



ARGONNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MURAL PROJECT
 2013 © Precita Eyes Muralists, Directed by Yuka Ezoe and Elaine Chu
 24' x 53'

Argonne Elementary School Narrative

Argonne Elementary School 2013

Directed by Yukako Ezoe and Elaine Chu and designed by Argonne Elementary School 3rd Graders from Room, 209(Karen Terry), Room 205 (Mithril Cox), Room 107 (Jacob Strohm), and Room 207 (Maria Thayer)

This mural was derived from the drawings of 88 Argonne Elementary School 2nd and 3rd graders. The main focus of the mural is the Richmond District of San Francisco. Since many of the children live in the Richmond District they wanted to represent what is important to their neighborhood and school as well as the history of the Richmond and San Francisco.

The center of the mural illustrates a large book with scripts of the word, 'UNITY' in many languages to show the diversity of the languages the students inherit. The book is like a large pop-up book with many dream like subjects fluttering out. They are all part of the Richmond district, the Mission Blue Butterfly, the Common Buckeye Butterfly, the Chinese lion dancer, and a lady on a horse from the Victorian era. The center book is the heart of the mural and leads the viewer's eye to naturally read from the center out to the left hand side, which represents the past of San Francisco and the Richmond District. One of the pages turns into a stream of river where the Ohlone are canoeing in their Tule boat passing by the huts where they live. The era shifts to the Gold Rush where a man is panning for gold in the river next to where they camp. The river then transforms into a road with the Geary St trolley from the early century.

On the left hand side of the mural there is a large Oak Tree with an Ohlone man picking acorns from the tree. Surrounding him are native animals to San Francisco and California. There is a Tule Elk, Coyote, Bald Eagle, Western Scrub Jay, Red Winged Black Bird, Raccoon and a Garter Snake. Above the Oak Tree represents the Richmond Sand dunes and Ocean Beach's past: The original Cliff House, Play Land, and the original Sutro Baths all in ghostly sepia tone to represent its non-existence. Next to Sutro Baths is the Presidio which borders the Richmond. The Presidio Arguello Gate and a mountain Lion are also part of the area. As part of the Presidio the Golden Gate Bridge stretches from the Presidio to the Marina district in the far top right horizon. The horizon line has the bay and the ocean curving on each side to mimic the top part of the building architecture that is curved.

As the mural progresses into the present from left to right, the path of the trolley turns into a broken road with the demolished tilted Victorian houses, which represent the San Francisco 1906 earthquake. The path continues into a sidewalk with Victorian houses that are still around today. Next to the houses is a restaurant, 'The Richmond' which is owned by a student's family. The wall of the restaurant turns into outdoor science class representing a class at Argonne Elementary. The colorful checkered board parallels the carpet installed in one of the classrooms and on top of it are the Argonne Elementary playground structures. The circle of path continues and shows the popular landmarks and

businesses of the Richmond: House of Bagels, Alexandria Theatre, Joe's Ice Cream, St. Monica's Church, and the statue from the Green Apple Book Store on Clement Street. One of the pages of the book turns into a road where the 38 Geary bus runs. The 38 Geary is also important because it has the longest route in the city.

Above the book on the space between the path includes the vast and open green patch of the Golden Gate Park and its iconic buildings: the De Young, the Conservatory of Flowers, and the Academy of Science.

Below the book is the entrance to the building and two scenes that complement each other. The left of the door shows an Ohlone woman planting a seedling. Surrounding her are native plants in rows. The California Poppy, Blue Witch Flower, Huckleberries and Ferns. To the right of the door represents the Argonne Elementary School garden with all the vegetables and plants that they grow like Kale, Peas, Tomatoes, Mint and Sunflowers. There are also two children watering a plant in the garden. The two scenes complement each other and unites the past and present. The rainbow-like arch of the two scenes imitates the architecture of the building as well.

The right hand side of the mural there is an Apple Tree with Pink Lady apples (also grown at Argonne) and a Great Horned Owl. The scene behind the tree there are children painting a mural of the Golden Gate Bridge, which then turns into a real landscape of the marsh, which represents the Marshland of the Presidio. The animals are also native to San Francisco, Blue Heron, Widow Skimmer Dragonfly and Steelhead Trout. A Jack Rabbit is sitting above the drinking fountain.

Above the Apple Tree is a large red tailed hawk carrying in its beak a banner with the title of the mural ("*Celebrating Our Richmond—Past and Present*") soaring over the San Francisco Bay with the fog rolling in.

Here are selected quotes from the students narratives.

"I like the mural because it shows a lot of nature and our teachers have managed to put a lot of meaning into it. I like the fact that everybody contributed. In school we're working on history so it's related to what we're learning. The design for the mural is from center out. In the center there is a book and the rest is stories coming out. Another reason I like it is it shows past as well as the present." Nora, room 107.

"Our mural is about the Richmond district. The mural makes our school better. I like it because it shows part of our neighborhood. It shows the new and old of the Richmond" by Nico, room 107.

"Even though we haven't started painting, I'm, still learning a lot. Like the history and learning to work together with people."

“We’re making a nice healthy garden so we can have fruits and veggies at school like kale which is very healthy. I think the garden is special because it makes our school more beautiful and green” Alyssa, room 107.

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 1
市參議員、第一區



City and County of San Francisco

ERIC MAR
馬兆光

Monday, March 04, 2013

San Francisco Arts Commission:

I would like to express my enthusiastic support and enthusiasm for the joint application of Argonne Elementary School and Precita Eyes Muralists to the San Francisco Arts Commission. Your approval would enable this partnership to create a mural on the outside wall of the school facility facing the intersection of Cabrillo Street and 17th Avenue.

The entire school community will have the opportunity to transform a blank wall into a vibrant, educational mural that tells the story of our community's rich and diverse history, ecology and culture. The proposed 24' high x 53' wide mural will be completely visible to neighbors in San Francisco's Richmond district. The theme is "*Celebrating the Richmond's Past to Its Present.*"

This mural, one of three planned in the Richmond, will be a great tool too for teaching the colorful history of our neighborhood to generations of students and families. It will tell the story of the incredible transformation of our district from sand dunes to a vibrant community today.

The draft of the mural is hanging in my office, and it is with great excitement that I am endorsing the proposed project and plan to support it in any way I can.

Sincerely,

Eric Mar
Supervisor, District 1

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Eric Mar", written over a horizontal line.



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

March 22, 2012

Community Challenge Grant Office
Attn: Lanita Henriquez, Program Manager
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 362
San Francisco CA 94102

Ms. Henriquez,

I want to express my overwhelming support and enthusiasm for Argonne Elementary School's application to the Community Challenge Grant program. Argonne's goal of creating a mural on the exterior wall of the school at 17th Avenue and Cabrillo will be a great improvement to the Richmond District community by adding artistic beauty, interest and much-needed color to the neighborhood.

According to the San Francisco Arts Commission, there are only five installations of public art in this area north of Golden Gate Park and extending from Arguello to Ocean Beach. This is in notable contrast to other areas of the city. Argonne's project is much-needed for the area and a valuable process to engage the school community together with the wider neighborhood.

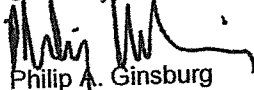
Rarely do schools and local partners work together to create a large-scale public art piece that promotes community improvement and beautification while enhancing educational opportunities for public school children. This project will give the Argonne students a meaningful arts component to their curriculum and educate them with practical lessons in the importance of community stewardship while enhancing the neighborhood's appearance.

This unique partnership will transform our community in many positive ways by:

- Introducing attractive, vibrant public art in the Richmond District that enhances the streetscape for the benefit of all residents, businesses and youth;
- Involving a school community and its neighbors in enduring partnerships;
- Integrating arts into the school curriculum through a creative, meaningful project

Through this proposed project and its recent successful initiative to build community garden beds on its grounds, the Argonne community has worked hard to create a warm and welcoming neighborhood presence that promotes youth education, health and public art. As an Argonne parent and in my role as General Manager of the Recreation and Park Department, I can offer nothing but praise for this effort.

Sincerely,


Philip A. Ginsburg
General Manager



RICHMOND DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Richmond District After School Collaborative
Multicultural Arts Program
Richmond Village Beacon

To whom it may concern:

March 23, 2012

I want to express my overwhelming support and enthusiasm for Argonne Alternative Elementary School's application to the Community Challenge Grant Program. Argonne's goal of creating a mural on the outside wall of the school at 17th and Cabrillo will be a great improvement to our neighborhood, permanently enhancing the streetscape by adding artistic beauty and interest to our neighborhood.

Public art adds interest and vibrancy to a neighborhood – it helps create a sense of place that builds and strengthens a community. The Richmond neighborhood where I am Executive Director of the Richmond District Neighborhood Center is woefully lacking in public art. According to the San Francisco Arts Commission, there are only five installations of public art in this area north of Golden Gate Park and extending from Arguello to Ocean Beach. This is in notable contrast to other areas of the city. It is clear that Argonne's mural project would be a valuable asset to the district.

Rarely do schools and local partners work together to create a large-scale public art piece that promotes community improvement and beautification while enhancing educational opportunities for public school children. This project will give the Argonne students a much needed arts education component to their curriculum and teach them about the importance of community stewardship while dramatically enhancing the neighborhood's streetscape.

This is a unique partnership that will transform our community in many positive ways by:

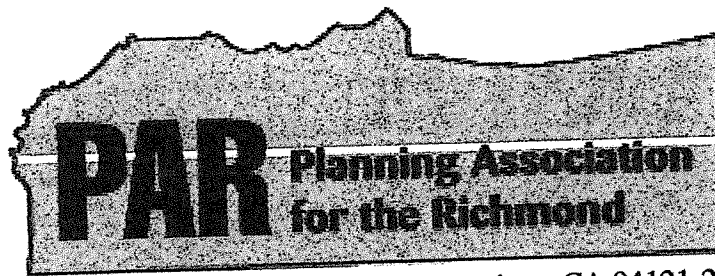
- Introducing public art in the Richmond district that will add vibrancy and attractiveness to the community
- Enhancing the streetscape for all the benefit of all residents, businesses and youth
- Involving a school community in a way that adds not only to the education of youth but allows for enduring partnerships between a local public school, its neighbors, and city leadership; and
- Creating, maintaining and integrating arts into the school curriculum by through an involved community effort that provides excellent experiential learning opportunities while promoting stewardship among our youngest residents.

As Executive Director of the Richmond District Neighborhood Center, I endorse this project and believe it will dramatically enhance the beauty of the neighborhood while creating educational opportunities for youth and opportunities for the community to work together and build long term ties.

The Argonne mural will serve as an enduring model of what is possible when leaders, educators, parents, and youth work together to improve our city.

Sincerely,


Patricia Kaussen
Executive Director



5758 Geary Boulevard, #356 – San Francisco, CA 94121-2112
VMs/Faxes (415) 541-5652, Direct/VMs (415) 668-8914 – president@sfparr.org

March 28, 2012

To whom it may concern:

PAR, one of San Francisco's largest and most respected neighborhood organizations, has been asked to lend its support to Argonne Alternative Elementary School's application for a Community Challenge Grant that would enable it to create a mural on the outside wall of the school facility facing the intersection of Cabrillo Street and 17th Avenue and I am pleased to respond with this letter.

As I understand the proposed project, it would:

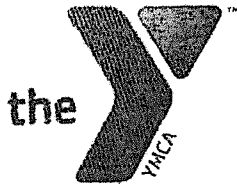
- provide Argonne students with a much-needed arts education experience in their curriculum;
- teach them of the importance of collaborating with their parents, teachers and immediate neighbors on a common endeavor;
- teach them about the importance of stewardship for their school and its surrounding community; and
- it would enhance the neighborhood's immediate streetscape.

I am endorsing the proposed project for all of those reasons and because, when completed, it would serve as an enduring model of what such collaboration can produce.

Sincerely,

Raymond R. Holland
President

Cc: PAR Board of Directors



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my full support and enthusiasm for Argonne Alternative Elementary School's application to the Community Challenge Grant Program. Argonne's goal of a mural on the outside wall of the school at 17th and Cabrillo will be a great improvement to our neighborhood, permanently enhancing the streetscape by adding artistic beauty and interest to our neighborhood.

Public art adds interest and vibrancy to a neighborhood - it helps create a sense of place that builds and strengthens a community. The Richmond neighborhood, in which I am the Executive Director of the Richmond YMCA, is woefully lacking in public art. According to the San Francisco Arts Commission, there are only five installations of public art in this area north of Golden Gate Park and extending from Arguello to Ocean Beach. This is in notable contrast to other areas of the city. It is clear that Argonne's mural project would be a valuable asset to the district. Argonne's project is unique for the area and unique in its ability to bring the school community together and engage the wider neighborhood community.

Rarely do schools and local partners work together to create a large-scale public art piece that promotes community improvement and beautification while enhancing educational opportunities for public school children. This project will give the Argonne students a much needed arts education component to their curriculum and teach them about the importance of community stewardship while dramatically enhancing the neighborhood's streetscape.

This is a unique partnership that will transform our community in many positive ways by:

- Introducing public art in the Richmond District that will add vibrancy and attractiveness to the community
- Enhancing the streetscape for all the benefit of all residents, businesses and youth
- Involving a school community in a way that adds not only to the education of youth but allows for enduring partnerships between a local public school, its neighbors, and city leadership; and
- Creating, maintaining and integrating arts into the school curriculum by through an involved community effort that provides excellent experiential learning opportunities while promoting stewardship among our youngest residents.

As a Richmond advocate, I endorse this project and believe it will dramatically enhance the beauty of the neighborhood while creating educational opportunities for youth and opportunities for the community to work together and build long term ties.

The Argonne mural will serve as an enduring model of what is possible when leaders, educators, parents, and youth work together to improve our city.

Sincerely,

Josh Leonard
Executive Director
Richmond District YMCA

RICHMOND DISTRICT YMCA
360 18th Avenue, San Francisco CA 94121
P 415 666 9622 F 415 668 3370 www.ymcasf.org/richmond



Argonne Year-Round School

680 – 18th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94121

Tel: (415) 750-8460 Tel: (415) 750-8462

To whom it may concern:

I want to express my overwhelming support and enthusiasm for Argonne Elementary School's application to the Community Challenge Grant program. Argonne's goal of a creating a mural on the exterior wall of the school at 17th Avenue and Cabrillo will be a great improvement to our neighborhood, permanently enhancing the streetscape by adding artistic beauty, interest and much-needed color to San Francisco's Richmond District.

Public art adds interest and vibrancy to a neighborhood – it helps create a sense of place that builds and strengthens a community. The Richmond neighborhood in which I work is woefully lacking in public art. According the San Francisco Arts Commission, there are only five installations of public art in this area north of Golden Gate Park and extending from Arguello to Ocean Beach. This is in notable contrast to other areas of the city. It is clear that Argonne's mural project would be a valuable asset to the district. Argonne's project is much needed for the area and a valuable process to engage the school community together with wider neighborhood.

Rarely do schools and local partners work together to create a large-scale public art piece that promotes community improvement and beautification while enhancing educational opportunities for public school children. This project will give the Argonne students a meaningful arts component to their curriculum and educate them with practical lessons in the importance of community stewardship while enhancing the neighborhood's appearance.

This unique partnership will transform our community in many positive ways by:

- Introducing attractive, vibrant public art in the Richmond District that enhances the streetscape for the benefit of all residents, businesses and youth;
- Involving a school community and its neighbors in enduring partnerships;
- Integrating arts into the school curriculum through a creative, meaningful project;

As arts coordinator and classroom teacher at Argonne, I wholeheartedly endorse this project and believe it will dramatically enhance the beauty of the neighborhood, promote educational opportunities for San Francisco youth and build our community around a wonderful cause – the arts.

The Argonne mural will serve as an enduring model of what is possible when leaders, educators, parents, and youth work together to improve our city.

Sincerely,

Mithril Cox
Arts Coordinator
3rd Grade Teacher
Argonne Year-Round School

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