

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** December 14, 2011  
**TO:** Honorable Members of the Visual Arts Committee  
**FROM:** Carol Marie Daniels  
**RE:** Approval of tile mural design for the Hidden Garden Steps project at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kirkham Street

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At the December 14, 2011 Visual Arts Committee meeting, I will introduce the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kirkham Tile Step project and seek mural design approval.

### The Hidden Garden Steps

The Hidden Garden Steps project, located on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Lawton and Kirkham Streets, began in 2010, when a group of community activists agreed to a second tiled steps project in their neighborhood. The project is a community-based public art initiative to create mosaic steps, a public garden and a wall mural on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue extending uphill from Kirkham to Lawton in the Golden Gate Heights/Inner Sunset neighborhood. There are eleven active members of the core planning committee which includes three co-chairs. The fundraising goal is \$300,000 and donations to date exceed \$65,000. Formal partners include the San Francisco Parks Alliance and the Department of Public Works Street Parks program and artists Colette Crutcher and Aileen Barr. Other collaborators include the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors, the Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association, Woodside International School, volunteers from Nature in the City's Green Hairstreak (Butterfly) Ecosystem Corridor project and individual local merchants. The Hidden Garden Steps project is a continuation of the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tiled Steps Project, at Moraga and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Arts Commission accepted the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Moraga Tile Step project into the Civic Art Collection in 2005.

### Design Approval

The artists for the Moraga and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue steps, Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher also designed the new Hidden Garden Steps, incorporating native plants, flowers, animals and bugs into their motif, thus allowing a common aesthetic sensibility to visually unify both sets of stairs into a single corridor in the Inner Sunset.

The materials are a combination of handmade and purchased tiles and approximately, 3/8 inch thick, bisque fired, glazed outdoor tile, with small amount of glass and mirror. The tile installation will be done by professional, unionized tilesetters.

### Maintenance of Hidden Garden Steps

The Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association, a 501 © (3) representing over 400 households in the Golden Gate Heights neighborhood, has established a \$5,000 maintenance fund for the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Tile Steps Project and has agreed to hold and monitor the matching maintenance funds for the Hidden Garden Steps project.

There is currently no maintenance agreement for the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Steps. Staff is proposing a MOU between the Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association and the Department of Public Works outlining how the three entities will work together in a spirit of mutual cooperation to maintain both the existing steps and the new steps and specify how the funds will be spent. This should occur as soon as the entities can meet and agree upon their roles and responsibilities.

Motion

Motion to approve the design of the “Hidden Garden Steps” project, a tile mural by Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kirkham Street. The mural is sponsored by the San Francisco Parks Alliance and supported by the Department of Public Works “Street Parks” program.