



**City and County of San Francisco  
YOUTH COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, November 20, 2023  
5:00 p.m.**

**IN-PERSON MEETING  
City Hall, Room 416  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

**IN-PERSON MEETING with REMOTE ACCESS via Webex**

**Members:** Ewan Barker Plummer (Chair, Mayoral), Gabbie Listana (Vice Chair, D6), Téa Lonné Amir (Comms & Outreach Officer, Mayoral), Kelly Wu (Comms & Outreach Officer, D3), Allister Adair (Legislative Affairs Officer, D2), Jason Fong (Legislative Affairs Officer, D7), Chloe Wong (D1), Linda Ye (D4), Helen Cisneros (D5), Galicia Stack Lozano (D8), Skylar Dang (D9), Adrianna Faagau-Noa (D10), Imaan Ansari (D11), Valentina Alioto-Pier (Mayoral), Isabella T. Perez (Mayoral), Aryelle Lampkins (Mayoral), Joselyn Marroquin (Mayoral).

**Present:** Ewan Barker Plummer, Gabbie Listana, Téa Lonné Amir, Kelly Wu, Allister Adair, Jason Fong, Chloe Wong, Linda Ye, Helen Cisneros, Galicia Stack Lozano, Skylar Dang, Adrianna Faagau-Noa, Imaan Ansari, Valentina Alioto-Pier, Isabella T. Perez, Aryelle Lampkins, Joselyn Marroquin.

**Absent:** None.

**Tardy:** None.

The San Francisco Youth Commission met in-person with remote access, and provided public comment through teleconferencing, on November 20, 2023, with Chair Barker Plummer presiding.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance**

Chair Barker Plummer called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.



On the call of the roll:

Roll Call Attendance: 17 present.

Chloe Wong present  
Allister Adair present  
Kelly Wu present  
Linda Ye present  
Helen Cisneros present  
Gabbie Listana present  
Jason Fong present  
Galia Stack Lozano present  
Skylar Dang present  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa present  
Imaan Ansari present<sup>1</sup>  
Valentina Alioto-Pier present  
Isabella T. Perez present  
Arryelle Lampkins present  
Joselyn Marroquin present  
Téa Lonné Amir present  
Ewan Barker Plummer present

A quorum of the Commission was present.

## **2. Communications**

Alondra Esquivel Garcia, Director of the SFYC, shared communications and meeting announcements with Commissioners.

## **3. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**

Commissioner Ye, seconded by Commissioner Alioto-Pier, motioned to approve the November 20, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting agenda. No discussion. One public commenter mistakenly thought it was time for general public comment, and sat back down. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 17 ayes.

Chloe Wong aye  
Allister Adair aye  
Kelly Wu aye



Linda Ye aye  
Helen Cisneros aye  
Gabbie Listana aye  
Jason Fong aye  
Galia Stack Lozano aye  
Skylar Dang aye  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye  
Imaan Ansari aye  
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye  
Isabella T. Perez aye  
Arryelle Lampkins aye  
Joselyn Marroquin aye  
Téa Lonné Amir aye  
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: Agenda Approved.

**4. Approval of Minutes** (Action Item)

a. November 6, 2023 (Packet Materials)

Commissioner Alioto-Pier, seconded by Commissioner Dang, motioned to approve the November 6, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting minutes. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 17 ayes.

Chloe Wong aye  
Allister Adair aye  
Kelly Wu aye  
Linda Ye aye  
Helen Cisneros aye  
Gabbie Listana aye  
Jason Fong aye  
Galia Stack Lozano aye  
Skylar Dang aye  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye  
Imaan Ansari aye  
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye  
Isabella T. Perez aye  
Arryelle Lampkins aye  
Joselyn Marroquin aye



Téa Lonné Amir aye  
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: Minutes Approved.

**5. Public Comment on matters not on Today's Agenda** (2 minutes per comment)

There was one member present for public comment:

Public Commenter 1 (Mr. 'Terife'): Terife told the Youth Commissioners that they are the future, and that they own themselves and that that is the key to happiness. Terife said that beauty is a mindset, and they shouldn't take any crap. They wished the Youth Commission a Happy Thanksgiving!

**6. Legislation** (discussion and action item)

- a. Motion - Re-Implementation of the LGBTQ Task Force
  - i. Presenter: Vice Chair Listana and Chair Barker Plummer

Vice Chair Listana introduced the motion to reimplement the LGBTQ+ Task Force from last year, and they wanted to continue representing queer and trans youth issues. Commissioner Stack Lozano agrees that it would be very important to specifically focus on queer youth issues, especially here in San Francisco. Chair Barker Plummer added that he believes that last year's task force was a very productive one since they passed several motions, statements, resolutions, and budget & policy priorities.

Vice Chair Listana, Chair Barker Plummer, and Commissioner Stack Lozano introduced the motion and read it aloud into the record. Commissioner Alioto-Pier asked for clarification on if it only includes San Francisco schools, to which Chair Barker Plummer said it can include other places in the Bay Area as well.

Commissioner Ye asked what priorities the task force hopes to accomplish this year, to which Vice Chair Listana said they hope to build on the issues they focused on last year. Vice Chair Listana, seconded by Officer Wu, motioned to reimplement the LGBTQ+ Task Force. There was one member present for public comment:

Public comment 1 (Mr. Terife): Terife said that it wasn't their job to focus on LGBT issues, and that they should not push an agenda on youth.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 17 ayes.



Chloe Wong aye  
Allister Adair aye  
Kelly Wu aye  
Linda Ye aye  
Helen Cisneros aye  
Gabbie Listana aye  
Jason Fong aye  
Galia Stack Lozano aye  
Skylar Dang aye  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye  
Imaan Ansari aye  
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye  
Isabella T. Perez aye  
Arryelle Lampkins aye  
Joselyn Marroquin aye  
Téa Lonné Amir aye  
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: LGBTQ+ Task Force has been established for the 2023/2024 term.

**7. Legislation Referred** (discussion and action item)

- a. BOS File 230446 - [Planning Code, Zoning Map - Housing Production] Ordinance amending the Planning Code to encourage housing productions
  - i. Presenter: Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs

Officer Adair stated that the legislation is again going to be tabled to the next full Youth Commission meeting since there has not been final action yet in committee at the SF Board of Supervisors, but looks as if it will take place on November 27th, and won't be finally voted on by the full BOS until early or mid-December.

Specialist Zhan, Officer Fong, and Officer Adair went over the list of amendments, which includes the following five changes to the original legislation:

- 1. Supervisor Mandelman amended to remove the override of the creation of the family housing special use district created by Supervisor Melgar earlier this year;
- 2. President Peskin and Supervisor Mandelman amended to preserve historical protection of important properties;
- 3. Supervisor Mandelman amended to include housing that was built before 1939;
- 4. Supervisor Mandelman amended to include a density bonus law that requires a hearing for projects built in historically low-density neighborhoods;



5. Supervisor Mandelman amended to include a “monster house” prohibition on 4,000+ square foot houses for single-family homes. This amendment was sent back for discussion at the SF Planning Commission, and the file was duplicated and sent back to committee.

Chair Barker Plummer, seconded by Commissioner Perez, motioned to support BOS File 230446 with the intention of adding comments later when the BOS takes action and amendments are finalized. Chair Barker Plummer added that he does not believe San Francisco has done enough to build housing faster, and he believes that the legislation should be supported today regardless of the amendments of the Board of Supervisors since it's taken several months of back-and-forth changes.

Officer Fong said he agrees with the intent of Chair Barker Plummer's motion, but that there is a lot of misinformation around this legislation and its alleged deadline of being passed. He stated that the legislation is not in its final form, and that they ultimately don't know what they're voting on, and that they should table until the final language is able to be presented to the full Youth Commission.

Officer Adair said that he also agrees with the intent of Chair Barker Plummer's motion and that San Francisco often kicks its problems down the road, but that he doesn't see much use of voting on it today. He asks commissioners to vote no on approving it today, so that they can know what they're voting on. Officer Fong agreed. Chair Barker Plummer asked for clarification on who said there was misinformation, to which Officer Fong said that that information was from the Office of Supervisor Melgar. Officer Fong said that they updated the timeline, and Chair Barker Plummer said that he doesn't want the BOS to delay the legislation again.

Commissioner Alioto-Pier said that she is not comfortable voting on legislation that may change in the future, and that it's premature to vote on it if there are potential amendments that commissioners might want to comment on. Officer Adair said that he hopes the Youth Commission can wait until any potential changes by the Board of Supervisors. Chair Barker Plummer asked staff if there's any way to discuss the Commission's urgency to take action to the BOS, to which Director Garcia said that it would have to be agendaized.

Vice Chair Listana asked how supporting the intent of the legislation could be done, if the Commission hadn't seen the final version of what they'd be voting on. Commissioner Alioto-Pier said that they can't support the intent of the legislation if the BOS changes the intent in the coming weeks. Commissioner Ye said she



would appreciate seeing a finalized version of the legislation before voting on it, and would not like to see it changed after they have voted on it.

Chair Barker Plummer said that understanding the temperature in the room, he will withdraw his motion to pass the legislation referred today, but says his comment still stands regarding the City not moving fast enough to build housing.

Officer Adair said he's grateful to the Chair for listening to all commissioners, and that he personally supports legislation that expedites housing production in San Francisco.

Officer Fong, seconded by Officer Adair, motioned to table BOS File 230446 to the December 4, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting, pending further amendments from the BOS. There was one public comment:

Public Comment #1 (Mr. Terife): Terife said they are very impressed with their ability to discuss this legislation, and that they're talking like grown-up adults. They also said they need experience to know what they're talking about.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 16 ayes, 1 nay.

Chloe Wong aye  
Allister Adair aye  
Kelly Wu aye  
Linda Ye aye  
Helen Cisneros aye  
Gabbie Listana aye  
Jason Fong aye  
Galia Stack Lozano aye  
Skylar Dang aye  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye  
Imaan Ansari aye  
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye  
Isabella T. Perez aye  
Arryelle Lampkins aye  
Joselyn Marroquin aye  
Téa Lonné Amir aye  
Ewan Barker Plummer nay



Action: BOS File 230446 tabled to the December 4, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting, pending further amendments from the BOS, with Chair Barker Plummer in dissent.

**8. Bylaws 2nd Reading** (discussion and action item)

- a. Presenter: YC Staff, Chair Barker Plummer, Vice Chair Listana

Chair Barker Plummer said that the only new change since the previous full Commission meeting was the language recommendation from Commissioner Ye, but there were no additional amendments suggested.

Commissioner Ye, seconded by Officer Adair, motioned to approve the amendments to the Youth Commission Bylaws. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 17 ayes.

Chloe Wong aye  
Allister Adair aye  
Kelly Wu aye  
Linda Ye aye  
Helen Cisneros aye  
Gabbie Listana aye  
Jason Fong aye  
Galia Stack Lozano aye  
Skylar Dang aye  
Adrianna Faagau-Noa aye  
Imaan Ansari aye  
Valentina Alioto-Pier aye  
Isabella T. Perez aye  
Arryelle Lampkins aye  
Joselyn Marroquin aye  
Téa Lonné Amir aye  
Ewan Barker Plummer aye

Action: the Youth Commission Bylaws have been amended, see supporting documents to see exact language changes. Updated bylaws will be posted online (<https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/charter-and-bylaws>) and in-person at SF City Hall, Room 345 (Youth Commission Office).

**9. Committee Reports** (discussion item)





a. Executive Committee

i. Legislative Affairs Officers

Officer Adair reported that they've been keeping up to date with the BOS File 230446. He reported they're checking in with all commissioners on plans for any upcoming resolutions, and that they're very excited to start working on the Youth Commission's Budget & Policy Priorities (BPPs).

Officer Fong reported that they plan on including BOS File 231140 [Urging the Mayor and DHR to Initiate Emergency Hiring Plan to Fill Behavior Health Workforce Vacancies] on the next full Commission agenda.

ii. Communication and Outreach Officers

Officer Lonné Amir said she knows that some of the commissioners have reached out to see how they can reach out to various schools throughout the City. She said they can email her, and she'll respond with a template and notes. Officer

Officer Wu said if anyone wants to help with editing the footage to post on social media, they can stay after the meeting to discuss or film their video.

Officer Lonné Amir asked again if anyone wants to help with the potential tech event collaboration, and the meeting they had with organizers on Sunday went well. She wished commissioners a Happy Thanksgiving.

iii. General Committee Updates

Vice Chair Listana said the Executive Committee discussed SFYC bylaw amendments, and that they hope to invite presenters from the Youth Leadership Initiative to discuss their idea on banning the sale of tobacco products by phasing it out by birth year. Commissioners are eager to hear about how the legislation would work out, since it's such a new and eccentric idea.

Vice Chair Listana asked commissioners who would not be available to attend the December 18th full Youth Commission meeting, and with a majority of commissioners not able to meet, staff will be canceling the December 18, 2023 full Youth Commission meeting.

1. Youth Commission Attendance



Director Garcia said to let staff know if they're planning on missing any future full commission or committee meetings, and they should all have access to their attendance sheet. She reminded them to give enough time to allow for them to be excused.

b. Civic Engagement and Education Committee

Commissioner Perez said they have been having a lot of discussion about the Vote16. The committee is also putting together a list of priorities that they want to accomplish on a timeline from now until June 2024.

c. Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee

Officer Fong said that they heard presentations by Luke Bornheimer on the "No Turn on Red" campaign and "Valencia Street" campaign, both of which they will be writing supportive resolutions on. He said they will also be writing a Free Muni for All Youth program resolution as well.

d. Transformative Justice Committee

Commissioner Dang said that they discussed the updated policies of the Juvenile Hall Justice working group and how to best include language regarding booking processes. The committee went over their goals that they discussed at the last meeting. She said that she and Commissioner Ansari held their D9/D11 Student Success Fund listening sessions last week, and they had about 20 students turn out to give critical feedback. Chair Barker Plummer noted that it got great media coverage on Mission Local as well.

**10. Staff Report** (discussion item)

Director Esquivel Garcia reported that everyone should've gotten an email regarding trainings from Human Resources, and she asked them to complete all of their trainings by December 15th. Commissioner Alioto-Pier asked for some clarification on the training deadlines, to which Director Garcia said it's an internal deadline so that we don't run into trouble with the Department of Human Resources.

Specialist Zhan reported that Chair Barker Plummer met with the San Jose Youth Commission to discuss potential collaborations or a field trip meet-up in Spring 2024. She added that she's working on a report of what was discussed at the Student Success Fund listening session events.



Specialist Ochoa said his only report was a follow-up from discussions on a potential youth mixer with other youth-led advisory bodies in San Francisco, also to help them work together and collaborate on our city's biggest issues. He said he would likely have an update for them by next week, if not before the holiday.

**11. Announcements** (this includes Community Events)

No announcements. No community events.

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business on the agenda, the full Youth Commission adjourned at 6:14pm.

# Who we are

Katherine Howard is a retired landscape architect and co-founder of several grassroots parks groups, as well as serving on various Citizens Advisory Committees for park issues.

Linda Shaffer is a retired economics professor who cares about environmental and social justice issues. She served on PROSAC (Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee) for 8 years.

# Our concerns

The non-profit Gardens of Golden Gate Park (SF Botanical Garden, Japanese Tea Garden, and Conservatory of Flowers) - has issued a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for night-time light shows in those gardens.

## **Gardens of Golden Gate Park Winter Lights Request for Proposal**

### **Statement of Need**

**. . . . The Gardens seek to develop a high quality and unique winter lights installation, authentic to the mission and brand of the gardens and our local community. This event is intended to drive members and visitation to the Gardens after regular admission hours from mid-November 2024 through early January 2025. The Gardens are also open to multi-year proposals.**



## (1. Environmental Concerns)

The RFP ignores the impact of lighting on wildlife:

- Wildlife needs darkness at night to thrive and in some cases even to survive.
- Artificial lighting has negative impacts on birds -

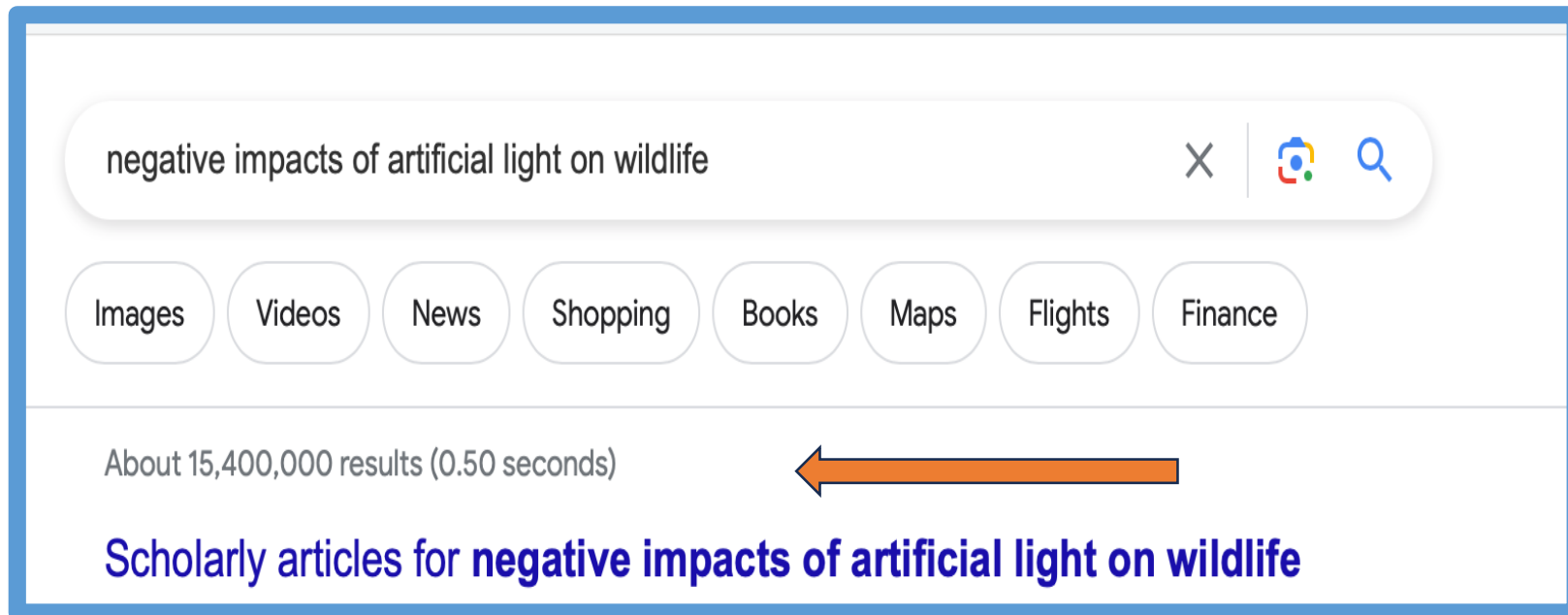


and insects.



(1. Environmental Concerns)

A google search of the phrase “negative impacts of artificial light on wildlife” brings up over 15,400,000 results.





(1. Environmental Concerns)

The RFP ignores the impact of artificial lighting on Dark Skies.

The RFP  
celebrates  
lighting that is  
contrary to  
Dark Skies  
principles.



RFP, page 5.

## (1. Environmental Concerns)

Quiet night-time areas are important for wildlife health, providing rest and cover from predators.



Parks Conservancy - Yuma myotis

The proposed project will Introduce noise & crowds to areas that are now quiet at night -

- RFP hopes to attract up to 180,000 people over two months.
- RFP allows for music or other amplified sound.

## 2. Impacts on people

RFP:

- Claims to address nature-deficit disorder in children.
- However, the RFP values the artificial attraction of a light show over the quiet and darkness of the natural world.

RFP:

- Claims the light shows will increase the diversity of Garden attendees;
- Studies show that diverse populations prefer naturalistic landscapes over urban environments.

### 3. Public Process Concerns

HARD FOR PUBLIC TO HAVE ANY INPUT INTO DECISION MAKING!

- ‘Winter Lights’ is proposed by the Gardens of Golden Gate Park (GGGP), the private non-profit part of a 2022 private-public partnership with the SF Recreation & Park Department (SFRPD).

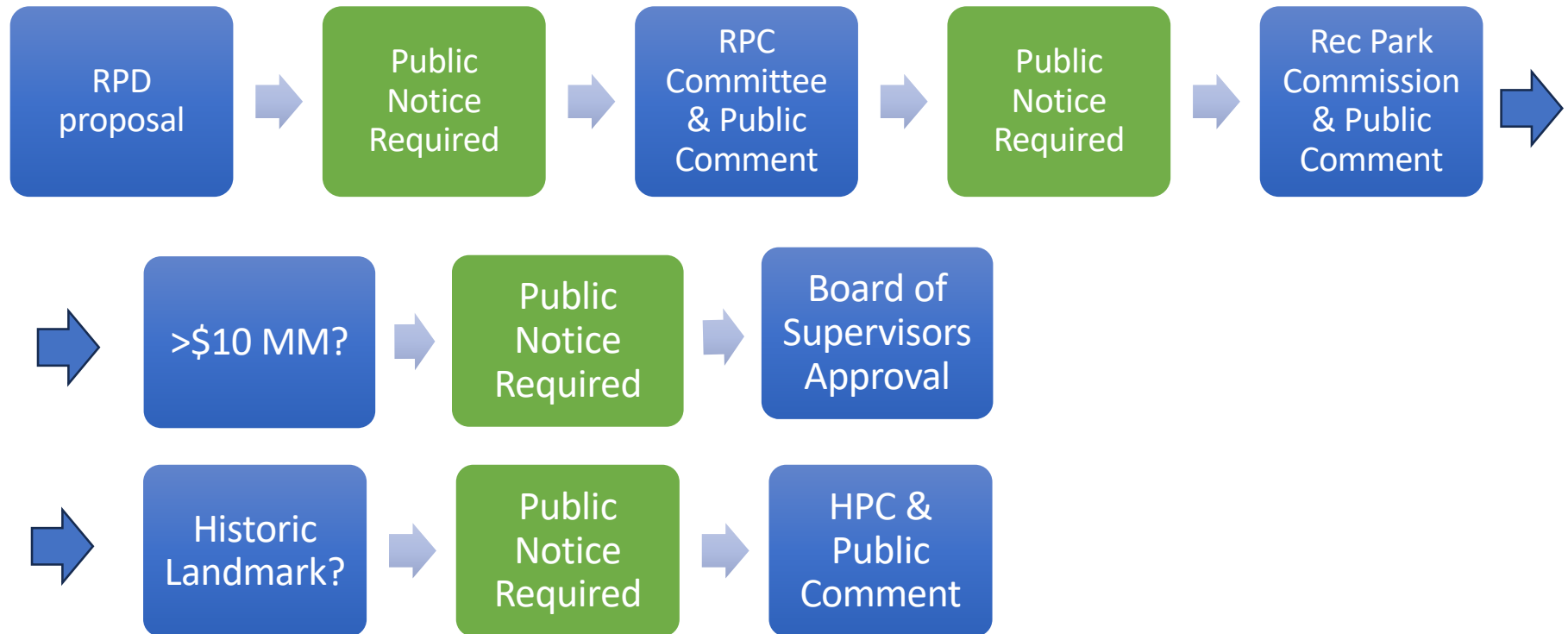
*“Under this partnership there is a lease and management agreement that guides how we [GGGP & RPD] work together... Primarily the Department holds the responsibility of the horticultural maintenance and ... the facilities maintenance of the gardens while our nonprofit partner handles **admissions**, public programs, **events** and builds philanthropic support for our gardens.” (SF Rec Park Commission, May 18, 2023.)*

Why is this important?

- Because GGGP is a private non-profit, in California, **neither the Board meetings nor the Board minutes are required to be open to the public.**

### (3. Public Process Concerns)

#### Typical process for RPD projects:



#### Process for GGGP Projects:



# In conclusion . . .

## Problems with the RFP:

- Negative impacts of light and noise on wildlife in an important habitat area;
- Cumulative impact of further reducing Dark Skies over Golden Gate Park;
- Values artificial attractions over nature;
- Lack of notice to the public;
- Lack of public process for decisions about our public land!

# What you can do

- Consider passing a resolution to let officials know your concerns:
  - ✓ Gardens of Golden Gate Park
  - ✓ Board of Supervisors
  - ✓ Recreation and Park Commission
  - ✓ Commission on the Environment
- Contact other groups you may belong to.
- Contact friends on social media.
- Share your letters with us: [sfun@sonic.net](mailto:sfun@sonic.net)

## Gardens of Golden Gate Park:

Ms. Sarah Ryan, President, Board of Directors - [sryan@gggp.org](mailto:sryan@gggp.org)

Stephanie Linder, CEO - [SLinder@gggp.org](mailto:SLinder@gggp.org)

Jamie Chan, Director of Programs & Partnerships - [jchan@gggp.org](mailto:jchan@gggp.org)

Board of Supervisors - [Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)

Recreation and Park Commission - [Recpark.Commission@sfgov.org](mailto:Recpark.Commission@sfgov.org)

Commission on the Environment - [kyle.wehner@sfgov.org](mailto:kyle.wehner@sfgov.org)

Presentation: Gardens of Golden Gate Park RFP

**Katherine Howard**, ASLA, is a retired landscape architect who has been a San Francisco parks and park policy advocate for many years.

Ms. Howard is co-founder of grassroots open-space advocacy groups:

- *Friends of the Music Concourse* preserved the 100-year-old trees in the Music Course in Golden Gate Park and obtained landmark status for them.
- The *Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance* kept a 40,000 square foot water treatment factory out of Golden Gate Park.
- *SF Ocean Edge* fought to protect the western end of Golden Gate Park from artificial turf soccer fields, loss of habitat, and 150,000 watts of stadium lighting.
- *Healthy Soccer SF* worked with parents and players concerned with the impacts of artificial turf and rubber infill.
- *San Franciscans for Urban Nature* was among the earliest advocates for moving the ferris wheel out of Golden Gate Park habitat and to a more urban setting.

She has also been a member of Citizens' Advisory Committees for:

- San Francisco Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE);
- Outside Lands Concerts landscape protection plan for Golden Gate Park;
- Golden Gate Park Music Concourse Authority;
- Ocean Beach Vision Plan / Local Coastal Program.
- Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN), Open Space Committee;

In the Sierra Club she has been a past member of the SF Group Executive Committee and the state-wide California Conservation Committee Steering Committee.

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**Dr. Linda Shaffer** is a retired economics professor who cares about environmental and social justice issues. She is a member of the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society, as well as *San Franciscans for Urban Nature*.

Soon after moving to San Francisco in 2006, she was nominated to serve on the Park, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC), representing District 10, which she did from 2008-2016.

During those years, she served on an Advisory Committees for the rewrite of the ROSE, and on a sub-committee of PROSAC working with the SF Parks Alliance and others who were writing the ballot language for various Parks Bond Initiatives. She also worked to help RPD win approval for its Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan.

Separately, Dr. Shaffer also served as a volunteer and then Board President for several years with Arc Ecology, a Bayview-Hunters Point based environmental justice non-profit that was founded by the late Saul Bloom. (Sadly the non-profit had to be dissolved following Mr. Bloom's death in 2016.) Among other things, Arc Ecology did contract work for the former SF Redevelopment Agency, and was involved in public hearings connected to the massive redevelopment projects ongoing, despite controversy, at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.



# GARDENS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK™

## Gardens of Golden Gate Park Winter Lights Request for Proposal

### Closing Date for Proposals: November 15, 2023

Proposals must be received at [jchan@gggp.org](mailto:jchan@gggp.org) on or before November 15, 2023, 5 PM PST. Please send the proposal to the attention of: Jamie Chan, Director of Programs & Partnerships. Late proposals will not be accepted. **Issued: October 12, 2023**

### Statement of Need

The Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden became the Gardens of Golden Gate Park (“Gardens”) on July 1, 2022. We engage the public through key exhibits and cultural events such as our Flower Piano music festival in San Francisco Botanical Garden. The Gardens seek to develop a high quality and unique winter lights installation, authentic to the mission and brand of the gardens and our local community. This event is intended to drive members and visitation to the Gardens after regular admission hours from mid-November 2024 through early January 2025. The Gardens are also open to multi-year proposals.



## Organization Background

The Gardens of Golden Gate Park is a public/private partnership between the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department and the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (a nonprofit 501c3 organization doing business as the “Gardens of Golden Gate Park”) to jointly operate the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden.

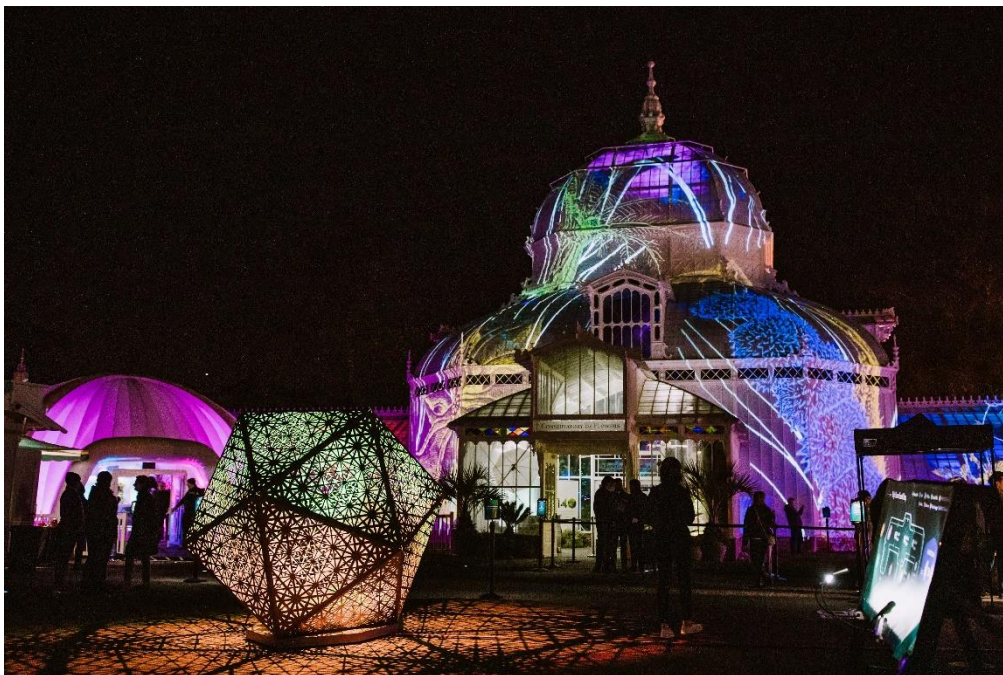
**Mission:** The Gardens of Golden Gate Park connect people to plants, the planet, and each other.

**Vision:** All people have access to beautiful public gardens and experience the intrinsic value of plants to life and culture for a healthy community and planet.

**Problem Statement:** Nature deficit disorder, plant awareness disparity, and shrinking biodiversity threaten the health and wellbeing of people and the planet.

**Theory of Change:** Expanding people’s understanding of the value of plants to human and environmental health inspires awe and activism/action/advocacy. The Gardens of Golden Gate Park are uniquely situated and qualified to deliver key messages about biodiversity in the heart of the city while also directly contributing to global plant conservation efforts. The shared experiences of gathering, celebrating, exploring, meditating, volunteering, and learning in these extraordinary places builds deep relationships and strengthens community.

*The Gardens of Golden Gate Park are located within walking distance of one another and the other cultural institutions in Golden Gate Park, serving more than a million visitors annually.*



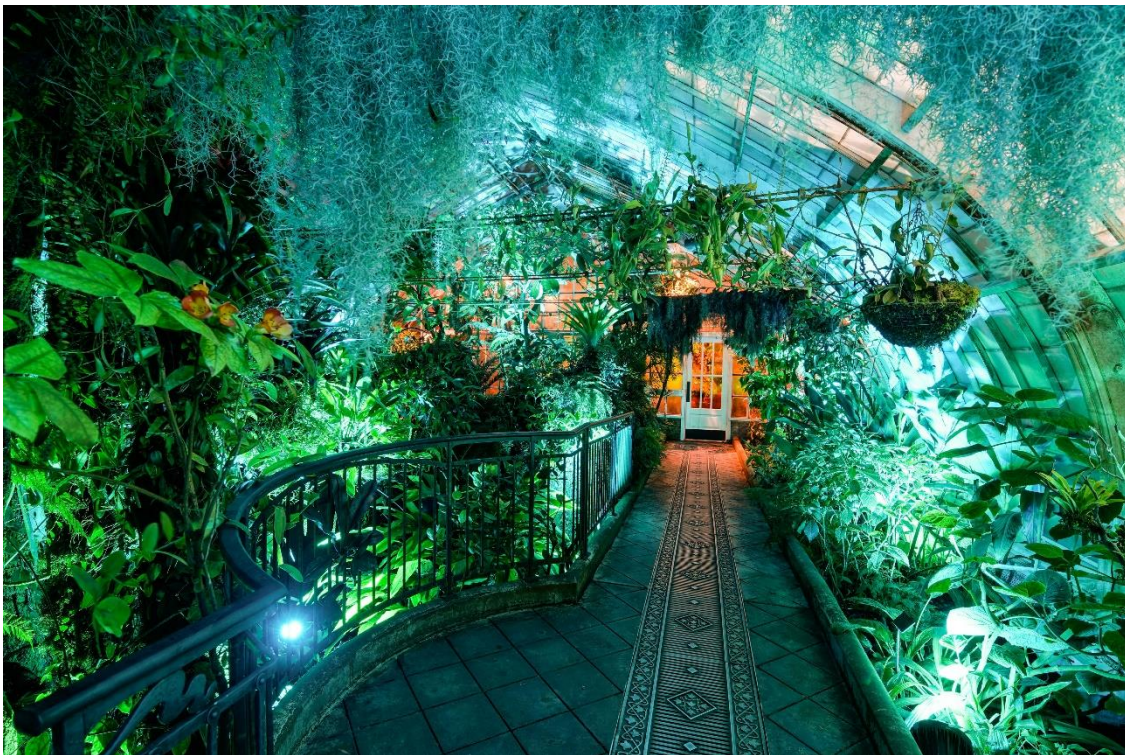


**The Conservatory of Flowers** is a national, state, and local landmark and a place of exceptional beauty. Built in 1879, the Conservatory was the first formal structure erected in Golden Gate Park and remains an internationally renowned icon, displaying and cultivating unusual plants to heighten awareness of: the pressing need to preserve threatened rainforest environments, ethnobotany, and biodiversity, and to foster enjoyment of ornamental horticulture.

**The Japanese Tea Garden** is the oldest operating public Japanese garden in North America. This garden provides visitors from around the world with an opportunity to experience the natural beauty, tranquility, and harmony of a Japanese-style garden and was originally created as an exhibit for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition. Today, we are restoring treasured historical elements and re-examining and re-interpreting its complex history.

**San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum** opened in 1940 and is a 55-acre living museum within Golden Gate Park, showcasing 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. San Francisco's oceanic climate with cool dry summers, mild wet winters, and presence of fog allows the Garden to grow a diverse array of species from around the world. The Botanical Garden is also home to a new plant nursery, Children's Garden, and library.

***This request for proposal is primarily focused on installation in San Francisco Botanical Garden because of its size, capacity, and accessibility, but we welcome the inclusion of the Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory of Flowers in proposals if the contract partner believes that is the most viable option.***



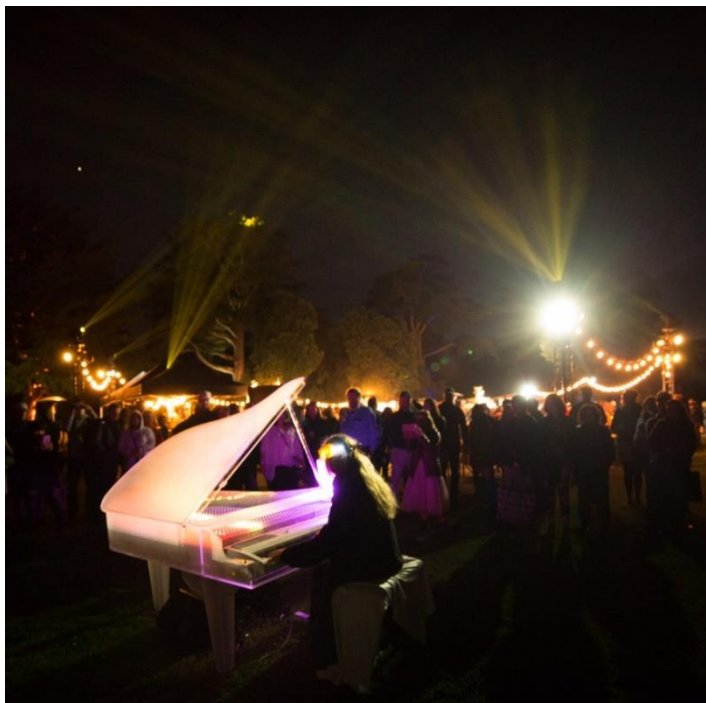
## PROJECT SCOPE

The Gardens and the selected “Contract Partner” will work to create an iconic garden experience and memorable winter destination for San Francisco, the Bay Area, and beyond. The Contract Partner will create an evening garden experience, illuminating existing plants and built elements along paved trails throughout the Garden.

The responsive Contract Partner will collaboratively engage the Recreation & Parks Department and the Gardens in the program design, and lead the installation, deinstallation, and maintenance of the light activation through the run of show. The successful design will amplify the Gardens’ identity as an engaging, and accessible destination in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park and balance the daytime aesthetic of the Gardens with the required evening infrastructure. The program will also be mindful of the “ecosystem” of winter lights in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area.

A partner should approach the proposed design with...

- Inspiration from the Gardens and iconic San Francisco
- Installations that consider site infrastructure and which have minimal impact on the Gardens, plant specimens, and trees.
- Installations that are engaging and meet public safety and accessibility requirements.
- Special exhibits that call attention to the contemporary arts, architecture, and/or design of the SF Bay Area, especially light artists.
- Narratives and color palettes that complement and reflect the diverse and varied climatic regions and plant collections on site.





### **Key Deliverables**

The selected agency will be expected to fulfill the following deliverables, in close collaboration with the Director of Program & Partnerships, Recreation & Parks Department Garden Director, Director of Advancement, and other identified team members:

- Design Concept
- Budget
- Staffing model which reflects the Gardens supplying customer service/ticketing and security services and the selected agency providing show management. Show management includes all elements of pre-production, exhibits development, planning, organizing, staffing (outside of the previously mentioned roles of the Gardens), show production, and load-out.
- Marketing Plan and Assets
- Partnership model with local artisans and small business vendors as relevant
- Production plan and timeline
- Partnership in developing sponsorship opportunities for the event



### **Technical Specifications**

The partner will work with the Garden Director to understand the type of equipment allowed for use on the property, staging limitations, and potential placements of installations. The Gardens have no significant access to electricity. This will require the use of remote power sources and the Gardens have a strong preference for utilizing green energy such as mobile batteries to power this exhibit.

## **Terms and Budget**

The partner will present a revenue model with a clear understanding of the profit share model. The profit model should:

- Propose a ticket price range that reflects the current market rate for light shows in the SF Bay Area. Anticipated to be approximately \$28-40 pp for standard GA.
- Project ticket sales. Anticipated to be between 80,000-180,000 over the show run.
- Project a minimum year 1 net revenue of \$500,000 for the Gardens.
- Agreement to allocate tickets for distribution to underserved populations within San Francisco.
- Clear terms on how net revenue will be shared with the partner, including, but not limited to ticketing, sponsorship, and concessions.
- Clear terms on how and what out of pocket expenses between the Gardens and the partner will be covered.
- Note that the Gardens splits its net revenue with the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department.

## **Program Objectives**

The objectives of the light show will be to:

- Inspire attendees to appreciate and learn more about plant diversity.
- Increase the diversity of Garden attendees.
- Increase overall attendance and first-time attendees to the Gardens.
- Connect with local light artists/community in exhibit design and execution.
- Interpret the mission and vision of Gardens in its design and exhibit narratives.
- Generate revenue for the organization, with a goal to net \$500,000 in year one.

## **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

The Gardens invite all applicants to set up a briefing in advance of submitting a proposal. In your proposal, please include:

- i. Agency credibility, capabilities, and experience
  1. Company overview
  2. Specific experience doing other similar projects [and lessons learned?]
  3. Biographies of the main employees who will work on the project.
- ii. Operations plan
  1. Timelines for installation, show schedule and de-installation.
  2. Considerations of visual presentation and accessibility of exhibit areas and main walking paths during daytime operating hours
  3. Proposed plan for creative development of exhibits and timeline for Gardens input during planning and execution.
  4. Proposed plan for security and safety during installation, run of show and de-installation.
  5. Plans for maintenance and long-term storage of fixtures and other creative elements.

- iii. Business plan and financial projections
  - 1. Budget including compliance with Prevailing wage (see below)
  - 2. Understanding of infrastructure investment and ownership
- iv. Financial ability
  - 1. Submit evidence of startup funds, Profit and Loss statements
- v. Proposed financial terms.
  - 1. Disclosure of shared costs, maintenance, repair and ownership of equipment and exhibit elements
  - 2. Minimum guarantee of year 1 net revenue of \$500,000 for the Gardens.
- vi. Feasibility, including relevant case studies showcasing excellence and aptitude navigating a light show in a diverse urban environment such as San Francisco.
  - 1. Understanding ownership of the brand and intellectual property of the show during production and should the partnership dissolve, postproduction.
  - 2. Understanding of the roles that the Gardens and the Contract Partner will play in marketing and sponsorship.
  - 3. Examples of past work and reference from past clients
  - 4. Any additional information that showcases why you are the right agency for this program.

#### **Compliance with Laws**

The proposal shall always follow strict compliance with all present and future Laws, whether foreseen or unforeseen, ordinary as well as extraordinary. Such Laws shall include, without limitation, all Laws relating to health and safety and disabled accessibility including, without limitation, the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, all present and future Environmental Laws (as defined in this Lease below), and all present and future life safety, fire sprinkler, seismic retrofit, and other building code requirements.

#### **Wages and Working Conditions**

Any Contractor performing services for the Gardens shall be paid not less than the highest prevailing rate of wages, shall be subject to the same hours and working conditions, and shall receive the same benefits as in each case are provided for similar work performed in the City and County of San Francisco. The Gardens require any Contractor every calendar month during any construction period, certified payroll reports with respect to all persons performing labor in the construction of any Improvements or Alterations on the Premise.

#### **Prevailing Wages for Theatrical Workers**

Pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 21.25-3, unless excepted, Contracts, Leases, Franchises, Permits, and Agreements awarded, let, issued or granted by the City and County of San Francisco for the use of property owned by the City and County of San Francisco shall require any Contractor engaged in theatrical or technical services related to the presentation of a Show to be paid not less than the Prevailing Rate of Wages. Contract employees engaged in theatrical and technical services include, without limitation, those engaged in rigging, sound, projection, theatrical lighting, videos, computers, draping, carpentry, special effects, and motion picture services. Capitalized terms in this Section that are not defined in this Lease shall have the meanings provided in Administrative Code

Section 21.25-3. The partner agrees to comply with and be fully bound by, and to require its Subcontractors to comply with and be fully bound by, the provisions of Administrative Code Section 21.25-3, including, without limitation, the payment of any penalties for noncompliance and other remedies available to the City. The provisions of the Administrative Code Section 21.25-3 are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Lease. The Contractor shall cooperate fully with the Labor Standards Enforcement Officer and any other City official or employee, or any of their respective agents, in the administration and enforcement of the requirements of Administrative Code Section 21.25-3, including, without limitation, any investigation of noncompliance by Contractor or its Subcontractors. The Contractor agrees that the City may inspect and/or audit any workplace or job site involved in or related to the performance of this Lease, including, without limitation, interviewing Contractor and any Subcontractor's employees and having immediate access to employee time sheets, payroll records, and paychecks for inspection. San Francisco Botanical Garden Society (SFBGS) may obtain a copy of the current Prevailing Rate of Wages from the City by contacting its Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. SFBGS acknowledges that the City's Board of Supervisors may amend such Prevailing Rate of Wages and agrees that SFBGS and any Subcontractors shall be bound by and shall fully comply with any such amendments by the Board of Supervisors.

#### **Intellectual Property; Music Broadcasting Rights**

The Contract Partner shall be solely responsible for obtaining any necessary clearances or permissions for the use of intellectual property on the Premises including, but not limited to musical or other performance rights.

#### **RFP SCHEDULE AND SELECTION PROCESS**

| <b>Milestone</b>               | <b>Date</b>                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| RFP Issued                     | October 12, 2023              |
| Proposal Submission Deadline   | November 15, 2023             |
| Partner Selection              | November 29, 2023             |
| Final Production Plan & Design | March 2024                    |
| Marketing Collateral           | June 2024                     |
| Early Bird Pricing Launch      | July 2024                     |
| Installation                   | October 7 - November 15, 2024 |
| Light Show Launches            | November 22, 2024             |



|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Light Show Closes | January 5, 2025 |
| De-installation   | January 6, 2023 |

### **Submission of Proposals**

All proposals must be delivered no later than 5:00 pm PST Tuesday, November 15, 2023, to Jamie Chan, Director of Programs & Partnerships and Brendan Lange, Director of Advancement. Submissions should be submitted as a single pdf file and directed to [jchan@gggp.org](mailto:jchan@gggp.org) and [blange@gggp.org](mailto:blange@gggp.org) by the noted deadline.

### **Evaluation by Selection Committee**

After the deadline for submission of proposals, a selection committee appointed by the Gardens will review all conforming proposals. The criteria for evaluating the proposals are described in the following section of this RFP. Each proposal will be initially reviewed by Gardens staff for completeness, responsiveness to minimum qualifications, and adequacy of documentation. Proposals with significant deficiencies in these areas may receive no further consideration. Respondents that fail to meet the minimum qualifications will be deemed non-responsive and their proposals will not be scored or ranked. All proposals meeting minimum qualifications will be forwarded by Gardens staff to the Committee to determine which proposals best meet the selection criteria. In arriving at its determination, the Committee will evaluate the contents of each proposal and may conduct oral interviews with the respondents. Dates and times of any such interviews will be coordinated by Gardens staff.

### **Selection Process Generally**

All proposals will be evaluated by the Gardens in accordance with the criteria and procedures identified in this RFP. Without limiting any of its rights described in the section below, Gardens reserves the right in its discretion to select based directly on the proposals submitted or to negotiate further with one or more of the respondents. The respondent selected under this RFP will be chosen based on its apparent ability to best meet the overall objectives of the Gardens, as ultimately determined by the Gardens in their sole and absolute discretion. Each proposal will be initially reviewed by Gardens staff for demonstration of meeting minimum qualifications, completeness, responsiveness, and adequacy of documentation. Proposals with significant deficiencies in these areas may receive no further consideration. A selection panel shall assist Gardens staff with this review and shall score the proposals according to the point system and criteria listed below. Interviews with individual respondents and/or public presentations may be required. In addition, staff may, at their sole discretion, independently investigate the qualifications of certain respondents and/or conduct interviews with members of certain respondents' teams. The Gardens reserves the right to request clarification or additional information from a respondent.

### **Selection Criteria**

- 1) **Minimum Qualifications:** Each respondent must possess and demonstrate the following minimum qualifications to be considered as a possible candidate for this opportunity:
  - i) Three years of management experience for the proposed light show.
  - ii) Sufficient financial ability to execute the proposal.
  - iii) Any proposal that does not demonstrate that the Respondent meets these minimum requirements by the deadline for submittal of proposals will be considered non-responsive and will not be eligible for award of the contract.
  
- 2) **Evaluation Criteria:** The selection committee will use the following weighted criteria to evaluate proposals:
  - i) **Agency credibility, capabilities, and experience (20 Points)**
  - ii) **Operations plan (20 Points)**
  - iii) **Business plan and financial projections (20 Points)**
  - iv) **Financial ability (20 Points)**
  - v) **Proposed financial terms (10 Points)**
  - vi) **Feasibility, including relevant case studies showcasing excellence and aptitude navigating a light show in a diverse urban environment such as San Francisco. (10 Points)**

### **Selection Committee**

Following the Gardens receipt of submittals, the Gardens will implement the evaluation process of timely, complete, and responsive submittals from qualified respondents. A Selection Committee will evaluate the submittals of each respondent based on the minimum qualifications and selection criteria as outlined above. Selected respondents may be interviewed by the Selection Committee. The lead staff of the respondent should be present for the interview as well as the lead staff of any partners and parties authorized to negotiate a contract. Information provided to the panel from the interviews may be used during the scoring process and evaluated using the same evaluation criteria that the selection panel will use to score the written proposals.

Those submittals meeting the minimum qualifications will be scored and ranked by the Selection Committee. The Gardens reserves the right to request clarification or additional information from individual respondents and to request that some or all respondents make presentations to Gardens staff, the Recreation and Park Commission, community groups, and/or others. The Gardens further reserves the right to make an award without further clarification of proposals received. A selection panel shall assist staff with this review and shall score the proposals according to the point system and criteria listed under "Selection Criteria" above. Interviews with individual respondents and/or public presentations may be required. In addition, staff may, at their sole discretion, independently investigate the qualifications of certain respondents and/or conduct interviews with members of certain respondents' team. The Gardens reserves the right to request clarification or additional information from a respondent.

The Selection Committee will be instructed to score the proposals based upon how completely respondents responded to the requested information outlined in this RFP, the quality, professionalism,

vision and appropriateness of such responses, and the level of experience and expertise demonstrated by the responses.

### **Exclusive Negotiations**

For an exclusive negotiating period of up to 60 days, after the Gardens finalize the selection, the Gardens will attempt to negotiate with the selected Partner, a contract that is consistent with the terms of this RFP and the successful respondent's proposal. Upon successful agreement to all terms of the Contract, the proposed Partner's proposal will be reviewed by the Gardens of Golden Gate Park Board of Directors for approval. The period of exclusive negotiations may be extended solely at the Gardens option. In the event the Gardens Leadership determines that such negotiations are not proceeding satisfactorily due to the fault of the selected respondent, the Gardens may commence negotiations with another respondent or begin the selection process anew.

### **Questions About Submission Process**

Any requests for information or clarification of this RFP other than those raised must be submitted in writing by email to Jamie Chan at [Jchan@gggp.org](mailto:Jchan@gggp.org). Written responses to all questions directed to Gardens staff will be posted on Gardens web page for this RFP. Therefore, the Gardens strongly recommend that interested parties refer to the RFP on the Gardens website and consult the website frequently to determine if new information regarding the RFP is available.

### **Limitation of Communications During Solicitation**

From the date this RFP is issued until the date the competitive process of this RFP is completed (either by cancellation or final Award), Respondents and their subcontractors, vendors, representatives and/or other parties under Respondent's control, shall communicate solely with Jamie Chan at [Jchan@gggp.org](mailto:Jchan@gggp.org) (the "RFP Administrator"). Any attempt to communicate with any party other than the RFP Administrator including any City official, members of the selection committee, representative or employee is strictly prohibited. Failure to comply with this communications protocol may, at the sole discretion of Gardens, result in the disqualification of the Respondent or potential Respondent from the competitive process. This protocol does not apply to communications with the Gardens regarding business not related to this RFP.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL**

### **Errors and Omissions in RFP**

Respondents are responsible for reviewing all portions of this RFP. Respondents are to promptly notify the Gardens, in writing, if the respondent discovers any ambiguity, discrepancy, omission, or other error in the RFP. Any such notification should be directed to the Gardens promptly after discovery, but in no event later than five (5) working days prior to the date for receipt of proposals. Modifications and clarifications will be made by addenda as provided below. The square footage information provided in this RFP are estimates and should be verified by each respondent.

### **Inquiries Regarding RFP**

Inquiries regarding the RFP and all verbal notifications of intent to request written modification or clarification of the RFP, must be directed via email to Jamie Chan at [Jchan@gggp.org](mailto:Jchan@gggp.org)

**Change Notices**

The Gardens may modify the RFP, prior to the proposal due date, by issuing Change Notices, which will be posted on the website. The respondent shall be responsible for ensuring that its proposal reflects all Change Notices issued by the Gardens prior to the proposal due date regardless of when the proposal is submitted. Therefore, the Gardens recommend that the respondent consult the website frequently, including shortly before the proposal due date, to determine if the respondent has downloaded all Change Notices.

**Term of Proposal**

Submission of a proposal signifies that the proposed services and prices are valid for 280 calendar days from the proposal due date and that the quoted prices are genuine and not the result of collusion or any other anti-competitive activity.

**Revision of Proposal**

A respondent may revise a proposal on the respondent's own initiative at any time before the deadline for submission of proposals. The respondent must submit the revised proposal in the same manner as the original. A revised proposal must be received on or before the proposal due date.

In no case will a statement of intent to submit a revised proposal, or commencement of a revision process, extend the proposal due date for any respondent. At any time during the proposal evaluation process, the Gardens may require a respondent to provide oral or written clarification of its proposal. The Gardens reserves the right to make an award without further clarifications of proposals received.

**Responsible Proposals**

No proposals will be accepted from any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity that is in arrears upon any obligation to the Gardens or that otherwise may be deemed irresponsible, unreliable, or unqualified by the Gardens.

**One Proposal per Respondent**

Only one proposal will be accepted from any one firm or corporation, or affiliated entities; however, several alternatives may be included in one proposal, and as noted above, joint ventures or similar arrangements are permitted.

**Grounds for Rejection**

Any false, incomplete, or unresponsive statements in connection with a proposal may be cause for its rejection at the Gardens' discretion. Any judgment as to the significance of any falsity, incompleteness, or unresponsiveness associated with a proposal shall be the prerogative of the Gardens and its judgment shall be final.

**Invitation to Submit Proposals, no Obligations by Gardens to Contract**

This RFP is only an invitation to submit proposals and does not commit the Gardens in any way to enter into a Lease or other agreement or to proceed with the RFP. In addition, the issuance of this RFP does not obligate the Gardens to pay any costs incurred by any Respondent in connection with (i) the preparation of a response to this RFP, (ii) any supplements or modifications of this RFP or (iii) negotiations with the Gardens or other party arising out of or relating to this RFP. All costs incurred in the preparation and presentation of any proposal in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the respondent.

**Proposal as a Public Record**

All documents under this solicitation process are subject to public disclosure per the California Public Records Act (California Government Code Section §6250 et. Seq) and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance (San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 67). Contracts, Proposals, responses, and all other records of communications between the City and Proposers shall be open to inspection immediately after a contract has been awarded. Nothing in this Administrative Code provision requires the disclosure of a private person's or organization's net worth or other proprietary financial data submitted for qualification for a contract or other benefit until and unless that person or organization is awarded the contract or benefit. The Respondent will clearly designate those financial records which it in good faith determines to be a trade secret or confidential propriety information protected from disclosure under applicable law. To the extent permitted by law, the Gardens will attempt to reasonably maintain the confidentiality of such financial information consistent with the City's general practices for maintaining the confidentiality of such information, as discussed below. However, the Gardens will not under any circumstances be responsible for any damages or losses incurred by a Respondent or any other person or entity because of the release of such financial information.

If the Gardens receive a Public Records Request ("Request") pertaining to this solicitation, the Gardens will use its best efforts to notify the affected Proposer(s) of the Request and to provide the Proposer with a description of the material that the Gardens deems responsive and the due date for disclosure ("Response Date"). If the Proposer asserts that some or all the material requested contains or reveals valuable trade secret or other information belonging to the Proposer that is exempt from disclosure and directs the Gardens in writing to withhold such material from production ("Withholding Directive"), then the Gardens will comply with the Withholding Directive on the condition that the Proposer seeks judicial relief on or before the Response Date. Should Proposer fail to seek judicial relief on or before the Response Date, the City shall proceed with the disclosure of responsive documents.

### **Right to Disqualify**

The Gardens reserves the right to disqualify any Respondent to this RFP based on any real or apparent conflict of interest that is disclosed by the responses submitted, misrepresentation or false statements in proposal, or other data available to the Gardens. This disqualification is at the sole discretion of the Gardens.

### **Errors and Omissions in Proposal**

Failure by the Gardens to object to an error, omission, or deviation in the proposal will in no way modify the RFP or excuse the vendor from full compliance with the specifications of the RFP or any contract awarded pursuant to the RFP.

### **Financial Responsibility**

The Gardens accepts no financial responsibility for any costs incurred by a firm in responding to this RFP. Submissions of the RFP will become the property of the Gardens and may be used by the Gardens in any way deemed appropriate.

### **Protests**

Within five (5) working days of the Gardens' issuance of a notice of non-responsiveness, any firm that has submitted a proposal and believes that the City has incorrectly determined that its proposal is non-responsive may submit a written notice of protest. Such notice of protest must be received by the Gardens' before the fifth working day following the City's issuance of the notice of non-responsiveness. The notice of protest must include a written statement specifying in detail each one of the grounds asserted for the protest. The protest must be signed by an individual authorized to represent the respondent, and must cite the law, rule, local ordinance, procedure, or RFP provision on which the protest is based. In addition, the protestor must specify facts and evidence sufficient for the Gardens to determine the validity of the protest.

#### **Protest of Contract Award**

Within five (5) working days of the Gardens' issuance of a notice of intent to award the contract, any firm that has submitted a responsive proposal and believes that the Gardens has incorrectly selected another respondent for award may submit a written notice of protest. Such notice of protest must be received by the Gardens on or before the fifth working day after the Gardens' of the notice of intent to award.

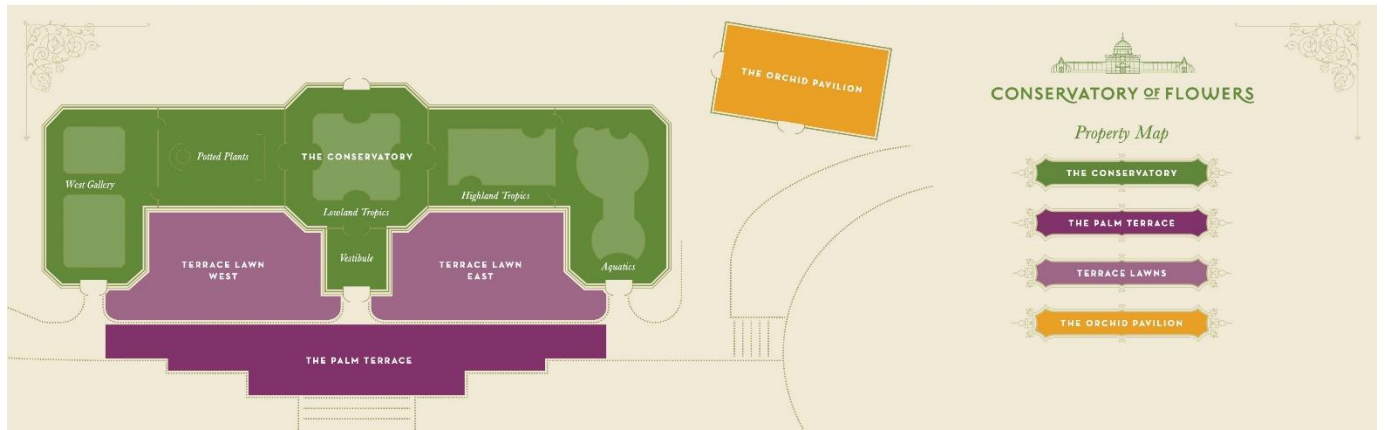
The notice of protest must include a written statement specifying in detail each one of the grounds asserted for the protest. The protest must be signed by an individual authorized to represent the respondent, and must cite the law, rule, local ordinance, procedure, or RFP provision on which the protest is based. In addition, the protestor must specify facts and evidence sufficient for the Gardens to determine the validity of the protest.

#### **Delivery of Protests**

All protests must be received by the due date. Protests must be submitted by email and notice of protests made orally (e.g., by telephone) will not be considered. Protests must be sent to Jamie Chan at [Jchan@gggp.org](mailto:Jchan@gggp.org).

## **Appendix**

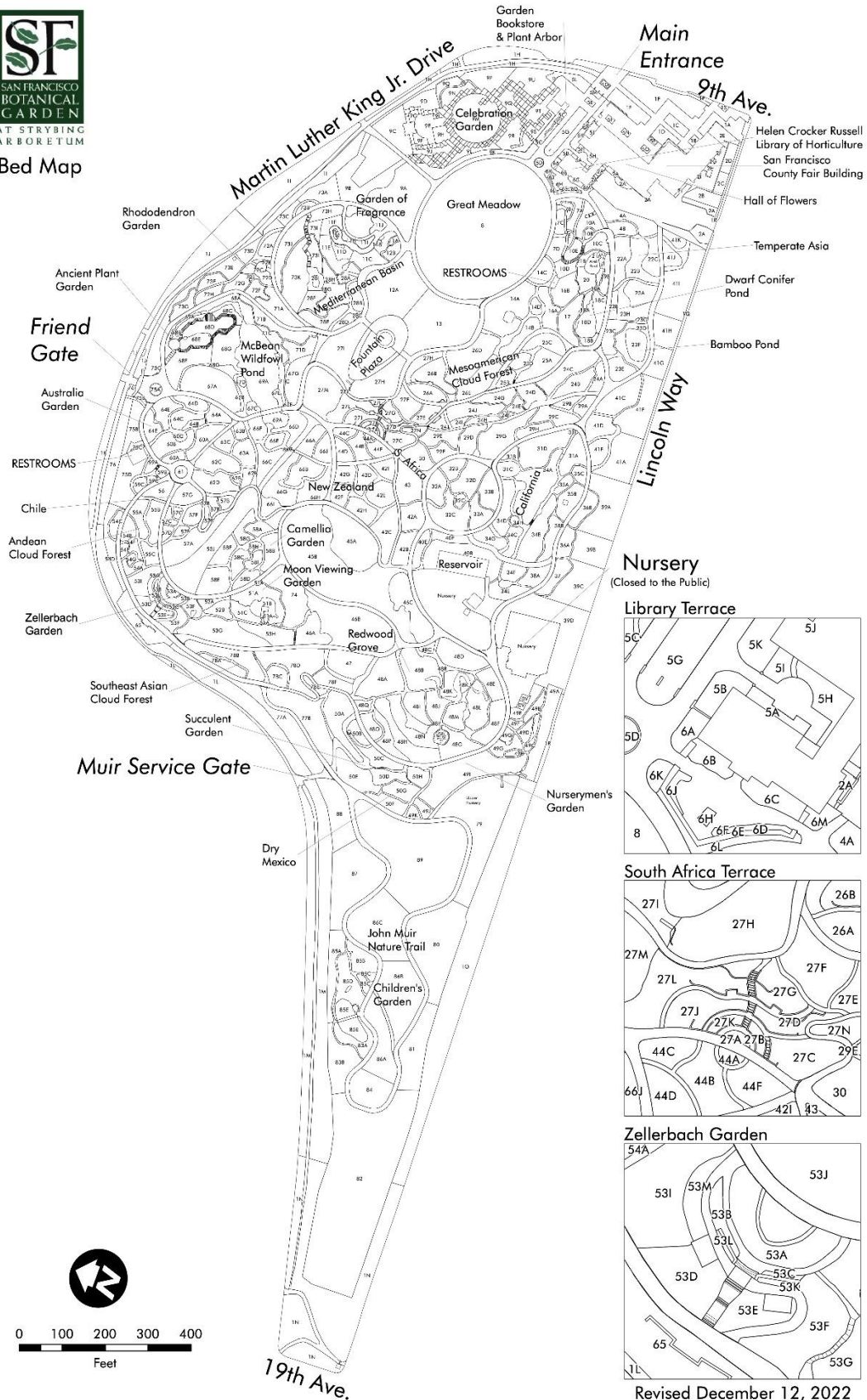
- List of locations of work
- Overall garden maps (on the following pages)
- Garden sizes:
  - San Francisco Botanical Garden: 55 acres
  - Conservatory of Flowers: 12,500 square feet
  - Japanese Tea Garden: approximately 5 acres





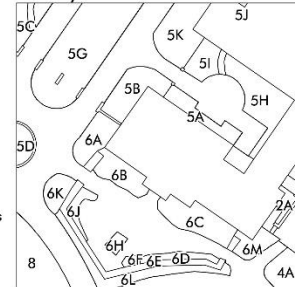


## Bed Map

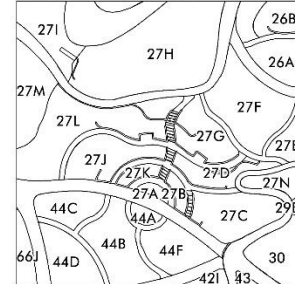


### Nursery (Closed to the Public)

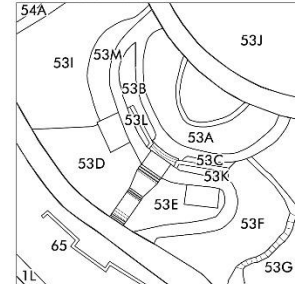
#### Library Terrace



#### South Africa Terrace



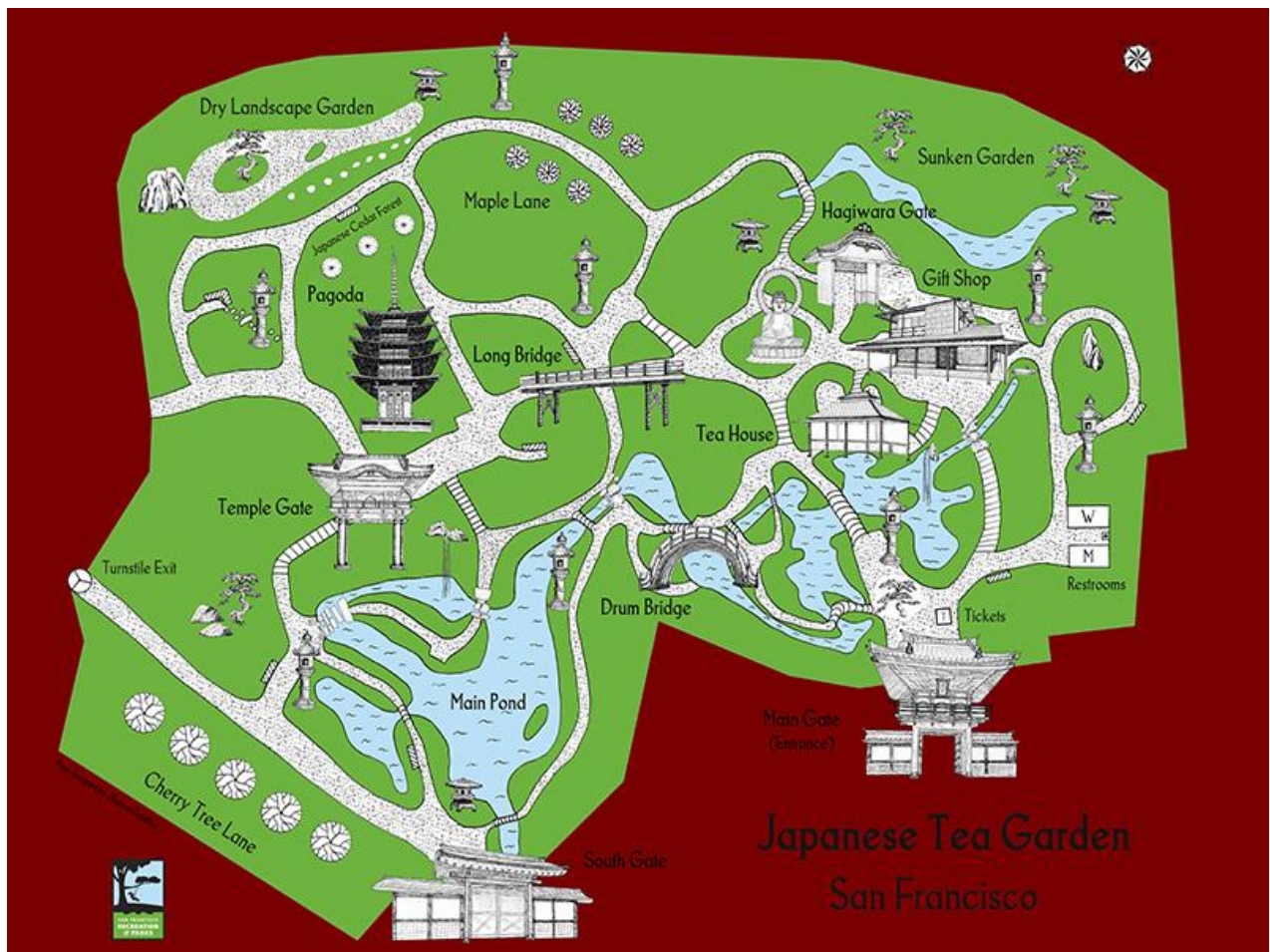
#### Zellerbach Garden



Revised December 12, 2022  
Curatorial Department



0 100 200 300 400  
Feet





October 30, 2023

Jamie Chan and Board Members c/o Stephanie Linder  
San Francisco Botanical Garden, GGGP  
1199 Ninth Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
via email [ichan@gggp.org](mailto:ichan@gggp.org) and [slinder@GGGP.org](mailto:slinder@GGGP.org)

**Re: Gardens of Golden Gate Park Winter Lights Request for Proposal**

Dear San Francisco Botanical Garden Leadership,

The California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena chapter (CNPS YB), is writing to express our concerns about the RFP for a winter artificial night lighting installation in the San Francisco Botanical Garden and to respectfully request that you reconsider moving forward with this project. CNPS-YB aims to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich natural heritage for future generations. Our local organization supports native habitat for people and wildlife in San Francisco.

While we understand the intentions behind the installation to enhance the visitor experience and promote winter visitation while raising funds for the SFBG; it is essential to consider the potential negative effects on visitors as well as the plants and animals that inhabit the garden. Artificial night lighting can disrupt the natural circadian rhythms and behaviors of both flora and fauna, leading to adverse consequences for the delicate ecosystem within the garden.

One of the most concerning aspects of artificial night lighting is its impact on plant life. Many plants rely on the natural light-dark cycle to determine when to flower, produce seeds, and go dormant. Artificial lighting can confuse these plants, leading to irregular growth patterns, reduced seed production, and even increased vulnerability to diseases. This could potentially harm the very species the Botanical Garden strives to protect and conserve.

Moreover, the nocturnal animals that call the garden home may also suffer due to this light pollution. Birds, insects, and other wildlife may be disoriented by the artificial lights, leading to collisions with structures, exhaustion, or disrupted pollination, feeding and breeding behaviors. Artificially lit nest sites exposes these vulnerable locations to danger of predation. In particular, migratory birds can become disoriented, affecting their ability to navigate safely during their journeys.

In light of these concerns, we request that you reconsider any artificial night lighting in the San Francisco Botanical Garden. We believe that you can still create a beautiful, informative and enjoyable experience for visitors without causing harm to the plants and animals that make the garden so special.

We're confident that, by working together and considering the potential consequences, we can find a solution that respects the environment and preserves the unique qualities of the San Francisco Botanical Garden. We offer our chapter as a resource to collaborate with you and others who share these concerns to find alternative ways to create an enchanting winter experience for all visitors.

We have great admiration for the work done by the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and we believe that through thoughtful choices, we can continue to protect and celebrate our many remarkable San Francisco area ecologies.

Sincerely,

*Eddie Bartley*

Eddie Bartley  
President, CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter

Yerba.buena.cnps.chapter@gmail.com

CNPS Yerba Buena Board members:

Doug Allshouse  
Peter Brastow  
Sophie Constantinou  
Elliot Goliger  
Robert Hall  
Libby Ingalls  
Susan Karasoff  
Candace Low  
Susan Mullaney  
David Nelson  
David Schmidt  
Noreen Weeden

cc: San Francisco Environment Commission c/o [kyle.wehner@sfgov.org](mailto:kyle.wehner@sfgov.org)





## San Franciscans for Urban Nature

November 20th, 2023  
By e-mail and by USPS

Ms. Sarah Ryan, President  
Board of Directors  
Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
1199 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122

Re: Please rescind the Request for Proposal to add artificial night lighting, sound, and lighted evening events to the Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Dear Ms. Ryan:

*San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN)* is a group of community members who support protecting nature in our city. Golden Gate Park is a vital resource for plants and wildlife, as well as a unique place for people to experience nature within our urban environment. We are very concerned about the new RFP asking for proposals for the installation and operation of additional lighting, including a light show with sound, in either the San Francisco Botanical Garden, the Japanese Tea Garden, or the Conservatory of Flowers.

We request that you rescind this RFP for the following reasons:

**The project described contradicts city policy of supporting biodiversity, wildlife habitat and Golden Gate Park as a place for people to enjoy nature as nature, away from the bright lights and noise of the urban environment.**

- San Francisco City and RPD policy support biodiversity

City policy supports protecting biodiversity in our parks,

*"...The City should employ appropriate management practices to maintain a healthy and resilient ecosystem which preserves and protects plant and wildlife habitat. (ROSE, Policy 4.1).<sup>1</sup>*

In the 2023-2027 Recreation and Park Department Strategic Plan one of five goals is to:

*"Inspire stewardship; - Strengthen the City's climate resilience by protecting and enhancing San Francisco' precious natural resources through conservation, education and sustainable land and facility management practices."<sup>2</sup>*

- Golden Gate Park provides important habitat for wildlife

Golden Gate Park is a historic home for wildlife. Wildlife have been an intrinsic part of the Park's history.<sup>3</sup> As the Park evolved and the trees and shrubs developed into valuable habitat, the Park became populated with many wildlife species that have turned to our urban parks for shelter, both as a daytime habitat and as a nighttime refuge.

- Golden Gate Park is a major park in which people can enjoy nature as nature

The National Register designation describes Golden Gate Park as follows:

*"Golden Gate Park was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor. . . With development spurred on by the park, the city grew up around the park and it is now a green oasis in a sea of urbanization."<sup>4</sup>*

This was especially true during the height of the COVID pandemic, when San Francisco residents flocked to our parks in record numbers for the sustenance provided by nature.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The introduction of additional artificial lighting, amplified sound, and crowd events into the parkland at night threatens wildlife habitat.**

- The RFP recognizes that the “San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum... is a 55-acre living museum...” However, the RFP ignores that this “living museum” also shelters wildlife – birds, mammals, and insects. And wildlife depends on night darkness to thrive and in some cases even to survive.<sup>5 6</sup>
- The RFP discusses introducing music and other non-natural noise such as crowds to what are now areas that are dark and quiet at night. Quiet night-time areas are important for wildlife health, providing rest and cover from predators.<sup>7</sup>
- Golden Gate Park is on the path of the Pacific Flyway, and as such, thousands of birds pass over the City at night.<sup>8</sup> Birds can be drawn off course due to night time artificial lighting, resulting in disorientation and collisions during bird migration.<sup>9</sup>
- Too much artificial lighting can have an impact on birds’ lifecycles and nesting patterns.<sup>10</sup>
- Not only birds but also insects are impacted by the presence of artificial nighttime lighting, resulting in clustering around the lights until they are exhausted; this has contributed to the decline of the insect population.<sup>11</sup> Insects are vital to the health of the food chain.<sup>12</sup>
- The bats in Golden Gate Park can be impacted by sound pollution at night when they are hunting, resulting in failed feedings and potential collisions and mortality.<sup>13</sup> Bats are an important part of the ecosystem of the Park.<sup>14</sup>
- Artificial lighting can impact the skies over all of Golden Gate Park, providing a glow on foggy nights that contributes to blocking out the night sky.
- Any additional security lighting that will be left on all night will add to this light pollution.

**In addition to the overall concerns with the projects, we have other concerns with the RFP.**<sup>15</sup>

- The RFP requires that the focus be on artificial lighting
  - The RFP states, “A partner should approach the proposed design with ... .Special exhibits that call attention to the contemporary arts, architecture, and/or design of the SF Bay Area, especially light artists.” This seems to imply that the “light artists” will be the stars of the show – not the habitat or the plants.
- The RFP places “architecture” or “contemporary arts” above plants, nature and habitat
  - The vision statement for the Gardens of Golden Gate Park is, “Vision: . . .All people . . . experience the intrinsic value of plants to life and culture....” But the RFP requires that the project “call attention” to “contemporary arts, architecture and/or design of the SF Bay Area.” How does this requirement support the “intrinsic value of plants?”
- The RFP ignores Dark Skies
  - The RFP makes no mention of trying to minimize park lighting to protect Dark Skies. On the contrary, the RFP states, “The program will also be mindful of the ‘ecosystem’ of winter lights in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area.” The SF Bay Area is already very bright – does this mean that the program will be striving to make the Gardens as bright as the rest of the Bay Area?
- The RFP was issued very suddenly with a very short time line
  - The RFP was issued on October 12, 2023 and the proposals had to be submitted to the GGGP by November 15, 2023. This short time line gives the public little time to react to this proposal, and in addition, gives respondents little time to come up with well-thought-out proposals, unless they were somehow made aware of the RFP before it was issued.

\*\*\*\*\*

- There has been no notice to or consulting with the public about this proposal
  - This proposal has been created within the GGGP Board but with no notice or hearing before the public. Does the public-private partnership structure of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park prevent the public from learning about and commenting in a timely manner on activities that will take place in one of San Francisco's major parks?
- The RFP lists fundraising as a major goal for the project, not protecting habitat
  - The RFP states that the proposed projects must make money for the GGGP as well as for the Department of Recreation and Parks. Tickets are projected to cost between \$28 and \$40 per person. The minimum net revenue generated for the gardens must be at least \$500,000. Half of all revenue will go to the Department of Recreation and Parks. At what point will making money overrule habitat protection?
- The RFP calls for large crowds in the GGGP outside of the regular park hours
  - The RFP calls for 80,000 to 180,000 people to attend "over the show run." The time period outlined in the RFP is from November 15, 2024 through January 5, 2025, about 55 days. To achieve this level of attendance within that time period would mean that between 1,450 and 3,270 people would have to attend each evening. The RFP is not clear as to whether or not these large crowds are expected the first year or over a multi-year period; in either case, this is an enormous number of people to introduce into the currently darkened park habitat at night. How is the public going to 'appreciate' nature in the midst of such a crowd scene?
- The impact of artificial lighting on children and nature-deficit disorder
  - The RFP lists a goal of addressing nature-deficit disorder in children. In contradiction to that goal, the proposal values artificial attractions, lighting and sound over the quiet and darkness of the natural world. Ironically, this project could contribute to nature-deficit disorder by depriving children of the opportunity to learn about and to appreciate the natural world as it exists.<sup>16</sup> The message to children is that nature has no intrinsic value and is not of interest unless it has been lighted up or otherwise turned into an 'attraction.'
- The RFP discusses increasing the 'diversity' of Garden attendees as a reason for the light shows
  - The RFP discusses increasing 'diversity' in attendance. This implies that some population groups somehow do not appreciate nature and need artificial stimuli so that they can 'appreciate and learn more about plant diversity.' This is an offensive assumption that has been discussed and disproven in studies.<sup>17</sup>

SFUN requests that you reconsider this project

Considering the inappropriateness of adding more night lighting to this historic park, the potential damage to birds and other wildlife, and the message that artificial attractions are more important than plants and habitat, we recommend that the Gardens of Golden Gate Park cancel this Request for Proposal. Instead, we ask that the GGGP focus on that which it does best - valuing the natural beauty and habitat that is currently in Golden Gate Park while creating programs that not only educate people but also support quality habitat both in the Gardens of Golden Gate Park and in the wider context of all of Golden Gate Park.

Sincerely,

*Katherine Howard*

Corresponding Secretary

cc: Stephanie Linder, CEO, GGGP  
 Jamie Chan, Director of Programs & Partnerships, GGGP  
 Board of Supervisors  
 Commission on the Environment

Planning Commission  
 Recreation and Park Commission  
 Youth Commission

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**ENDNOTES: Links longer than one line may need to be copied into your browser.**

- <sup>1</sup> "Recreation and Open Space Elements (ROSE), OBJECTIVE 4, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY, HABITAT VALUE, AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF OPEN SPACES AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM"  
[https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/I3\\_Recreation\\_and\\_Open\\_Space.htm](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/I3_Recreation_and_Open_Space.htm)
- <sup>2</sup> "2023-2027 Update - Strategic Plan," Recreation and Park Department,  
<https://sfrecpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/19860/Strategic-Plan-Update-2023>
- <sup>3</sup> "Golden Gate Park at Your Feet," Doss, Margot Patterson, 1978. "...Elk, bears, beavers, ... kangaroos, sheep and moose also have roamed in park meadows . . ." page 154.
- <sup>4</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1. [Emphasis added.]
- <sup>5</sup> Walker, Connie. "A Silent Cry for Dark Skies",  
[https://astrosociety.org/file\\_download/inline/b9265479-56cc-4283-a2a1-8383ba26e99d](https://astrosociety.org/file_download/inline/b9265479-56cc-4283-a2a1-8383ba26e99d)
- <sup>6</sup> "Light pollution harms wildlife and ecosystems," International Dark Sky Association,  
<https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/>
- <sup>7</sup> "Noise Pollution," National Geographic Education,  
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/noise-pollution/>
- <sup>8</sup> Midpeninsula Regional Open Space, "Nature in November: The Pacific Flyway."  
<https://www.openspace.org/stories/nature-november-pacific-flyway>
- <sup>9</sup> Van Doren, et al. "High-intensity urban light installation dramatically alters nocturnal bird migration,"  
<https://www.pnas.org/content/114/42/11175>
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/wildlife/> and  
<https://phys.org/news/2020-11-artificial-night-widespread-impacts-nature.html>
- <sup>11</sup> Owens, et al. "Light pollution is a driver of insect declines," *Biological Conservation*, January 2020.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0006320719307797?via%3Dihub>
- <sup>12</sup> "Why We Need Insects," PennState, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences,  
[https://www.huck.psu.edu/institutes-and-centers/insect-biodiversity-center/why-we-need-insects - :](https://www.huck.psu.edu/institutes-and-centers/insect-biodiversity-center/why-we-need-insects-)
- <sup>13</sup> Dowd, Bill. 6/19/2019, "How noise impacts bats and other wildlife," Skedaddle Wildlife,  
<https://www.skedaddlewildlife.com/location/pickering/blog/how-noise-pollution-impacts-bats/>
- <sup>14</sup> Patel, Jainita; Tigreros, Gabriel, "Bats in the Bay Area: Why they matter, and what we can do for them," Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy,  
[https://www.parksconservancy.org/article/bats-bay-area-why-they-matter-and-what-we-can-do-them - :](https://www.parksconservancy.org/article/bats-bay-area-why-they-matter-and-what-we-can-do-them-)
- <sup>15</sup> RFP quotes are from the "Gardens of Golden Gate Park, Winter Lights Request for Proposal," October 12, 2023.  
[https://www.sfbg.org/files/ugd/3b12b2\\_bcf8ca0eb294fc8becf648a246e91d3.pdf](https://www.sfbg.org/files/ugd/3b12b2_bcf8ca0eb294fc8becf648a246e91d3.pdf)
- <sup>16</sup> "Last Child in the Wood, Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder," Louv, Richard. 2008. "... the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable."
- <sup>17</sup> Taylor, Dorcetta E. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Connectedness to Nature and Landscape Preferences Among College Students," "... None of the respondents say they are disconnected from nature. Most say that, first and foremost, they think about trees, forests, and plants when they think of nature. The study found that black students prefer naturalistic landscapes more than urbanized settings and their perceptions of nature and landscapes mirror that of students of other racial and ethnic groups."  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324230089\\_Racial\\_and\\_Ethnic\\_Differences\\_in\\_Connectedness\\_to\\_Nature](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324230089_Racial_and_Ethnic_Differences_in_Connectedness_to_Nature)

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1 [Motion to Support Efforts - San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN) advocacy to urge  
2 Gardens of Golden Gate Park to not hold light shows]

3  
4 **Motion to urge Gardens of Golden Gate Park to rescind their Request for Proposals**  
5 **(RFP) for holding lights shows in either the San Francisco Botanical Garden, the**  
6 **Japanese Tea Garden, or the Conservatory of Flowers.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Youth Commission is a chartered body in the City and  
9 County of San Francisco implying the voice of youth in government spaces; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN) is a group of community  
12 members who support protecting nature in San Francisco; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, San Franciscans for Urban Nature (SFUN) submitted a letter to Gardens of  
15 Golden Gate Park to not hold light shows in various gardens in Golden Gate Park; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the request for proposals (RFP) of the installation and operation of  
18 additional lighting, including a light show with sounds is environmentally damaging; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, Golden Gate Park is a vital resource for plants and wildlife, was well a  
21 unique place for people to experience nature within an urban environment; and therefore be it

22  
23 MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission will supports the San Franciscans  
24 for Urban Natures (SFUN) advocacy and urges the Gardens of Golden Gate Park to rescind  
25 their Request for Proposals (RFP) for holding lights shows in either the San Francisco Botanical  
26 Garden, the Japanese Tea Garden, or the Conservatory of Flowers.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Alondra Esquivel-Garcia, Director, Youth Commission

FROM: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk,  
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

DATE: October 11, 2023

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE MATTER INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following hearing request, introduced by Supervisor Melgar on October 3, 2023. This item is being referred for comment and recommendation.

### File No. 231030

**Hearing on the working conditions and accommodations for working women with children in the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), including access to clean and adequate lactation resources and childcare; and requesting the SFPD, Department of Human Resources, Department of Early Childhood, and Department on the Status of Women to report.**

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION Date: 11/7/2023

☐ No Comment  
☒ Recommendation  
Attached

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Youth Commission

C: Office of Chair \_\_\_\_\_

## **Introduction Form**

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- ☐ 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- ☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)  
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- ☐ 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- ☐ 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor  inquires..."
- ☐ 5. City Attorney Request
- ☐ 6. Call File No.  from Committee.
- ☐ 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- ☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- ☐ 9. Reactivate File No.
- ☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- ☐ Small Business Commission      ☐ Youth Commission      ☐ Ethics Commission
- ☐ Planning Commission      ☐ Building Inspection Commission      ☐ Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- ☐ Yes      ☐ No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:



## YOUTH COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** John Carroll, Assistant Clerk  
Myrna Melgar, District 7 Supervisor  
Catherine Stefani, District 2 Supervisor

**CC:** Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director  
Emma Heiken, District 7 Legislative Aide  
Dominica Donovan, District 2 Legislative Aide

**FROM:** 2023-2024 San Francisco Youth Commission

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023

**RE:** SUBJECT: YOUTH COMMISSION REFERRED LEGISLATION BOS FILE # 231030

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At its in-person meeting on Monday, November 6, 2023 took the following action on BOS FILE # 231030:

- Motion to Support Referred Legislation BOS File # 231030 [Hearing - Working Conditions for Women in the SFPD]  
**Hearing on the working conditions and accommodations for working women with children in the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), including access to clean and adequate lactation resources and childcare; and requesting the SFPD, Department of Human Resources, Department of Early Childhood, and Department on the Status of Women to report.**
  
- The San Francisco Youth Commission recognizes the importance of this hearing and supports it. Below are questions the commission has on the issue:
  - How does the current limitation of SFPD mothers to breastfeed affects the health of their children?
  - Are parents given the same amount of time to feed their children formula, rather than only breastfeeding?
  - What are the differences between SFPD's facilities and other comparable police departments?

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Please do not hesitate to contact Youth Commissioners or Youth Commission staff (415) 554- 6446 with any questions. Thank you.

**REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**  
*(Amended in committee – November 27, 2023)*

[Planning and Subdivision Codes, Zoning Map - Housing Production]

**Ordinance amending the Planning Code to encourage housing production by (1) exempting, under certain conditions, specified housing projects from the notice and review procedures of Section 311 and the Conditional Use requirement of Section 317, in areas outside of Priority Equity Geographies, which are identified in the Housing Element as areas or neighborhoods with a high density of vulnerable populations, and areas outside RH (Residential House) Districts within the Family Housing Opportunity Special Use District; (2) removing the Conditional Use requirement for several types of housing projects, including housing developments on large lots in areas outside the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District, projects to build to the allowable height limit, projects that build additional units in lower density zoning districts, and senior housing projects that seek to obtain double density, subject to certain exceptions in RH Districts in the Family Housing Opportunity Special Use District; (3) amending rear yard, front setback, lot frontage, minimum lot size, and residential open space requirements in specified districts, subject to certain exceptions in RH Districts in the Family Housing Opportunity Special Use District; (4) allowing additional uses on the ground floor in residential buildings, homeless shelters, and group housing in residential districts, and administrative review of reasonable accommodations; (5) expanding the eligibility for the Housing Opportunities Mean Equity – San Francisco (HOME – SF) program and density exceptions in residential districts; (6) exempting certain affordable housing projects from certain development fees; (7) authorizing the Planning Director to approve State Density Bonus projects, subject to delegation from the Planning Commission; and (8) making conforming amendments to other sections of the Planning Code; amending the Zoning Map to create the Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District; amending the Subdivision Code to update the condominium conversion requirements for projects utilizing residential density exceptions in RH Districts; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

Existing Law

The Planning Code sets forth different zoning districts throughout the City, where different uses are permitted, conditionally permitted, or prohibited, and where various controls (such as height, bulk, setbacks, etc.) apply. It also contains permit application, noticing, and hearing requirements, as well as appeal procedures, as applicable, for different permits and entitlements. The Planning Code also contains Special Use Districts (“SUD”), such as the

Family Housing Opportunity SUD, which contain additional use restrictions and development controls (Section 249.94).

The Zoning Map is a component of the Planning Code, and it contains maps and figures that depict zoning regulations spatially, showing how land can be used in areas of San Francisco called "zoning districts" (also known as "zones" or "use districts").

The Subdivision Code provides condominium conversion procedures for projects utilizing the Citywide Fourplex Program (Planning Code Section 207(c)(8)) and the development incentives in the Family Housing Opportunity SUD.

### Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to implement a series of process reforms with the goal to encourage housing production. For instance:

- The ordinance creates a new Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District (SUD) and amends the Zoning Map to map that SUD. Priority Equity Geographies are areas that have been identified in the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Community Health Needs Assessment as Areas of Vulnerability.
- The ordinance exempts housing demolition citywide, but outside of Priority Equity Geographies, from the existing Conditional Use (CU) authorization requirement, if conditions regarding notice, tenant protections, unit configuration, and historic buildings are met ("Section 317 waiver").
- It exempts expansion and new construction projects from neighborhood notice in areas outside of the Priority Equity Geographies SUD.
- It deletes the Planning Code requirement for a CU authorization for large lot developments in certain zoning districts (usually 10,000 sq. ft. or greater).
- It deletes the CU authorization requirement for projects to exceed a specified height in certain districts, even if the height limit allows for a greater height. By removing the CU requirement, the ordinance allows construction of buildings to the permitted height limit.
- It provides that if the Planning Commission delegates approval authority to the Planning Director, State Density Bonus (SDB) projects can be approved without a Commission hearing, regardless of any other requirements in the Planning Code.
- In certain zoning districts, it allows construction of more units than currently principally permitted in larger lots in residential (RH-1, RH-2, and RH-3) districts, based on the lot area, removing the current CU requirement.
- It deletes the requirement that in order for senior housing projects to take advantage of double density allowances, they must be located within a quarter mile of a mid-sized Neighborhood Commercial District, or obtain a CU authorization.



- It expands development fee waivers to apply to 100% affordable housing projects with units affordable to up to 120% of the Area Medium Income, regardless of the funding source, and to 100% affordable SDB projects.
- It reduces and standardizes rear yard, front setback, lot frontage, and minimum lot size requirements in certain zoning districts.
- It simplifies residential open space requirements.
- It allows additional uses on the ground floor in residential buildings.
- It makes homeless shelters and group housing permitted in residential districts.
- It expands the eligibility for the Housing Opportunities Mean Equity – San Francisco (HOME – SF) program and density exceptions in residential districts, by removing some of the applicability thresholds for each of these programs.
- It allows for administrative review of reasonable accommodations.

### Background Information

The ordinance contains findings explaining its intent to implement some of the goals, objectives, policies and implementing programs of the 2022 Housing Element Update.

This ordinance is the result of amendments made on November 27, 2023 at the Land Use and Transportation Committee to the ordinance in Board File No. 230446, version 5. Those amendments:

- Deleted previous amendments to create overall consistency between the provisions in the ordinance and the existing Family Housing Opportunity Special Use District;
- Amended Sections 121.1 and 121.3, to delete subjective findings from the CU requirements for large lot developments in the Priority Equity Geographies SUD and in Chinatown, respectively, and replace them with objective standards;
- Restored Section 311 notification procedures for certain projects;
- Amended the applicability requirements for the Section 317 waiver outside Priority Equity Geographies, to:
  - Replace “no more than two [rent controlled] units” can be demolished with “no units can be demolished;”
  - Change the requirement that applicants hold a pre-application meeting with interested community members for a requirement that they hold a pre or post application meeting (within 20 days of submitting the application).
  - Remove buildings located in an Article 10 historic districts from the definition of historic buildings that cannot get a Section 317 waiver, and add buildings build before 1923 and buildings that are contributors to California Register of Historical Resources or the National Register of Historic Places districts, whether listed or deemed eligible, to that definition.

FILE NO. 230446

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Alondra Esquivel-Garcia, Director, Youth Commission

FROM: Brent Jalipa, Assistant Clerk  
Homelessness and Behavioral Health Select Committee

DATE: November 22, 2023

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESOLUTION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Homelessness and Behavioral Health Select Committee has received the following proposed Resolution, introduced by Supervisor Hillary Ronen on October 31 2023. This item is being referred to the Youth Commission for comment and recommendation.

**File No. 231140**

**Resolution urging the Mayor and Department of Human Resources (DHR) to initiate an emergency hiring plan with recruitment and retention incentives for behavioral healthcare workers to fill city employee vacancies and vacancies at city-contracted providers.**

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response by email to:  
Brent.Jalipa@sfgov.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RESPONSE FROM YOUTH COMMISSION**      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **No Comment**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Recommendation Attached**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson, Youth Commission**

1 [Urging the Mayor and DHR to Initiate Emergency Hiring Plan to Fill Behavioral Health  
2 Workforce Vacancies]

3 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Department of Human Resources (DHR) to initiate an**  
4 **emergency hiring plan with recruitment and retention incentives for behavioral**  
5 **healthcare workers to fill city employee vacancies and vacancies at city-contracted**  
6 **providers.**

7  
8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is experiencing a major behavioral health crisis with record  
9 level accidental overdose deaths on track to be the deadliest year to date; and

10 WHEREAS, Between January and September of 2023, there have already been 620  
11 accidental overdose deaths, while in 2022 there were a total of 649 accidental overdose  
12 deaths, putting us on track to well surpass last year's staggering number of lives lost; and

13 WHEREAS, There is a growing workforce shortage crisis among behavioral health  
14 professionals nationwide, a crisis exacerbated in San Francisco by unlivable wages,  
15 exorbitant costs of living, non-competitive benefit programs, and a lack of robust recruitment  
16 and retention programs; and

17 WHEREAS, The success of the Behavioral Health system of care is limited by the large  
18 number of staff vacancies throughout the system; and

19 WHEREAS, Behavioral health work is a high stress field that results in extensive staff  
20 turnover; and

21 WHEREAS, High vacancies cause existing workers to take on substantial caseloads  
22 that exacerbate burnout and turnover; and

23 WHEREAS, Some city-contracted providers in behavioral health services have  
24 reported workforce vacancies as high as 40% due to an inability to compete with private  
25 providers for salary and benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, Currently, the City's Department of Public Health has 144 vacancies within  
2 Behavioral Health Services, including Jail Health Services' Behavioral Health team, and some  
3 of these vacant positions have remained empty for multiple years; and

4 WHEREAS, Jail Health Services is by far the City's largest withdrawal management  
5 program; and

6 WHEREAS, The job classifications impacted by the behavioral health workforce crisis  
7 include registered nurses, nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, behavioral  
8 health clinicians, data analysts, case workers, and social workers; and,

9 WHEREAS, The lack of sufficient data analysts make it challenging to analyze the  
10 success or lack of success of different treatment programs making it difficult for policy makers  
11 to make effective decisions about allocating limited resources; and

12 WHEREAS, Although the scarcity of behavioral health resources is most noticeable in  
13 the downtown core, other neighborhoods across San Francisco are experiencing an increase  
14 in cases of individuals experiencing behavioral health and/or substance use disorder issues  
15 with little to no support; and

16 WHEREAS, San Francisco has not implemented any recruitment or retention  
17 incentives for behavioral healthcare workers to fill city employee vacancies nor vacancies at  
18 city-contracted providers serving San Francisco in this field; and

19 WHEREAS, In the past two years, the City and County of San Francisco has greatly  
20 prioritized increasing efforts to pay, recruit, and retain police officers; and

21 WHEREAS, In June 2022, The San Francisco Police Department budget was  
22 increased by \$50,000,000 during the budget process; and

23 WHEREAS, In March 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a budget supplemental  
24 appropriating an additional \$25,000,000 to fund police overtime costs in an attempt to  
25 maintain current staffing levels; and

1 WHEREAS, In April 2023, the Police Officers Association (POA) advocated for pay  
2 raises and added retention bonuses at five, seven, and eight years of service to attract new  
3 hires, and this Memorandum of Understanding was adopted between the POA and City  
4 effective through June 2026; and

5 WHEREAS, In June 2023, the Police Department received another substantial  
6 increase of \$63,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and is slated to receive an additional  
7 \$11,000,000 in the following fiscal year; and

8 WHEREAS, These expenditures have all been in service of recruiting more officers,  
9 funding overtime, and paying for higher salaries; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to unprecedented financial spending for the San Francisco  
11 Police Department, the Mayor's Office has diverted responsibilities traditionally carried out by  
12 medical professionals and social workers to the police department, including responding to  
13 individuals experiencing mental and/or behavioral crises on our streets by arresting drug  
14 users; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite massive expenditures into the Police Department, San Francisco  
16 has not prioritized similar investments for the recruitment or retention of healthcare workers  
17 who are especially skilled in responding to and treating mental and behavioral health crises;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco has contracts to provide mental and behavioral health  
20 services with more than 40 city-contracted providers, most of whom are experiencing the  
21 same recruitment, retention, chronic underfunding and staffing issues as the San Francisco  
22 Police Department; and

23 WHEREAS, Mental and behavioral healthcare workers do not receive the same  
24 benefits as police officers, especially overtime pay; and

1           WHEREAS, Despite recognizing that we have a mental and behavioral health crisis on  
2 our streets, the Mayor's Office has prioritized criminalizing those who are suffering from  
3 mental health and behavioral health issues, especially those suffering from substance use  
4 disorder, and has continued the unsuccessful cycle of attempting to address a public health  
5 issue by criminalizing an illness; now, therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor's Office and the  
7 Department of Human Resources to urgently implement a recruitment and hiring plan to fill  
8 vacancies at the Department of Public Health, Jail Health Services, and with the city-  
9 contracted providers serving San Francisco to address the mental health and addiction crises;  
10 and, be it

11          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Mayor's Office and  
12 the Department of Human Resources to urgently implement a retention plan to address the  
13 extensive burnout and turnover within the mental and behavioral health services field; and, be  
14 it

15          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges that the Department of  
16 Public Health, in assessing staffing for behavioral health services, take into account the needs  
17 of neighborhoods across San Francisco for the goal of equitable access to services  
18 geographically; and be it

19          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the adoption of a more  
20 balanced approach to addressing the addiction and substance use disorder crisis by  
21 recognizing that these disorders are primarily a mental, behavioral, and physical health issue,  
22 as well as a public health crisis, and will never be solved through a primary law enforcement  
23 and criminalization approach, which has been demonstrated to fail for decades.



1 [Valencia Street Protected Bike Lanes]

2 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)**  
3 **to replace the center bikeway on Valencia St. between 15th and Cesar Chavez St**  
4 **and install curbside protected bike lanes to reduce traffic fatalities and increase**  
5 **public safety.**

6 WHEREAS, Curbside protected bike lanes will result in more bikers, leading to  
7 less car traffic, fewer vehicle-related deaths, and an environmentally friendly,  
8 economically thriving Valencia Street; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor London Breed issued a directive in late 2018 for the SFMTA  
10 to install protected bike lanes on Valencia Street between Market and 15th Street; and

11 WHEREAS, The SFMTA's proposed design for a protected center cycle track on  
12 Valencia Street, which also included the removal of several parking spaces and the  
13 center median, was approved by the Board of Supervisors and began to be  
14 implemented; and

15 WHEREAS, The center bikeway on Valencia Street received substantial  
16 disapproval from sustainable transportation advocates and the community, with only  
17 13% approval from 618 respondents; and

18 WHEREAS, National and federal guidelines from organizations like the National  
19 Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and the Federal Highway  
20 Administration advise against center cycle tracks on streets like Valencia, citing safety  
21 risks; and

22 WHEREAS, Since its implementation, several crashes and injuries have  
23 happened as a result of the center bikeway and the confusion it causes drivers and

1 people on bikes to have, including an instance in October 2023, where a person on a  
2 scooter was sent to the hospital after being hit by a driver making a U-turn through the  
3 center bikeway; and

4 WHEREAS, Curbside protected bike lanes have proven to be safer, as they were  
5 installed in 2019 on Valencia St, between Market and 15th St, and resulted in a 99%  
6 decrease in mid-block vehicle/bike interactions and a 100% reduction in close calls or  
7 near-dooring incidents, according to SFMTA's final evaluation of the project in 2020;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The implementation of the center bikeway is contradictory to the  
10 city's Vision Zero program, which strives to provide the public with safe streets, because  
11 the center bikeway is dangerous, not only for bikers but also for pedestrians and  
12 motorists; and

13 WHEREAS, Building curbside protected bike lanes aligns with San Francisco's  
14 Transit-First Policy, Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero goals, and sustainable mode share  
15 goals; and

16 WHEREAS, A study done by the University of Colorado, Denver, showed that an  
17 increase in bikers and biker-safe infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes, led to a  
18 drop in fatal crash rates, specifically a drastic decrease of 49% in San Francisco; and

19 WHEREAS, The center bikeway has inadvertently transformed into a "bike  
20 highway" with many cyclists and scooter users bypassing local businesses, thus  
21 negatively impacting these businesses and the local economy as it discourages bikers  
22 from stopping at local shops; and

1 WHEREAS, The negative impacts on local businesses and the safety of road  
2 users require an urgent response from the SFMTA to install curbside protected bike  
3 lanes; and therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the Mayor, Board of Supervisors,  
5 and the SFMTA to replace the center bikeway and install curbside protected bike lanes,  
6 along Valencia Street, between 15th and 19th Street, and update the 2020 design for  
7 19th to Cesar Chavez; and therefore be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to the Mayor, Board of  
9 Supervisors, SFMTA, Better Valencia, WalkSF, SF Bike Coalition, and the VisionZero  
10 Task Force.

1 [No Turn on Red Policy]

2 **Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to urge the San Francisco**  
3 **Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors to take immediate**  
4 **action on a No Turn On Red (NTOR) citywide policy in light of recent traffic**  
5 **incidents and ongoing safety concerns**

6 WHEREAS, The current permissibility of turns on red at signalized intersections  
7 in San Francisco contributes to fatalities, injuries, and collisions, as well as instances of  
8 blocked or occupied crosswalks, posing heightened dangers for pedestrians, especially  
9 youth, seniors, and individuals with disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Studies have demonstrated the adverse safety impacts of allowing  
11 turns on red, including increased incidents of crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists,  
12 with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reporting a marked  
13 increase in crashes involving these groups; and

14 WHEREAS, The recent heartrending incident at the intersection of King and 4th  
15 Street, which led to the fatal injury of a 4-year-old girl being pushed in a stroller by her  
16 parents, highlights the urgent need for enhanced pedestrian safety measures in San  
17 Francisco; and

18 WHEREAS, This intersection at King and 4th Street's history of 12 collisions and  
19 injuries between 2019 and 2023, including this recent fatality, indicates a significant  
20 safety concern that requires prompt attention and action; and

21 WHEREAS, No Turn On Red (NTOR) policies have demonstrated efficacy in  
22 reducing vehicle-pedestrian and vehicle-bicycle conflicts, thereby improving safety and

1 comfort for pedestrians, and are proven to reduce “close calls” between vehicles and  
2 pedestrians; and

3 WHEREAS, San Francisco currently employs NTOR at approximately 9% of all  
4 traffic signals, with a comprehensive NTOR restriction in the Tenderloin resulting in  
5 notable safety improvements; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor London N. Breed’s package of Vision Zero projects aimed at  
7 increasing street safety identified a need to analyze and develop policy  
8 recommendations on limiting right turns at red lights, highlighting the urgency of this  
9 issue; and

10 WHEREAS, The implementation of NTOR in the Tenderloin saw positive  
11 outcomes, with 92% motorist compliance, an 80% reduction in close calls, and over  
12 70% decrease in vehicles blocking or encroaching crosswalks during a red light; and

13 WHEREAS, NTOR is proven to increase safety and improve the pedestrian  
14 experience, as evidenced by studies and successful implementation in San Francisco  
15 and other cities, such as New York City, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Washington,  
16 D.C.; and

17 WHEREAS, An MTA study in 2022 found that 20% of injury crashes involving  
18 pedestrians or people biking in San Francisco occurred at signalized intersections,  
19 emphasizing the need for enhanced safety measures; and

20 WHEREAS, The Washington, D.C. District Department of Transportation's 2019  
21 study showcased a 92% decrease in times drivers failed to yield when the light was red  
22 and a 59% decrease at green lights after implementing NTOR; and

1 WHEREAS, The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) reported a 56%  
2 increase in U.S. pedestrian fatalities from 2010 to 2021, underscoring the urgent need  
3 for effective safety measures; and

4 WHEREAS, The MTA has the authority to implement NTOR and direct the  
5 installation of NTOR signs, as required by state law; and

6 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors passed Supervisor Dean Preston's  
7 resolution NO. 481-23 urging the MTA to prohibit right turns on red further signifying the  
8 importance of NTOR implementation; and

9 WHEREAS, The youth of San Francisco, as future leaders and active members  
10 of the community, deserve a safe and secure urban environment conducive to their  
11 growth and mobility; and therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the MTA Board to adopt a  
13 comprehensive No Turn On Red (NTOR) policy that restricts turns on red at all  
14 signalized intersections across San Francisco to the greatest extent possible; and  
15 therefore be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the MTA to develop  
17 and implement a plan to expand and implement NTOR across San Francisco, sharing  
18 said plan with the Board of Supervisors and the MTA Board within 120 days; and  
19 therefore be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the MTA Board to  
21 adopt a policy requiring NTOR restrictions to be added during updates or modifications  
22 at signalized intersections, including upcoming quick build projects, speed reduction  
23 efforts, and future implementation of the Active Communities Plan; and therefore be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges MTA, in instances  
2   where state law or resource constraints limit immediate citywide implementation of  
3   NTOR, to prioritize intersections on the High Injury Network for NTOR restrictions; and  
4   therefore be it

5           FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors urges the MTA to engage  
6   with vulnerable communities, including communities of color, people with disabilities,  
7   youth, and seniors, to identify additional intersections for prioritized NTOR  
8   implementation; and therefore be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to the Mayor, Board of  
10   Supervisors, SFMTA Board of Directors, SF Bike Coalition, WalkSF, and the VisionZero  
11   Task Force.



[Free MUNI for All Youth Program]

**Resolution urging the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to prioritize and allocate permanent funding for the Free Muni For All Youth (FMFAY) program, recognizing its vital role in fostering equitable access to transportation and supporting the educational and social development of San Francisco's youth**

WHEREAS, Public transportation is the most efficient, equitable, and environmentally sustainable mode of transportation that allows for many people, especially youth, to have equal access to opportunities and resources in urban settings; and

WHEREAS, The 2019-20 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-AL-14 "Transportation Equity - Free Muni for all Youth" (FMFAY) where they advocated that the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate Income Youth program suffered from a complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with limited English proficiency and people who do not have easy access to the SFMTA offices at 1 South Van Ness Ave. and/or internet resources, and disproportionately for people who are Black, Indigenous and/or people of color; and

WHEREAS, On August 15, 2021, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), with \$2 Million in funding included in Mayor Breed's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 budget proposal, expanded from the Free Muni for Low- and Moderate Income Youth program which started in 2013, and launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program until August 14, 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, On April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve  
2 their FY 2023-24 budget which included \$4.1 Million to continue the FMFAY program  
3 until June 2024; and

4 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Free Muni for All Youth Program has  
5 successfully operated since its inception, demonstrating a clear commitment to  
6 improving access to public transportation for the youth of San Francisco; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2014, San Francisco adopted a Vision Zero policy that committed  
8 the city to eliminate all traffic deaths on city streets by 2024 through initiatives including  
9 engineering safer streets, education about traffic safety, enforcement of traffic laws, and  
10 advocating for the legalization of new tools including automated speed enforcement;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The SFMTA's Transit First policy complies with and complements  
13 San Francisco's Vision Zero policy as it prioritizes public transit, bicycling, and walking  
14 on San Francisco's streets which shifts people out of their cars, significantly reducing  
15 the amount of private vehicles on the road, and vehicle deaths and injuries by  
16 extension; and

17 WHEREAS, The FMFAY program encourages and ingrains sustainable travel  
18 habits from an early age, thus aligning with SFMTA's Transit First Policy; and

19 WHEREAS, Early exposure to public transportation shapes future transit habits,  
20 as evidenced by a study published in the Journal of Planning Education and Research,  
21 which found that experiences with public transit during early life stages contribute to  
22 increased transit usage in adulthood; and

1 WHEREAS, Data collected in July of 2021 by SFMTA concluded that the  
2 previous Free Muni for Youth (FMFY) program had 39,350 active users, which was  
3 approximately 72% of those eligible at the time; and

4 WHEREAS, The current FMFAY program drastically increased the accessibility  
5 and amount of youth using public transportation, as seen in a survey taken in January  
6 2022, that reported 61% of youth utilizing the FMFAY program, did not participate in the  
7 previous FMFY program; and

8 WHEREAS, This long-term behavioral shift towards public transportation, as  
9 identified in the study, can lead to reduced traffic congestion, lower carbon emissions,  
10 and a more environmentally sustainable future; and

11 WHEREAS, The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the  
12 FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access  
13 school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities; and

14 WHEREAS, The provision of free transit for youth is a vital equity measure,  
15 supporting low-income families and reducing financial barriers to mobility; and

16 WHEREAS, By permanently funding the FMFAY program, the city reaffirms its  
17 commitment to social equity, ensuring that all young residents have equitable access to  
18 public transportation for education, employment, and civic engagement; and therefore  
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, The Youth Commission strongly urges the Mayor, Board of  
21 Supervisors, and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to  
22 secure permanent funding for the Free Muni For All Youth (FMFAY) program to

1 guarantee its continued operation and accessibility for all youth in San Francisco and to  
2 include it in all future SFMTA baseline budgets; and therefore be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the SFMTA to collaborate  
4 with local, state, and federal officials to diversify SFMTA's funding stream to ensure the  
5 FMFAY permanent program does not disproportionately affect the SFMTA budget; and  
6 therefore be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board  
8 of Supervisors to continue to promote the FMFAY program; and therefore be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to the Mayor, Board of  
10 Supervisors, SFMTA Board of Directors, Youth Transit Advisory Board (YTAB),  
11 WalkSF, VisionZero Task Force, SFUSD Student Advisory Council (SAC), and the  
12 Sierra Club.

[Recent Hate Speech and Violent Incidents]

**Motion condemning recent reports of hate speech and violent incidents fueled by hate, and approving a statement from the Youth Commission entitled “Statement on Recent Hate-Speech Incidents and Violent Attacks”.**

WHEREAS, Hate speech and violent incidents targeting Jewish, Muslim, and Arab people have increased dramatically since the outbreak of violence in Israel and Palestine; and

WHEREAS, This is a national trend which San Francisco is not immune to, including in schools and youth spaces in our city; and

WHEREAS, Young San Franciscans, like all people, have the right to free expression, protest, and personal political views, and it is essential these rights are protected while we work to combat and prevent hate and harassment; and

WHEREAS, Two high-profile incidents of hate-motivated speech and violence have occurred in San Francisco schools/their communities, including but not limited to the incidents of a Muslim middle school student having been assaulted by classmates while walking home, being accosted for their faith in the process, and an antisemitic hate symbol being drawn on the wall of a high school; and

WHEREAS, Recent incidents do not represent the views of most youth in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco is an inclusive, diverse community with values of acceptance and freedom of expression as core to our city; and, now, therefore be it

1           MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission stands with Jewish, Muslim,  
2   and Arab students who have recently faced increasing incidents of hate speech and  
3   violence in San Francisco schools and youth spaces; and be it

4           FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission condemns all  
5   hate speech and violence fueled by hate; and be it

6           FURTHER MOVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission approves the  
7   attached statement entitled "Statement on Recent Hate-Speech Incidents and Violent  
8   Attacks".

**Motion condemning recent reports of hate speech and violent incidents fueled by hate, and approving a statement from the Youth Commission entitled “Statement on Recent Hate-Speech Incidents and Violent Attacks”.**

**Supplemental Information:**

See attached document [Letter of Support]



## **Statement on Recent Hate-Speech Incidents and Violent Attacks**

*San Francisco Youth Commission*

*Adopted x/x/x*

The San Francisco Youth Commission stands with Jewish, Muslim, and Arab students who have recently faced increasing incidents of hate speech and violence in San Francisco schools and youth spaces.

Recent reports have highlighted multiple instances of hate being directed towards Jewish, Muslim, and Arab students as tensions rise across the United States due to the ongoing conflict in Israel/Palestine. This includes but is not limited to: a Muslim middle school student being assaulted by classmates while walking home, being accosted for their faith in the process and an antisemitic hate symbol being drawn on the wall of a high school.

We all must be clear at this moment: hate has no home in San Francisco. The Youth Commission unequivocally condemns these acts of hate and calls for accountability for their perpetrators.

The Youth Commission calls for a plan from school district and city leaders to create a comprehensive plan to combat rising antisemitism and Islamophobia, to support student victims, and to create meaningful accountability for perpetrators.





Youth, like all people, have the right to free expression, protest, and personal political views. It is essential that this right is protected while we work to combat and prevent hate and harassment. The Youth Commission stands ready to work with student and adult leaders to make this happen.

*The Youth Commission is a body of 17 youth from across the City and County of San Francisco responsible for advising the Mayor and Board of Supervisors and policies impacting youth in San Francisco (San Francisco City Charter SEC. 4.124). The Youth Commission is a public body which encourages public input. Please contact the Youth Commission by emailing [youthcom@sfgov.org](mailto:youthcom@sfgov.org), calling (415) 554-6446, and/or writing to us at Room 345, San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, California 94102.*