

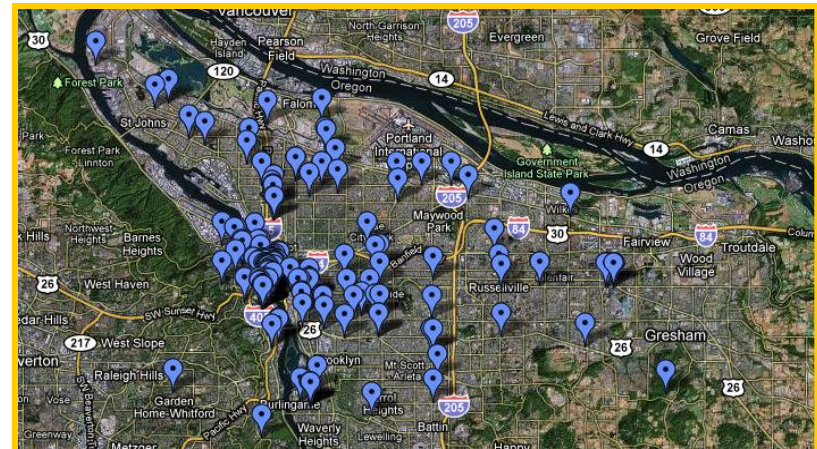
Portland food carts

Twitter Me This: Taco Trucks and Cupcakes- Gentrification, Evolution or Something In Between?
APA 2010—New Orleans/ UCLA/USC: Contesting the Streets Conference May 2010



the food cart scene

- The food cart scene is not new to Portland, just the hype...seen as a very easy market to enter and the regulations are not excessive
- For perspective, in just the past two years there has been a 40% increase in the # of food carts.
 - Today there are well over 450 food carts— from mobile to stationary; concentrated downtown, but growing in our urban neighborhoods
- They provide food choices from every continent and almost every food group
- They have a dedicated website— www.foodcartportland.com, but no organized voice
- Offer interim uses on vacant lots, on underutilized sites, and brownfields in our neighborhoods; locate on surface parking lots downtown.



FOOD CARTS PORTLAND

A Guide to Food Carts in Portland Oregon

HOME ABOUT ADVERTISE CONTACT US AUTHORS



An example of the growth...

Before (2008)...



4 carts

Today...



from 4 to 17.

...an old church in 1984 on Mississippi St.



Today...pegged, the Mississippi Marketplace
anchored by a bar and 10 food carts...likely bedfellows!



Beer and food! Or is it, food then beer!

Alberta Street Main Street



Vacant lot reuse along Alberta



Greeley Street Main Street...brownfield reuse



Property owners advertising for food carts

- St. John's Main Street community in North Portland
 - Designated a State Main Street program last year and property owners are getting on board toward the regeneration of their main street.



Regulatory framework

- Multnomah County food handlers license
- Bureau of Development Services-permit review
- Transportation Bureau— sidewalk vending

City of Portland Oregon • Bureau of Development Services • 1900 SW Fourth Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97201



Commercial Food Establishments 32

OREGON FOOD HANDLER PERMITS
State Certified for All Oregon Counties

Vending Carts on Private Property 31

If you are considering purchasing, installing or using a vending cart, it is important to understand which Building Code and Zoning Code standards may apply. Factors such as the location of the vending cart, the type of vending cart, and the utility services used by the vending cart will determine what Building Codes and Zoning Codes may apply and what permits will be required.

City of Portland

SIDEWALK VENDING CART

Application Packet



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIDEWALK VENDING CART REQUIREMENTS	1
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIDEWALK VENDING CART	3
APPLICATION FOR SIDEWALK VENDING CART PERMIT	4
LETTER OF CONSENT	5
SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDING CARTS	6
DESIGN REQUIREMENTS FOR VENDING CARTS	7
GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS	9
GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE ENDORSEMENT FORM	10

Requirement

- Check requirements with Planning and Zoning. DOT approval required if placement is to be in right-of-way.
- Associated development may require a zoning permit. Site built structures may require a building permit.
- Additional zoning restrictions apply. Check with Planning and Zoning.
- Must meet all requirements of Zoning and Building Codes. Requires a building permit and inspection.
- Regulated by the Zoning Code. Check with Planning and Zoning.
- Requires an electrical permit and inspection.
- Commercial plumbing permits and inspections are required.
- Must have stamps or insignia of approval issued by the State of Oregon.
- Portland Fire Bureau requires an annual permit.
- Sign regulations apply and a sign permit is required.
- Requires approval from the Multnomah County Health Department.

Example of a vending cart positioned in the public right-of-way which requires DOT approval.

VENDING CARTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY - 1

[Se habla Español](#)

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county for 3 years. Food handler cards from other user for this site.

Serving Greater Portland and all Oregon

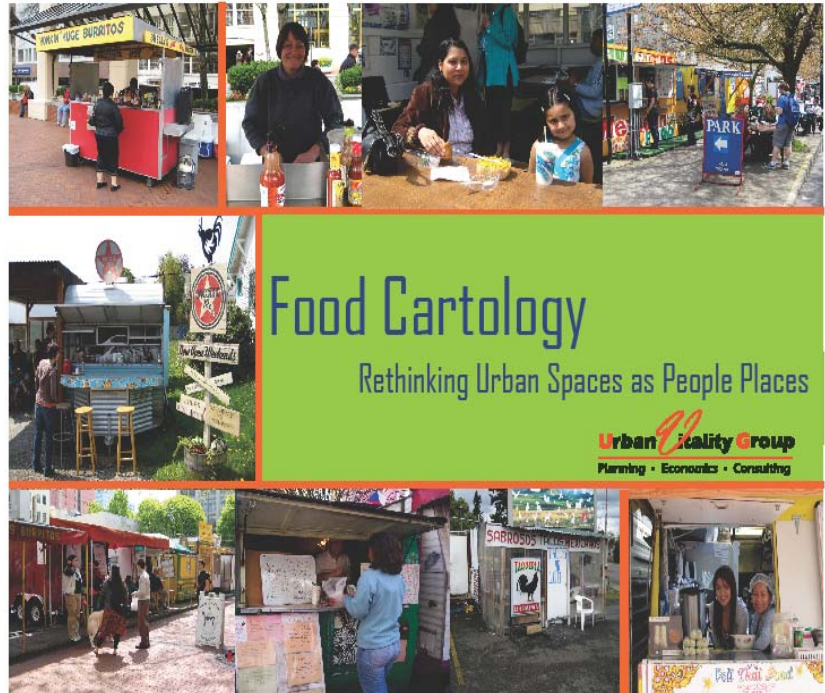
Area cities of recent orFoodHandlers.com Food Handlers

- PORTLAND
- GRESHAM
- TROUTDALE
- VANCOUVER
- FAIRVIEW
- MILWAUKIE
- BEAVERTON
- LAKE OSWEGO
- CORBETT
- TIGARD

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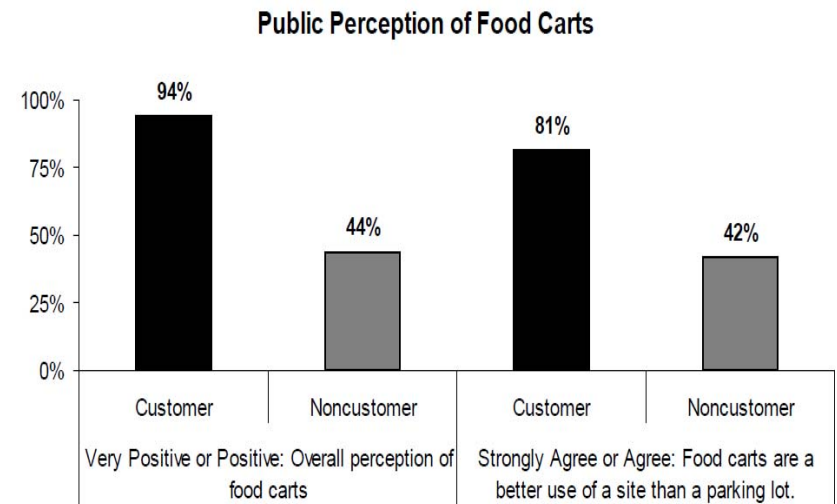
Food Cartology: rethinking urban spaces as people places

- Group of PSU students partnered with the Bureau of Planning:
 - Two issues: study the effects of food carts on street vitality and neighborhood livability and the community economic development role of these food carts
 - Inform the Planning Bureau of the growing industry to include in policy discussions around the Portland Plan



Findings

- Food carts have positive impacts on street vitality and neighborhood life in lower density residential neighborhoods as well as in the high density downtown area.
- When a cluster of carts is located on a private site, the heightened intensity of use can negatively impact the surrounding community, primarily from the lack of trash cans, bathrooms, etc.
- A cart's exterior appearance does not affect social interactions or the public's overall opinion of the carts; seating availability is more important for promoting social interaction than the appearance of the cart's exterior.



Findings (cont)

- The presence of food carts on a site does not appear to hinder its development.
- Food carts represent beneficial employment opportunities because they provide an improved quality of life and promote social interactions between owners and customers.
- Despite the beneficial opportunities that food carts can provide, there are numerous challenges to owning a food cart. While many food cart owners want to open a storefront business, there is a financial leap from a food cart operation to opening a storefront.
- Food cart owners do not frequently access small business development resources available to them, such as bank loans and other forms of assistance.

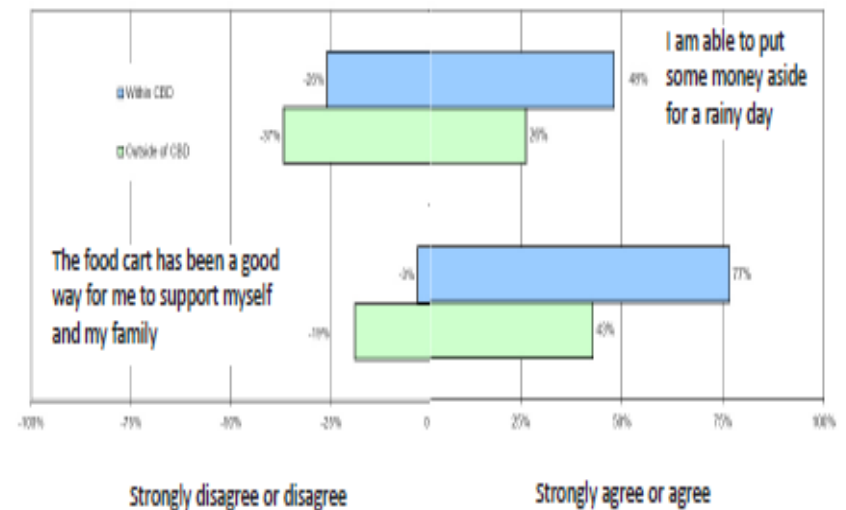
Community economic development

□ Characteristics of Vendors

- Owners of food carts are often minorities and immigrants: Outside of CBD--over half of the food cart vendors are Latino. Greater mix of ethnicities (Latino, Caucasian, and Asian) within the CBD--more than half (51%) of the vendors surveyed were born outside of the US.

□ Financial Success

- Food cart vendors can mostly support themselves and their families: 63% of vendors agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: The food cart has been a good way for me to support myself and my family.
- Approximately half of vendors own a home: 49% of the vendors report owning their own home.
- Several cart owners have other jobs: 19% of respondents reported having an additional year-round job and another 13% have seasonal jobs in addition to the cart.



Recommendations

- Set of recommendations included:
 - Identifying additional locations for food carts--As properties develop the city should be proactive in creating partnerships with developers, public and private property owners, and other organizations
 - Increase awareness of informational resources—connect these micro-entrepreneurs with existing programs--Mercycorp NW, Hacienda CDC, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Portland Development Commission
 - Promote innovative design elements that support food carts-- Street amenities, design regulations for right-of-way push carts

Thank you!

The Food Cartology study could be found at:

www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?a=200738&c=47477

For more information:

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