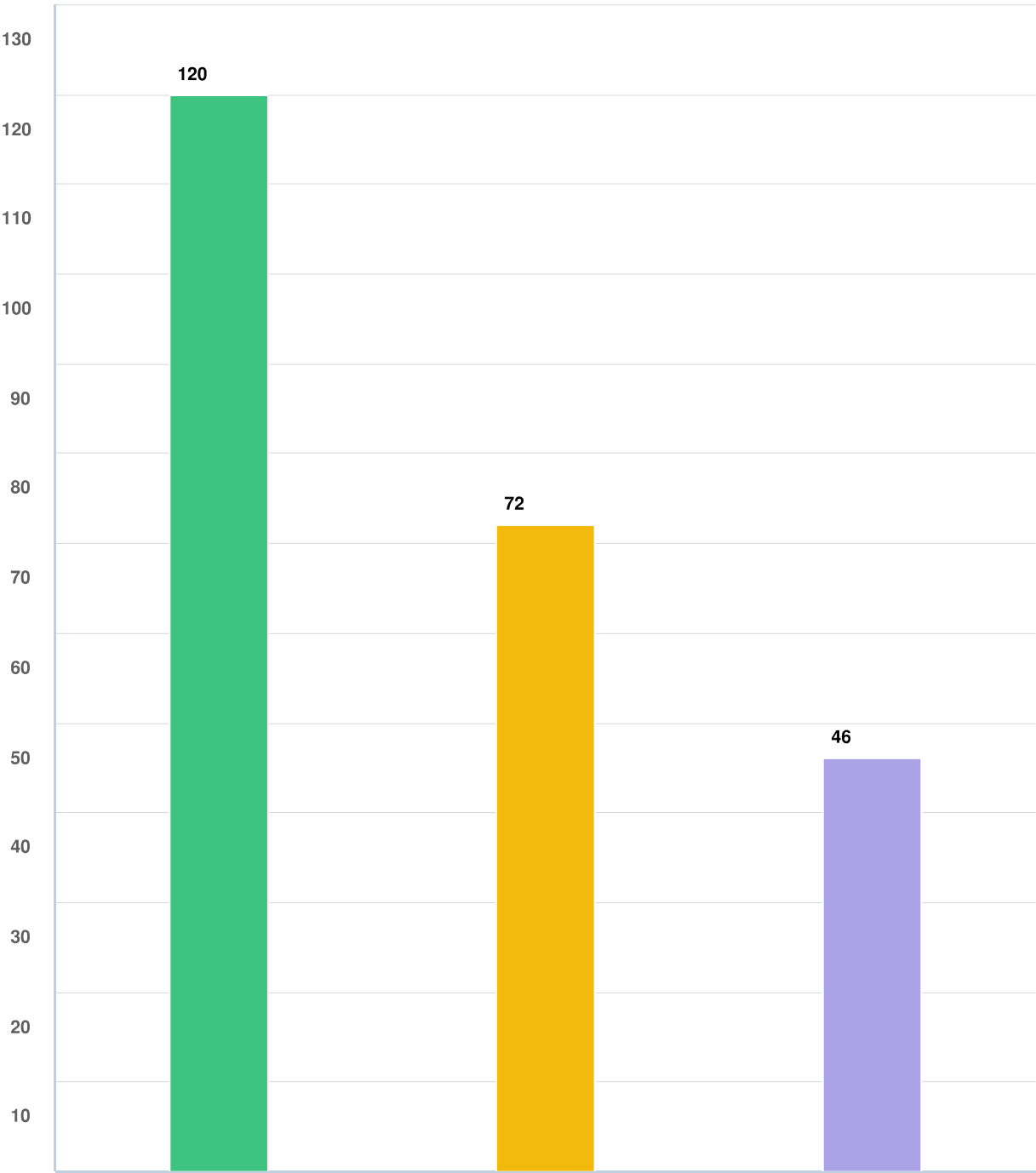


Question options

- Northwest corner of Government and Wharf Streets
- Northeast corner of Government and Courtney Streets
- Northwest corner of Government and Broughton Streets
- Near the northwest corner of Government and Fort Streets
- Near the Government and View Street intersection (next to Trounce Alley entrance)

Optional question (210 response(s), 29 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

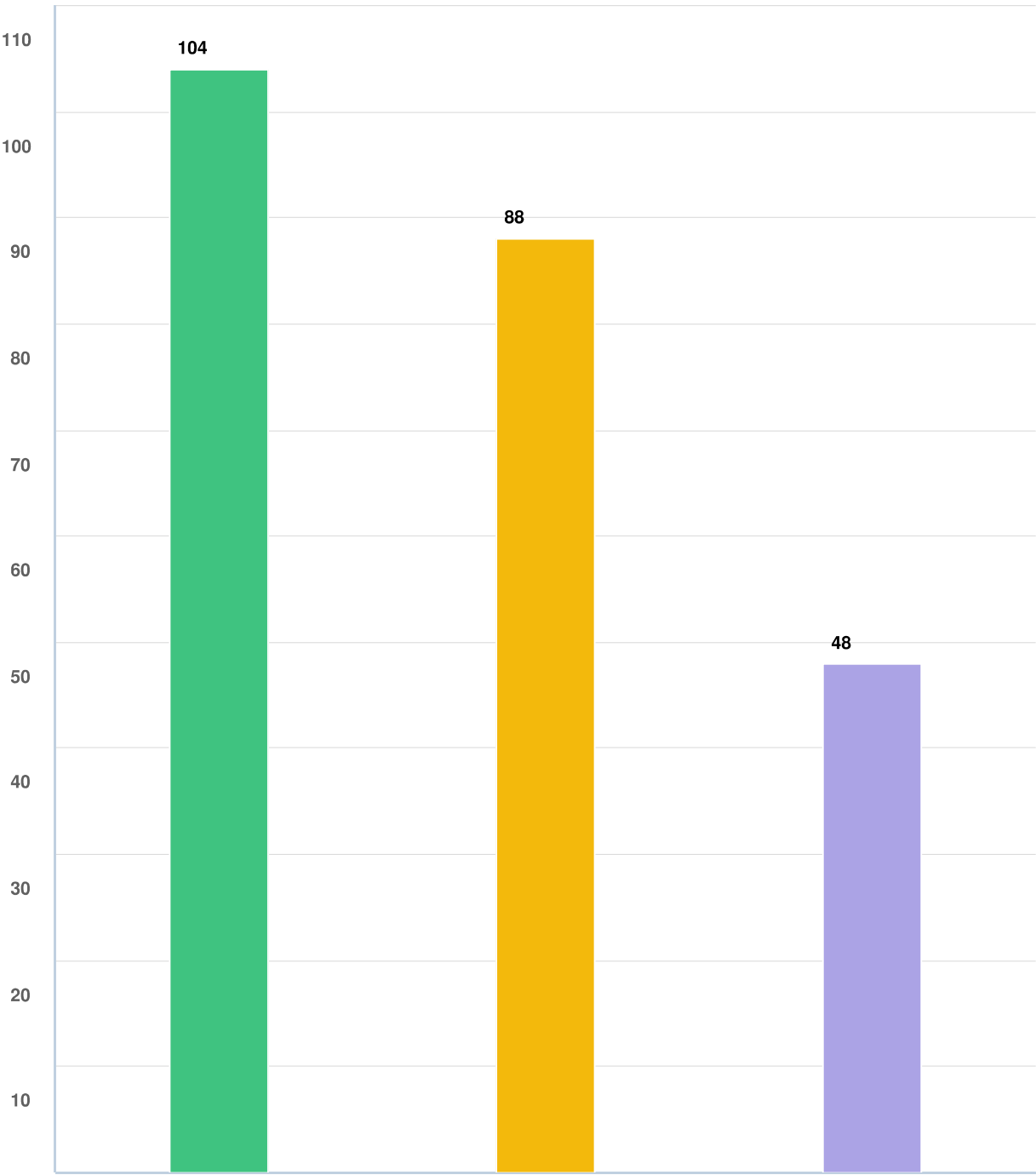
Q10 | Do you think the City should allow busking to take place anywhere along Government Street?



Question options
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Optional question (237 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

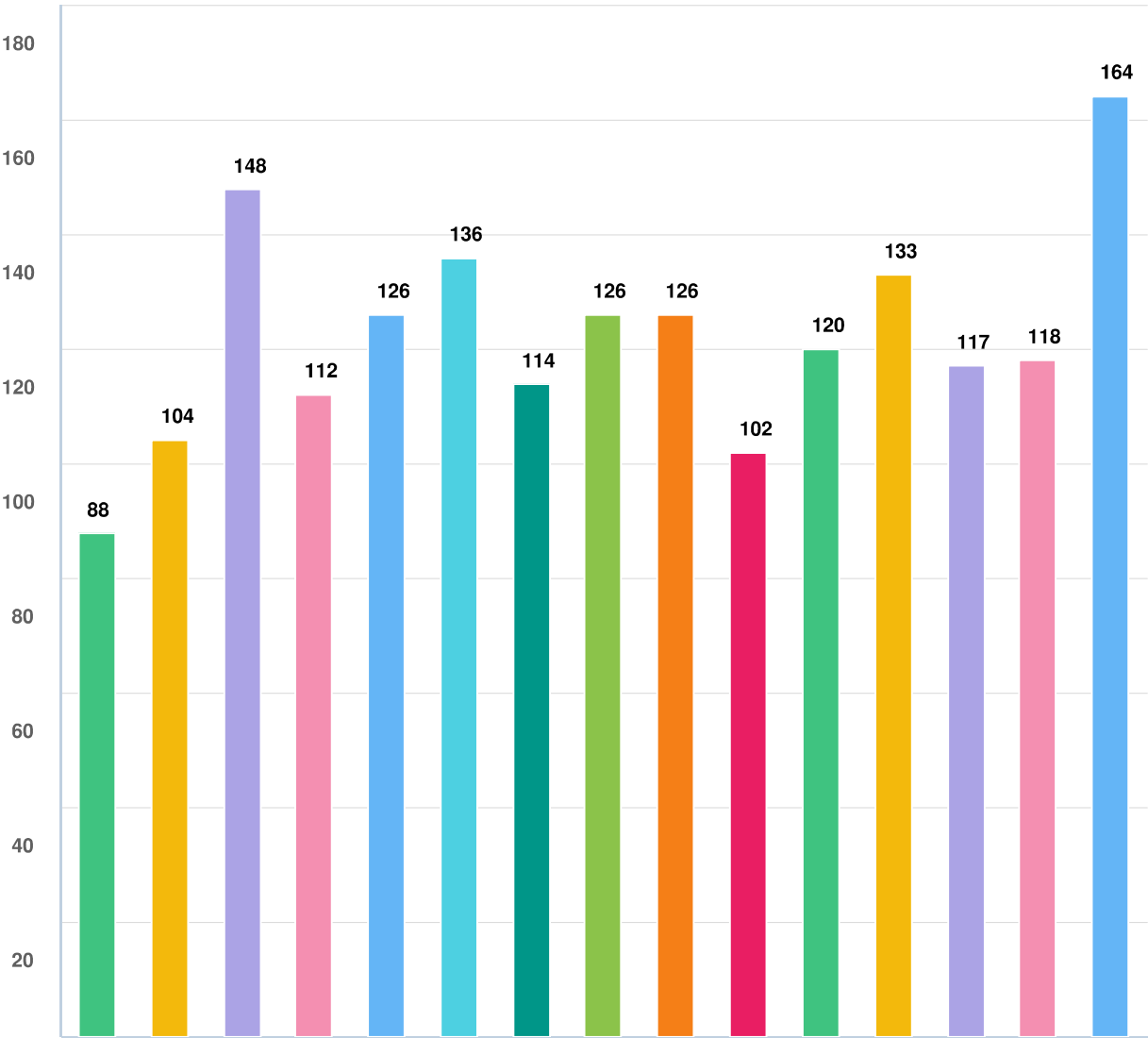
Q11 Do you think the City should allow busking to happen anywhere downtown?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● Unsure

Optional question (239 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q12 Which of the following strategies do you think could help improve the busking experience downtown? (Please select all that apply.)

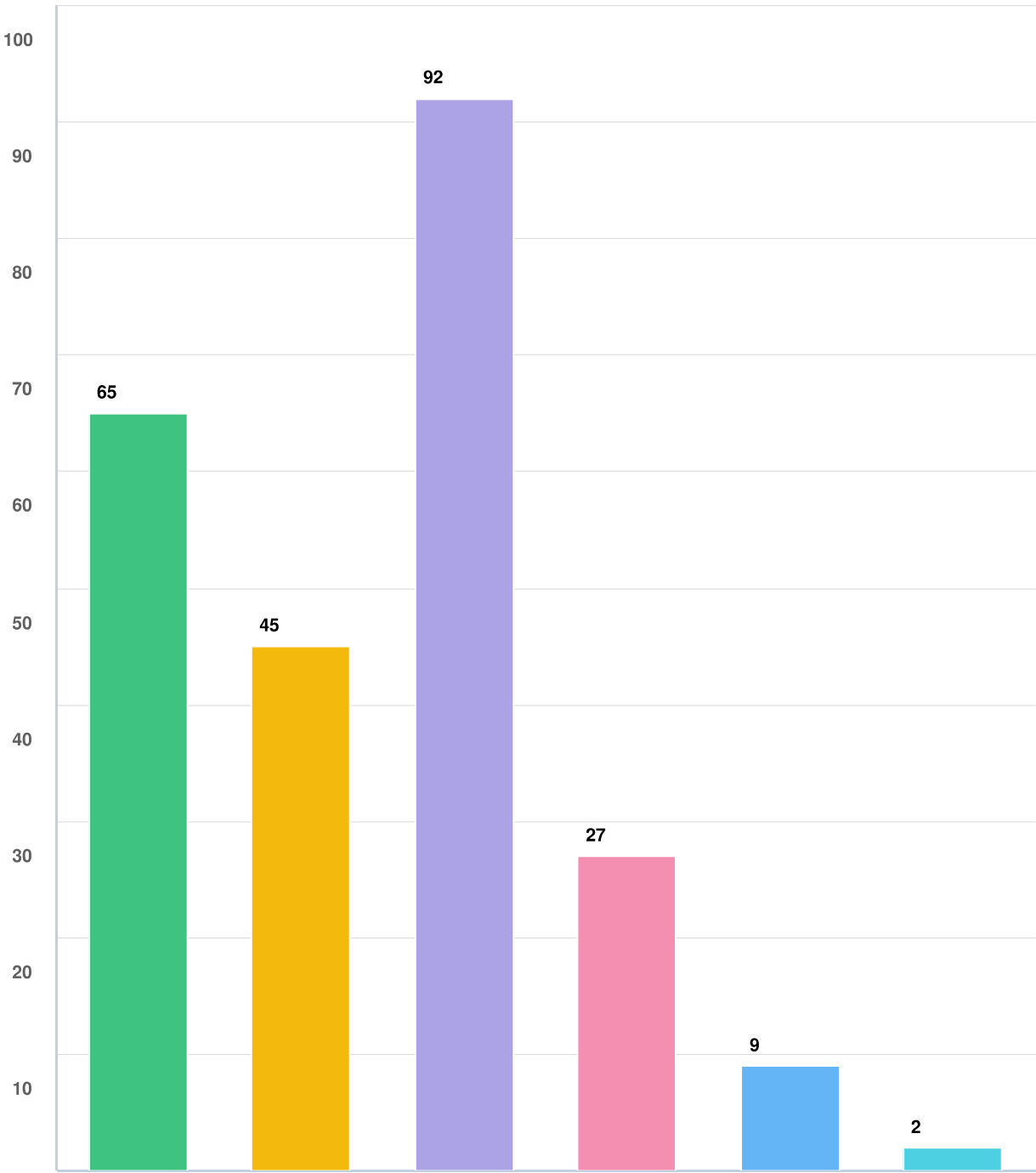


Question options

- Professional development and/or mentorship opportunities for buskers
- Opportunities for buskers and community to collaborate and share ideas and challenges
- Designated locations and times for licensed, prequalified (auditioned/juried) buskers
- Designated locations and times for sound-amplified performances by licensed, pre-qualified (auditioned/juried) buskers
- Designated locations and times for emerging/novice buskers
- Calendar of performances available online and onsite
- Food trucks nearby
- Comfortable/accessible seating nearby
- Public washroom nearby
- Accessible locations (i.e., near parking, cycling corridor, walking path, etc.)
- Shade/rain cover for buskers and spectators
- Ability to tip buskers electronically
- Bylaw officers ensure buskers follow program rules
- Consequences for buskers who do not follow program rules
- Annual busking festival

Optional question (232 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

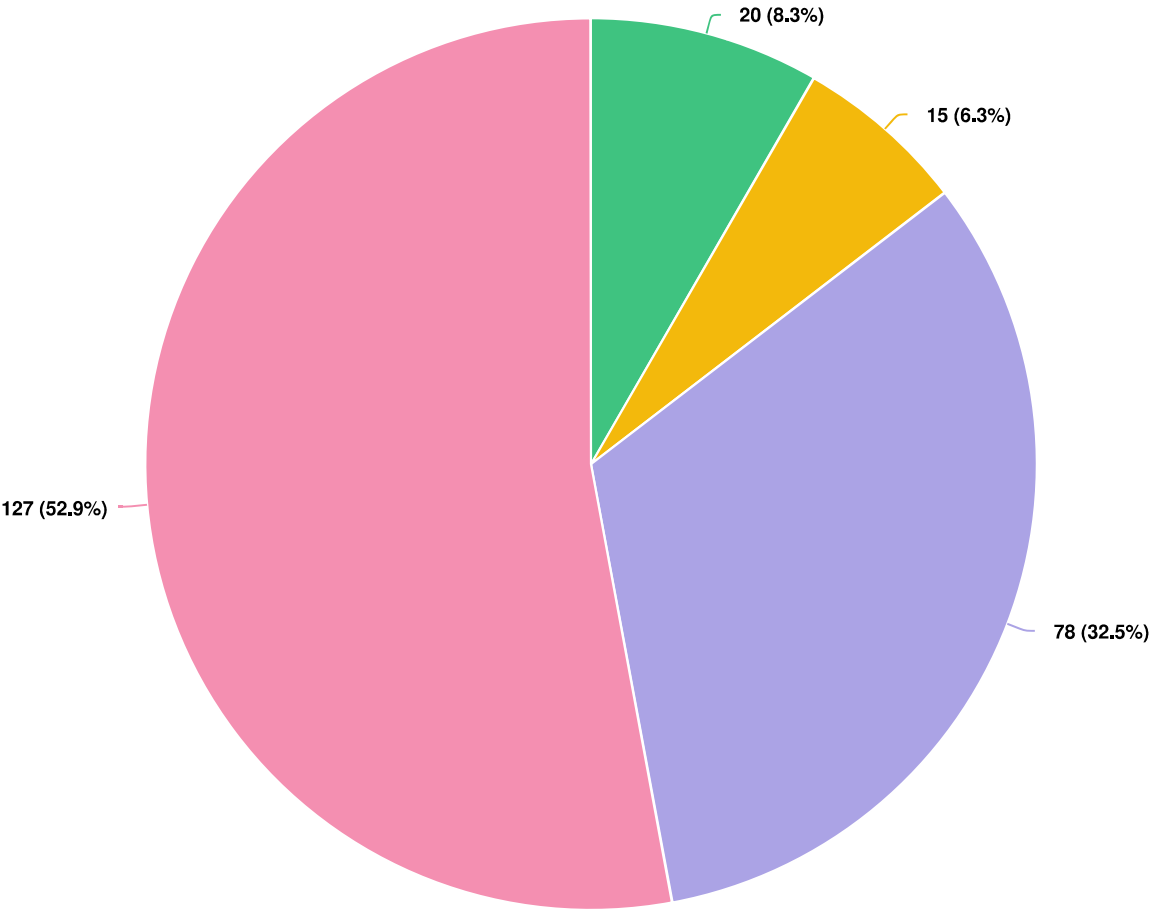
Q13 How often do you visit downtown?



Question options
● I reside downtown ● Daily ● Several times a week ● Once a month ● Rarely ● Never

Optional question (239 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q14 I am filling out this survey as a:

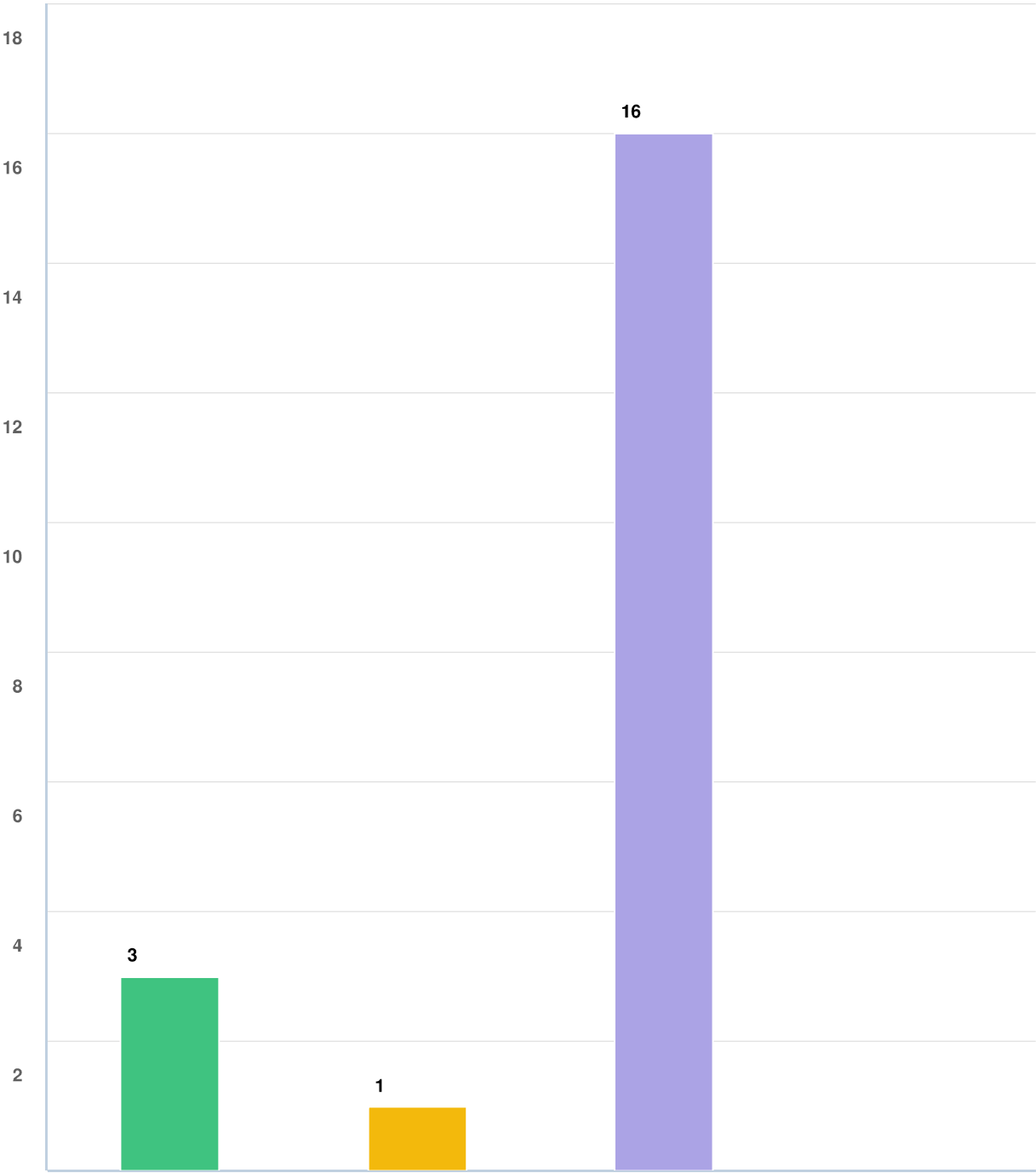


Question options

Busker/Aspiring Busker Downtown Business Owner/Operator Downtown Resident Greater Victoria resident

Mandatory Question (239 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q15 Please identify if you are:

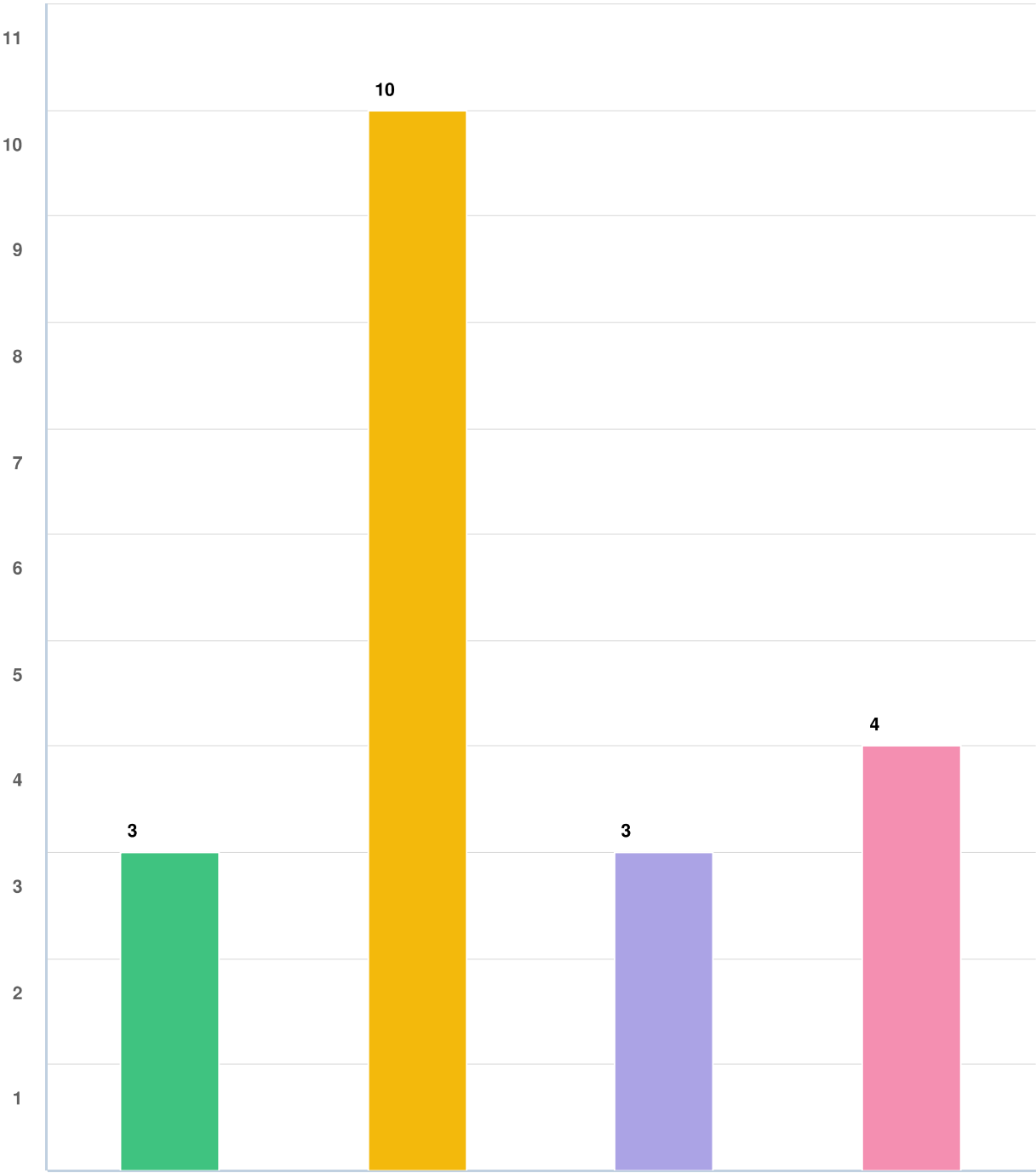


Question options

- Considering being a busker downtown ● An unlicensed busker ● A licensed busker ● Retired from busking

Optional question (20 response(s), 219 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q16 How long have you been busking in Victoria?

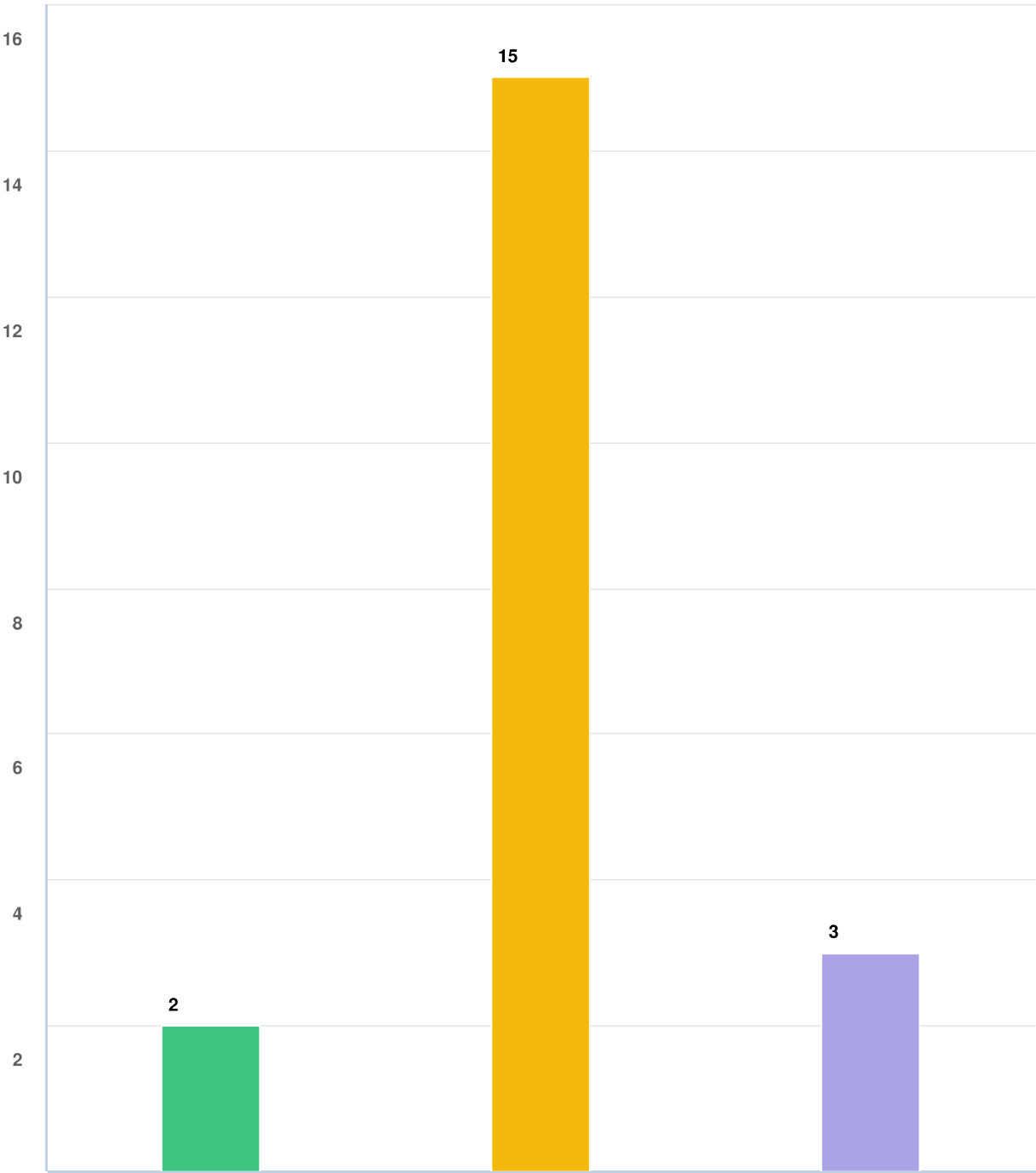


Question options

- Haven't started yet but interested ● Under five years ● 5-10 years ● More than 10 years

Optional question (20 response(s), 219 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q17 | Have you experienced any challenges obtaining a Street Entertainment licence in Victoria?

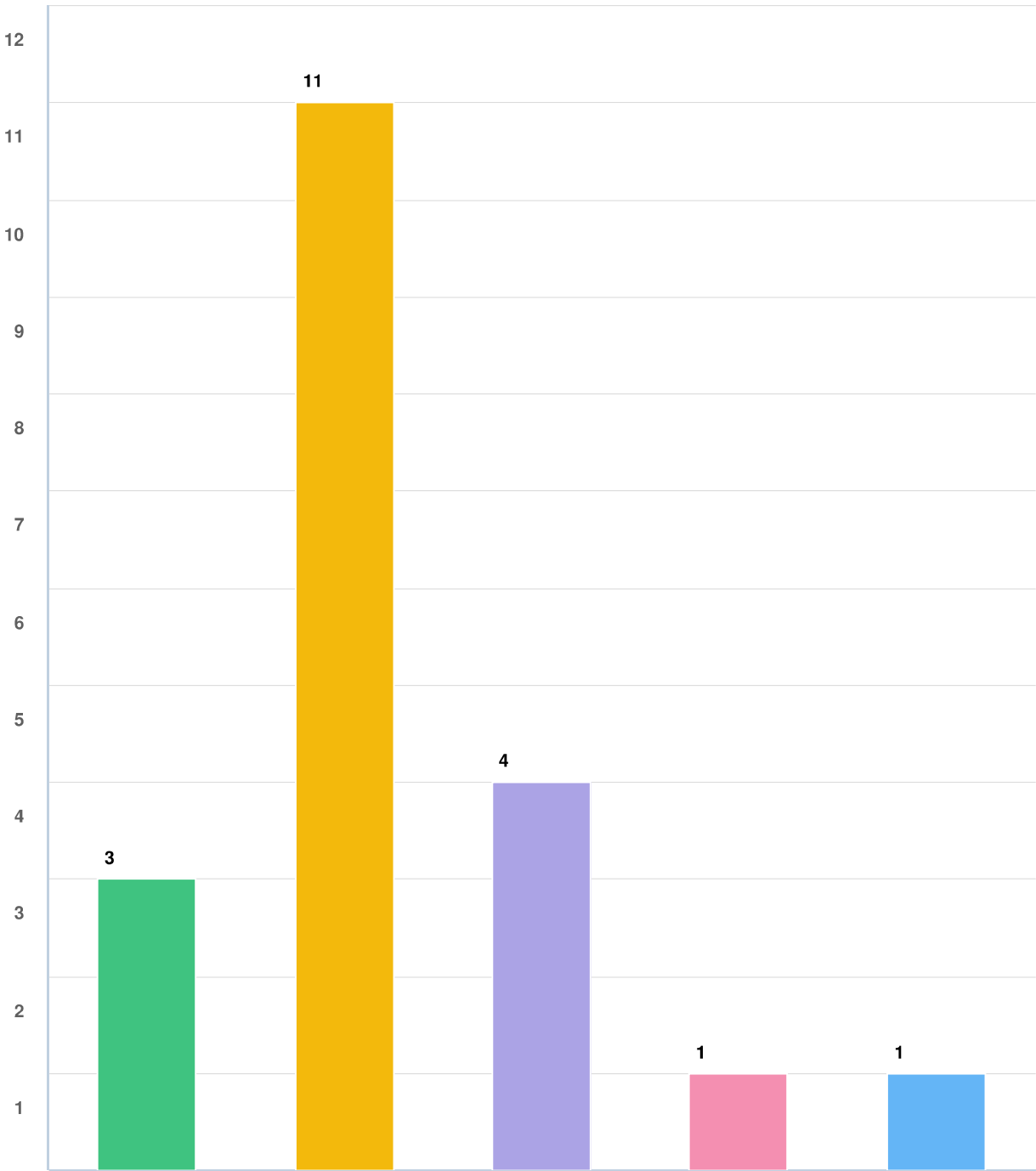


Question options

Yes No Have not yet applied

Optional question (20 response(s), 219 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q18 Please rate your experience as a busker in Victoria.



Question options
Very Good Good Neutral Fair Not Good

Optional question (20 response(s), 219 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q19 | Please explain:

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 04:49 AM

Stingy tourists & locals

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 08:43 AM

As I've been a busker in Victoria since 1998, I have had many good experiences and some not so nice experiences. Please Please Please don't allow amplification, it creates so much noise bleed and people just crank up the sound so makes it impossible for other acts to perform.

Screen Name Redacted

7/01/2024 04:54 PM

Meet a lot of nice people to share your music with.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 10:21 AM

There is always a considerate public as well as acknowledgement and appreciation of heartfelt musical performing.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:24 PM

I've been busking in Victoria since 1977 (the long-timer). I've watched busking ebb and flow through the years. It is currently at a severe ebb and the City's involvement (hopefully with consultation with us) is greatly needed and appreciated! I have made a large part of my livelihood from busking, hence the Very good rating. We can use the help now. It is important to maintain the busking community. Tourists and locals love it!

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 08:55 PM

Number 18 doesn't apply--just thinking about it! My experience as a member of the public is mixed, but I think busking is a big plus, on the whole.

Screen Name Redacted

7/08/2024 04:52 PM

It's often difficult to get a spot when other unlicensed buskers are out. Also many people with amplification that are not regulated.

Screen Name Redacted

7/17/2024 12:29 PM

I've busked on the street outside events with speakers for years and no one has ever given me hassle

Screen Name Redacted

7/21/2024 02:44 PM

As a busker (single parent) here, I haven't tried Governement St since it was closed to car/truck traffic, as it was impossible to make a decent hourly rate. With competition on the Inner Harbour so fierce, the only location I could play and actually make a living wage was

Fisherman's Wharf, both before and after taken over by the Harbour Authority. The pandemic (unfortunately) allowed the wharf vendors to eventually eliminate all the busking spots, which made making a living impossible, for all intents and purposes. The closing of Government St, combined with the elevated (paid) locations presents a new opportunity to try busking downtown. HOWEVER, clustering paid and unpaid spots will only lead to no one being able to make a proper wage. A problem for which I don't currently have a solution, but I am certainly open to dialogue.

Screen Name Redacted

7/21/2024 03:03 PM

I usually busk on Government in front of the Irish Pub. Quite a receptive audience.

Screen Name Redacted

8/18/2024 03:21 PM

The inability to use amplification is a severely limiting, highly detrimental obstacle to any performance involving a vocalist who does not project their voice well or has material that involves soft vocals. I am lucky in that I can project my voice on many of my songs and play acoustic guitar, however, it seems bizarre that 3 piece bands with drums, horns, wind instruments, etc. can play with lax restrictions (evenings/weekends), while low-volume amplification for vocal performances (which would be far below the volume of a band) is banned. Busking in Victoria can be nice at the right time; when the wind is low, the traffic is quiet, and you can find a secluded spot on Government St. that hasn't been taken. However, I have thrown out my voice on multiple occasions because I was not able to find an optimal spot out of the wind and away from traffic. Amplification is an absolute must for many talented performers who would happily audition and abide by decibel restrictions that could surely maintain volumes below that of many non-amplified performances.

Screen Name Redacted

8/30/2024 09:11 AM

Hard to find a place away from amplifiers. Some bad experiences with others overstaying and being aggressive.time

Screen Name Redacted

8/30/2024 10:45 AM

Haven't applied yet.

Optional question (13 response(s), 226 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q20 | Please share any additional suggestions or concerns that would help improve the busking experience downtown.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 11:39 PM

I think the question of amplified or not misses the point. The group of young violinists is barely audible a few metres away; the electrified bass/guitar/sax and drums drown out everything for blocks. The important thing is the actual volume and the non scientific way of judging (we don't want to start measuring/regulating decibel levels, right?) is simply "how far away can I hear you?" If you want one busker per block, then you should not be able to hear a performer more than half a block away. As a busker who follows the rules, is respectful of businesses, other buskers, residents and visitors I would really like to see more enforcement. I haven't seen a bylaw officer this year, and only twice last year.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 04:49 AM

1. Get rid of darts fiddler and trumpetist. Make take up less space.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 08:43 AM

My biggest concern is amplification. Especially for the Visitor Centre on Wharf. St. It makes the spot below on the inner Harbour unplayable for buskers down there who pay a lot of \$\$ to play there.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 10:21 AM

Sheltered or covered areas for busking to increase busking time through the seasonal changes of weather conditions.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:24 PM

I have already sent several emails but I will say the things again here... - too much canned music on Govt St. I have personally had to ask several places if they could turn it down a bit. Mostly successfully but I shouldn't have to do that. The canned music kills busking. - I realize the Tourist Info spot is being tried this year as an "Elevated" spot but how will that work? What if one arrives to find someone already busking? It will create conflict and the spot is the most used in the City. - Amplified busking is happening regularly already. It makes it hard for those of us obeying the City Bylaw. I saw that the City had an amplified act yesterday in the pilot at Ship Point (Canada Day). Yes, I know that is allowed in that location. However, this act plays regularly with very loud electric bass in unamplified spots. This sends the rest of us a mixed message. Would I like to amplify my voice? Yes, I would, of course. However, when the door is opened to amplify, people abuse it. It becomes Volume Wars and makes the "one-a-block" busking impossible, much as the marimba and sax groups of a few years ago (pre-pandemic) did. Drummers bashing their drums like they are stadium rockers, saxes blowing as hard as they can, subtlety be damned. Do I feel strongly about this? Yes! - Would the GVHA consider a different approach to revitalizing busking on their property? I realize they are a different body. Is it possible for the City to work with them? The harbour was prime busking spot for many

years. - Some of the spots chosen for "elevated" busking seem very difficult. Yates and Broad, anything on Douglas from Pandora to Fort, Johnson St bridge (without amplification). I'm sure I'll think of more, lol... thanks for reading this.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 03:18 PM

If licensing is to be done and a program/schedule set up then buskers of different styles, modalities should be spread out and not adjacent to one another. eg. Government at Broughton and Courtney not have jazz performers at the same time.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 08:55 PM

Amplification is sometimes necessary--I play an electric guitar. (VERY quietly.) It can't be heard at all without amplification. However, I know amplification can be quite annoying if the performer is any of, a) Too loud b) Too close to other music (whether buskers or other sources) or c) A terrible performer. The latter, of course we may each have a different opinion on! I think if a performer is being sensitive to these issues, they shouldn't be hassled for using an amp. My (amplified) guitar playing is considerably quieter than some instruments I've seen, like a trumpet. If the bylaw officers keep the bylaw in their back pocket and make reasonable exceptions whenever it makes sense, I don't see a problem. I hasten to add, if Bylaws speak to "loud, proud and annoying" performers when it seems clearly necessary--I'd just like them to exercise discretion!

Screen Name Redacted

7/08/2024 04:52 PM

Like auditioned and also booking spots ahead of time.

Screen Name Redacted

7/21/2024 02:44 PM

If the city (or private individuals) are to ever try and set up a busking festival again in Victoria, it would be a marked improvement if actual buskers here were consulted on how to make the festival a good experience for all, and not interfere with those trying to make their living at the same time. The problem of combining amplified and unamplified areas too close together will only create discord amongst buskers (and potentially vendors). The only places that should allow amplification are Ship Point and Lower Bastion Square (at Wharf St.). Some form of agreement and/or cooperation between the Harbour Authority and the City should be explored, as these two areas still seem to be mutually exclusive. The Harbour Authority's policy requiring buskers to carry liability insurance effectively killed the Inner Harbour as the best venue in the region.

Screen Name Redacted

7/21/2024 03:03 PM

"Controlle" amplification in certain areas would improve the experience for the Busker and the listeners.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:33 PM

I have seen a juried busker not do his performance during his pre scheduled time because there weren't enough people watching his act. I think this needs to be monitored

Screen Name Redacted

8/18/2024 03:21 PM

While an audition process and/or regulation would certainly be prudent for performances involving amplification, I would strongly urge a reconsideration of the current policy that bans it outright. I would also caution against having amplification only be restricted to "elevated" locations if they come with tight schedules that can be filled far in advance. Better to have many locations with daily or weekly signups, or first-come-first serve with a 2/3-hour limits like many other Canadian cities have (e.g., Montreal). Even better, Winnipeg doesn't ban amplifiers at all, but rather has a noise level restriction which seems to work fine (you can get a decibel measuring app on your phone). In my experience busking across the country, these less restrictive, more hands off systems tend to lead to fairer opportunities and encourage a variety of talents. They are also less burdensome on the city. While I can certainly appreciate the need to restrict a concert-volume, badly tuned heavy metal performance on Bastion square, I believe this can be done without compromising the acts of vocalists and instrumentalists who require moderate amplification to be heard at the level of non-amplified acts. I appreciate the effort that was made in conducting this pilot and survey. I hope you consider my concerns/suggestions.

Screen Name Redacted

8/30/2024 09:11 AM

Time limit of 1-2 hrs liscence on display.desugated spots.

Screen Name Redacted

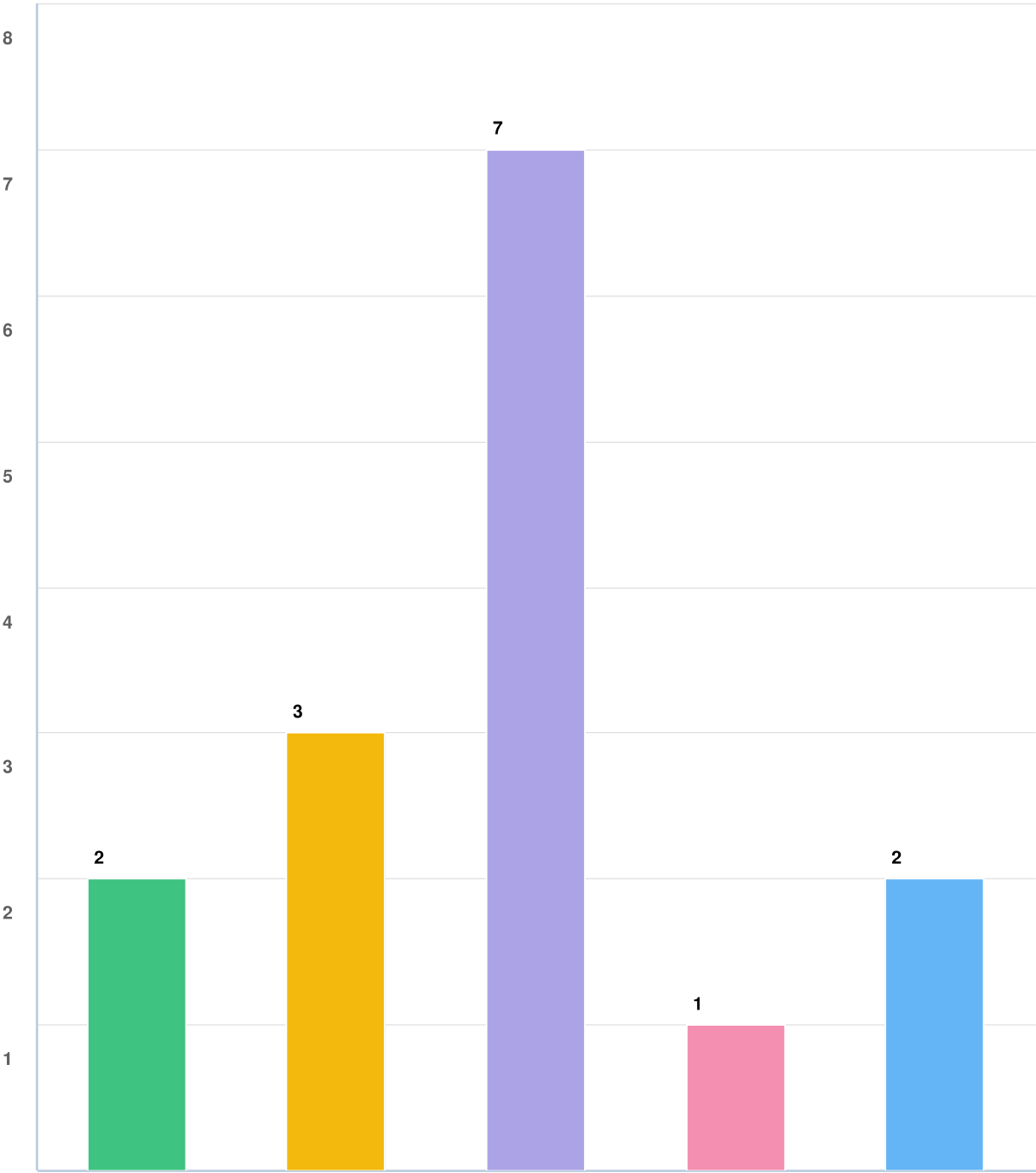
8/30/2024 10:45 AM

I do like the idea of juried buskers, but always hope that the process will be fair and open. Juries are tricky things, and can be problematic if any biases or nepotism arise.

Optional question (14 response(s), 225 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

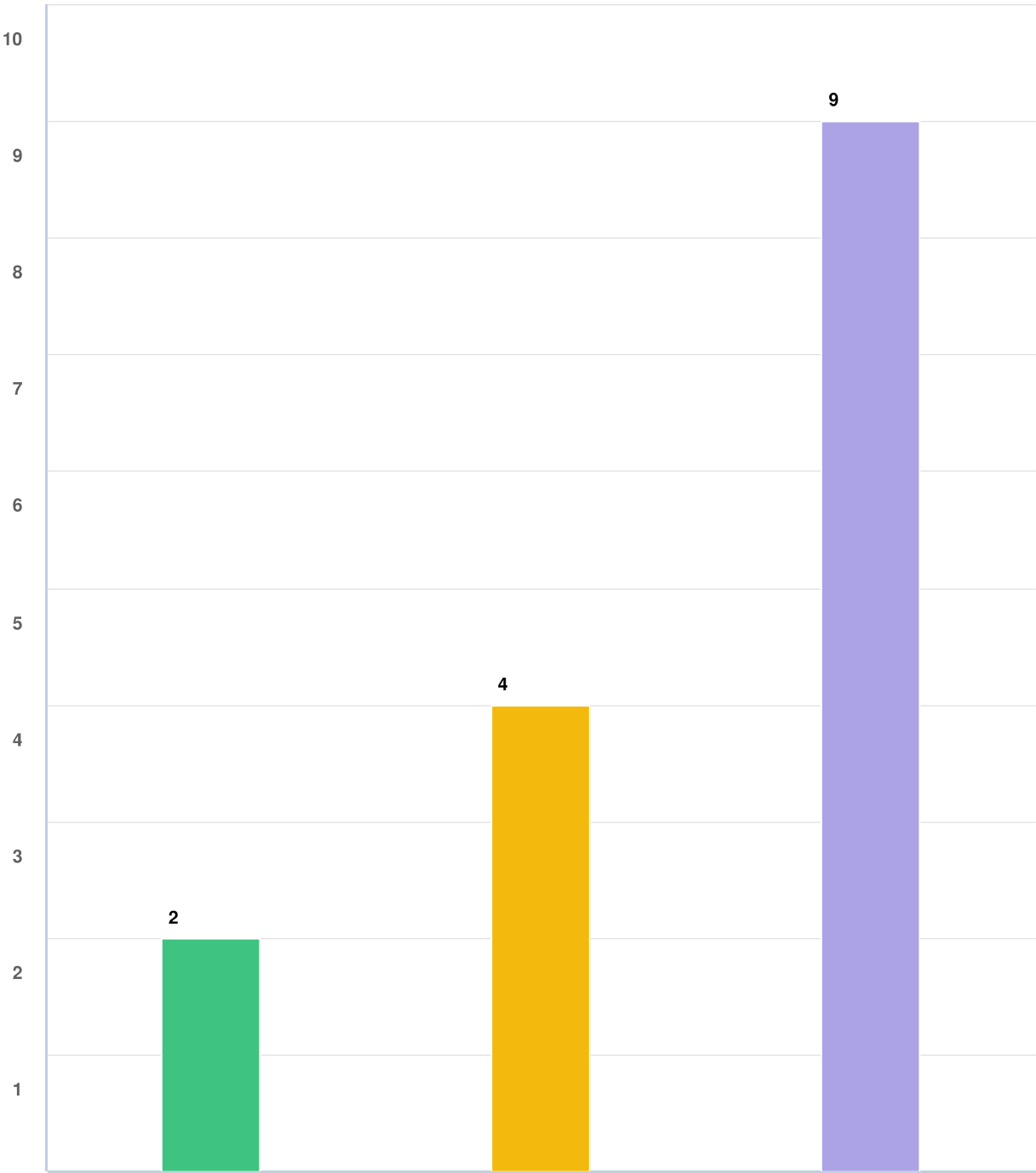
Q21 Please rate your overall experience with buskers in downtown Victoria.



Question options
Very Good Good Neutral Fair Not Good

Optional question (15 response(s), 224 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q22 Does current busking in downtown Victoria attract or detract people from your business?



Question options

Attract Detract No significant impact

Optional question (15 response(s), 224 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q23 Please explain:

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 06:50 AM

They are way too loud, have limited music and experience and block entrances to tax paying businesses. In many cases it detracts based on where they have been allowed to busk. Keep them away from main entrances to businesses. We have so much loitering and begging on the streets this just adds to it in a negative way.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 05:38 PM

We are south of Humboldt on Douglas and never encounter street artists

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:50 PM

The Law Chambers building has horrible insulation and we hear everything going on outside - so do our customers in video or audio conferences. The location selected right outside The Wind Cries Mary restaurant would be horribly disruptive to our business. I'm fine with busking, but it has its places like the Inner Harbour and other locations AWAY from people trying to do business with a reasonable amount of peace and quiet because that is NEEDED. The Bastion Square Market music is already bad enough....adding to the cacophony will probably require us to move our business outside of Victoria. As the Langley street location is right at a crosswalk - safety is also a huge concern with crowds of spectators blocking or otherwise getting in the way of the crosswalk and the sidewalk on the Law Chambers side of Langley

Screen Name Redacted

7/18/2024 01:16 PM

I have a central position on Government st. for the past 14 years. Almost all the buskers near Yates and Government are not unlicensed or they have mental health issues. Bylaw is not enforcing control over buskers (not completely songs, extremely loud, yelling at passe and/or no talent). I used to love seeing and hearing buskers, but they have become panhandlers or aggressive mental health platforms for homeless or those in need of health services. I have been documenting and taking note of the situation for years. I have seen over and over buskers taught, yell and touch (not in a good way) tourists and locals. These are not artists, they are panhandlers.

Screen Name Redacted

7/20/2024 08:12 AM

I do not rely on walk-in traffic for my business.

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 06:38 AM

Busking is an accepted practice all over the world. Buskers should not be jailed but should sign a code of conduct as is done all over Europe. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to perform for an

audience without being jured. This is true art in its rarest form. Please don't jury these artists. It takes away from their right to express and perform who they are.

Screen Name Redacted
7/23/2024 03:50 PM

I sometime am unable to work in my office because the caterwauling and thumping is so loud it penetrates through closed windows. Most buskers are too loud.

Screen Name Redacted
7/26/2024 12:49 PM

No busking currently in my area

Screen Name Redacted
8/02/2024 01:26 PM

our location is away from the buskers. I support the Busker Festival though as I think it brought in some quality entertainment for visitors

Screen Name Redacted
8/31/2024 12:31 PM

I find they block the access to my shop when they take up large foot print plus audience. Example, The Bubble Guy, Takes up the whole street, essentially. Maybe he should have to perform in a more suitable location.

Optional question (10 response(s), 229 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q24 | Please share any additional suggestions or concerns that would help improve the busking experience downtown.

Screen Name Redacted
6/26/2024 05:41 PM

Keep it simple. Charge a small fee, let people husk anywhere, no amplification of any kind, buskers must move every 45 minutes.

Screen Name Redacted
6/28/2024 06:50 AM

Hire professional musicians and keep the timing limited so that we don't have to listen to the same tired music all day. They should be only in areas where it doesn't detract from the area when there are already vibrant businesses in the area. Put them in areas where you aren't blocking entrances or keeping the consumer focused on the entertainment versus walking the streets and window/boutique shopping and eating. They should be a nice moment of surprise and experience not a detraction or making the consumer walk around them thus missing store fronts as people try to walk away from the buskers. I watch many people go out of their way to go around the buskers.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 05:38 PM

Limit the sound amplification. It can be too much for young children and dogs

Screen Name Redacted

7/01/2024 12:23 AM

There needs to be enough space for people to get by and that can't happen just anywhere downtown. The world is loud enough and I appreciate quieter times. I would not want an amplified busker near my home or business. I both live and work downtown- at separate locations.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:50 PM

I think that many decent locations have been selected that would draw people to places they may not otherwise visit AND avoid disturbing businesses. The Fort street locations may also suffer from a street that already has too much going on to look out for...any sort of crowd there could have negative impacts as the Bastion Square Langley St location would.

Screen Name Redacted

7/18/2024 01:16 PM

Bylaw needs to be available to deal with the situations, locations and the following of rules by all. There needs to be a system in place to judge and approve the artists before they are allowed onto the street and represent our city.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 08:52 AM

I think it is important to keep the current rules around busking, especially no amplification, and a busker must move if requested to do so by a business owner/manager who may not want busking near their business.

Screen Name Redacted

7/20/2024 08:12 AM

I strongly support policies that encourage busking by talented artists, who are then given the support they need to raise income while performing. There are some wonderful buskers downtowns, but there are also some terrible ones, who reflect badly on the practice in general. I support auditioning potential buskers, and only allowing licensed buskers to perform.

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 06:38 AM

Please engage experienced organizations like the Greater Victoria Festival Society whose Executive Director has performed overseas and has lived experiences coordinating buskers and performers of all levels and all over the world.

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 03:50 PM

No amplifications. As well percussive instruments that carry far should also be banned. They are annoying.

Screen Name Redacted

8/02/2024 01:26 PM

I don't think just anyone should be able to busk. I think buskers need to be of quality. Just because I can make a sound on a trumpet doesn't make me a musician. People and nearby businesses shouldn't be forced to listen to novice noise

Screen Name Redacted

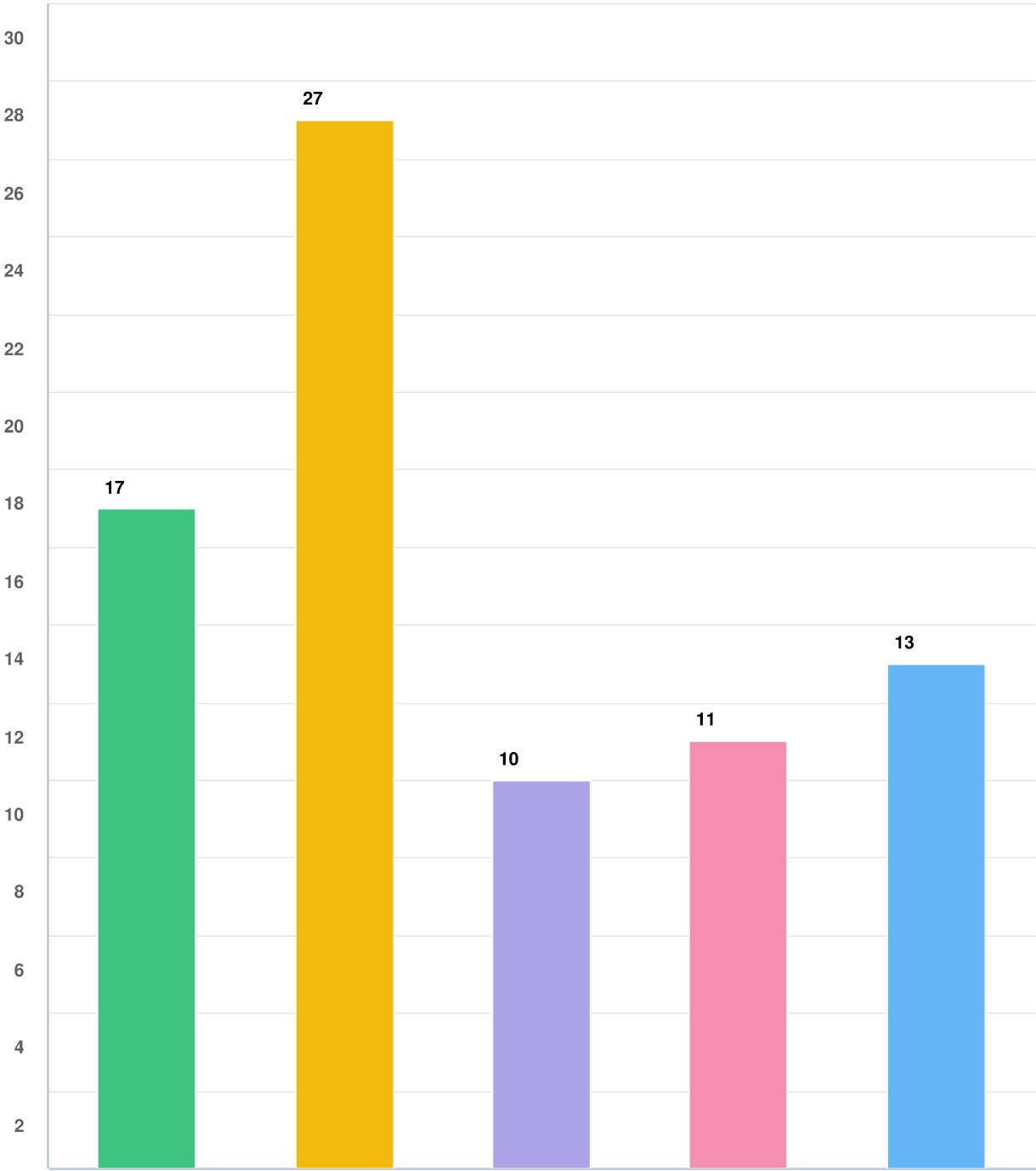
8/31/2024 12:31 PM

Make sure the location buskers are allowed to perform are appropriate size. Make sure the locations for Buskers do not impede access to local shops. Bylaw maintains appropriate oversight.

Optional question (12 response(s), 227 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

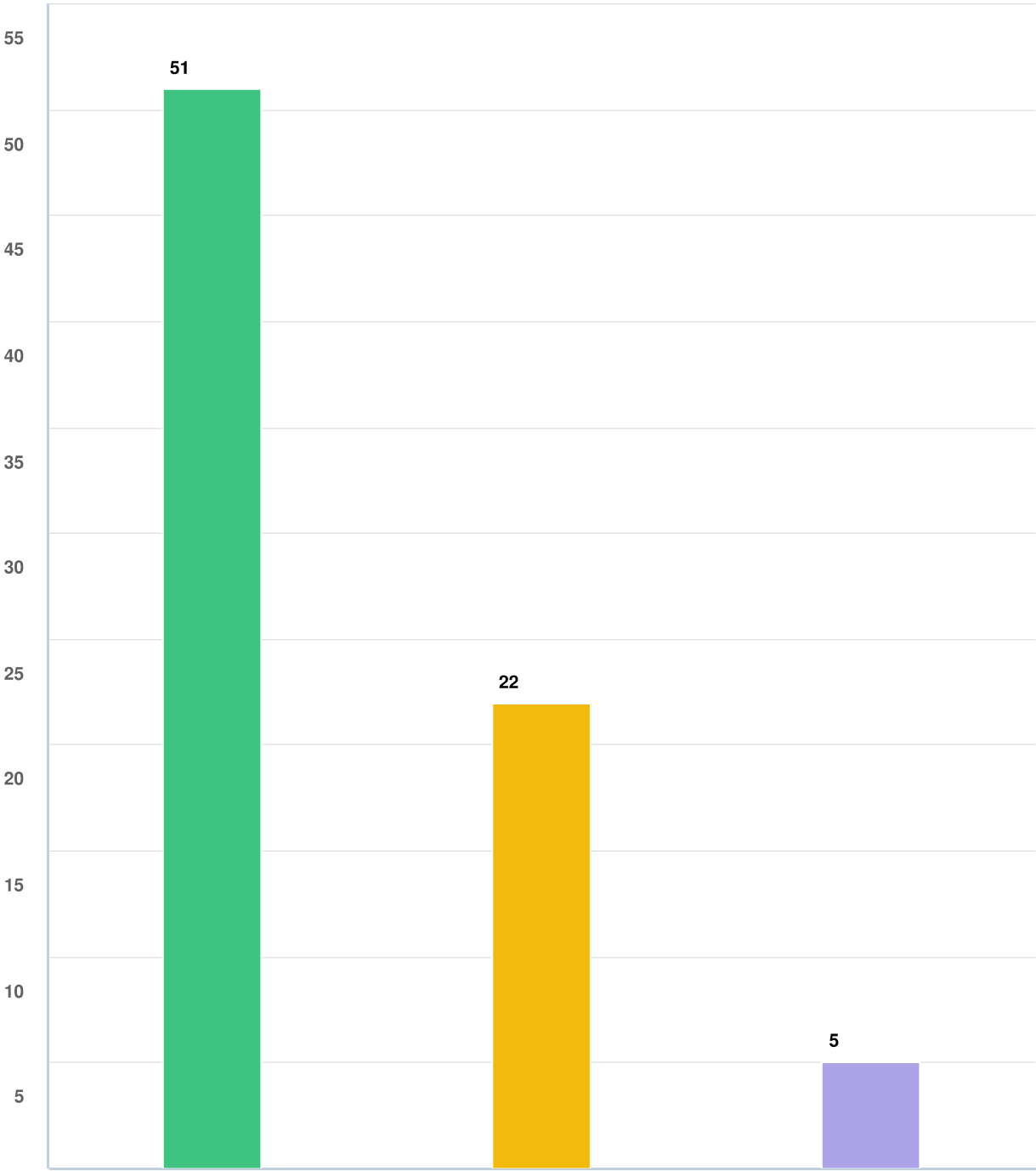
Q25 Please rate your overall experience with buskers in downtown Victoria.



Question options
Very Good Good Neutral Fair Not Good

Optional question (78 response(s), 161 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q26 Does busking enhance or detract from your downtown living experience?



Question options

Enhance Detract No significant impact

Optional question (78 response(s), 161 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q27 Please explain:

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 11:26 AM

Busking detracts from my downtown living experience for these reasons: 1. Noise Disruption: The constant noise from busking, including music and singing, disrupts my work and concentration at home, making it difficult to focus and attend meetings. 2. Varying Quality and Content: The inconsistent quality and type of busking performances do not always align with my personal tastes, reducing my overall enjoyment of the downtown environment. 3. Distraction and Stress: The ongoing activity and noise from busking are constant sources of distraction and stress, impacting my productivity when working from home and my ability to relax. 4. Bylaw Violations: Many buskers do not follow the bylaw rules, playing for longer than permitted, past 10 PM, and often using amplification. This exacerbates noise levels and disturbances late into the night, further detracting from my downtown living experience.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 12:21 PM

gives vibracy to downtown and adds to the tourist experience

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 01:12 PM

Nothing is better than a good street performance - it makes the city more liveable and it is always a joy to come across talented folks

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 08:39 AM

We enjoy listening to them

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 05:39 PM

It is enjoyable to hear musicians and it helps create a lively atmosphere.

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 11:21 PM

It adds a vibrancy and life of arts into the downtown core. Let's people linger and makes going downtown more attractive and culturally richer than a suburban mall.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 06:21 AM

Busking and Music played by restaurants, bars etc. needs to be monitored and managed. If someone or a business is playing loud music outside of your live work space all day it's terrible.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 07:49 AM

At this moment it is a detraction to have people blasting music or have to involuntarily listen to somebody who can't play an instrument or sing.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 12:31 PM

Buskers breaking bylaw by playing past 10pm, more than 2 hours in a single location, and/or amplified music has made living downtown extremely difficult. Bylaw officers are unable to do anything since this often occurs after hours and police don't do anything as they often don't know all of the entertainment and noise bylaws. I live on the 5th floor of a newer condo (a concrete building with thick windows) off government street and I can often hear the music of buskers with my windows closed and TV on late at night. Amplified music should not be allowed in locations with residents, hotels or businesses nearby. I have talked with several residents, business owners and hotels in the government street vicinity, and many have had bad experiences with buskers including the noise and crowds. I love living downtown, and i don't mind the noise from restaurants or bars and crowds, bust the buskers, especially in the evening and at night, have made me consider moving out of the area.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 12:51 PM

Theatre, music and entertainment improves everyone's mood and experience with the city as a whole.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 11:46 AM

Any activity that attracts tourists is good for the downtown core and contributes to elevating the state of our streets.

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 11:40 AM

Busking should be much more common here, and like it is in Europe. But juried assessment of buskers is a very good idea. There's a terrible trumpeter who regularly busks at the corner of Yates and Government and appears to be mentally unwell, insulting passers by. Juries would avoid this sort of problem.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:52 PM

I love the vibrancy it brings to the community

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:58 PM

Half of the current buskers have no musical training and cannot play their instrument. This is not a judgment about their musical choice. I mean, they literally cannot operate a musical instrument.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 05:44 PM

Living at 888 Government St., Customs House with Buskers every single day causes so much stress in our lives here. We have the influx of tourists and those leaving pubs at night, the Causeway entertainment and entertainment on Wharf St. waterfront. Add to living here the idea of Buskers 7 days a week month after month. Buskers don't belong where housing is where residences are forced to keep windows and balcony doors shut, having Buskers right

outside your door or windows. It's unbearable at times trying to live with this. Stores close their doors too, I've discussed it with them. Sitting on Gov'r St., eating with family friends and a Busker blowing a horn or clarinet or loud violin is not needed. BUT, It is a positive in areas where there are fewer tourists and residences, like Douglas, Wharf waterfront below, The Causeway, Gordon St., towards Beacon Hill Park, Store Street, City Hall area; 700 block Johnson, Fort, View and back of Empress Hotel at Douglas, and Broughton St., can give a walker a more positive experience downtown in those areas. We have more than enough on Government St., Courtenay and Wharf surrounding the Customs House. My beautiful home and beautiful location is taken away by Buskers located here playing from 10am to 10pm.

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 02:24 PM

Brings vibrancy to the streets.

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 05:25 PM

Talent is poor. Darth vader is an embarrassment

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 05:39 PM

Had a three piece band outside our front door at 9pm with an amplifier hooked up in which was beyond obtrusive at that hour and I believe amplified instruments are illegal

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 11:33 PM

Doing things to keep downtown lively and exciting is important.

Screen Name Redacted

7/08/2024 05:24 PM

Not pleasant, pushy, and overall NEGATIVE image for Victoria.

Screen Name Redacted

7/14/2024 11:40 AM

We have a young child and the noise being generated from the buskers can be clearly heard inside our home even with the doors and windows closed. This creates additional sleep challenges for us not to mention the stress and anxiety that comes with it. Buskers I have spoken with have no respect for those that live downtown and the disruption they cause to our daily lives. They do not adhere to the bylaw and do not fear penalties or consequences because there are none. They set up in the same locations every day and due to the traffic closures, they view our section of Govt St between Fort and Broughton as the ideal place to play for hours on end. And they all use amplification of some sort because, as they told us, it attracts more people. My neighbours have had interactions with buskers and it has sometimes turned confrontational as we feel there is a lack of genuine appreciation or empathy for the impact they have on our

lives. We, as residents, feel helpless as no one seems to care that we can't enjoy our homes and we don't feel the City cares about us for the sake of providing culture. We believe that both can be achieved but the residents paying the taxes downtown should not be neglected. Move them to designated areas such as Ship Point or along the Inner Harbour where there is still significant foot traffic and the direct impact on downtown residents will be minimized. Don't let this be a survey driven by the busking community or for the benefit of those tourists that will spend 10 minutes listening to someone as they stroll downtown. Listen to the people who live downtown because of the vibrancy but who should also be able to fully enjoy their home without being negatively impacted by amplified street musicians..

Screen Name Redacted

7/14/2024 11:44 AM

Just wish the noise would be controlled better (10pm should be cutoff — it can get very loud).

Screen Name Redacted

7/15/2024 02:09 PM

I really enjoy having these arts in my neighbourhood. Not every experience is positive, but it's net positive for sure.

Screen Name Redacted

7/16/2024 08:54 AM

I think Busking is a great addition to downtown Victoria, and I love being able to walk out and enjoy the shows in the evening. I think there is a risk that the designated / juried spaces make it so that people wanting to try aren't able to (a bit of gatekeeping). There have been times when I've thought about putting together a little show - but even the performance license makes it so that I feel like I cannot try. I think there should be spaces where anyone can try. But I do agree with the idea of enhanced spaces for those who have gone through a more rigorous process. However, those who have - should be able to access better spaces. The bridge and the spaces towards Douglas will not be good for those doing this professionally, as they're too far from the tourist centre.

Screen Name Redacted

7/16/2024 10:54 AM

More lively, vibrant

Screen Name Redacted

7/17/2024 02:28 PM

I chose "enhance" because the good ones are great! They make my day! The ones that are bloody annoying - trumpet guy who mutters abusive things to woman, and darth vader guy who doesn't know how to play music, definitely detract, as does anyone with amplification.

Screen Name Redacted

7/18/2024 05:16 PM

I walk to and from work downtown along Government Street. It adds so much to the environment and energy. Adding a way to tip electronically would be a great way to support the buskers and keep

them motivated.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 08:58 AM

Good buskers bring joy and entertainment to all ages.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 09:16 AM

Music is a universal language that unites all people!

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 09:40 AM

Love seeing and hearing art in our downtown

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 11:31 AM

Better buskers add life to the City for the tourist. Not sure what it does for the locals.

Screen Name Redacted

7/20/2024 10:08 AM

It adds to the downtown culture and is exciting to see what is happening. I enjoy the surprise of not knowing what will be performed or who will be performing

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 11:00 AM

We all know how it is right now, excited for the work being done!

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 11:23 AM

Victoria's streets need to come alive - there are so many talented people - students, musicians - cities around the world have buskers and street entertainers. They do NOT "bylaw" them to death and they certainly do not jury them. Can Victoria do anymore to make people not like living here. Busking is an old time tradition. Doesn't City Hall have anything better to do than worry about fun and happiness.

Screen Name Redacted

8/03/2024 06:47 AM

Multiple buskers with amplification are distracting to our natural beauty and generate noise pollution. One or two away from the water view could be charming, more makes a circus atmosphere.

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 12:31 PM

Some are good, some are not. Many have been around for years and too repetitive. Locations generally do not allow for audience to gather.

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 04:46 PM

Most buskers are just not very good. I work downtown, my exercise studio is downtown, I live downtown, and considering how many incredibly talented musicians there are in the city, it's odd that the buskers who perform are -- I am sorry to say this -- but most are terrible musicians. The trumpet player (who, if he tells me to "smile"

one more time, I might scream) and "Darth Vader" who does not know how to play the violin, I appreciate the one man band, Very talented. And he's not amplified. Which I also appreciate. (I did appreciate Downtown Mischief at night playing in front of Murchies over Covid because the city needed that levity during the pandemic. But I don't think they would quite suit the vibe if they amplify. I say NO to amplification.) Oh, and please please please -- does Victoria need a bagpiper?

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 09:57 PM

Victoria has a strong history of supporting the arts. Busking is an example of this continued tradition that gives Victoria its character.

Screen Name Redacted

8/05/2024 11:15 AM

For young families like us, it's a great experience to visit downtown and watch these performances

Screen Name Redacted

8/05/2024 07:53 PM

I work in an area near very popular busking spots. I find that usually there is only a variety of ~4 buskers in that spot each year and they play the same set every day. While I generally support busking, I think government street isn't the place for it (or if so, at designated times, etc). Recently (last 6 months) there has been a busker who using his singing as a ruse to spew horrible rhetoric like anti-vax, covid denial, and some horrible things about women. There needs to be better oversight over buskers.

Screen Name Redacted

8/07/2024 06:26 PM

I love our buskers. Darth Fiddler is the single most iconic Victorian who has ever lived.

Screen Name Redacted

8/07/2024 07:19 PM

I live on Government and Wharf and have experienced problems with too much noise. Amplification makes it unbearable if the buskers are too close to a residential building. If you call at 10 pm there are no bylaw officers working. I like buskers but not when they are right below my windows. This applies to both amplified and non amplified performers. Please be respectful of the downtown residents. Have a buffer zone around residential buildings . When these people are playing we cannot escape the sound.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:18 PM

It helps show the culture/microcultures of the area.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:40 PM

Often too loud and in poor taste

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:21 PM

Buskers add vibrancy to the streets and and attract pedestrian traffic creating an enjoyable experience while promoting downtown as a place to visit. More people also means a more comfortable (safe) environment. I moved here in 2004 and used to delight in walking downtown on a summer evening to enjoy the street life, especially busking. The Miranda Band was the best. Then merchants complained, the city imposed restrictions and the golden goose died. COVID drove a stake through what remained. The causeway used to be thriving with Buskers and vendors. Sadly no more.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:16 PM

We love music, so we especially enjoy talented musicians / singers. Other types of busking may be entertaining as well.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:36 PM

Adds colour to the core.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:00 PM

Amplification is an issue: 1. I encourage emerging artists but maybe don't want to hear them amplified. 2. Amplification can clearly either enhance or detract. Depends on location, timing and level of performer

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:32 PM

More to do and see. Enhances vibrancy of the city providing the buskers are juried.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 10:34 PM

Unless electronic payment is available, busking will not work for the performers.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 06:27 AM

I would prefer money and time be spent on cleaning Government Street over entertainment.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 11:50 AM

I love the buskers! It definitely creates an awesome vibe downtown full of creativity, positivity and community. Get Victorias away from their screens and out into the streets!!

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 03:44 PM

I love buskers and support them in the Downtown area. But I don't want there to be no peace at all, if I'm seeking it, so please don't let buskers use amps. When they do use amps I often find it necessary to take out my hearing aids just so I can plug my ears as I go by. They turn it up too high and they end up competing with each other and you can hear more than one busker at the same time. (This happens in Downtown Vancouver and it's horrible because you have

to shout to be heard over the noise.) This is very important to me because my daily walk to and from work is on Government and Broad.

Screen Name Redacted

8/10/2024 02:15 AM

it is lively and nice

Screen Name Redacted

8/11/2024 11:28 AM

On a daily basis, especially in the summertime, we are continuously subjected to singers, drums, saxophones, electric guitars from the time we get home from work to late in the evening. There is no ability to relax in our outdoor space or even our indoor space as the sound is so loud that it penetrates through the windows and doors. Any interaction with buskers has been negative and they show no respect to those of us living downtown. They completely disregard our concerns and in some cases they have delighted in the fact that they are able to continue their noncompliant activities without any repercussions. I fear that the current situation will reach a point where there may be confrontations because the situation has become that bad and has gone unchecked for so long. Something has to change and enforcement and education is not enough.

Screen Name Redacted

8/11/2024 08:15 PM

Vitalizes downtown core

Screen Name Redacted

8/13/2024 03:38 PM

Noise can be regarded as a form of noise pollution - too much and/or noisy is my reason for being negative with support

Screen Name Redacted

8/15/2024 01:53 PM

It depends on the busker/performance. Some of them are good and welcomed (the old man who plays the Chinese(?) string instrument). Some of them should go home and practice more first (the guy shouting hoarsely with the biggest POS guitar I've ever seen - and I like punk).

Screen Name Redacted

8/28/2024 07:21 PM

We live very close to Government Street and can hear all the current buskers as they continually use microphones, amplifiers and their instruments including drums, saxophones and electric guitars. We have also not witnessed any buskers that aren't musicians which needs to change as their sounds and presence dominate the streets so any other performers would not be possible. We cannot sit on our balcony as the sound is at times deafening and can even be heard while we are inside with the windows and doors closed.

Screen Name Redacted 8/29/2024 09:49 PM	I really enjoy the buskers. They make downtown even livelier. They make you want to spend more time downtown, happening place. I see visitors love them too. They add to their experience here.
Screen Name Redacted 8/29/2024 10:42 PM	Brings vibrancy and a more enjoyable street experience
Screen Name Redacted 8/30/2024 10:39 AM	Busking enhances the atmosphere 80% of the time, the other 20% of the time is ruined by the touchy trumpet guy and the 'human jukebox'. A very select few ruining it for the others.
Screen Name Redacted 9/03/2024 02:32 PM	Most buskers in Victoria are using busking as a form of earning money. They are beggars who otherwise would be sitting on the sidewalk with a bowl in front of them. Most of them have little talent and are not "performing" for the public, but are there for the only reason to make money and in the process annoy people. There are by-laws against aggressive begging in Victoria. These by-laws should also apply to aggressive busking.

Optional question (63 response(s), 176 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q28 | Please share any additional suggestions or concerns that would help improve the busking experience downtown.

Screen Name Redacted 6/25/2024 11:26 AM	Designated Busking Zones: Establish specific zones for busking that are strategically located to minimize disruption to residential areas. These zones can be selected based on their distance from residential buildings and their suitability for public performances. It is recommended that no busking be allowed within AT LEAST 100 metres of a residence. Additionally, NO-BUSKING zones should be established and well marked with signage as a static means of denoting "quiet zones". Enforce Noise Regulations: Ensure strict enforcement of noise regulations, including limiting the use of amplification and setting decibel limits. This will help reduce noise disruptions for residents, especially those working from home. Adhere to Time Limits: Enforce the existing bylaw rules regarding performance times, ensuring that buskers do not play past 10 PM. Regular patrols and penalties for violations can help maintain a peaceful environment during evening hours. Quality Control: Implement a licensing or audition process for buskers to ensure a certain level of quality and variety in performances. This can help improve the overall experience for both residents and visitors.
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Regular Monitoring: Increase the presence of city officials or designated monitors who can oversee busking activities, ensure compliance with regulations, and address any issues promptly. Community Feedback Mechanism: Create a platform for residents to provide feedback on busking activities. This could be an online portal where residents can report issues or suggest improvements, allowing the city to respond quickly to concerns. Limit Amplification Use: Restrict the use of amplification devices or allow them only during specific hours. This can help control the noise levels and ensure they do not exceed acceptable limits. Educational Campaigns: Conduct educational campaigns for buskers about the importance of following regulations and being considerate of residents. This can include information on designated zones, acceptable noise levels, and performance times. Incentivize Compliance: Offer incentives for buskers who consistently follow the rules, such as priority spots in popular areas or extended performance hours in designated zones. Positive reinforcement can encourage adherence to regulations. By implementing these suggestions, the city can create a balanced environment that supports vibrant busking culture while preserving the quality of life for downtown residents.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 12:21 PM

Annual busking festival was fantastic great way to spend an afternoon in the summer, please bring it back.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 01:12 PM

Please stop the trumpet man - he is rude vulgar - adds no value - and often says objectionable things to residents and tourists. Something needs to be done to build policies on random people gaining licenses and creating a negative space

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 05:39 PM

I like the idea of approving buskers by quality. The trumpet player who always plays on Government street is terrible and he plays daily.

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 11:21 PM

There should be a way to make complaints on busker behaviour. I have two historical complaints (one going back to 2004 where a busker who made balloons grabbed my friend (teenagers) wrist and tried to pull her in for a kiss. The other is to check reddit's on some creepy comments made by the saxophone player who's often near The running room. Buskers should be enhancing experiences - not detracting. I've had recently great experiences.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 07:49 AM

Please have them all vetted.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 12:31 PM

If bylaw officers aren't going to be around after hours to enforce the bylaw, then police officers in the downtown location should have clear understanding of the entertainment and bylaw. When I go down to confront a busker at night for playing amplified music or past 10pm, they flash their busking license and say they are allowed to play their even though they are not following the busking rules. Even when you explain the rules and they come back every night and do it again.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 12:51 PM

Like everything else there needs to be monitoring of the users of the space. Far too often I see unlicensed performers, amplified music and performers staying too long in one spot. If you're going to have rules they need to be enforced. When people discover that things aren't being enforced that's when they get abused.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 11:46 AM

Help the unhoused people into addiction programs or into supportive housing.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 01:57 PM

There was a guy down there on gov that had a busking badge on and was just harassing people asking what is their favourite song and then would sing it really poorly. It made lots of people uncomfy. I saw it discussed on Reddit. Buskers need to be vetted for what level of talent they bring to represent this city

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 11:40 AM

Ban portable mini-speakers. They represent an individual's privatization of public space. Very different to busking. Deeply anti-social. But this same privatization of public space is also why electronic amplification of buskers should generally be avoided. Something anti-social and imposing emerges with respect to music or other sound when it is amplified in a public space. There are occasionally buskers who elegantly use electronic amplification, but there are far more cases where it just repeats the intrusion of portable mini-speakers.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:52 PM

I think we should support this initiative in all ways! Thank you for keeping our community vibrant and interesting.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 12:58 PM

License buskers who are trained professional musicians.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 05:44 PM

No Buskers outside or around the building where people live in condos or apartments downtown Victoria please. Give an improved experience on Douglas St. and Bastion Square at Wharf to Store

Street, along there including down and around the Blue Bridge and lower Market Square at lower Johnson and Pandora. Provide these areas with music Buskers.

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 05:39 PM

Stay away from residential areas

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 11:33 PM

Keep the license/permit process simple and streamlined, reduce fees and paperwork for buskers, reduce city involvement in planning locations and who can perform, simple rules for buskers with as little as possible city involvement. Having a jury/audition process creates barriers for people. Busking can be a great way for young musicians and performers to make some money, having an audition process makes an unnecessary barriers for something that brings life and excitement to the downtown

Screen Name Redacted

7/08/2024 05:24 PM

Not pleasant, pushy, and overall NEGATIVE image for Victoria

Screen Name Redacted

7/10/2024 01:17 PM

All performers should meet a standard before being allowed a licence.

Screen Name Redacted

7/14/2024 11:40 AM

Enforcement including Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings when the number of buskers is continuous and can go on until the early morning hours without bylaw or police able to address. Change the definition of "amplification". While buskers often bring their own microphones and amplifiers, others come with full drum sets and saxophones which each generate similar amplification due to their nature. Buskers should be more than 3 piece bands or singers playing guitars, it should consist of street performers or entertainers. I only see and hear musicians currently and they all tend to set up in the same spot directly in front of our residence on Govt St. Move them to designated locations away from residential areas. While we live downtown, we should be able to use our outdoor spaces without being continually exposed to the seemingly constant noise they generate.

Screen Name Redacted

7/15/2024 02:09 PM

I support the arts downtown and would ask the city to minimize bureaucracy for artists. The streets should be for people, not cars. We can see that in the contrast between Government and Douglas: one is nice and the other is not. I do not support a tax and spend approach; busking should not drain city finances.

Screen Name Redacted

7/16/2024 08:54 AM

I think the idea of designated v. open spaces is great - I think it makes it so that professional buskers have more of an opportunity to be in the best spots. I think the designated ones should be on Government / along the wharf; with the open spots being further up (Chinatown, Douglas, the Bridge) - giving the professional ones the highest likelihood of a wider audience.

Screen Name Redacted

7/16/2024 10:54 AM

Support annual festival; don't over-regulate with rules

Screen Name Redacted

7/17/2024 02:28 PM

Bylaw officers MUST be on the beat daily, please. Buskers must be licensed and auditioned. No amplification. (Fair turnover at the good spots. Don't choose loud designated spots such as Douglas St please!) I am a local professional music and a former busker.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 08:58 AM

The busking festival was the greatest. The skill set was such a high level. Good busking must be engaged so as not to appear as begging vs busking.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 09:40 AM

Two long time buskers need to go as they are offensive and rude to locals and tourists. Darth Fiddler just makes noise, not music, and often is rude. The trumpet player can't carry a tune and is offensive and degrading to women, spouts racist remarks and objectifies women as they pass him, often cat-calling and spouting nonsense.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 11:31 AM

I like the idea of try-outs, designated areas, times, sound control, monitoring. Need to blend in, not dominate the natural beauty of City.

Screen Name Redacted

7/20/2024 10:08 AM

Allow people to busk in more locations

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 11:00 AM

#12 should really have a reference to feeling safe because that's a reality. All locations are toward the areas that are relatively safe anyway, which is great. But Downtown Revitalization should really be including trouble spots - because that's not happening here. What we really need to ask is....why aren't there elevated spots past Douglas St?

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 11:23 AM

City Hall needs to stop with their rules and regulations. Buskers are street performers from centuries gone by. If you jury them they are

not buskers. Let students and musicians bring our streets alive and stop with this ridiculous over reach.

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 12:31 PM

Need places for audiences to safely gather. Government Street up from the inner harbour is meant from to be a pedestrian zone but is heavily used by e-bikes and micro mobility machines. Government Street around the inner harbour has narrow sidewalks. Successful busking areas - Halifax Waterfront, Quebec City promenade - are places where large numbers of people can safely gather, children can sit to watch, without fear of being hit by a bike, car or any other machine. In others words, true pedestrian only plazas.

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 04:46 PM

Having buskers audition would go a long way to elevating the experience of locals and tourists. So would e-tipping and remuneration for their sets. Musicians cannot afford to work for almost nothing. They've spent so many years honing their craft -- let's honour them with an audition process and proper pay. I'm talking about mainly musicians here, but I feel that about any artistic medium. But buskers need to be "qualified" and it's not always a subjective process. Professional musicians will know if a musician has chops.

Screen Name Redacted

8/04/2024 09:57 PM

Busking has never been professional; the point of it is for undiscovered amateur talent to use/find the street as a venue to reach the public. Street performance is one of the oldest forms of art and these anarchic roots should be embraced. As such, I am not particularly eager to police busking. On the other hand, as a downtown resident, I get annoyed at home periodically by irresponsible buskers, so recognise that we do need rules and enforcement by ticketing officers. Rules should be minimal and simple: 1) busk ANYWHERE; 2) a ONE-HOUR time limit before the busker must move on 50 metres (notwithstanding any City-designated busking spots); 3) NO AMPLIFICATION! Only passers-by on foot can possibly tip the performers, so this is the audience. They are within arm's reach—they don't need amplification to hear it. "Expanding the audience" to those in unwilling earshot is aggressive, antisocial and DOES NOT work. NO amplification!

Screen Name Redacted

8/05/2024 11:15 AM

The Buskers Festival was fantastic, and is sorely missed. It was easy to find on their website where the performances would be, with a quick bio and easy to plan ahead

Screen Name Redacted

Hell yeah buskers rule bring them on

8/07/2024 06:26 PM

Screen Name Redacted

8/07/2024 07:19 PM

I appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard. I think we can have buskers and street performers but it needs to be respectful of the residents. I think it can happen. Please ask yourselves if you would like a band playing right below your windows before you choose these spots.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:18 PM

Visible licenses whilst performing. Similar to how business have to display licenses. This would help legitimize electronic payment too.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:40 PM

It would be nice to be allowed to piss in their tip jars.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:21 PM

As an aside, buskers on the causeway that have large crowds on government street watching from above get no tips from that audience, and they should. Some creative solution is needed to "pass the hat" for them. The audience would willingly contribute but the opportunity is not there. And don't restrict busking to the elite juried participation. The more the better.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:16 PM

I'd be a little concerned that "a Jury" might bias who gets accepted.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:36 PM

Involve local aspiring artists to help them get a leg up.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:00 PM

Engage professional advice of a seasoned festival director to put together a program that brings audience and performer together in support of live music and healthy living. This is not a job for someone who does not know how to program the arts. It's a niche skill. It should not be done by a city employee Or a committee. Busking provides artists with a wonderful opportunity to connect with audience and for some, to improve live performance. If you want to make this successful, go all in.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:32 PM

Why not use the steps near the Steamship Grill going down to the water. It's a natural spot for people to sit and watch.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 10:34 PM

I like the way the buskers are being spread out downtown. Too many just on Government and the inner harbour.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 06:27 AM

Another distraction from the problems of crime and the unhoused. Do your job.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 11:50 AM

Miss that buskers festival!! It definitely went downhill after DVBA took over and then Covid killed it. I would LOVE to see something come back.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 03:44 PM

The reason I said no to letting buskers work just anywhere they want on Government or Downtown is only because some locations don't have the sidewalk space to accommodate it. I love buskers but I don't want them blocking the more narrow intersections or stretches of Downtown where I already have to dodge a lot of sidewalk signs, bike racks, bus shelters -- and in some areas street-affected folks spread out on the sidewalk too.

Screen Name Redacted

8/11/2024 11:28 AM

No amplification; no busking near residential buildings. There are many more appropriate places where buskers can perform to entertain and target the visiting tourists without significantly disrupting the downtown residents. Limit them to areas such as Ship Point, Fisherman's Wharf, Inner Harbour. Make busking more than a person with a microphone, guitar and a portable amplifier. And amplification should be expanded to include drums, saxophones, trumpets and the likes as they project more noise naturally. I hope that the residents and businesses will be genuinely listened to and this will not be a one sided approach tailored to satisfying those that spend very little time visiting downtown. I wish those involved with making the decisions about the future of busking would experience what we do in our homes so they could appreciate our frustration. We deserve to appreciate our living spaces just like everyone else in Victoria and shouldn't be punished simply because we have chosen to live downtown.

Screen Name Redacted

8/13/2024 03:38 PM

Quality not quantity Keep acts small Ensure diversity of acts

Screen Name Redacted

8/15/2024 01:53 PM

Buskers should not be interfering with the peace and quiet of residents' homes. They should also not be interfering with offices/home offices and the ability to do business. Talented performers should otherwise be given space to play and an opportunity to make a few dollars from the tourists clogging up downtown.

Screen Name Redacted

8/28/2024 07:21 PM

Do not allow buskers and specifically street musicians to perform in close proximity to residential properties. There are plenty of locations away from the stretch of Government Street where they repeatedly and continually play. Restrict amplification to few areas such as Ship Point and the Inner Harbour and expand the definition of amplification to include drums, saxophones, marimbas and other instruments that make sufficient noise without an amplifier. Increase bylaw enforcement so that police don't have to spend their time but any buskers can face consequences for noncompliance. Stop the continuous monopoly that street musicians currently have on Govt Street and move them to a location where they can still easily attract tourists without the interruptions to those of us who love downtown and deserve to enjoy our residences.

Screen Name Redacted

8/29/2024 09:49 PM

Doing a great job.

Screen Name Redacted

9/03/2024 02:32 PM

-If unfortunately busking is permitted weed out all the talentless types with an electric guitar and loud amplifier who think they are "entertainers." -Please no amplification anywhere on Victoria's streets. It is loud, raucous, unwelcome, the sound bounces off nearby buildings distorting all sounds from the instruments used, disquieting, unpleasant, and those using amplification use it to disguise the fact they have no talent! -Keep them away from downtown. If I hear one more guy with an electric guitar, four strings, one finger picking, and a loud amplifier, and no talent whatsoever, I'll scream and run away.

Optional question (52 response(s), 187 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q29 Please share any additional suggestions or concerns that would help improve the busking experience downtown.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 12:40 PM

I was a living statue downtown Victoria for several years and one of my biggest issues was with a bagpiper setting up literally beside me while I was performing. It happened frequently and he still performs. There never seemed to be any recourse to this despite it being against the guidelines at the time. I didn't have any support to avoid conflict. A position that can help with these situations that isn't bylaw would probably be appreciated. Otherwise everything we can do to encourage street performance is great! It makes a city so much more vibrant. I encourage a low barrier to entry so even buskers travelling through (as I was on my first visit to Victoria) are able to perform confidently and bring their art to our community

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 02:05 PM

- Some instruments are electronic and require "amplification" to reach an acceptable volume (i.e. Keyboards, Electronic Drum Kits which are never allowed). - Some instruments are very loud without amplification (i.e. Bagpipes and Jackhammers which are always allowed) - The ban on amplification is antiquated. The bylaw needs to state decibels at a distance, duration of noise, repetitiveness, time of day and a detailed complaint-driven process instead of what kinds of instruments are privileged.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 07:37 PM

Please no amplified sounds, they're too disruptive - or have regulations on the volume of amplifiers.

Screen Name Redacted

6/25/2024 08:03 PM

I want to see more busking in general, and relaxed rules around it. I don't support limiting it to juried or "professional" musicians. As long as they're following general noise bylaws it's fine.

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 02:37 PM

I would like to see busking opportunities in the villages as well as along Fort St all the way to Cook St from 11am - 7pm.

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 03:58 PM

I have mobility issues and don't go downtown because of poor traffic,parking and crime.

Screen Name Redacted

6/26/2024 05:02 PM

What about scheduled busking at locations not downtown? Dallas road or Bamfield park

Screen Name Redacted

6/27/2024 06:28 PM

Consider busking all year round please! Grants for buskers or anything that makes it more accessible. Anything that supports the vibrancy and appeal of downtown is essential right now.

Screen Name Redacted

6/27/2024 07:44 PM

Please allow softly amplified music - vocals, piano keyboard this is necessary - nice to allow buskers access to power outlets and rain shelter

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 09:50 AM

Please revoke the permit for the Darth Vader violinist. This person used to be able to play violin well but they seem to have been replaced by someone without any musical skills. Every single time I have heard them play in the last year they are just pretending to play but not actually making music. It sounds horrible and is embarrassing

for Victoria.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 02:29 PM

This A great idea

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 09:10 PM

The auditions should not exclude any artists and should be more of a showcase for the panel to learn about all.diferent bands. Mainly to analyze the level of experience and be able to set up events with similar acts. Most acts should be allowed to showcase their art.

Screen Name Redacted

6/28/2024 10:02 PM

Busking is a way to show the cultural diversity of the city. Its great to see buskers of different cultures. It would be especially cool to see First Nations Buskers.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 07:24 AM

Please also bring more talent to Sidney!!! Sidney needs talented rock musicians. Rock the Beacon Park with more percussion please!

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 01:52 PM

Regarding musical buskers/performers - they should have actual talent and musical skill. There is one older fellow who plays saxophone downtown on some street corners in the summer (and has been for years) that actually is muscially lacking and does not play well at all. I would hope that folks like him do not get licenses to perform as he is a bit obnoxious and very hard on the ears!! Talent and skill in performance should be huge pre-requisites.

Screen Name Redacted

6/29/2024 09:42 PM

Maximum volume would be nice

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 07:03 AM

Over the years, I found some buskers that were doing theatre or comedy were very distasteful. I also have seen buskers who were belligerent to public who didn't tip them. I think music brings vibrancy to Government Street, celebratory nature that people want. The corner of government and wharf is already so packed with cars and people, please do not put entertainment there.

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 08:14 AM

Having year round buskers on pedestrian-only Government St would bring me & others downtown more often. Seating for viewing & socializing is important.

Screen Name Redacted

Please bring back the Buskers Festival. It was one of my favourite

6/30/2024 08:42 AM

summertime festivals.

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 10:42 AM

I would like to see busking encouraged for spots along the galloping goose (eg vic west side of Selkirk Trestle in the shelter where the trail splits to east/west); & also on the Songhees walkway near Ocean Point hotel. Also why not a couple designated spots along Dallas Rd? IMO the downtown buskers benefit the tourists more than the locals.

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 11:22 AM

Allowing buskers to use small battery-powered amplifiers in the downtown core can bring numerous benefits to the community, creating a more vibrant, inclusive, and economically beneficial urban environment. Here are several key arguments in favour of this policy:

1. Enhancing the Cultural Atmosphere Diverse Musical Experiences • Amplifiers can help showcase a wider range of musical styles and instruments, including those that require some level of amplification to be fully appreciated (e.g., electric guitars, keyboards). • A richer sound experience can attract more passersby, creating a more engaging and enjoyable atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Supporting Local Artists • Amplifiers can enable buskers to perform at a higher quality, helping local musicians gain exposure and potentially grow their careers. • Buskers contribute to the cultural fabric of the city, and amplifiers can help their art reach a larger audience.
2. Economic Benefits Increased Foot Traffic and Business Revenue • A lively street performance scene can draw more people to the downtown core, increasing foot traffic. • Higher foot traffic can lead to increased patronage of local businesses, such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, and shops, boosting the local economy. Tourism Attraction • A vibrant street performance culture can become a unique selling point for the city, attracting tourists looking for authentic and spontaneous cultural experiences. • Enhanced street performances can improve the overall tourist experience, encouraging longer stays and more spending in the area.
3. Community Engagement and Social Benefits Public Entertainment and Accessibility • Amplified performances can be enjoyed by larger crowds, making public spaces more dynamic and inviting. • Free, accessible entertainment can enhance the quality of life for residents, providing enjoyment without the cost of tickets or travel. Creating Inclusive Spaces • Amplification can help buskers ensure their performances are heard clearly, even in busy or noisy areas, making public spaces more inclusive for people with hearing difficulties. • Amplified performances can create opportunities for community interactions, fostering a sense of belonging and communal enjoyment.
4. Practical and Manageable Solutions Regulation and Volume Control • Implementing clear guidelines for the use of amplifiers, such as volume limits and designated performance times, can address potential concerns about noise

levels. • Buskers can be required to obtain permits to use amplifiers, ensuring responsible and respectful use. Technological Advancements • Modern battery-powered amplifiers are compact and can produce high-quality sound without excessive volume, making them suitable for urban environments. • Advances in technology allow for effective monitoring and control of sound levels, minimizing disruption to nearby businesses and residents. Conclusion Allowing buskers to use small battery-powered amplifiers in the downtown core can significantly enhance the cultural, economic, and social vibrancy of the area. With proper regulation and community cooperation, the potential benefits far outweigh the challenges, making it a worthwhile policy for fostering a dynamic and inclusive urban environment.

Screen Name Redacted

6/30/2024 12:23 PM

I'm so pleased to see a move toward more busking, as it will add so much more vibrancy to our downtown. I recognize the need to manage this in order to keep all the constituents on board, but try to keep a measure of spontaneity and openness to it so that all the performances don't become too "staged". Busking is meant to be light and fun and surprising.

Screen Name Redacted

7/01/2024 12:34 PM

It is already pretty noisy downtown, and the buskers that are already on Government Street and along the waterfront can be quite intrusive, so I don't believe that increasing locations and amplifying some of them is going to improve our downtown experience AT ALL. The city has serious issues affecting public safety that are far more important than this, such as solving the problem of the homeless and vulnerable population up around Pandora St.. I cannot understand why the increase in busking is seen as an important and desirable project.

Screen Name Redacted

7/02/2024 11:25 PM

We currently have several buskers who are inappropriate for Victoria. One, a trumpet player, heckles passers-by, plays out of tune and does not represent Victoria in a favourable way. All buskers should be vetted, and checked by a bylaw officer.

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 01:22 AM

I'm very in support of busking. I think in addition ghat there should be good sites where anyone can turn up and busk without being interviewed or agreed. Rather by definition busking should be informal and unplanned and I very much support the ability of musicians and emerging musicians to be able to set up and play whenever and wherever they like.

Screen Name Redacted

7/03/2024 06:59 AM

I think there should be far more than five non-auditioned spots.

Screen Name Redacted

7/04/2024 12:16 PM

This idea could really brighten up downtown, which sometimes feels empty and lacks excitement. I'm not a fan of terms like 'juried' or 'licensed'; they seem to emphasize government fees and paperwork, slowing things down unnecessarily these days. As long as a performance is safe, it should be fine. Besides, I don't think you need a license just to earn tips

Screen Name Redacted

7/04/2024 04:38 PM

hello! i can't think of anything that makes a city center feel more alive than free accessible music that's just happening all around, so i'm really glad that the city is thinking about how to expand its busking portfolio one thing i notice with busking in victoria is it often happens in places where in order to stay and watch, you'd have to stand in the way of pedestrian traffic. of course it's important for buskers to be visible to and engage with pedestrian traffic, but i think it's also important to strike a balance with places that aren't *just* flat pavement. e.g. lower causeway with its tiered seating, in front of the empress with lawn seating. if we're trying to do scheduled times at designated spaces anyway, why not centennial square, market square? re sound amplification: i think that decibel level makes more sense than sound amplification as a way of ensuring respectful noise levels. without being able to use a speaker, musicians are limited to acoustic instruments which are less portable and more limited in options, and forced to project their voice louder than is sustainably healthy to be heard. whereas a trumpet or bagpipe are louder than a small amp anyway. i understand that practically speaking it may be easier to enforce "no amps", but wanted to put a word in that it does significantly reduce the variety of performing arts that could be happening downtown! and amplified busking is popular and enlivening even in indoor spaces (e.g. transit centers) in other cities i've lived in re juries: i think the idea of using high traffic public spaces as paid performance opportunities for local artists is absolutely fantastic! i worry about a closed jury selection program limiting the variety of performances that are allowed though. i wonder if there is a way to rethink this not so much as an audition/jury but a collaboration between the city & performer to figure out how they can perform in a way that's aligned with the cities' goals anyway, thank you, this is cool & exciting! i love buskers, and maybe one day hope to be one, so i'm really glad the city is thinking about and engaging about this topic :)

Screen Name Redacted

7/05/2024 03:53 PM

Do not make it difficult for buskers to perform

Screen Name Redacted

7/06/2024 07:41 PM

Make sure most buskers are licensed and not breaking any rules. Because the city needs performances that are good and licensed

Screen Name Redacted

7/14/2024 09:52 PM

I'm a resident of the mainland who enjoys visiting Victoria a few times a year. I look forward to seeing buskers and artisan stalls on Government street and the Inner Harbour during my visit. I don't bring cash with me often so I think the option to pay electronically would be great

Screen Name Redacted

7/17/2024 11:33 AM

Busker festival was fantastic. Please bring it back

Screen Name Redacted

7/17/2024 03:09 PM

I think the city should be hands off about busking. Busking brings art to our community and keeps the streets alive. When there is activity on the streets, it decreases crime. People who live downtown have made a decision to live downtown in a city and should not expect peace and quiet. Busking should be completely legal, and the city should only interfere with the "elevated busking"

Screen Name Redacted

7/18/2024 06:59 PM

The best spots right now are the entrance to Bastion Square on Government St and the portion of government between Fort and Broughton. That's where I love them! They're especially great in front of the businesses closed for the night.

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 10:49 AM

PLEASE, help make Victoria FUN!!! Please, bring Victoria up to cosmopolitan city norms. Please, change the week known phrase: "Victoria is for the newly wed and nearly dead!" I feel guilty bringing up my son in such a sleepy and stuffy "white people" city on an island even though the beauty has out weighed this negative point. I want more for my teenage son to experience, view and perhaps participate in (he's training in classical Cello). Thank you for providing this questionnaire. Please, take action with the answers you receive from people. - a proud soon-to-be-divorced-and-emancipated Mom

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 10:53 AM

I don't want the City to micromanage buskers and overly constrain the experience

Screen Name Redacted

7/19/2024 05:33 PM

Busking is vital to having a vibrant downtown experience, but it should be intentionally curated for both locations and content.

Screen Name Redacted

7/20/2024 12:24 PM

Busking is a pointless cash grab tourist trap adding nothing of value to the downtown culture. Wasting resources (financial or otherwise) on busking is a misplaced lack of priorities in comparison to

addressing issues that actually matter to the people of the Greater Victoria region

Screen Name Redacted

7/23/2024 11:38 AM

Prohibit amplification. That isn't busking, it is performance. those who amplify their art hijack everyone as it takes over more than its share of the space.

Screen Name Redacted

7/24/2024 01:48 PM

Get Darth Fiddler to learn a few new songs lol. I get to listen to his same set several times a week at work

Screen Name Redacted

8/01/2024 09:42 AM

Some of the sites indicated are on busy streets or in the case of the Johnson Street bridge, too close to the walkway, and the crowd will gather onto the street or block the walkway. The Johnson Street walkway one needs to be moved away from the pedestrian path so it won't impinge upon it. Locations should not be at intersections where crowds could grow into a car intersection. This is a great idea but whoever chose the spots didn't think of car traffic and busy pedestrian traffic.

Screen Name Redacted

8/01/2024 05:20 PM

- how about, rather than you (this council who is largely abysmal and have control issues among other things.... - yes, that's you marionne, and jeremy, plus....), let THE BUSKERS decide where is best for them to perform?!!!!??!! And just back off a little bit!!!!!!

Screen Name Redacted

8/03/2024 09:46 AM

I strongly support a juried approach. There are several regular buskers who are not great ambassadors for the city: I'm thinking particularly of the trumpet player who often occupies prominent busking locations but whose musicianship is poor (off-key, needless embellishments, poor technique) and who often interrupts his playing to make comments to passers-by, frequently about women and borderline off-colour). I'm also strongly opposed to amplification -- electrified buskers can be intrusive with noise levels, and can also interfere with the audibility of fellow buskers. Busking locations should be established so that performers and spectators do not cause pedestrian traffic gridlock. There are many highly talented performers who seem to be shut out of prime locations by the current "law of the jungle" approach -- a bit more regulation of who, where, and when would be a great improvement.

Screen Name Redacted

8/06/2024 02:37 PM

I'm very disappointed in the lack of buskers downtown. As a lifelong Victoria resident, the noticeable lack of performers especially in the inner harbour takes away from the artistic value and vibrancy of our

city. I have heard the cost of a licence is prohibitive and would like the city to re-evaluate the surcharge on downtown locations.

Screen Name Redacted

8/07/2024 03:52 PM

There are buskers who are known to be aggressive and rude. I wish there was more enforcement as they harm the reputation and work of other buskers

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 09:11 AM

Two times in the past 8 months I chose Downtown as my vacation destination. I expected to see buskers and we did not. It was very disappointing. First vacation was three nights at Spinnakers. Second was a daylong visit for our 20th wedding anniversary. IMAX, a couple causeway vendors and food, food, food. I really missed the buskers! Market Square would be a great place for busking.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:29 PM

Wasn't sure about the "busking anywhere" options, just because some people may be seated at patios (as an example of an "anywhere" location) and might not be interested, or may even be annoyed by buskers when eating/drinking/talking.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 03:56 PM

It would be good if a uniformed bylaw officer was seen going around to busker locations. Stop bicycle speeding in pedestrian street areas. Limit busking to 1 hour and no repeat songs in that hour.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 04:13 PM

I think this is a great pilot project. Some organization and professionalism will go a long way to improve the user/tourist experience, improve safety, and ensure quality buskers. Strategic locations, not just along the waterfront, but up Government Street will potentially draw tourist further into downtown which should increase local business traffic as well.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 04:52 PM

is a national treasure and should be recognized as such by the city.! Name the Busker festival after him!

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:00 PM

There is no lack of talent in the local artistic community. Unfortunately, a few long-time fixtures amongst the buskers are not so ...talented. Time for some new blood! I fully support the introduction of some quality control, it greatly improves the vibrancy and enjoyability of downtown.

Screen Name Redacted

I don't appreciate the religious folks that are at the Johnson Street

8/08/2024 05:09 PM

bridge all the time with their religious materials. It makes me extremely uncomfortable and would certainly cause me to avoid buskers at that part of the bridge.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:26 PM

safety and protection ensured for buskers

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 05:52 PM

more arts with less restrictions, more support- artists enrich our society.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:18 PM

Would be great to ensure young people have a chance eg high school jazz band

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:23 PM

I've heard people lament the loss of the previously vibrant busking scene in Victoria that I'm glad to hear the City is finally doing something about bringing it back

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:40 PM

some are very good, but the loud ones are annoying. If you can hear them blocks away, as in amplified (or bagpipes) it is awful until you are in sight. Quiet busking is fine, but nothing loudly intrusive

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 06:50 PM

Please do not use my tax dollars to pay buskers. Please enforce with bylaw officer the unlicensed buskers that appear in Cook St. Village.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:01 PM

I love hearing music downtown. It enriches my walks and picks up my step. I love the auditioned idea as it ensures a certain quality. Would love to see electronic payment. Busking makes the downtown vibrant, more European. I live in James Bay and am downtown often.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 07:05 PM

Ensure that accessible lines of travel are maintained. I have experienced great difficulty on the lower Causeway previously, an area about which you haven't even asked in the survey. Crowds often block public pedestrian routes.. It should be up to the busker to ensure the crowds allow passage of others. I am concerned for people who work particularly live near the buskers particularly the noise and repetition. I once had a job Because of constant annoying buskers. With more people, living downtown, more will be inconvenienced by the noise. Some people have to go to bed early due to their jobs. I haven't been able to see the buskers this year because parking is bad downtown and I have an injury preventing cycling.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 08:19 PM

get rid of thw Downtown buissness assiation jeff gray and bruce williamson

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 09:44 PM

Juried and auditioned buskers only for quality control purposes.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 10:19 PM

I think buskers should be free to perform wherever they want as long as they are not impeding foot traffic and blocking access to businesses. I don't think they should be juried and auditioned. If people don't like what they see they will move on. The city should not judge and control buskers except for safety issues. It's called freedom of expression.

Screen Name Redacted

8/08/2024 10:49 PM

I'd like to see or support more women, queer, disabled, or BIPOC buskers.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 07:26 AM

Encourage talented young musicians who are local. Have a process to review acts and potentially cut acts that are not popular.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 07:44 AM

Music and performance heals people's souls whether they realize it or not

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 09:31 AM

I would like to ensure that very poor local buskers, and those travelling through town are not shunned from busking due to not having a permit. Could areas be made available to them so that they have the opportunity to make tips while on their way?

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 10:19 AM

Buskers provide "eyes on the street" and create a healthy atmosphere. Too much regulation and restrictions suppress creativity and especially limit youth and travellers from participation. I admire young people who travel the world by busking. The options you have provided prohibit such "explorers" from earning in Victoria. With this in mind, perhaps there should be a "week long license" for youth and travellers.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 11:15 AM

Yes, how about busking on the lawn of the Parliament building

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 11:31 AM

Make sure buskers can use amplification for singing. You can't hear professional singing when it's not into a microphone. If microphones are not allowed, all you'll get are buskers that scream and yell, not beautiful professional singing voices.

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 11:35 AM

Change bylaw to require ANYONE who solicits money on public property to have a busking tag. Will help control begging! Cheers

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 03:21 PM

Buskers need protection from people who would rail against them, interfere with a performance, pickpocket them & or audience. I think a police presence is mandatory - a few on bicycles!

Screen Name Redacted

8/09/2024 10:45 PM

Important to allow and encourage the freedom for the buskers to be artistic. Keep the rules and enforcement to a minimum. Thanks!

Screen Name Redacted

8/10/2024 03:09 PM

I am for anyone being allowed to busk downtown but with some conditions such as not within a certain distance of another busker (to prevent sound interference) or not where their sound will interfere with an already playing busker etc.

Screen Name Redacted

8/11/2024 07:15 AM

I support amplification at the designated spots - but to a limit. Is it possible that amplification be set at a reasonable volume? Also, the area outside the Visitor's Centre is already much too crowded and noisy to support an elevated busking venue. Is the lower causeway considered?

Screen Name Redacted

8/11/2024 11:34 AM

more litter containers near busking locations especially near food trucks
vigilance re groups of drug users in proximity

Screen Name Redacted

8/12/2024 09:37 AM

I would like to see juried busker location further north and west, near Capital Iron (maybe in one of the parking lots?.... something to build a broader area of vibrancy - honestly, to push the sketch vibe further to the edges

Screen Name Redacted

8/12/2024 10:07 AM

Protection for buskers from harassment & not have their tip money stolen by passers by. Periodically rotate music styles, venue schedule & times so that all buskers & foot traffic have a fair chance for variety. Be careful to not have amplifiers in areas with an echo. It would be much too loud & could discourage senior tourists & shoppers. No one wants to linger in an area with loud

annoying sound. No music types or dance styles that could incite aggressive type people to congregate. NO HIP HOP or HEAVY METAL.

Screen Name Redacted

8/13/2024 02:48 PM

Would it be possible to create a category/leniency for youth performers? I've seen some wonderful young musicians downtown and I'd love to see them supported too.

Screen Name Redacted

8/13/2024 08:01 PM

I would hate to see busking become too tightly regulated with stages and schedules (heaven forbid). Part of the fun is coming across buskers as you're going about your business downtown. I'm not in favour of allowing electronic amplification for buskers. It will inevitably get too loud. If your voice or instrument isn't loud enough to be heard by a few people who've stopped to listen, then perhaps busking is not your metier.

Screen Name Redacted

8/16/2024 11:07 AM

My brother was a busker turned music therapist, so while I am not of this group and I think you should prioritize the opinions and strategies of current and aspiring buskers because they know the scene infinitely more than I ever could, I am a big supporter! I think live music is crucial for vibrancy and with dwindling small venues for local performers, the barriers to entry is becoming increasingly inhospitable. I love the idea of paying buskers to subsidize their tips and the idea of electronic payment (like they have at the moss street paint in). I was also very frustrated by the bylaw officers ticketing the event that happened in front of Munros coming out of Covid with a bunch of local musicians. That would always draw a delighted crowd, people danced, and it added magic to the city. I think it was unfair and unwarranted to penalize talented musicians who I saw regularly perform at venues like Bard and Banker and the Irish times for bringing their music outside to the street. I'd like to see the reasoning behind that decision, because from where I was standing it was wholesome community building.

Screen Name Redacted

8/17/2024 10:51 AM

The idea of "regulating" busking is absurd. The whole point of busking is allowing people who need income to do so in a way that is positive for people around them. I find the idea of attempting to "regulate" or "license" it in any way to be antithetical to the spirit of busking, and indeed quite disgusting. You should be ashamed for even considering it. Low-income people in Victoria are already struggling enough to make ends meet. There are SO many barriers to income, housing, food etc. Setting up another barrier is a thinly veiled attempt to force low-income people away from the public eye and I think it is absolutely reprehensible. If you want less busking, then try

imposing rent control, taxing corporate rentals based on the number of empty units, requiring 10% of all corporate rentals to be subsidized, and allowing more construction of subsidized housing. You can't torture low-income people out of existence, and to even try while pretending its about anything other than eradicating low-income people is literally so revolting.

Screen Name Redacted

8/19/2024 03:20 PM

Please allow or a mechanism to remove problematic buskers, e.g, who aggressively panhandle and/or make inappropriate comments to passers-by.

Screen Name Redacted

8/30/2024 08:50 AM

I've lived here for years and have missed seeing all the buskers downtown. It always puts a smile on my face and I love seeing people stopping to watch. It creates such a community downtown!

Screen Name Redacted

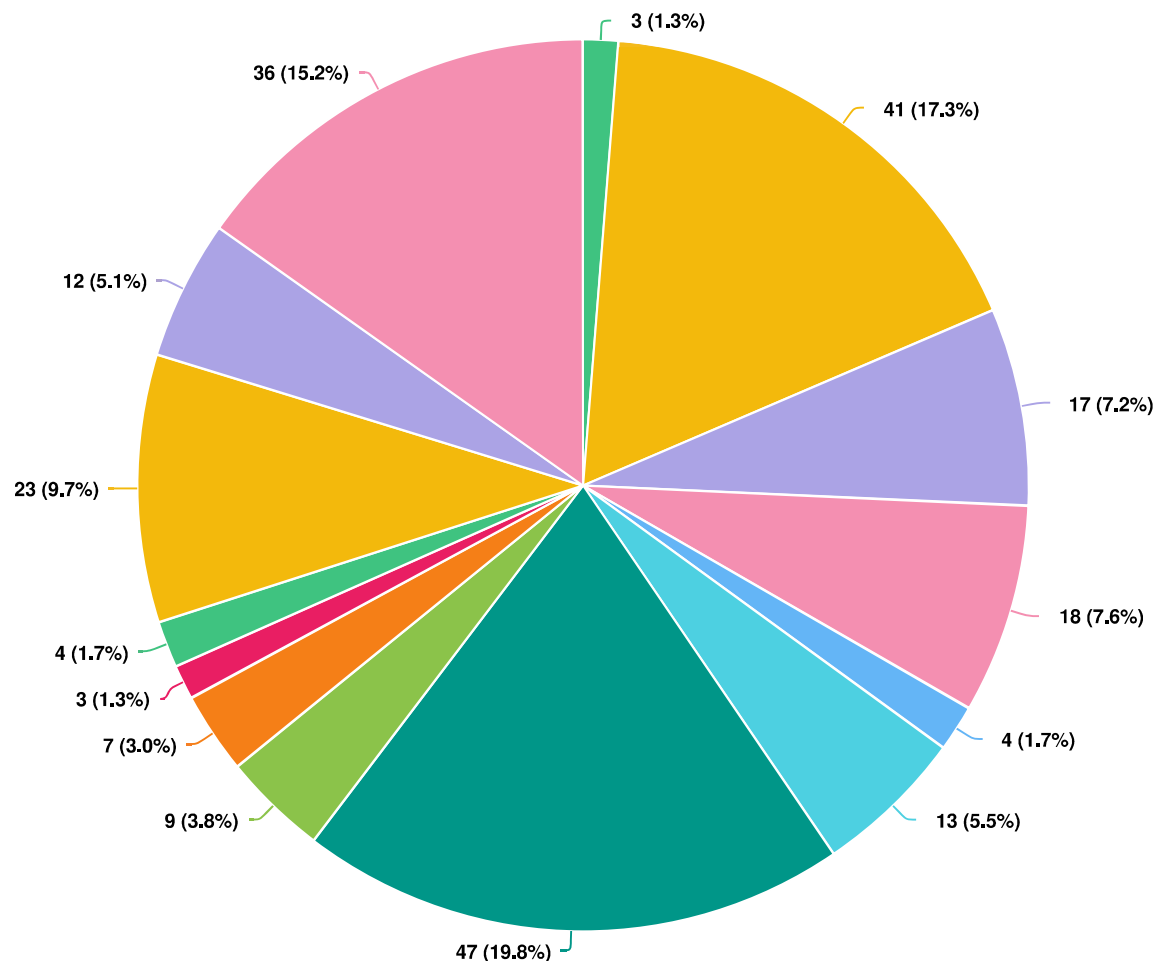
8/30/2024 04:20 PM

I think a digital tipping option would help the buskers be more successful and enforcement would make the businesses / residents more satisfied with the program. If both are implemented it could thrive!

Optional question (85 response(s), 154 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q30 Which Victoria neighbourhood do you live in?

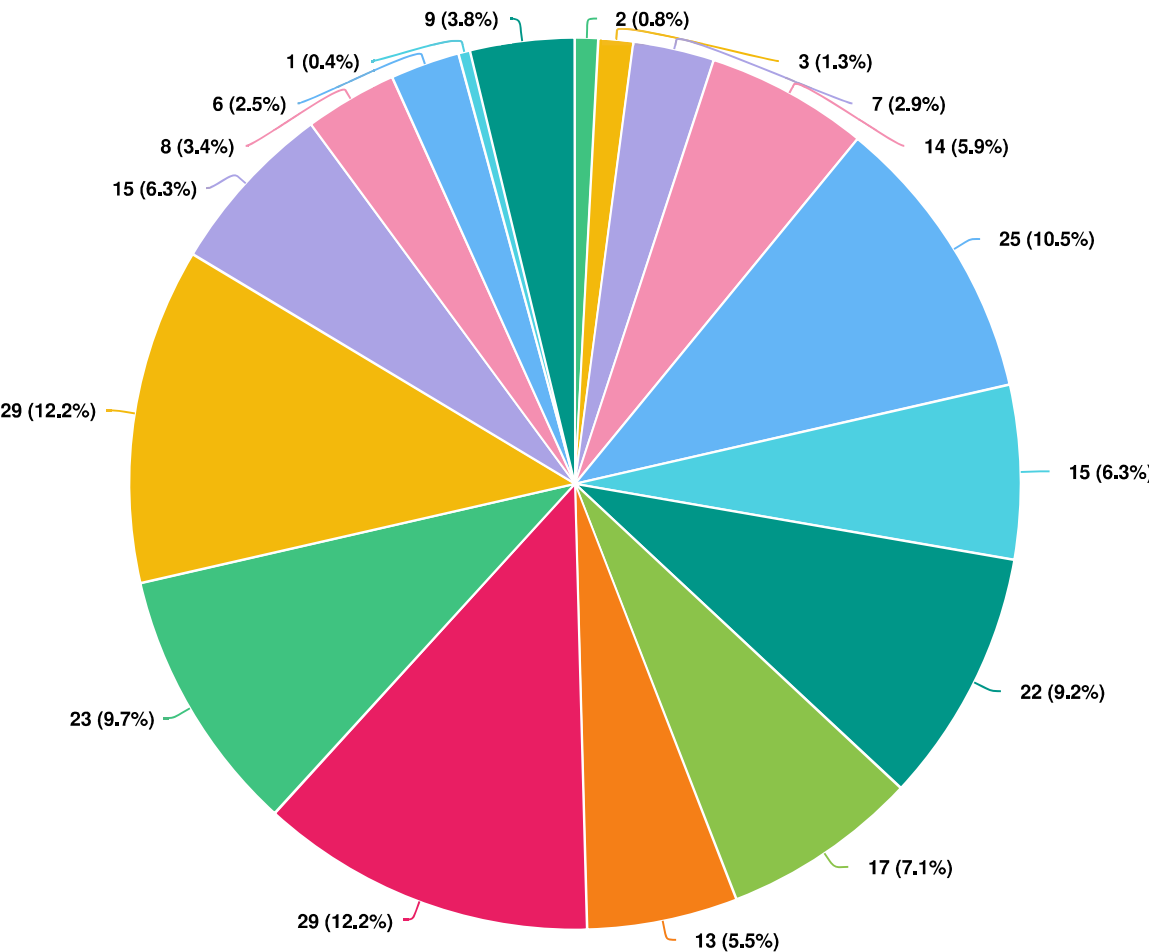


Question options

- Burnside
- Downtown
- Fairfield
- Fernwood
- Gonzales
- Hillside Quadra
- James Bay
- Jubilee
- North Park
- Oaklands
- Rockland
- Victoria West
- Prefer not to answer
- I live in another municipality (please specify)

Optional question (236 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q31 Please select one of the following age ranges:

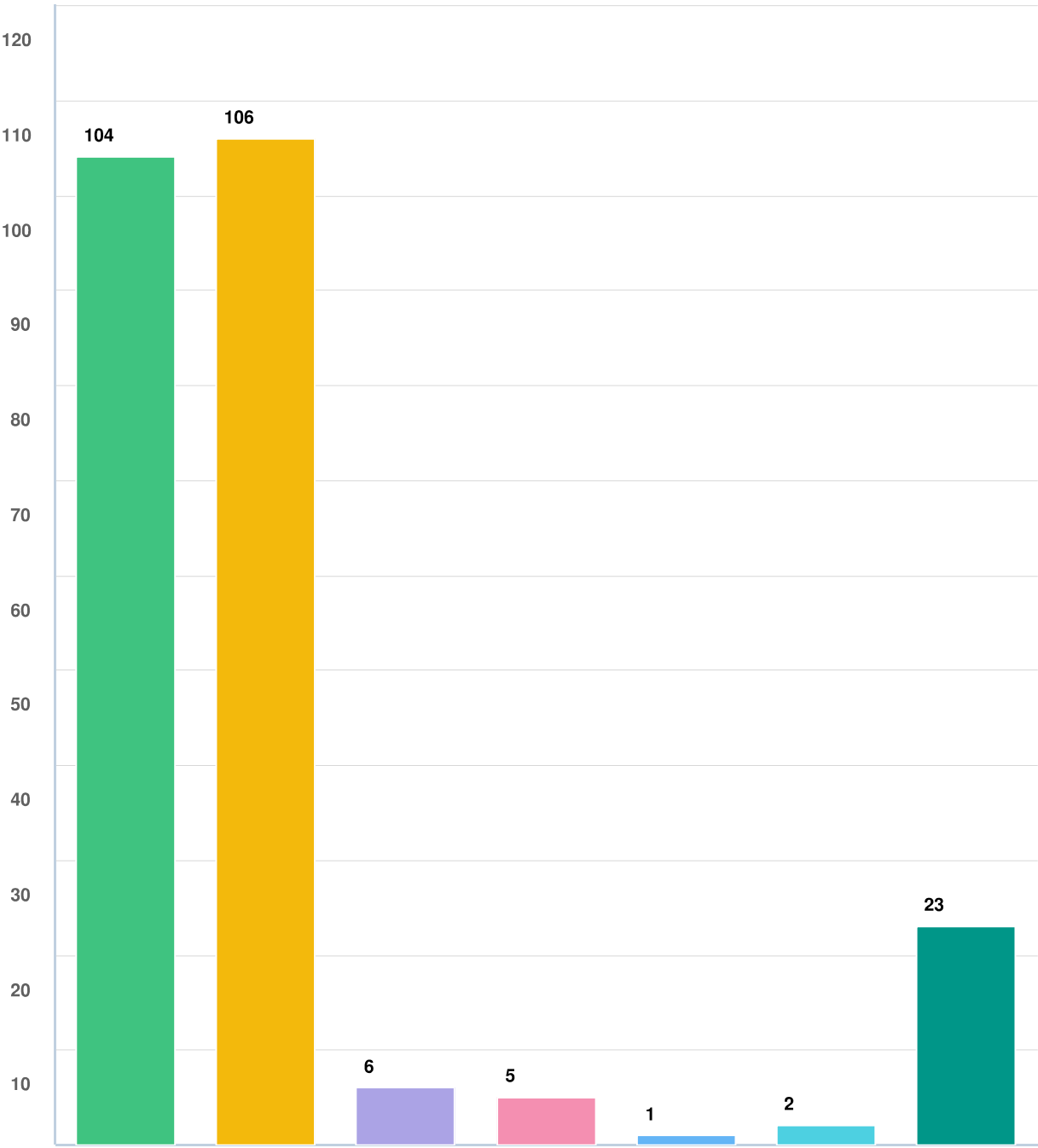


Question options

- 0 - 14
- 15 - 19
- 20 - 24
- 25 - 29
- 30 - 34
- 35 - 39
- 40 - 44
- 45 - 49
- 50 - 54
- 55 - 59
- 60 - 64
- 65 - 69
- 70 - 74
- 75 - 79
- 80 - 84
- 85+
- Prefer not to answer

Optional question (237 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q32 How would you describe your gender identity? (Please select all that apply)

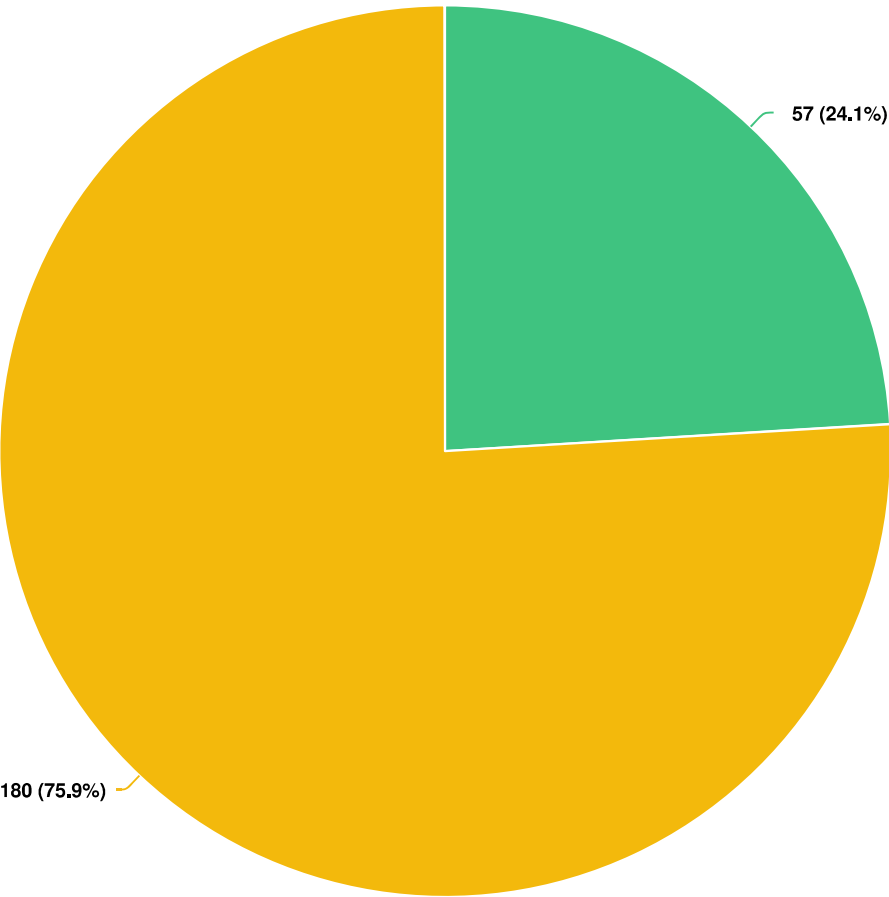


Question options

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Two Spirit
- Another gender identity
- Prefer not to say

Optional question (236 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q33 Have you moved to Victoria in the past five years?

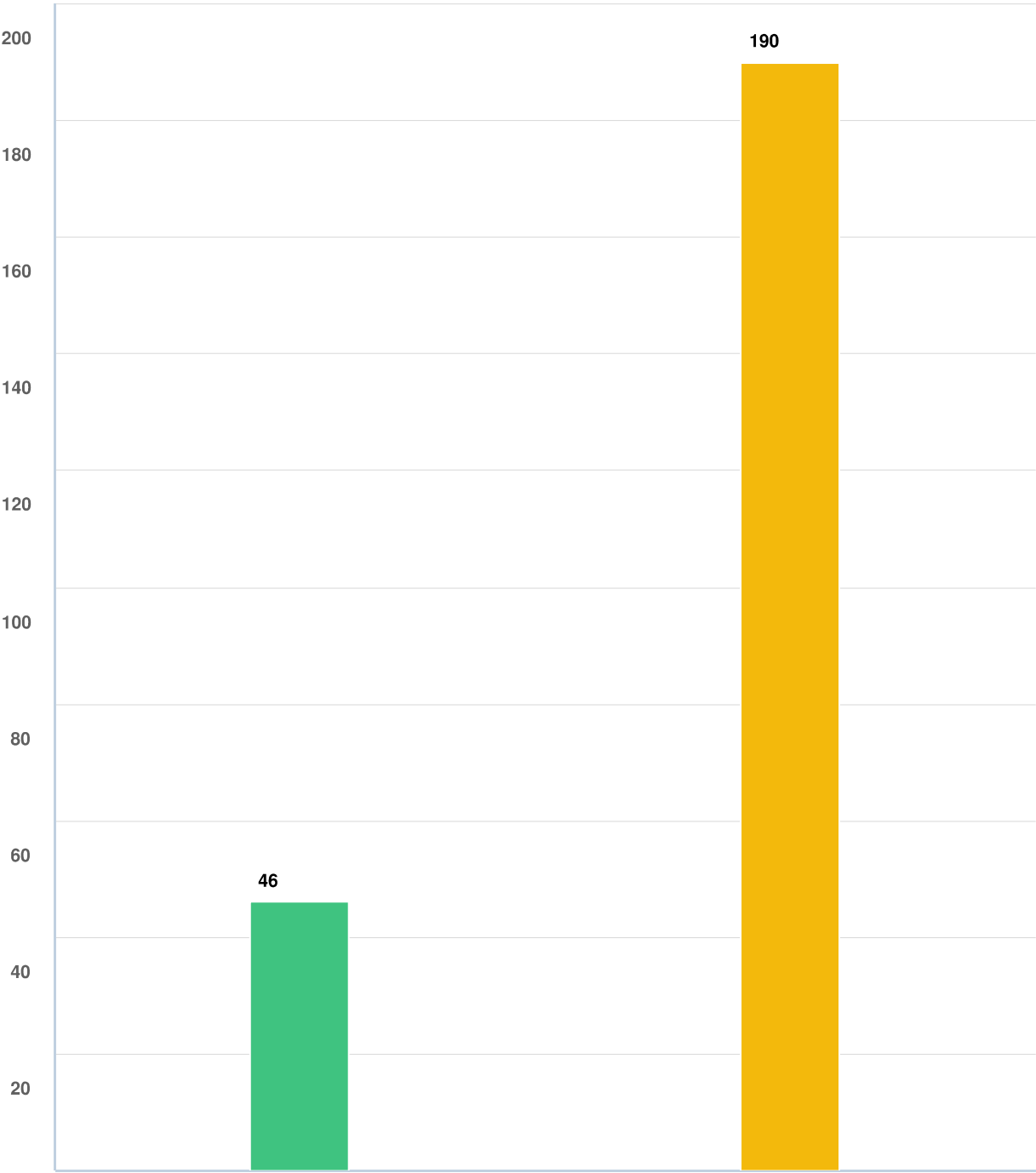


Question options

Yes No

Optional question (236 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q34 Do you operate a business in Victoria?

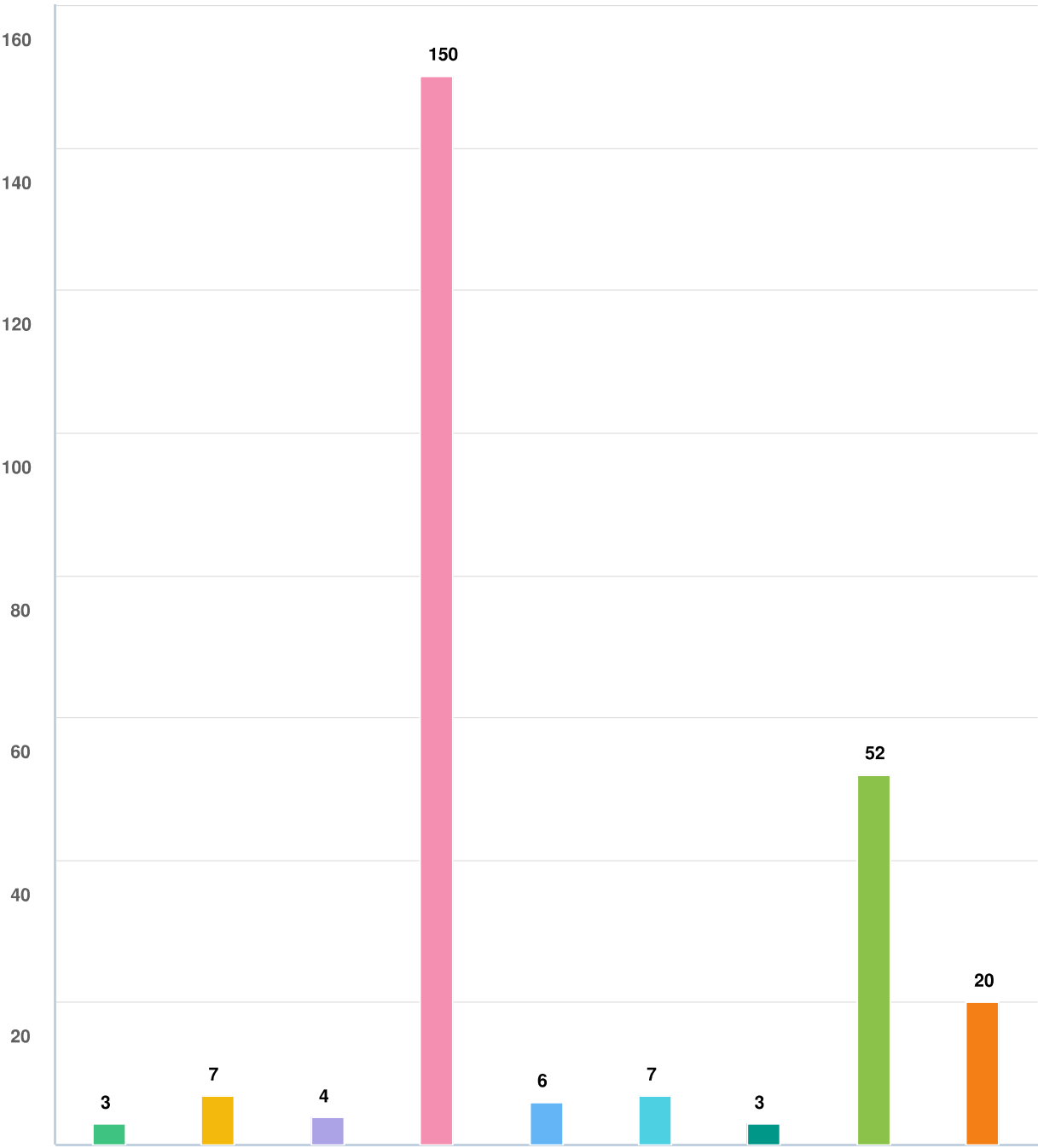


Question options

Yes No

Optional question (234 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q35 What is your ethnicity or cultural origin? (Please select all that apply to you)

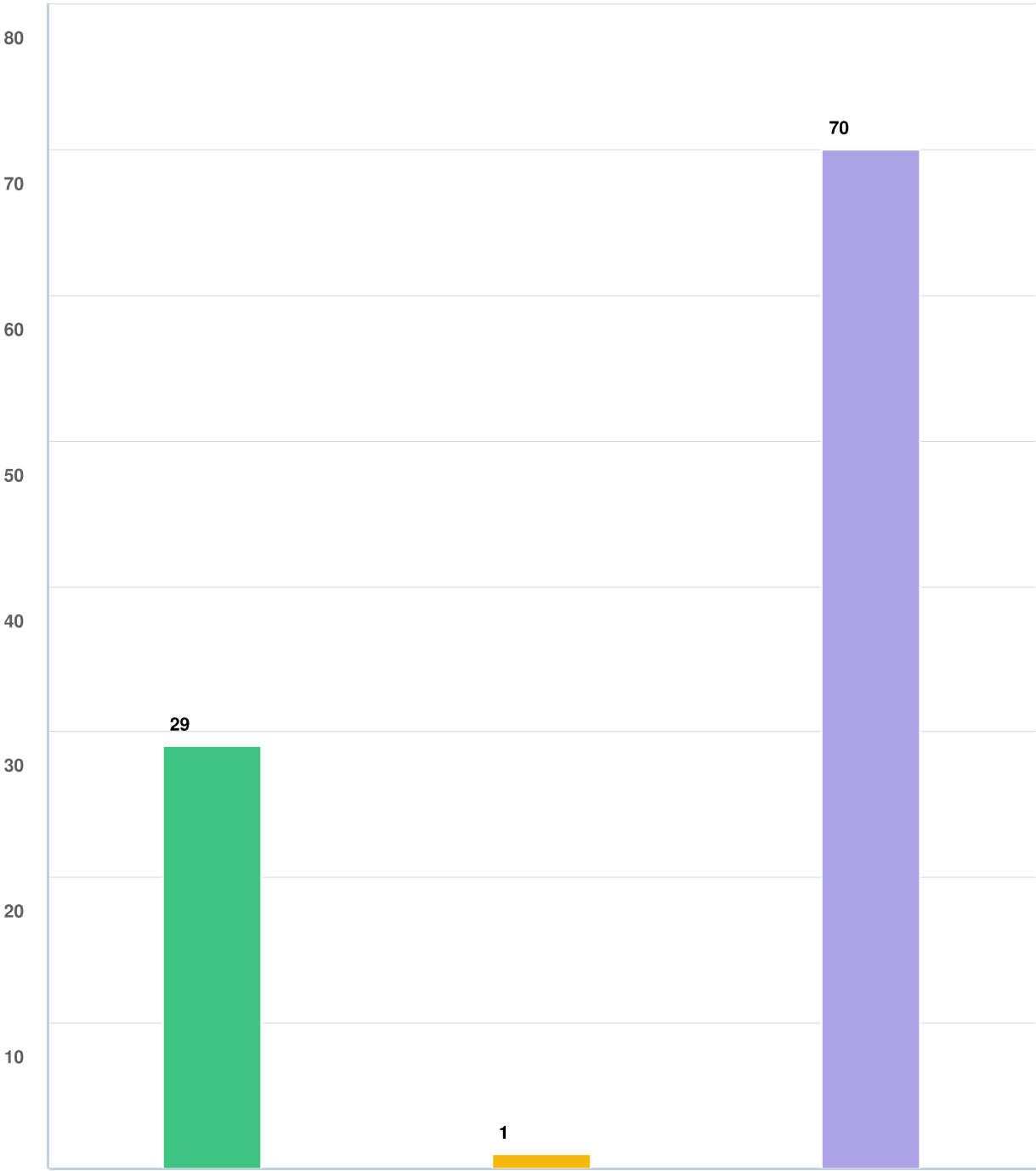


Question options

- African Caribbean or Latin American East Asian European West Asian or Middle Eastern
Indigenous South Asian Prefer not to answer Other (please specify)

Optional question (230 response(s), 9 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q36 Do you identify as being:

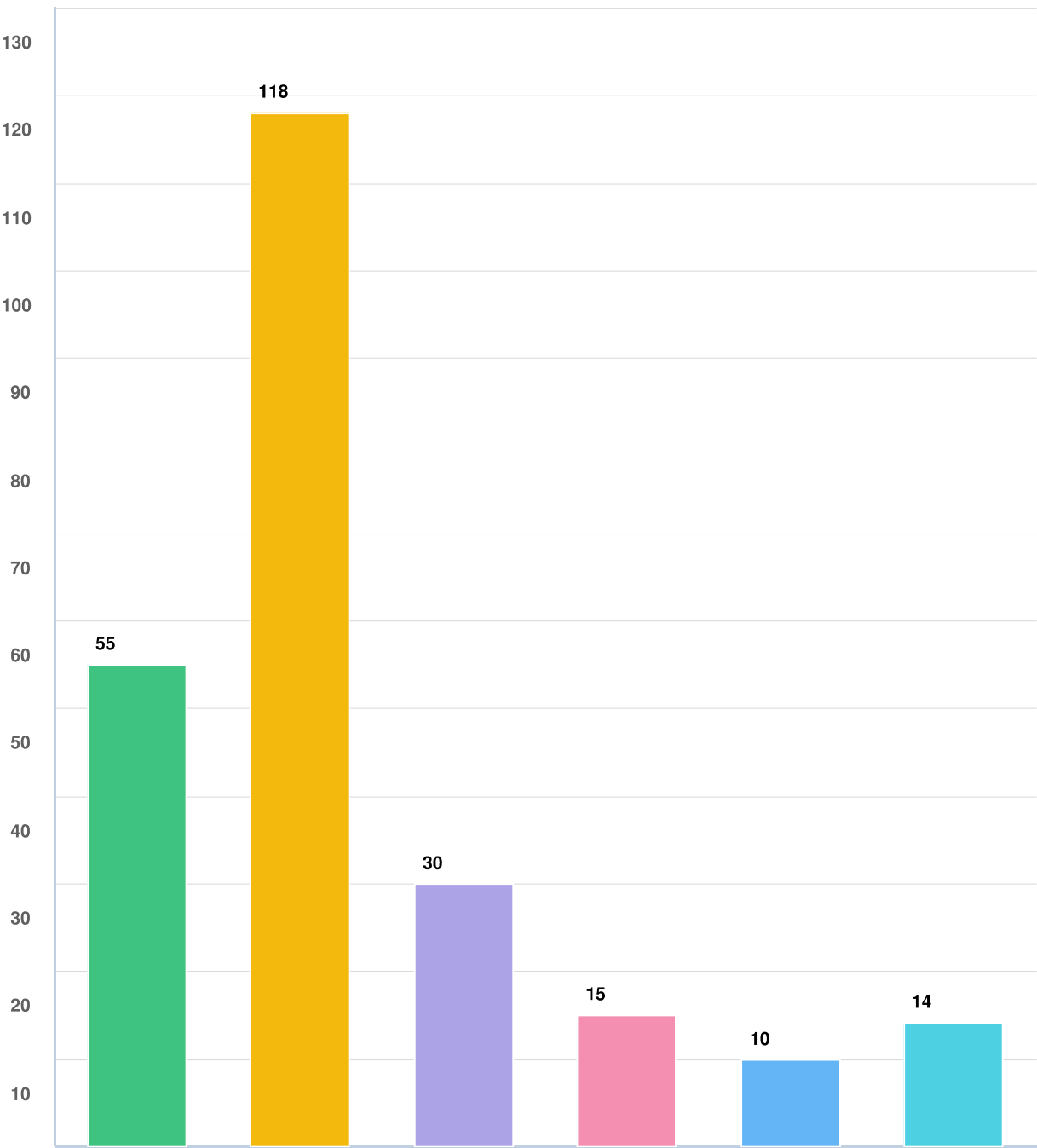


Question options

- An immigrant
- A refugee
- Prefer not to answer

Optional question (97 response(s), 142 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q37 Which description best describes your household size?

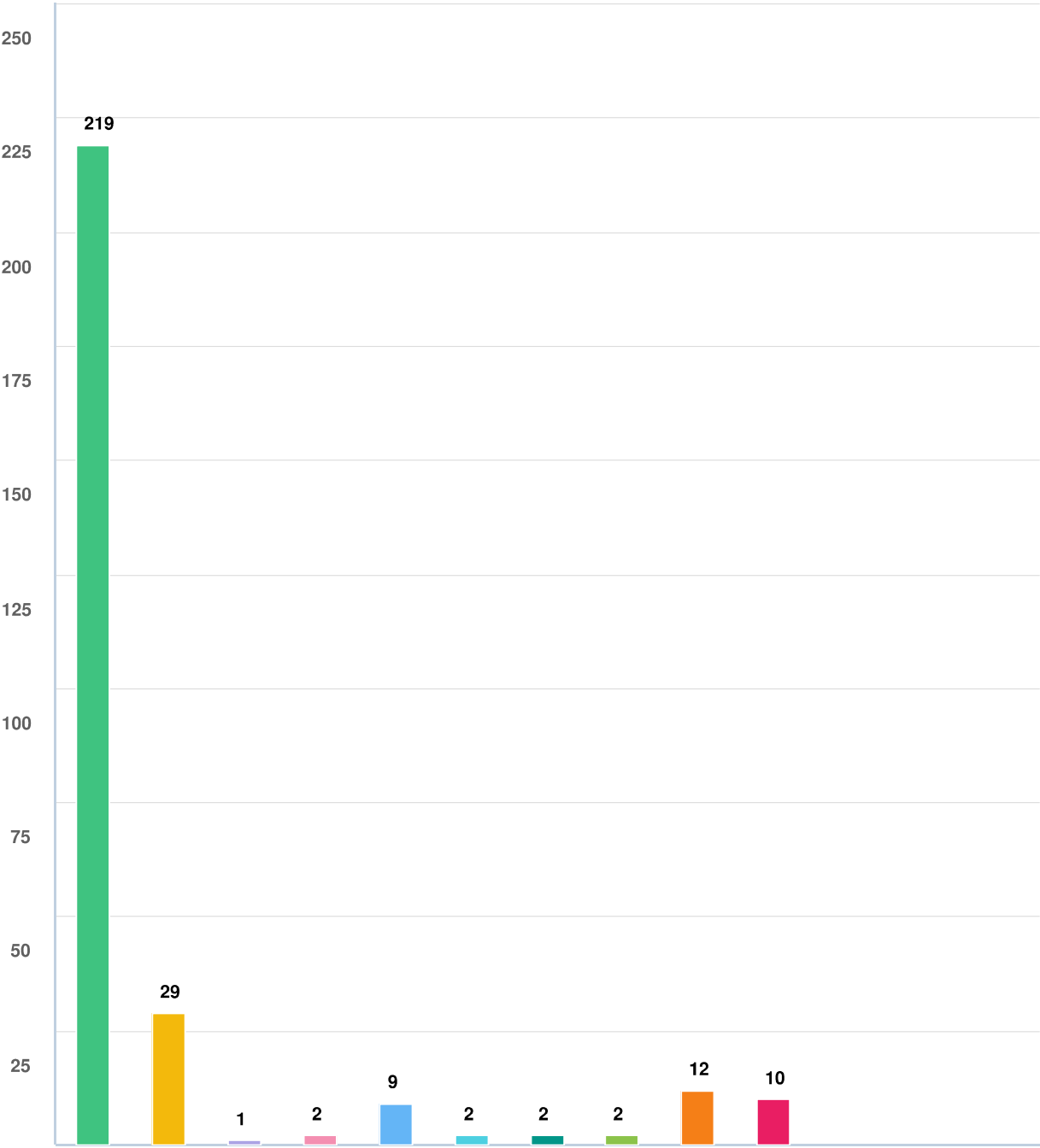


Question options

- One person
- Two persons
- Three persons
- Four persons
- Five or more persons
- Prefer not to answer

Optional question (236 response(s), 3 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q38 Which language(s) do you speak at home? (Select all that apply.)

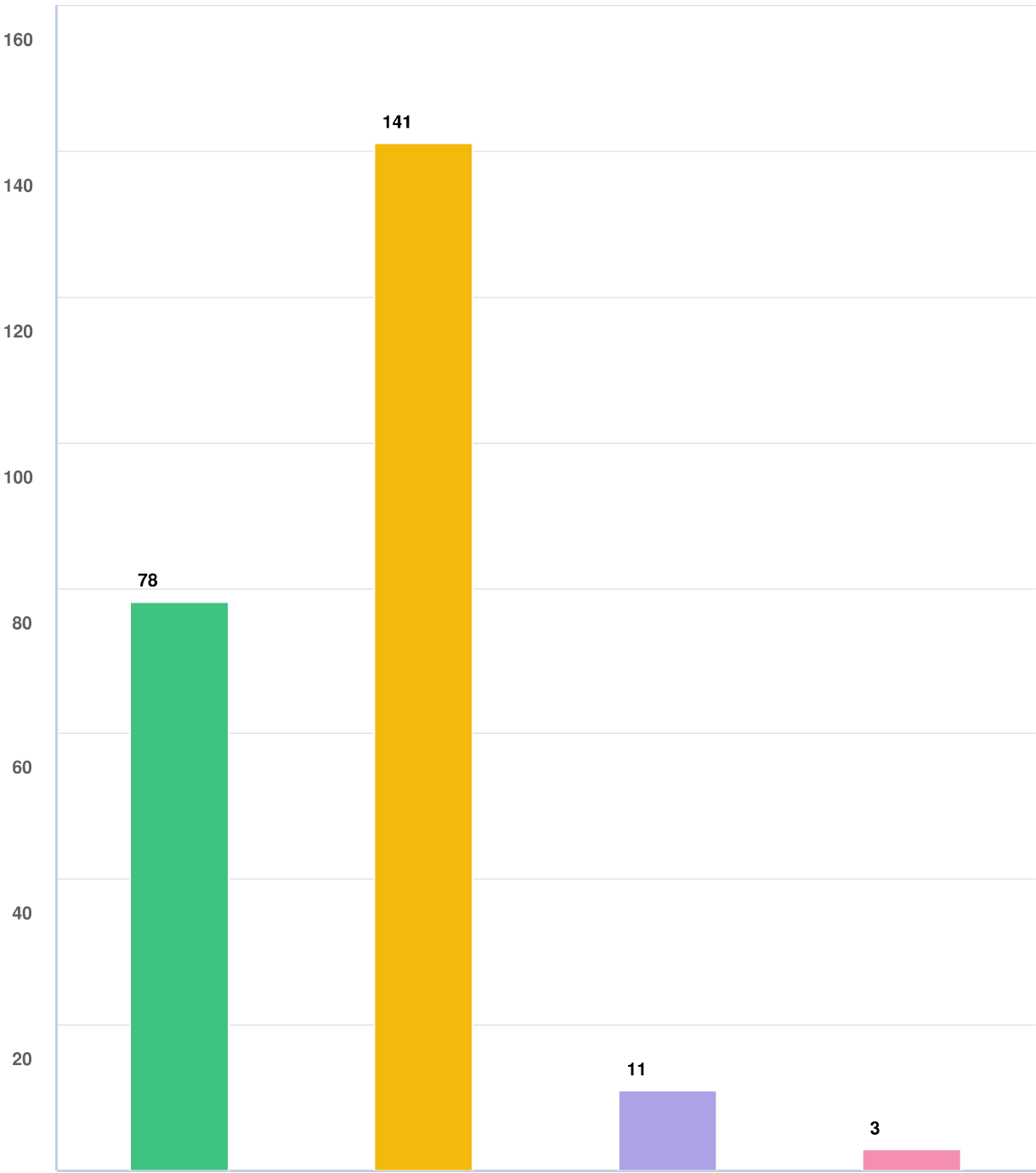


Question options

- English French Mandarin German Spanish Arabic Portuguese Cantonese
Prefer not to answer Other (please specify) Tagalog Punjabi Korean

Optional question (235 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

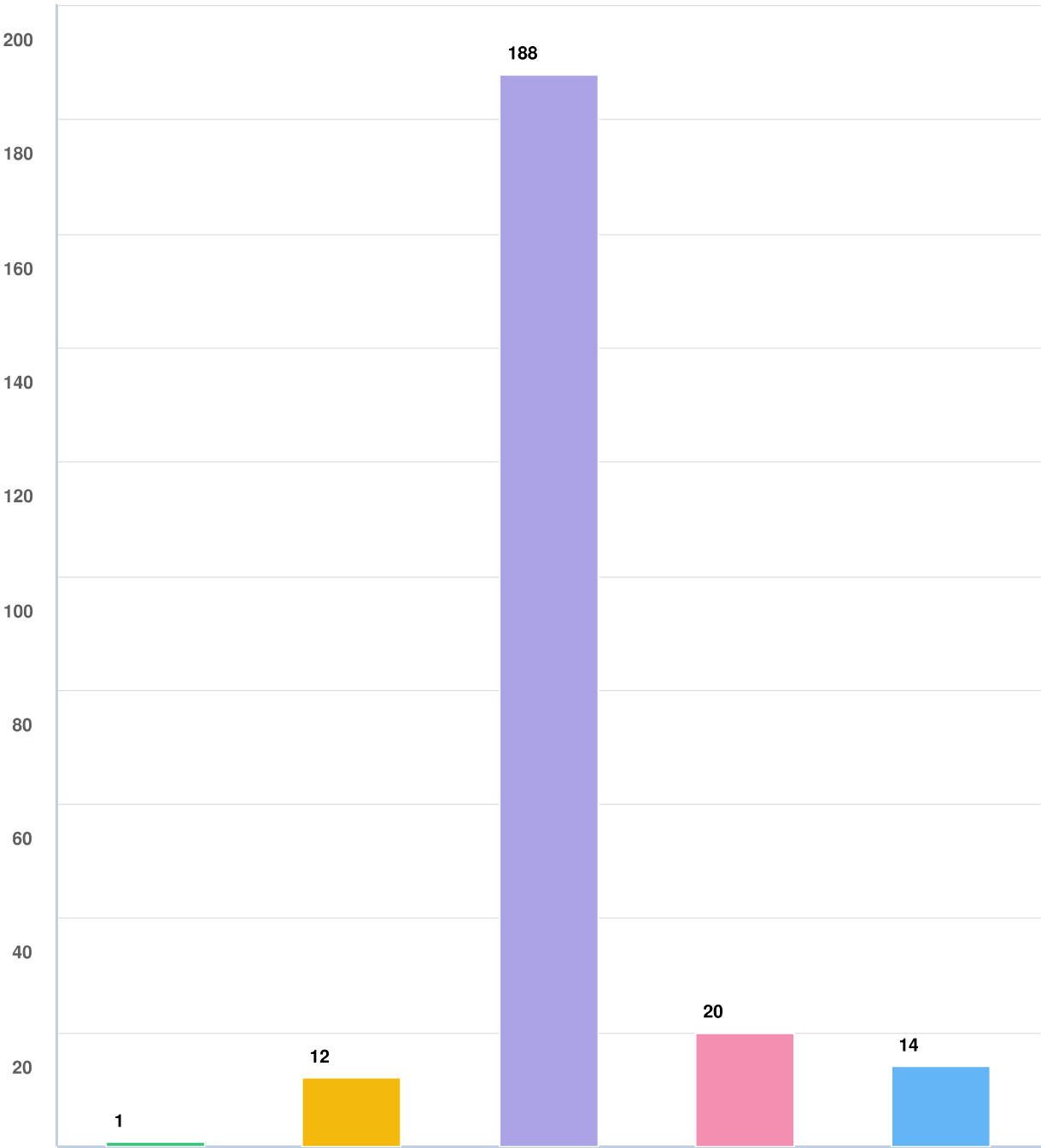
Q39 What is your current housing situation?



Question options
● Rent ● Own ● Prefer not to answer ● Other (please specify)

Optional question (232 response(s), 7 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q40 What best describes your level of education?

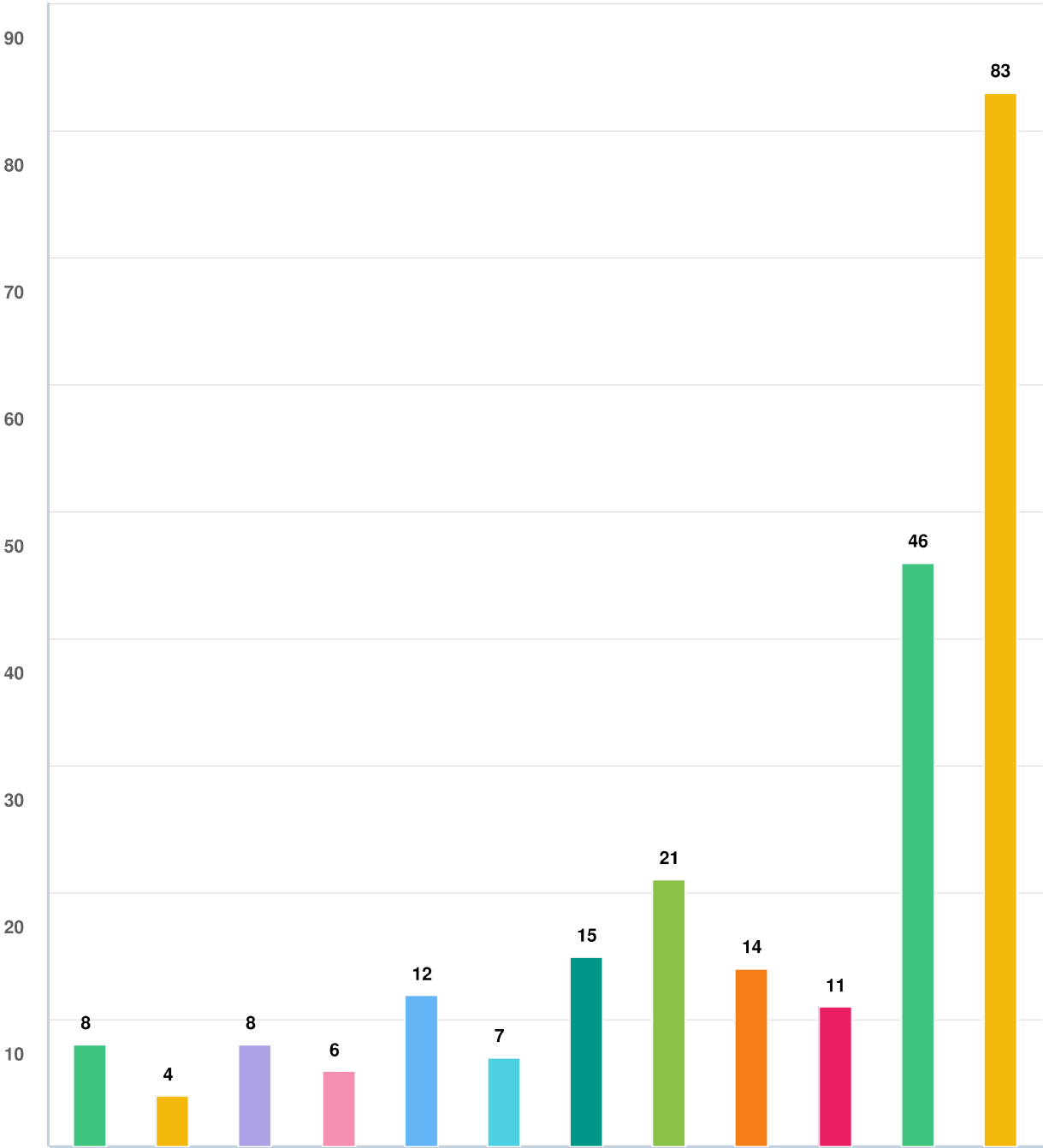


Question options

- No high school diploma or equivalency certificate
- High school diploma or equivalency certificate
- Post-secondary certificate, diploma or degree
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (231 response(s), 8 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q41 What is your income?



Question options

- 0-9.9K 10-19.9K 20-29.9K 30-39.9K 40-49.9K 50-59.9K 60-69.9K 70-79.9K 80-89.9K 90-99.9K 100K+ Prefer not to answer

Optional question (233 response(s), 6 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question