

# SIMPLIFYING BUSINESS ZONING CHECKS

## CASE STUDY:

### Can I set up my business here?

One of the most challenging and critically important aspects of launching a successful business is finding the right location. As per our survey, 32% of all user interactions at San Francisco's Planning Information Counter concerned **land use**. In a majority of these cases, the follow up questions were about the ensuing processes.

### Status Quo

- **Manual review** of the Planning Code takes hours to months
- May yield **inconsistent results**
- It requires **months and thousands of dollars** to determine *where a business is permitted to open in San Francisco*

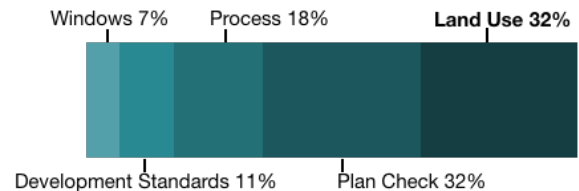
### The SYMBIUM Solution

#### Features

- End-to-end guidance
- Simple language with intuitive instructions
- Fully customizable UI, white labeled
- Fine-tuned to complexity
- Smart permitting functionality

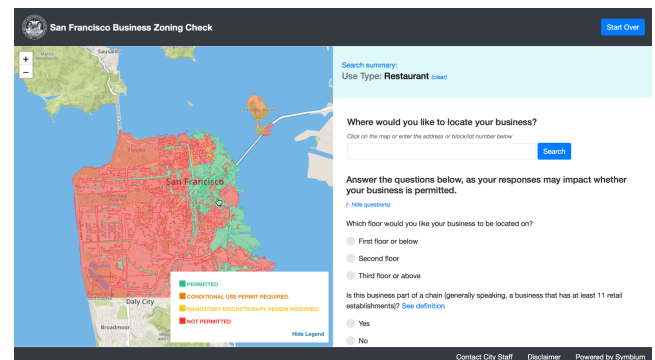
#### Project Timeline

- SYMBIUM's initial scope of work covered restaurant uses only.
- Our team exceeded the scope of work and developed a tool that shows where *all* businesses in San Francisco are permitted.
- **~2 weeks of development time**, 1 developer



**“Symbium has taken the initiative to understand current bottlenecks within the planning process and has worked alongside us to build a custom web-based solution that will enable constituents to obtain instant answers to their zoning inquiries without having to manually navigate the complex Planning Code.”**

**—ELIZABETH WATTY**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CURRENT PLANNING  
SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT



**“As we spent more time with planners, we realized that they needed a solution that would streamline non-discretionary, routine inquiries and workflows so that they could make better uses of their time and expertise on discretionary reviews and approvals. This we learned directly from planners as we shadowed them at the Planning counter and built solutions with their input along the way.**

**—LEILA BANIJAMALI**  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, SYMBIUM