

BUSINESS

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

22 September 2017 - 13 November 2024

PROJECT NAME:

Open Air Stats



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | Business Name

mdonnipad
8/28/2024 09:16 AM

[REDACTED]

mdonnipad
8/28/2024 09:57 AM

[REDACTED]

mdonnipad
8/28/2024 10:13 AM

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8/28/2024 10:18 AM

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8/28/2024 10:22 AM

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8/28/2024 10:53 AM

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9/03/2024 09:06 AM

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9/03/2024 12:44 PM

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9/05/2024 03:28 PM

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9/06/2024 10:37 AM

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9/06/2024 02:01 PM

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9/10/2024 09:31 AM

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9/12/2024 09:31 AM

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11/12/2024 02:58 PM

[REDACTED]

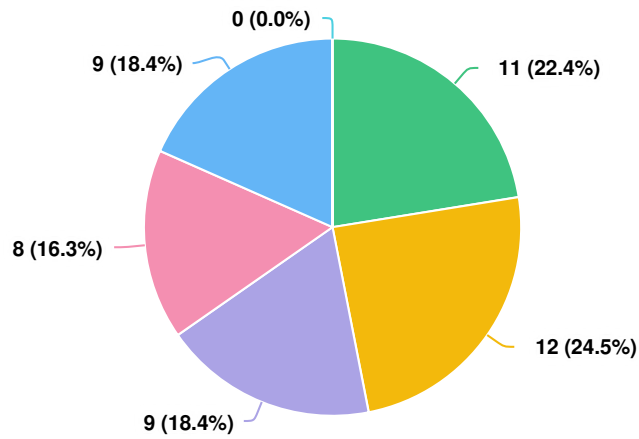
mdonnipad
11/12/2024 03:01 PM

[REDACTED]

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))

Question type: Single Line Question

Q2 | Type of Business

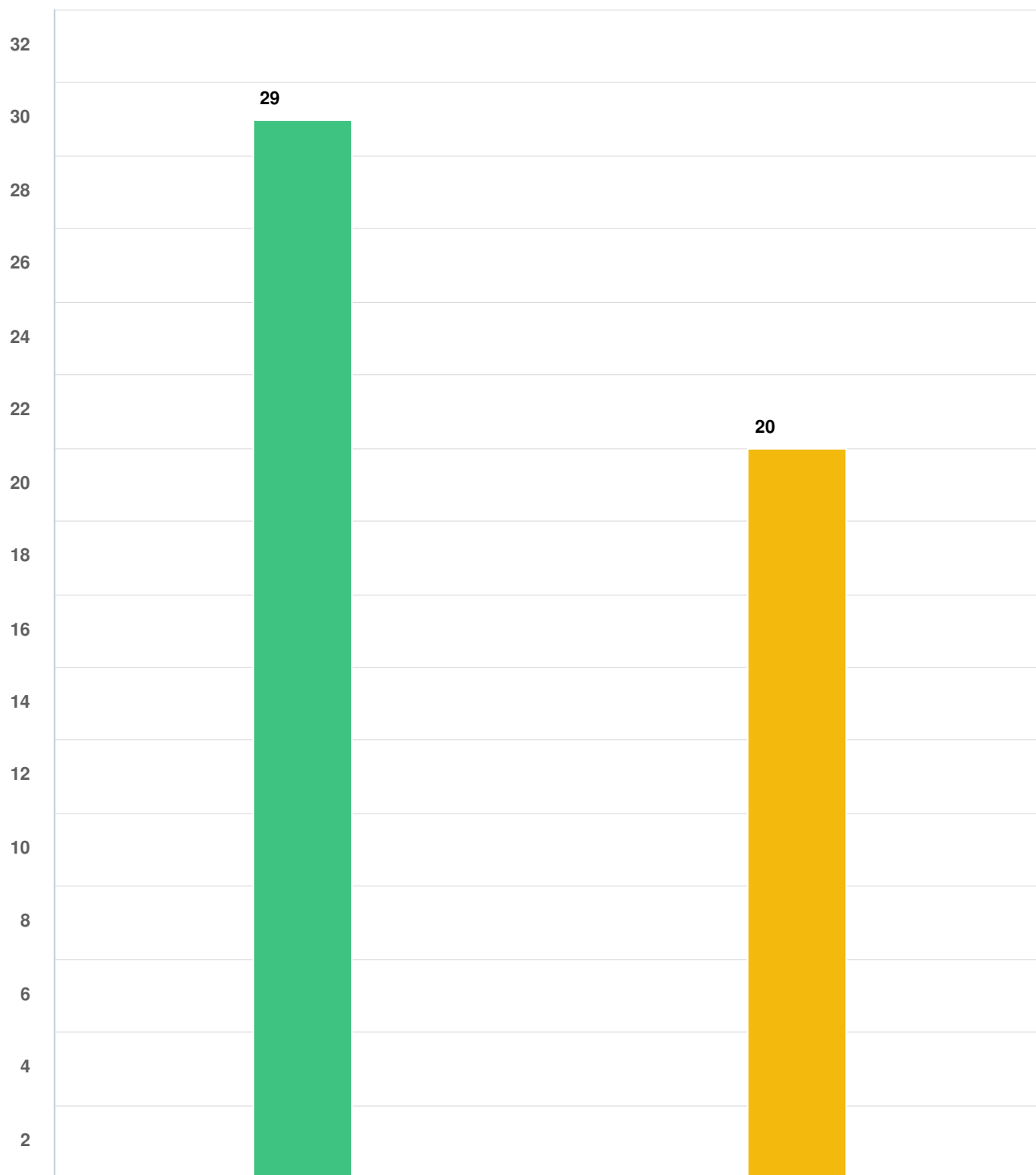


Question options

- Food Service
- Retail
- Personal Services
- Financial/Professional Services
- Other
- Historic Sites

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 Is your business located inside or outside the Open Air street closure area?



Question options

- Inside
- Outside

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 | Contact Name

mdonnipad [REDACTED]
8/28/2024 09:16 AM

mdonnipad [REDACTED]
8/28/2024 09:57 AM

mdonnipad [REDACTED]
8/28/2024 10:13 AM

mdonnipad [REDACTED]
8/28/2024 10:18 AM

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11/12/2024 02:58 PM

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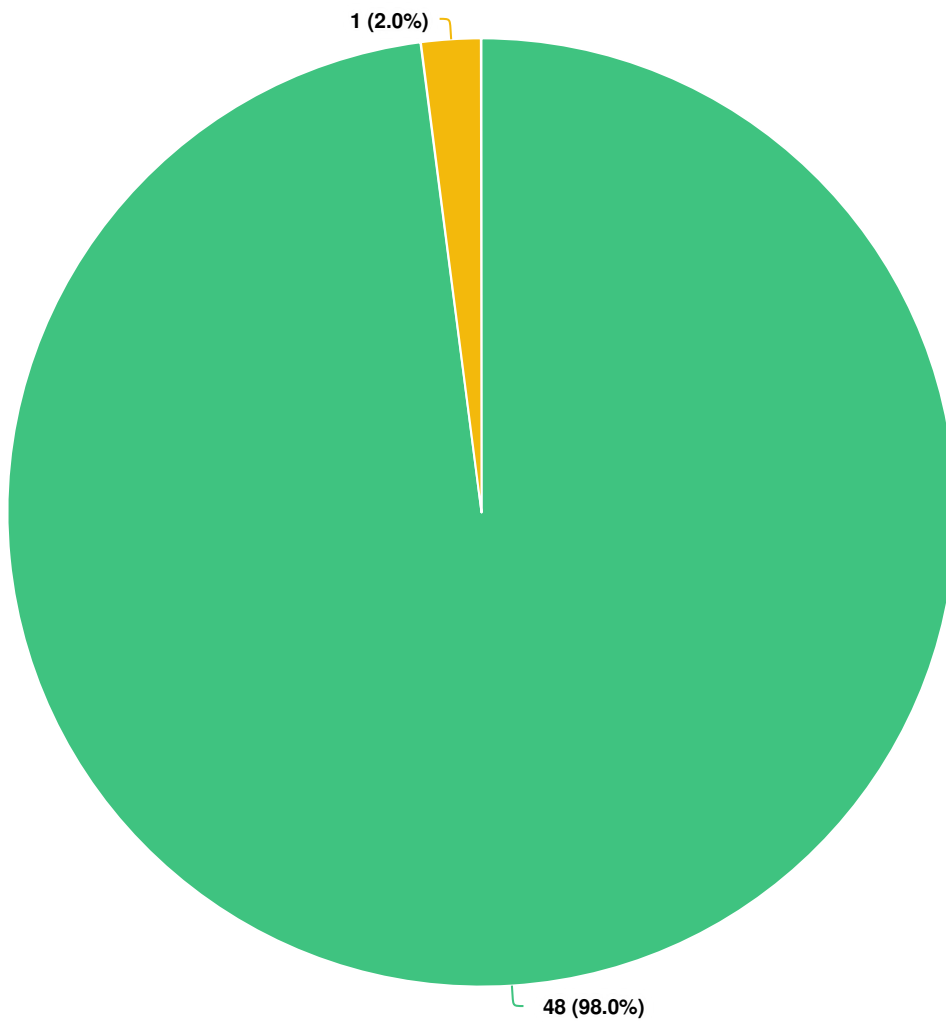
mdonnipad
11/12/2024 03:01 PM

[REDACTED]

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))

Question type: Single Line Question

Q5 | Agreed to complete survey or decline. Please note that information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of th...



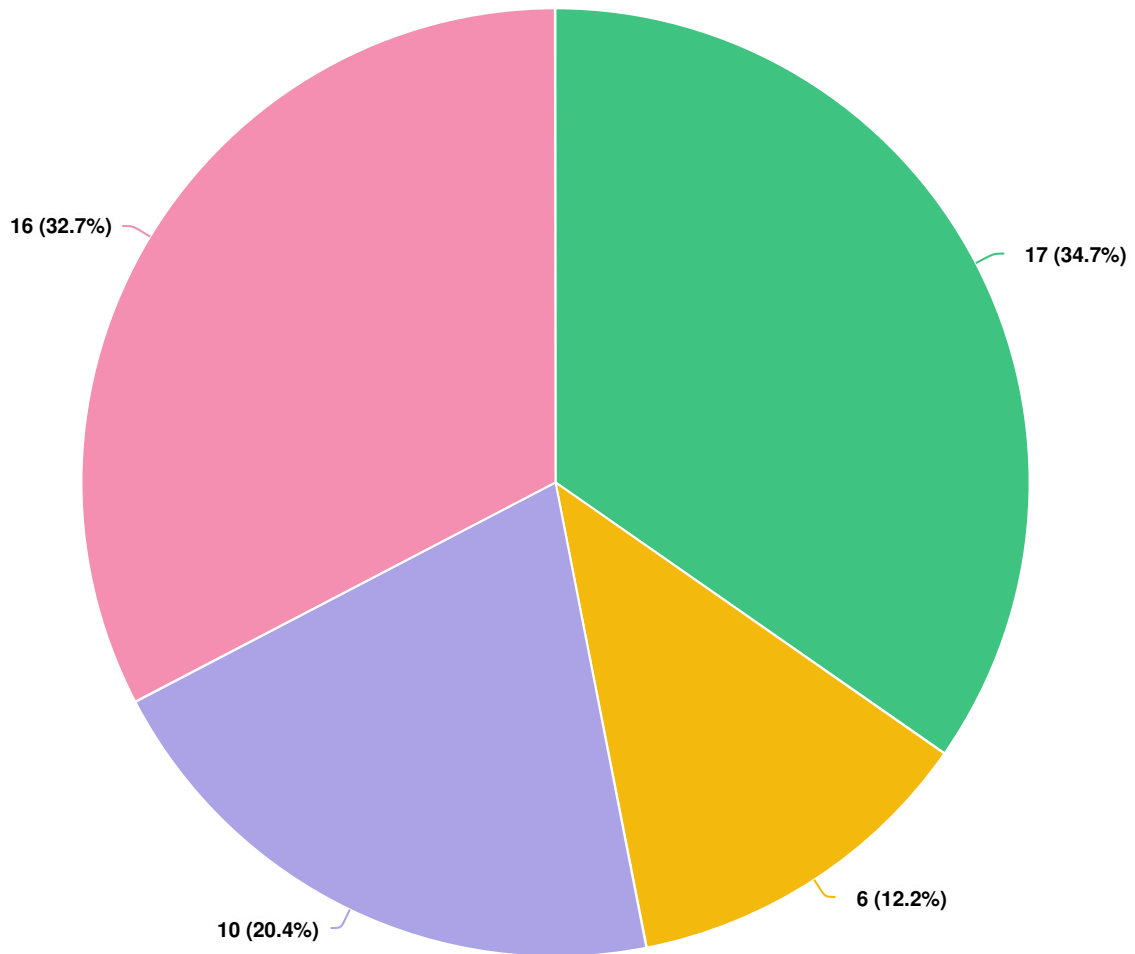
Question options

- Agreed
- Declined

Optional question (49 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q6 | What percentage of time is your business open during Open Air? Open Air's hours of operation are Friday at 5pm to Sunday at 8 pm. (total of 29 hours)

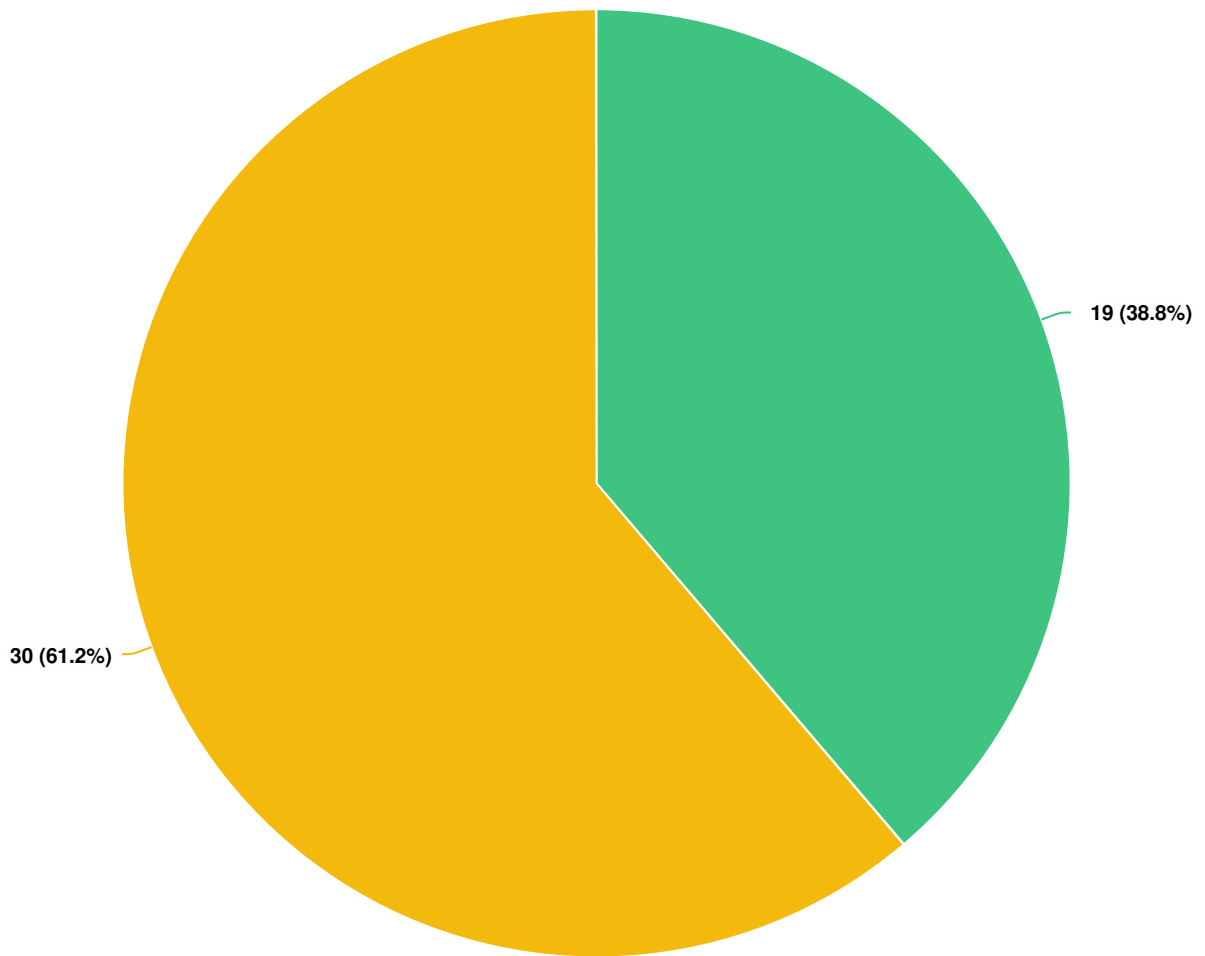


Question options

- 0-25% of the time I'm open
- 25-50%
- 50-75%
- 75-100%

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q7 Did you actively participate in Open Air 2024?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (49 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Dropdown Question*

Q8 | If you answered YES to participating in Open Air, how did you participate?

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 09:16 AM

1. Live music from front of garage during Open Air. 2. Collaborate on other events: Art Crawl, Rib Fest, Amherst Palooza. 3. Sponsor every weekend.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:13 AM

1. Every week watched for the theme & offered/did windows to the theme. 2. Merchandize. 3. Offered indoor specials 4. Gift draw of a local featured artist. 5. Outdoor sales merchandize 6. Extended hours to support open air.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:18 AM

- bought new tables & chairs & umbrellas to provide more space for customers to sit outside and enjoy their bowls and watch the activities happening. - created 10 events doing morning yoga and pilates followed by an acai bowl in the streets.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:22 AM

- bought new tables and chairs for customers to sit outside and enjoy their acai bowl and look at the clothing store and events. - held fashion shows 3xs - yoga or pilates in front of the store 10xs this summer.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:53 AM

Fashion show on the street Selling merchandize

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:56 AM

Yes via fashion show on the street

mdonnipad

8/30/2024 06:25 PM

Put tables outside Musicians

mdonnipad

9/03/2024 09:06 AM

Personally, yes. Business, No. Shop, have dinner, attend market.

mdonnipad

9/04/2024 04:22 PM

I attended

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:01 PM

We place a tent outside to feature products that we want to highlight. We staff the outside + employees engage with passers by about events + new products. We also set up a second tent on Sundays where we do Story Time for kids. Families see this happening + may choose to join as they pass by.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:10 PM

██████████ set up a tent all hours of Open Air. We have featured products displayed. Employees engage with customers about our products and events happening in Amherstburg. Our cotton candy machine swirls every weekend and sweet memories are made.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:20 PM

████████████████████ placed a tent in the street and featured products, and demonstrated through out the season.

mdonnipad

9/10/2024 09:31 AM

We had a booth for awesome A'burg Foundation, selling t-shirts (Awesome A'burg t-shirts) to raise funds & Awareness for the A'burg chapter. We also had a contest for kids for Awesome ideas for Amherstburg & surrounding areas.

mdonnipad

9/11/2024 10:57 AM

██████████ and or associated artists presented an activity on Sundays from 12-2, in a tent set-up by the town, located by the clock tower.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 09:35 AM

Friday Markets

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:57 AM

My business does not participate but I personally participate by going at night with my husband and Friends. My husband, friends and family enjoy going out to dinner at different restaurants and mingle with new friends at different bars and open streets.

mdonnipad

9/25/2024 08:44 AM

We presented performances and taught lessons that the public/community could engage in.

mdonnipad

9/26/2024 02:15 PM

Patio in street Themed specials Live music outdoors Saturdays

mdonnipad

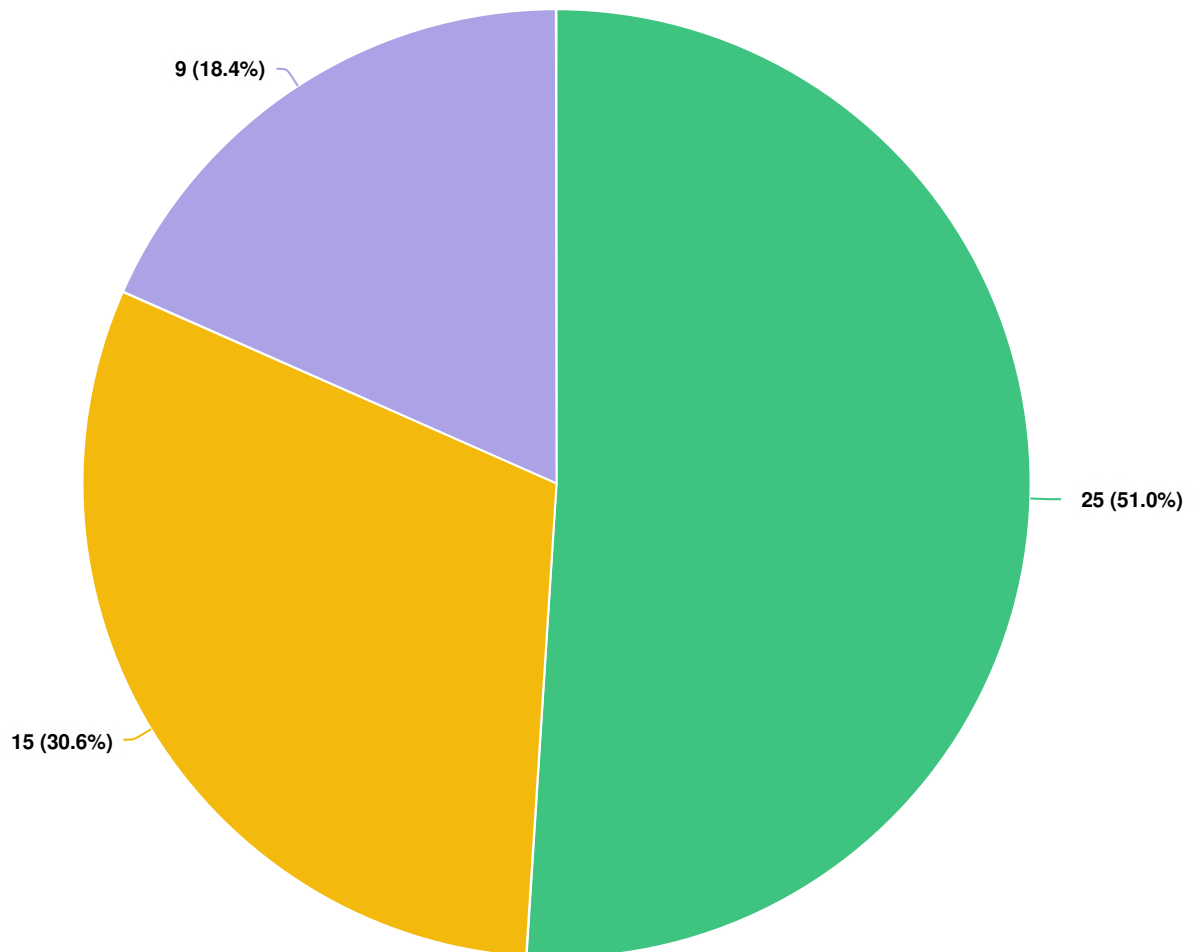
11/12/2024 02:58 PM

We will extend patio tables onto the street allowing patrons the view of 2 of Amherstburg's heritage buildings while they sip and drink and watch the restoration in progress.

Optional question (19 response(s), 31 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q9 Has your business benefitted from Open Air?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- No opinion - my business is not impacted by Open Air

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q10 | If you answered YES to experiencing benefits to Open Air, would you like to share how your business benefited?

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 09:16 AM

Started business in 2022 with 13 students. Since participating in Open Air, we are now at 150 students. With every Open Air weekend, we receive at least 1-2 new students. "Foot traffic is what drives interest". For us, being a goods (products) & services center, lots of our sales occur from Thursday to Sunday. There are no sales from Monday to Wednesday. Music lessons or event space - every Friday, we get at least 1-2 students.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:13 AM

1. Sales either doubled or tripled. 2. New customers. 3. Out of town visitors (75%) during Open Air were from Michigan, Toronto, Ottawa, and other communities.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:18 AM

brings all new faces into the shack

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:22 AM

Brings lots of people to the town and new faces

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:53 AM

"I think the whole town benefits" - All new people - they are enjoying it - its fantastic

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:56 AM

New people "I think the whole town benefits from it" they are enjoying it its fantastic

mdonnipad

8/30/2024 06:25 PM

More traffic flow More business

mdonnipad

8/30/2024 06:50 PM

Open Air allows me to keep doors open. Exposure & foot traffic "on a weekly basis comments on "Oh! I didn't know this was here" No benefit in terms of sales. People are curious & passers by come in.

mdonnipad

8/30/2024 06:54 PM

Passive advertising. Foot traffic along Dalhousie benefits my business. People slow down and have a better chance of seeing my window signage.

mdonnipad

9/03/2024 12:44 PM

More traffic; more business

mdonnipad

9/05/2024 11:45 AM

We notice new faces and foot traffic we might not normally see. But truthfully, we serve repeat customers mainly.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 10:04 AM

I believe on Fridays we do benefit I also believe it hurts us on Sunday

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:01 PM

Open Air brings an increase of foot traffic to our store. We frequently meet new people who have only just discovered the store as they were passing by. See people discover products outside and come in to purchase or look at others.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:10 PM

Open Air brings increased traffic to our store. Both local + out of town customers come in every weekend who have come just for the first time. We also see a lot of customers that come back from the Open Air experience.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:20 PM

Open Air brought increased traffic to our store. This increased exposure brought new customers.

mdonnipad

9/10/2024 09:31 AM

Great exposure for Awesome A'burg chapter which our [REDACTED] & Design company sponsors. We gather a lot of awesome ideas from kids and raised some funds for the chapter.

mdonnipad

9/11/2024 10:57 AM

The gallery benefitted in a minimal way from the exposure to the public from our presence and the related signage. Very few, of the few people that stopped by at the tent, made their way over to the gallery on Richmond.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 09:31 AM

Town recognition and brand recognition through people visiting during Open Air.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 10:30 AM

Guests who stayed during Open Air reported even greater satisfaction with their impressions of Amherstburg. Return guests had hopes Open Air would still be available. New guests had added that impressed them. It was a great show case for Amherstburg.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 03:49 PM

Advertising for Open Air has benefitted our business. Having newspaper pick up locations inside the open air footprint has increased our readership.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:15 AM

More street and foot traffic More people are able to see our store front

mdonnipad

9/25/2024 08:44 AM

We met potential students. Inspired people and encouraged others to consider [REDACTED] as a means of exercise and artistic expression and dance training.

mdonnipad

9/26/2024 02:15 PM

Increased customers Increase daily sales Increase in staffing increase in our brand

mdonnipad

11/12/2024 02:58 PM

We have already experienced benefits as a result of so many people coming into town and walking past our building. We are continuously getting emails stating that they saw us while at Open Air.

mdonnipad

11/12/2024 03:01 PM

- People have come into my business that didn't know we existed. - Brand recognized

Optional question (25 response(s), 25 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q11 | If you answered NO to experiencing benefits from Open Air, would you like to share why?

mdonnipad

9/04/2024 04:22 PM

No benefit.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 09:45 AM

Extreme decrease in parking causes a "huge" issue to my customers. Especially "mature ones". "Senior" Saturdays my businesses revenue cut in more than 1/2.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 12:03 PM

Open Air greatly reduces traffic to my business, takes parking and reduces my profit by more than 50% compared to weekends the streets are open.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 04:00 PM

We are a retail store with a large outdoor garden area selling metal art, outdoor furniture and garden decor not being easily accessible has hurt are ability to sell these large items as people do not want to carry items far. Also little to "no people" on a Saturday or Sunday during most business hours, this is a huge decrease since Open Air began. We were much busier before. We don't understand how games on roads and brining in vendors to sell products is beneficial to any business. We have baked goods, clothes, etc. operating in a store front. We have heard from many locals who tell us they do not come downtown from Friday till Sunday Night because "No Parking" too much hassel to get around down here.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:46 AM

To be honest the only feedback we typically get is that our customers don't come downtown as often on the weekends due to lack of parking and the inability to drive through our downtown. The hot rod car enthusiasts and motorcycle groups have stopped coming entirely. I understand this might only pertain to our business, but a loss is a loss. We have built our customer base for 45 years and don't enjoy hearing from them that they don't come anymore. The irony is that I'm confident that you all already know this because I have shared my concerns for the past 4 years. You're still asking the same questions and the answers remain the same and so does the open air frequency. So many businesses in the footprint are closed by 5 pm or 6 pm on Sundays with literally nothing going on, but we are locked out of downtown until 8 pm??? Any knowledgeable business person would know this is non-sensical yet you are still doing this to us. Shameful! Have you ever heard of drive by impulse buying? That is gone now too.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:57 AM

My business doesn't benefit. I am a service business. It affects my business in a negative way by 2-3 pm on Fridays because my clients start to panic if their cars might get towed away. Saturdays my salon opens at 8 am therefore the clients have to walk a further distance. But by looking around at that time. The streets seem to be very empty "I feel that the Open Air is a Famous Idea as far as at Night" But during the day, Open Air is not for everyone or every business. The only business that benefit is "Bars and Restaurants"

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 10:06 AM

I have been here a long time, I am reservation based with my own parking and patio space. My customers complain it is hard to get into my parking lot during Open Air. Others take my parking, this was never the case before Open Air.

mdonnipad

Decreased business because of constant business of open air, open

9/17/2024 10:17 AM

air clients are taking our parking spaces around salon areas.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 11:56 AM

Most clients refuse weekend appointments due to lack of parking - we don't accept walk-in appointments - people come to eat and shop (if anything), not to get their hair done

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:01 PM

We are busy with or without open air

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:11 PM

1. Difficult Parking 2. Senior difficulties with heavy foot traffic 3. Increased risk of accidents due to disruptions i.e. banging on windows i.e. basketball or cornhole games

mdonnipad

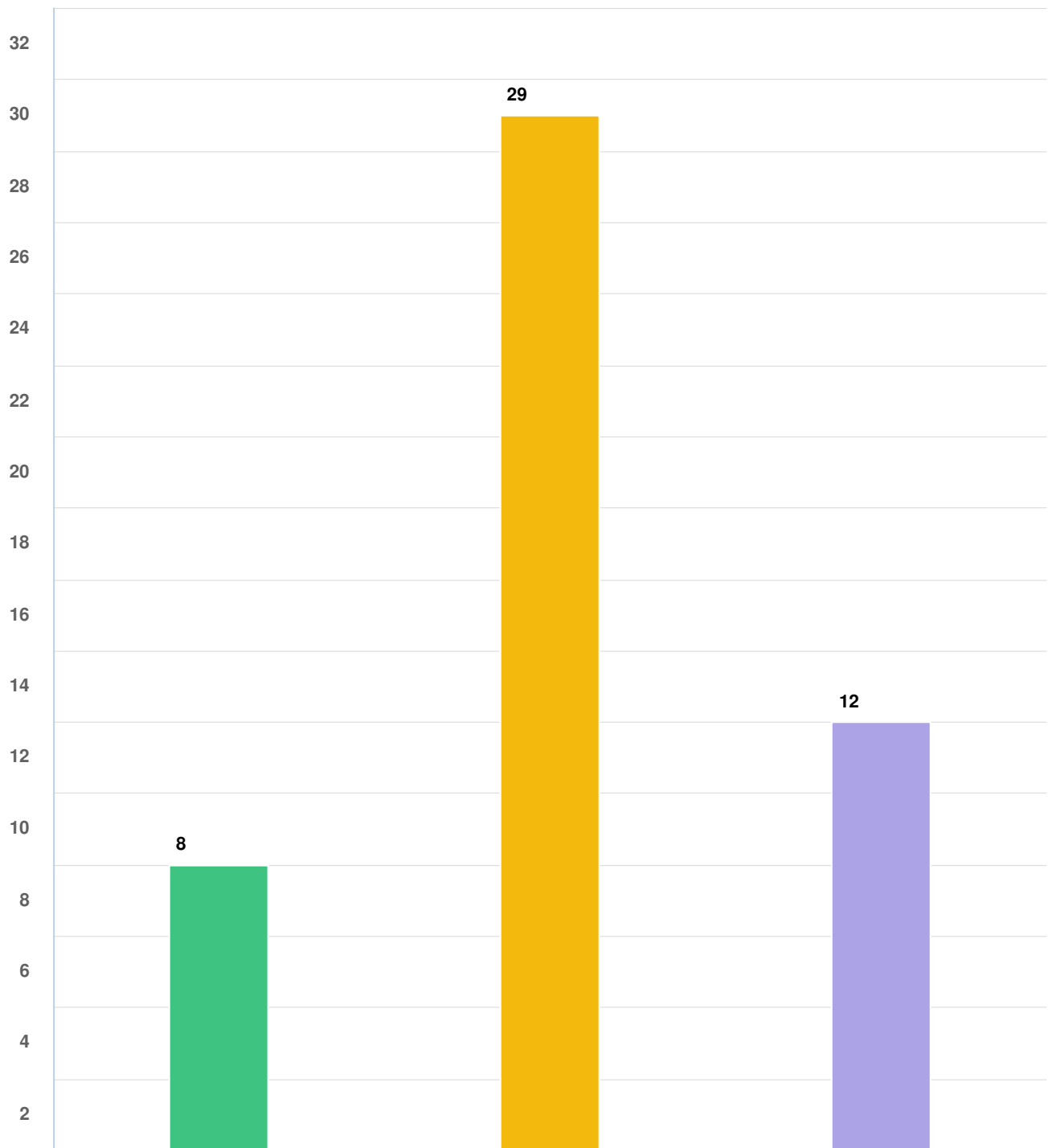
9/17/2024 12:23 PM

We have a banquet hall that is available all weekends - any food and supplies need to be catered - street closure - no access

Optional question (12 response(s), 38 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q12 | Do your staff levels fluctuate during Open Air hours?

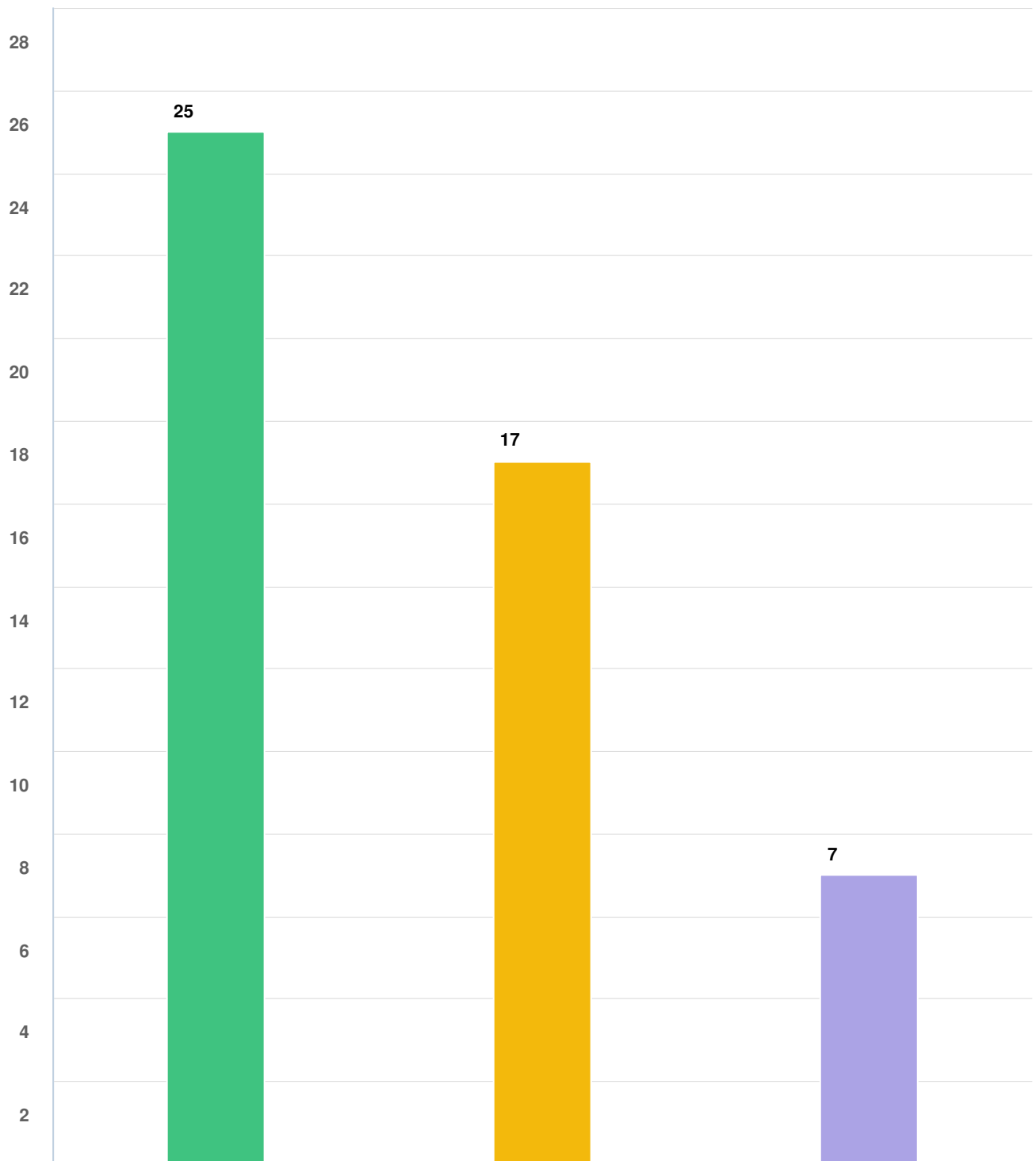


Question options

- My staff levels are decreased during Open Air hours
- My staff levels remain the same during Open Air hours
- My staff levels are increased during Open Air hours

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q13 From your businesses' perspective, do you like the current Open Air Footprint?

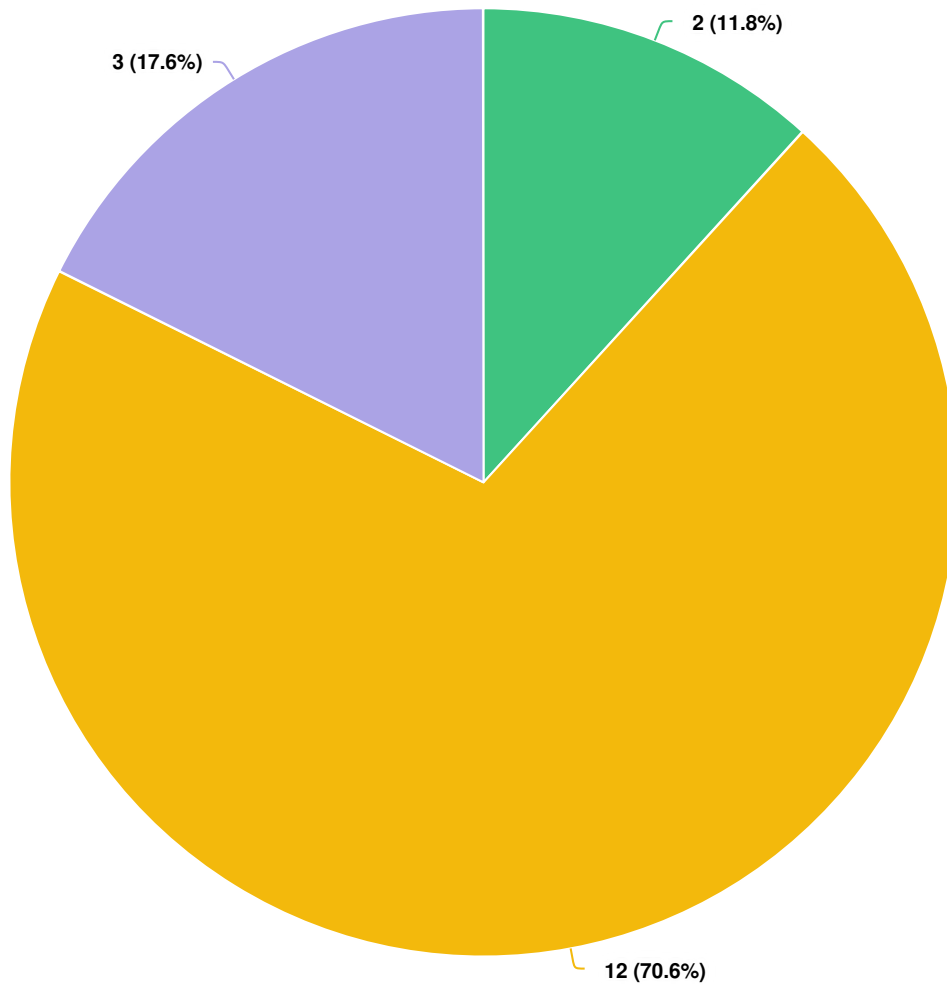


Question options

- Yes
- No
- No opinion - My business is not impacted by Open Air

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q14 | If you answered NO to liking the Open Air Footprint, how would you like to see it changed.



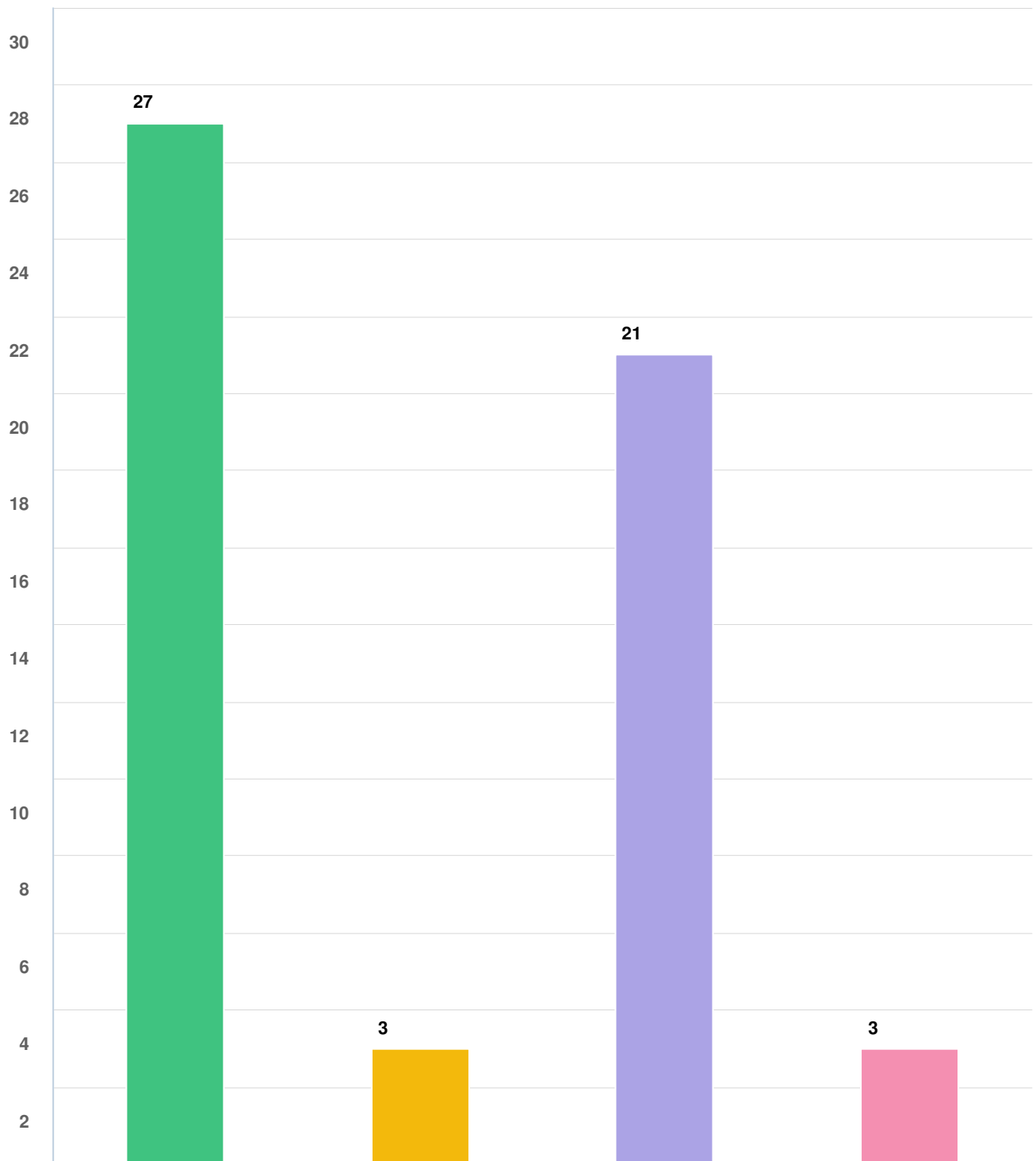
Question options

- Decrease the footprint
- No Open Air road closures
- Increase the footprint

Optional question (17 response(s), 33 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

Q15 From your businesses' perspective, how often should Open Air take place?

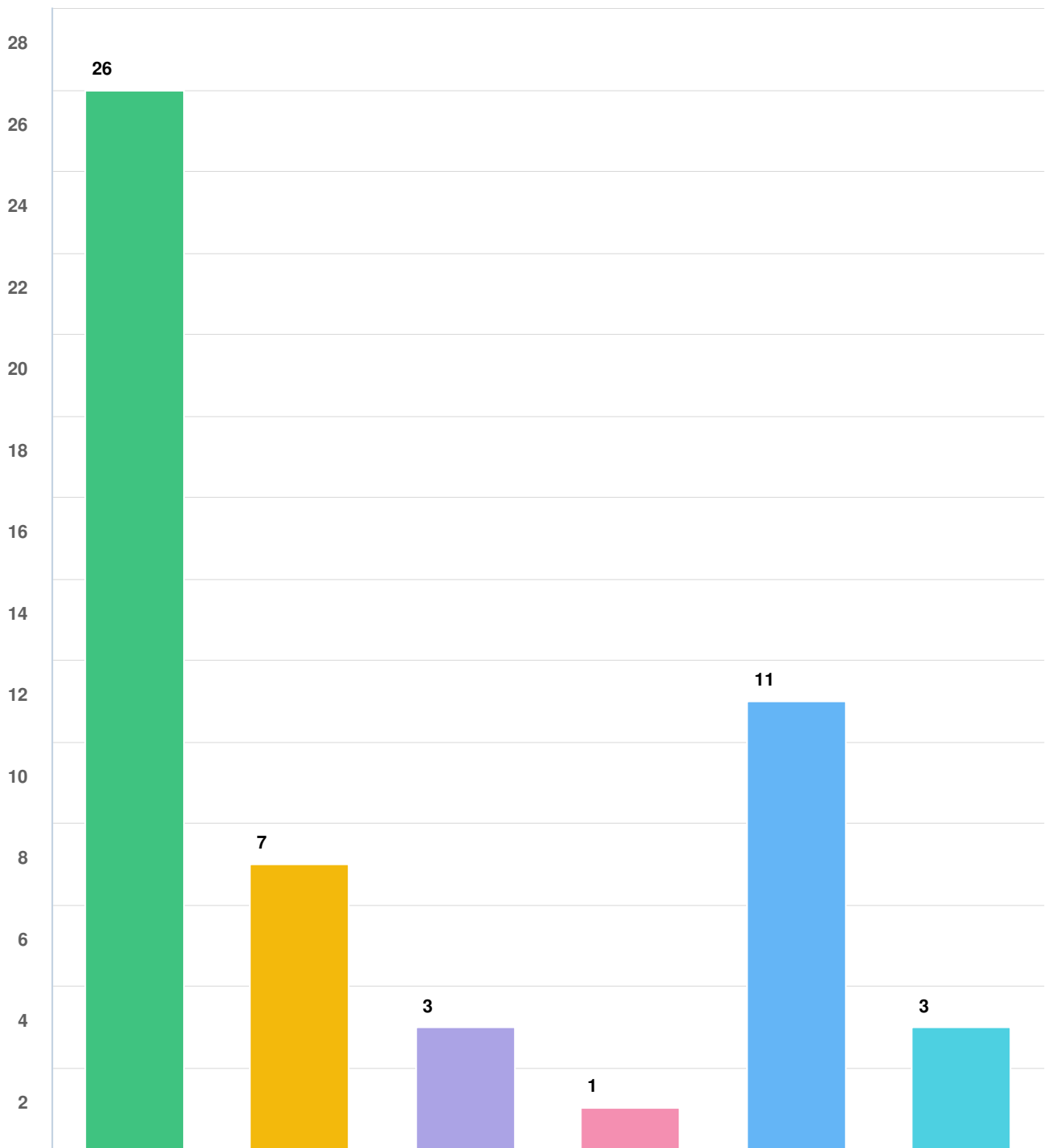


Question options

- Every Weekend
- Every Other Weekend
- Once a Month
- Never

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q16 As a business owner, what hours of operation are best for Open Air Weekends?

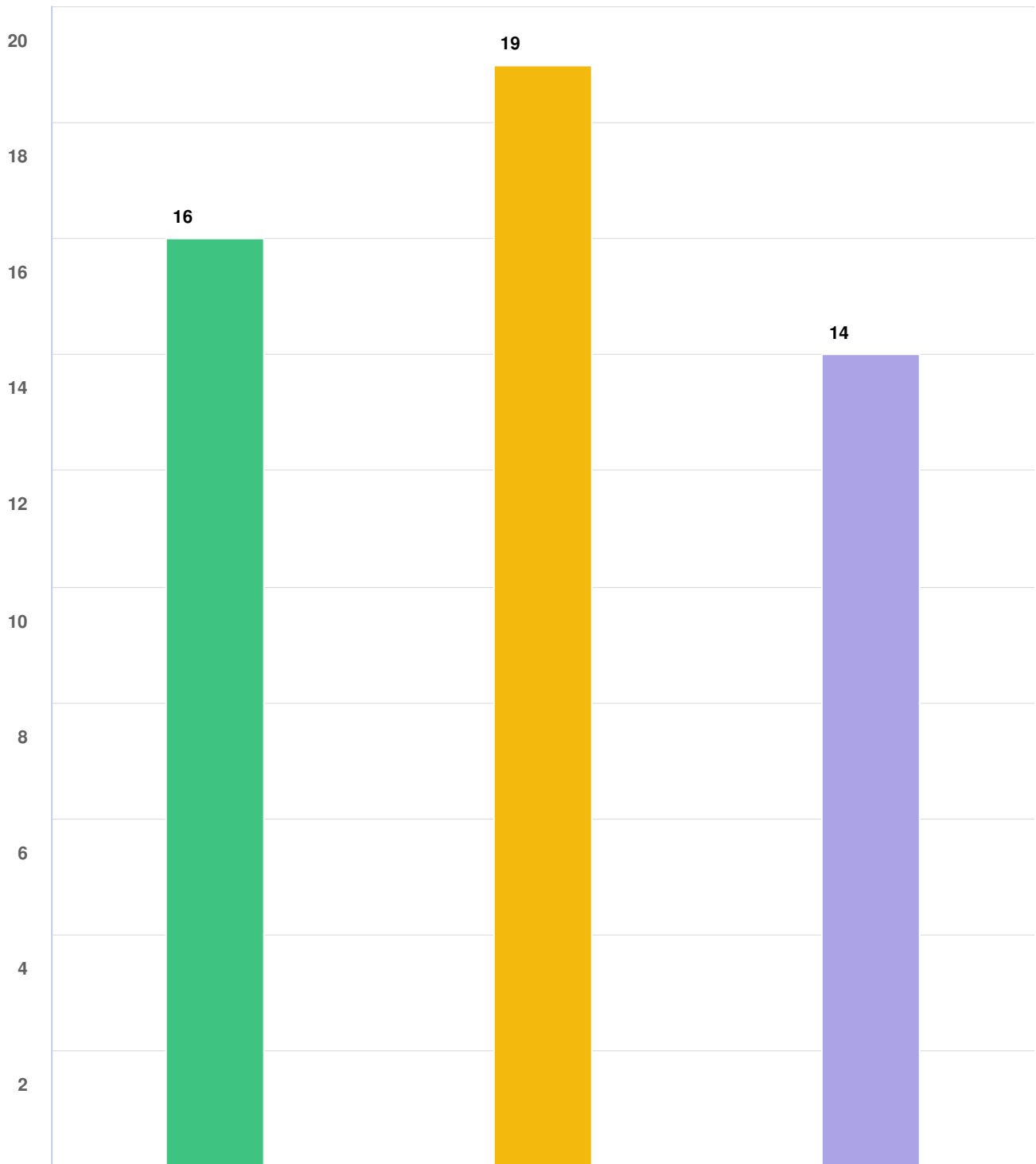


Question options

- Friday 3:00 PM through Sunday
- Saturday & Sunday
- Friday 3:00 PM & Saturday
- Friday, only
- Saturday, only
- Sunday, only

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q17 | If Open Air reduced frequency or did not exist, would your business see a decrease in traffic?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- My business is not affected by Open Air

Mandatory Question (49 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q18 | Any other comments.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 09:16 AM

"We probably would not exist without Open Air". Strongly support expanding the footprint: All business owners work together & we do well because we promote each other. Regarding increased hours at the store during Open Air: For events especially, it was owner operated before, now, 3 part-time employees adding a total of approximately 60 hours per week. This is individuals hired to manage and organize the storefront while 7 subcontractors teach at the location.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 09:57 AM

"By-law officers are harassing customers from 2 pm onwards." - Generally, people are coming to a festival or coming to enjoy festivities not for a haircut. - Older clients have a hard time walking to the store. His hours are impacted by OA negatively and he closes early now. He used to be open until 3 pm on Saturday and now only until 12 pm. And he's by appointment only. He's okay with open air as long as its busy and activities are taking place. He thinks there's nothing going on and the streets are closed for no reason. He's not against open air. "I need to see money spent on good entertainment ALL DAY & I'd like to see food trucks down here. Because these restaurants cannot serve the needs of a crowd. Need wineries out here to have good entertainment & to hang out. Bring buskers down here to entertain people Saturday/Sunday. Save the kid entertainment for Sunday family day. Friday/Saturday is your 40 somethings to come down and spend money on food and drink. Footprint is good: have the businesses pay for entertainment if they are benefitting from it.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:13 AM

Amherstburg has become a destination because of Open Air. People are looking for houses and wanting to move here. Amherstburg is attracting other businesses. Exploring business opportunities, which would add to the tax base. Housing; Business Expansion. - gives opportunities to artists & musicians; whole families would come - very multicultural this year - all had pop corn and ice cream when they walked in the store - a chain like beaver tails must've done their home work to come here. - nobody ever complained or mentioned parking.

mdonnipad

8/28/2024 10:53 AM

Open Air should be Every Weekend - "You do it or don't do it" - If it weren't for open air, I wouldn't be open on Sundays. Wouldn't have the traffic from outside town. - "We love everything this town is doing." - We're supporting everything the Town's doing

mdonnipad
8/30/2024 06:25 PM

"Do not stop Open Air"

mdonnipad
8/30/2024 06:50 PM

Its great for businesses at open air Make it less frequent and more of a draw, headlining act, draw more entertainers for residents, they'll come once and be done; appreciate the foot traffic, customer retention of residents, keep them engaged.

mdonnipad
9/03/2024 09:06 AM

We love Open Air. Have never had an issue finding a parking spot. Keep it going! - [REDACTED]

mdonnipad
9/03/2024 12:44 PM

We both LOVE what Amherstburg is doing for this downtown core. Keep it going and growing.

mdonnipad
9/04/2024 04:22 PM

Too many, so its not anticipated and not well attended.

mdonnipad
9/04/2024 04:24 PM

Amherstburg is a great Town. Let's keep it going!

mdonnipad
9/05/2024 11:45 AM

"Slightly" We love the vibrancy Open Air brings to our core but we also want all businesses to flourish and respect that others maybe negatively affected. Perhaps if we slightly reduce frequency but enrich programming further we can find a happy medium to keep the streets full, fun and active.

mdonnipad
9/05/2024 03:28 PM

- Parking Issues - Discriminates against persons with mobility limitations

mdonnipad
9/06/2024 10:04 AM

I think you are doing a wonderful job with the various activities. Keep up the good work.

mdonnipad
9/06/2024 10:37 AM

Have not seen increase or decrease in my business activity, but being located in the area does provide good exposure.

mdonnipad
9/06/2024 02:01 PM

Yes, we increase staffing during Open Air hours so that staff can engage with customers outside and offer customer service outside. The Friday Night Markets were successful in bringing more people downtown. I suggest expanding them with more vendors or changing

up vendors.

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:10 PM

Yes, our staff hours are increased for extended hours, increased customer service and special event activities. [REDACTED] loved the Friday Night Markets. Increased traffic customer engagement and overall atmosphere!

mdonnipad

9/06/2024 02:20 PM

Yes, we increase staff levels for extended hours and outdoor customer service. The night market on Friday evenings definitely increased traffic - great feature.

mdonnipad

9/10/2024 09:31 AM

Open Air is Awesome. We met a lot of people, out of town & local.

mdonnipad

9/11/2024 10:57 AM

[REDACTED] would need to reconsider our participation if no Open Air sponsor stepped forward.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 09:31 AM

I enjoy Open Air personally. I like that my kids are safe in the enclosed area to run around while we have a meal or drink or ice cream.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 09:45 AM

Once a month (themed popular event) Fri-Sun. Or if every weekend May-Sept, Sat at 3 or 4 pm to Sun. That is fair for all businesses in the downtown core.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 10:30 AM

Open Air is a signature tourist draw + could impact start earlier & go longer to link with uncommon festival. Guests have commented disappoint that their stay will not include the experience after labour day. It is also a wonderful community attraction for local citizens to meet. Being present at the event you can experience sheer JOY. These businesses who do not participate have the opportunity to think outside the box on how to adjust their business plan. To attract customers. Some who object and are outside the footprint have had no noticeable decrease in their customers from my observation. It is also a family experience for children to come down + enjoy the activities. The entertainment variety meets several genres + people have comments. Musicland attracts all ages. People bring their own chairs + create a great audience. People get to meet new friends + dogs parade through as a side entertainment. - also my guests & pets have a place to eat with their pets. That is a big plus for our businesses. - It allows restaurants to secure revenue streams to

survive lower tourist months & keep businesses open + thrive. It also attracts new businesses.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 12:03 PM

Street closures should only take place for events such as Canada Day, Car show, and Uncommon Festival.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 03:37 PM

Although my business is not affected by Open Streets, myself and my staff do really enjoy attending (usually on Fridays after 5PM) to patronize the businesses that do participate and to enjoy the various entertainment and social activities.

mdonnipad

9/12/2024 04:00 PM

We feel strongly about this street closing every weekend and feel it would be way better attended if it occurred once a month with the addition of more parking, and going all out on those weekends with lots of activities going on and would be a willing participant. Also better signage on Sandwich St. indicating there is a shopping area down here, we hear from many customers, tourists that they have driven through our beautiful town many times and were unaware of all this parks, restaurants, shops, waterfront were down here. Hopefully, you will listen to our input as we don't know how much longer we can do this with the Open Air closure, we rely on our summer business to get through the winter.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:46 AM

I understand that many of you think Open Air is the best thing ever and "still hasn't reached its full potential". I don't know how many businesses you want to see suffer for this idea to come to fruition. We are here 7 days a week from 9 am - 10 pm, we were here before Open Air and hope to be here long after. We can tell you first hand that Open Air is busy the first 2 weekends (weather permitting) then loses its allure quickly. Open Air is busiest after 5 pm on Saturdays and some Fridays. In speaking with vendors on Friday nights, their sales occur mostly between 7 pm - 9 pm... they set up at 3 pm to be busy at 7 pm? Maybe this is why some of the vendors do not even show up. Last weekend there were 6 vendors out of 15. Our end of the street is exponentially better than when it was closed at Rankin but I will forever be baffled as why you let this event hurt the hairdressers and a few others, and yet you still do it all weekend. It's shameful on so many levels. Amherstburg has historically been known for its amazing festivals. It would make sense to have open air attached to a festival. Stop hoping that it will grow while playing Russian Roulette with other people's livelihoods. We're 4 years in and there are so many ways to make it work. I'm saddened that after all this time we're still begging for actual consideration... not a compromise, actual consideration. A solution that doesn't hinder

some businesses... the ones that were here long before the trendy ones that require street closures to be successful. I hope this open house meeting and new set of surveys will prompt you to have some empathy and intelligence in making decisions regarding Open Air. Thank you for your consideration. [REDACTED]

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 09:57 AM

During covid, that was a great idea but I do believe now its just too much, just Saturday or once a month is efficient.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 10:17 AM

Every weekend is too much for Open Air. It is not busy enough. Clients have told us they are actually boycotting the downtown area because its inconvenient to find parking to get down there, older clients and handicapped are finding it very inconvenient. Therefore, the downtown businesses are actually losing business. From a salon perspective, Saturdays are extremely busy and its not fair their business can't be accessed during the day as are resident who lives in the downtown area. it is very unfair for every weekend for us not to be able to access everything and the constant parking problem around our downtown roads. If you look at when the streets are open, everyone can access everything and its very busy. There is no need to close the roads. Most times if you look at pictures throughout the weekend it is definitely not busy enough to close every weekend. Also most businesses, shopping mostly is not open after 6 pm so only restaurants are benefitting. What is the point? To only eat?

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 11:56 AM

We feel as though some businesses are profiting at other businesses expense. - extremely frustrating feeling as though our voices aren't being heard. - parking is our biggest issue. We've had clients with accessibility issues who can't find parking. - our by-law officers are extremely rude and disrespectful to our staff and clients. - we have staff who no longer work weekends due to open air. - clients don't want to come during open air because they can't find parking - we lose money every weekend of open air so that others can have a beer in the street - why do we as tax payers have to fund open air? If these businesses want it to happen THEY should have to pay for it. - the residents should have a say just as much as business owners - multiple times we've seen the musicians playing to no one, and our tax dollars are paying for that - this was created during covid, when the restaurants couldn't have customers inside. Now, customers eat at the outside tables meanwhile no one is inside. - stop trying to count number of people attending - it is not accurate and never will be. People live here, have guests here, work here, and come down for reasons other than open air. - we pay thousands annually to maintain our park and waterfront - why close access? Why not add picnic tables, restaurants offer take out specials, no closed streets

needed. Mayor Prue and Amherstburg Councillors, I would like to give you some insight from a business who does NOT profit from Open Air, but yet struggles due to open air. We opened our business in December of 2020. Being a non-essential service, we were forced to close for more than 3 months prior to our opening, and then again 2 weeks after our Grand Opening. We were once again able to open up, only to be shut down 6 weeks later for another 3 months. It was a struggle to say the least. In comes Open Air, our next big hurdle. Solely for the profit of the bars, restaurants, ice cream, and retail shops who were allowed to stay open and continue making money during every one of these lockdowns. During the Open Air weekends, streets are closed, our EXTREME lack of parking is even more lacking, and many of our clients refuse to come in for this reason. Half of our stylists no longer work weekends because they no longer have the business they once did. In our first year of business, which was the second year of Open Air, we had attended a meeting with all downtown business owners and the Tourism Committee to discuss timing and footprints of Open Air. It was very clear to us that roughly 50% of the downtown businesses also were not in favour of hosting Open Air weekends. Because of this, times and footprints were adjusted slightly as a way to create fairness for all. Somehow in the Summer of 2022, these notes had been forgotten and everything went back to exactly the way it was run in the first year, but with a slightly different and much more dangerous footprint. It was a complete disregard for those of us who simply pleaded with the creators to stop taking more of our business away. Is this the type of "support" we are to assume we will always get from the Town of Amherstburg? Also in regards to support, we'd like to bring to your attention that our clients have been disrespected during Open Air by our Bylaw Officer on more than one occasion. Some people who visit our salon actually do not live in Amherstburg, do not know about Open Air and street closures at certain times, and cannot see the tiny signs posted far away from parking spots. A couple of our clients have accidentally parked in spots that were to be closed at 3 pm past that time. One time in particular, a Windsor Police Officer called our client to inform them that they needed to move. Instead of coming into the salon where they already had foot patrol. Is this what our tax dollars go to? Harassing people about where they've parked to close the street at 3 pm so one person can walk down the middle of the street as opposed to the sidewalks? On another occasion, our client left the salon to move her vehicle, and the bylaw officer yelled across the street to her "You got lucky!". How incredibly embarrassing for us and for our guest. I can't imagine she'd want to visit us or the town again. Another fine example of the "support" we receive from our town. We find it incredibly difficult to fully support Open Air weekends and the current number of days and hours and the footprint in which it occurs. We have witnessed countless beautiful, warm, sunny days where the streets are closed and completely bare of

patrons at multiple times during the day. Almost all early morning hours, MANY lunch hours, and even many dinner hours have proven to us that the event is not gaining the traction some may think it does. We have taken countless videos and photos of these beautiful summer days as proof that Open Air is already overdone. I'd like to also address the "statistics" that have recently been brought to light in regards to Open Air. It is stated that 122,020 people have visited our downtown core specifically for Open Air. And according to these calculations, the supposed Return on Investment is a whopping \$13,261,204. If we break these numbers down, that's 2033 visitors/day of Open Air. The countless videos and photos that myself, my coworkers, family and friends have taken of quiet, empty streets during Open Air would beg to differ. Also, these numbers are claimed to have been recorded by the students know the faces of all of the downtown residents and guests, business owners, employees, and regular customers of these businesses? How about the faces of those who enjoy a morning walk along our beautiful waterfront? Councillors, I am asking you today to please realize that while some may be thriving, others are being stolen from. I would be interested to see how those that are in support of Open Air might feel if the shoe was on the other foot. It has been mentioned by one resident on social media that the "handful" of downtown business owners who are opposed to Open Air do not want our community to move forward with the times. I fail to see how any of the fine entrepreneurs who specifically chose to invest in our downtown area would not want it to thrive. We have all chosen this location and created business plan to suit our needs. We have all poured blood, sweat and tears, and countless dollars toward our dreams. Unfortunately, in the last year alone we have lost three businesses who were severely hurt by Open Air. How many more are we going to let slip through the cracks? Please understand that we are not entirely against Open Air weekends. But we are against the length and amount of Open Air weekends, and also the parking problem that has never been addressed. Please consider that majority of "2 hour parking" is taken up by residents, employees and owners of the downtown businesses and even those surrounding. As one small example, please understand that there are approximately 150 employees at Richmond Terrace Nursing Home, as well as, 150 residents who's family members visit on occasion. Where do they park? In their parking lot, all down Rankin Street, and in the Heritage Square parking lot. Where do the employees of the Heritage Square businesses park, and so on? In conclusion, we request that the major parking issues that have always loomed over our downtown area are addressed immediately. Paid parking lots and/or a parking garage would go a long way. Parking lots and monthly passes for employees and owners would also probably fare well, instead of throwing parking tickets at them. We also propose that Open Air weekends are hosted one weekend per month, and that they are hosted Saturday at 3pm until Sunday at

10 pm only. Perhaps the private parking lot owned by two of our downtown business owners could be offered up as "market space"? We are pleading with you to please consider and fight for fairness for all residents and businesses; not just those with charisma and deep pockets. Thank you for your time.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:01 PM

We have other less travelled roads, (Murray + Ramsay), Ramsay St parking lot, and parkland that could be used for the purposes of open air. No need to close main roads. Also noteworthy, the Ramsay St parking lot, and navy yard park are within steps from the businesses.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:18 PM

I think that Open Air was for businesses and restaurants during COVID! COVID is over. if the businesses can't run their establishments without the closures of streets they shouldn't be in business. The businesses in town that benefit from this are few. A lot of businesses are hurt from this. When did the town of Amherstburg become a source for peoples entertainment. You have to remember that it is not just the businesses downtown that make up our town it is the WHOLE TOWN. Don't just think in a narrow way every business needs to benefit from this.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:23 PM

Our business suffers a disproportionate amount of hardship due to lack of access. Businesses on Dalhousie and Richmond still have rear access, We don't! The activity on Murray St. doesn't warrant closure at our expense.

mdonnipad

9/17/2024 12:26 PM

When I have been in the office on Fridays during Open Air, clients have had to be sure to park outside of the footprint and on occasion the volume of the live music has been distracting during therapy sessions. Otherwise, Open Air has not impacted my business.

mdonnipad

9/25/2024 08:44 AM

We believe that we could be more involved in the future if we were part of the planning process and creating visions together. Open air is a great event!

mdonnipad

9/26/2024 02:15 PM

Would like to see more weekends May long weekend into October Halloween street festival?

mdonnipad

11/12/2024 02:58 PM

Open Air is Amherstburg's point of difference. We need to compete; we need to stand out. Being 'nice' isn't good enough as 'nice' will not support this town's economy. This isn't about inconvenience for a

limited number of residents and businesses that have chosen to locate in the footprint. These same people will be upset by rising property tax and all of the other expenses they will incur if visitor's don't keep our economy alive with the money they spend when they come to enjoy this attraction. Tourism+Economic Development in the Town of Amhersburg is gaining in strength + focus. We need to 'stay the course', continue to focus on our goals as a community + support one another not bicker over what minor inconvenience it might cause. Council ---- educate yourselves so that you might accurately inform your constituents! Don't use rumours and misinformation to cause negativity in this town. The streets are accessible during open air!! There is ample parking!! And there is a sense of community. Council needs to put an end to this 'me' mentality and lead by example.

mdonnipad

11/12/2024 03:01 PM

We love Open Air!

Optional question (37 response(s), 13 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question