

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION, INC.
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE**

BUILDING POLICY/PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Amplified Sound Policy & Procedures

POLICY: The use of amplified sound is permitted within USU/SSU facilities, but is restricted in time, place and manner. Event clients must express intent to amplify sound when initiating their reservation. Amplified sound should only be heard within the reserved event space and must not interfere with other scheduled events or the academic mission of the university. Any sound disruptions affecting other events or academic classes may require an adjustment to amplification.

Amplified sound must be approved in advance and must remain below a specified volume level at all times. Public performances with amplified sound shall refrain from the use of foul language.

Special consideration will be given when amplification is requested to assist persons who are hard of hearing.

USU staff shall at all times have complete supervision, direction, and control over amplification at events within USU/SSU facilities. Any client who fails to adhere to this policy may be subject to a loss of privileges to make new reservations for a period of up to one (1) semester. In the event of a second infraction, the client's existing reservations with amplified sound may be subject to cancellation.

Exceptions to this policy may be made by the USU Executive Director/designee.

DEFINITION: Amplified sound is defined as:

- 1) Electronic amplification of any sound by AC or DC power sources
- 2) Mechanical amplification of sound capable of an 85 decibel volume, (i.e., megaphones)
- 3) Percussion instruments capable of a 85 decibel volume, (i.e., drums, cymbals)
- 4) Live musical performances including disc jockey sets

*Recommended by the Facilities & Commercial Services Committee November 10, 2008.
Approved by the USU BOD on December 8, 2008.*

PROCEDURE: Typical guidelines for the use of amplified sound are outlined below.

Parameters for Indoor Events:

The decibel level of any indoor event shall not exceed eighty-five (85) decibels when measured at a distance of thirty (30) feet.

Parameters for Outdoor Events:

Outdoor amplified sound is only permitted in the following areas:

- Plaza del Sol -
- Tototnga Courtyard

The decibel level of any outdoor event shall not exceed ninety (90) decibels when measured at a distance of forty-five (45) feet.

Plaza del Sol

Amplified performances at the Plaza del Sol are limited to three (3) occurrences per each seven (7) day week from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., including sound checks.

Prerecorded background music or voice amplification for public speaking that is minimally amplified is permitted on any weekday and at any time so long as it does not interfere with other scheduled events or the academic mission of the university as determined by USU staff. Amplification of this nature shall not exceed sixty-five (65) decibels when measured at a distance of forty-five (45) feet.

Event Operations Sound Control:

1. Decibel levels will be measured and monitored by USU staff with the use of a decibel meter.
2. If the sound level exceeds the decibel levels described above, a warning will be given to the performance group to lower the volume. No more than one (1) minute will be allowed to lower the volume at or below the maximum specified level.
3. If the sound level exceeds the decibel levels described above for a second time during one event, a second warning will be given to the performance group to lower the volume. One (1) additional minute will be allowed to lower the volume at or below the maximum specified level.
4. Should the volume exceed the decibel levels described above for a third time during one event, the power supply to the sound system will be shut off for the remainder of the event. *This process may damage equipment and that the University Student Union, Inc and/or California State University, Northridge assumes no responsibility for damage or repairs caused by this action.*