

## VI. CANOPIES AND AWNINGS

(Note: See Outdoor Dining Guidelines for Additional Information)

### A. Statements of Intent

1. Protect the pedestrian from rain, wind, glare, direct sunlight, and reflections. Utilize systems that are multi-functional and multi-seasonal.
2. Incorporate architectural design elements to the street that serve as visual cues to the pedestrian about nearby shops and business services.



*Awnings provide protection from the elements and draws the attention of passersby to the establishment.*

3. Ensure that awnings and canopies complement their architectural context and are appropriate for both the individual building and the entire street, while still providing establishments with the opportunity for individual expression.



*A building canopy can serve as a visual amenity as well as shelter for building occupants and pedestrian.*

### B. Narrative

The architecture along the street frames the public domain, while its detailing acknowledges those who walk along its length. The optimal street environment allows continuous communication to occur between the inside and outside, and its detailing encourages such exchanges. Awnings and canopies are accents or exclamation points to architectural statements, and mark thresholds between inside and outside and the transition from public to private. They therefore should communicate on two levels: as a definer of the public realm, and as an expression of the establishment's individuality. They dramatize the context of the urban space as well as entice passersby into the shops and businesses they enhance.

## C. Guidelines

1. Weather-protection features such as awnings, canopies, porticos and entry elements should be provided at building entrances. Canopies typically refer to elements extending perpendicular from a main building entry towards the street. Awnings typically refer to elements which extend over and shade storefront windows of commercial businesses. Awnings may also be used as decorative architectural features, such as in the mid-height floor windows of a hotel.



2. Canopies should frame entrances. Posts which support a canopy should not interfere with the clear movement zone of the sidewalk. Consider the design of other methods of structural support, such as cables or rods attached to the building and extended out to hold the canopy from above.
3. A series of awnings provided along an establishment's façade should maintain a consistent or compatible design.
4. Awnings may be located at grade- and second-level windows. The width of an awning would typically match the width of the building's opening for the window. Other locations for awnings may be considered, but are subject to review and approval.
5. Canopies and awnings shall be of fire-resistant material, or of metal and/or glass treated to withstand oxidation, corrosion, and deterioration from airborne salts. Awning fabrics will vary, and the basis for selection should include color retention and durability.
6. Awnings can be of various forms and sizes, but should not extend more than 4 feet from the face of the building and should not be lower than 8 feet above finished grade.
7. The design, placement, and color of canopies and awnings are subject to design review and approval.