



## Best Practices Report Urban Sociable District Sound Mitigation

Submitted to Deep Ellum Foundation and City of Dallas  
July 27, 2021

Here are five different sound mitigation models (in more than ten locations) from our research and from our international nighttime advocate cohorts.

Of course, with COVID changing the culture of how we socialize (from inside to outside), how must ordinances also adapt to sound just as they have with food service?

The first three and the fifth one address *current* conflicts (like Deep Ellum). The fourth model *could* be used to stanch current bleeding but may be a better proactive approach from scratch ... although other than a new place like Cypress Waters, I do not know where you would "start from scratch."

That being said, the fourth model has unwittingly been applied in Dallas when it comes to light violations (Museum Tower).

### 1. FUNDING SUPPORT

#### Berlin DE

Clubcommission.berlin

Noise protection fund

Program is primarily intended to subsidize noise-reducing measures.

<https://2018.laermschutzfonds.de/>

Media story about program: <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2018/dec/20/berlin-government-pledges-1m-to-soundproof-citys-nightclubs>

#### Melbourne AU

Good Music Neighbors

Live Music Office, Australia Council for the Arts

State government offered matching funds to venues for projects that will help them limit the emission of sound into the local neighborhood.

<https://livemusicoffice.com.au/gigs-and-events/live-music-resources/#/gigs-and-events/good-music-neighbours-victoria/> < Some inactive links

### 2. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

#### Paris, FR

Manifesto on nightlife

City of Paris

Three-step plan that includes awareness plan, increased accountability of individuals who violate sound ordinances, and a local task force that has limited powers.

<https://www.paris.fr/pages/manifeste-parisien-sur-la-vie-nocturne-4569/> < A web browser can translate

We also have a PDF of mayor's plan which I am told includes more on this ... but it is all in French.

### 3. MUNICIPAL OFFICE OF NIGHTLIFE

#### San Francisco CA / Austin TX

Offices of Nightlife

Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) < a consultancy that has worked in both markets

Permits for and enforcement of sound comes to the same city office. So do matters pertaining to building code and insulating for sound. Breaking down the silos at City Hall and consolidating nighttime issues have been the solutions here.

*Jocelyn Kane, Senior Policy Consultant for RHI, believes it can help Dallas set up a similar office in city hall that can manage sociable district opportunities and issues, including sound-related conflicts.*

#### New York, NY

Agent of Change < *Was not successful in confirming if this practice was adopted and is in place with the Mayor's Office of Nightlife. Regardless, that office has the power to mitigate.*

"It's a matter of common sense. If you're new to the community, you are responsible for ensuring you're a good neighbor to the people that were there before you."

"It's time to dispense with the false choice between having a thriving nightlife and thriving communities."

Story: <https://www.cityandstateny.com/opinion/2018/09/a-compromise-for-nightlife-venues-and-their-neighbors/178085/>

### 4. AGENT OF CHANGE / DEED OF EASEMENT

#### London, UK

Mayor of London

Agent of Change (definition attached as a jpg)

Places the burden of managing sound on the new arrival to an area

"Protect London's live music venues, clubs and pubs by introducing an 'Agent for Change' rule – so new developments next to existing venues meet soundproofing costs"

London Plan: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan>

Related story: <https://completemusicupdate.com/article/sadiq-khan-to-protect-venues-with-introduction-of-agent-of-change-principle/>

"'Agent of Change' principle will help prevent live music venues from closing, it won't be enough on its own. Sadly, it would not address other issues such as rising rents, hikes in rateable values and property owners preferring to redevelop their buildings into flats."

Related story: <https://theconversation.com/agent-of-change-protects-music-venues-from-noise-complaints-but-wont-stop-them-from-closing-90556>

#### Melbourne, AU

Live Venue Tool Kit

Onto It Media

Agent of change

<https://www.livetoolkit.com.au/guide/agent-of-change>

#### Brisbane, AU

Agent of Change < *Ultimately, they have abandoned the approach*

**Seattle, WA**

Current struggling with the sound issue and is looking at the Agent of Change model.

**UK**

Dance Clubs

Related to Agent of Change: Deed of Easement

Ministry of Sound, London <https://www.ministryofsound.com/>

The Fleece, Bristol

Motion, Bristol

"The deed of easement would also require developers to ensure that future residents are made aware of the nightclub and prohibit complaints so long as the club is operating within its license conditions. Importantly, such an agreement would seek to prevent nuisance claims, thereby ensuring that the club can continue to operate in its current form."

<https://www.bclplaw.com/en-US/insights/resolving-agent-of-change-issues-in-planning-as-easy-as-noise.html>

**5. MIMES**

Paris, FR

If all else fails...

<https://www.businessinsider.com/the-mayor-of-paris-is-fighting-noise-pollution-with-mimes-2012-3>