



# under the dome

Volume 5, Issue 1 • Feb/March 2009

City Hall Building Management  
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A City Hall Building Management newsletter created specifically for City employees

## Dear Tenants:

Welcome to the latest edition of  
*Under the Dome*!

Well, we're off to a good start for 2009!  
We have a new American President,  
four new San Francisco Supervisors,  
a new Bike-Sharing Program and a new  
City ID Card Program, and most of you  
should have some new books to read!  
Change is upon us, and we all know  
that change is good!

Thanks to those who participated in City  
Hall's first Book Swap! Those that were  
able to peruse the offerings and pick up  
a book or two, (or a stack of books as  
the case may be) really enjoyed the day!  
Building Management will continue to  
organize fun and worthwhile activities for  
City Hall employees. We'd love to hear  
feedback and suggestions from you!

The Year of the Ox has begun, which  
Wikipedia describes as "a sign of  
prosperity through fortitude and hard  
work." Let's look forward to several  
more weeks of winter, as predicted by  
Punxsutawny Phil, to *Milk* picking up  
some Oscars at this year's Academy  
Awards, and to listening to the familiar  
sounds of San Francisco as interpreted  
through the *Spiraling Echoes* art exhibit.

Enjoy!

**Lori Mazzola**

BUILDING SERVICES MANAGER

CITY HALL BUILDING MANAGEMENT

## We Welcome your Feedback!

City employees can send  
"under the dome" questions  
and suggestions to  
[Lori.Mazzola@sfgov.org](mailto:Lori.Mazzola@sfgov.org)

## 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CITY HALL RESTORATION

Can you believe it has already been ten years? In 1989, the Loma Prieta earthquake rocked the Bay Area, causing massive destruction to buildings and structures throughout the City. San Francisco City Hall was one of those buildings which suffered significant damage. Following the disaster, the City began an extensive renovation project to restore City Hall to its original grandeur. This major retrofit included the installation of state-of-the-art base isolators, which allow the building to sway more than 27 inches in any direction without suffering significant damage. The project took ten years to complete and City Hall was officially reopened on January 5, 1999. As we celebrate the ten year anniversary of the building's re-opening, let's take a look at some of the other City Halls in the Bay Area.



### Oakland

Oakland's City Hall, completed in 1914, was the first high rise government office building in the United States and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The lowest and widest portion of the building, known as the podium, is 3 stories tall and contains a central rotunda, council chambers, and administration offices of the Mayor and City Manager. Above the podium is a 10-story office tower. Above the office tower is a 2-story clock tower base supporting a 91 foot high clock tower. The original structure of the building is a riveted steel frame with infill masonry walls of brick, granite and terra cotta. The clock tower

is clad entirely with terra cotta over brick masonry. The building is supported on a continuous concrete mat foundation.



### Berkeley

Berkeley's Old City Hall was completed in 1909. When completed, its design, scale, and elegant silhouette reflected Berkeley's growth from a town to a city. It set the stage and became the keystone for the future civic center. Designed by John Bakewell and Arthur Brown, Jr., who studied at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris, after graduating from the University of California in the 1890s, the building is an example of Beaux-Arts Classicism. Bakewell and Brown established a partnership in 1906, and after building Berkeley's City Hall, went on to design our more elaborate San Francisco City Hall (1913-1915), as well as the San

Francisco Opera House (1932).



### Hayward

In 1931, Hayward's first permanent city hall opened. The \$100,000 structure, which would cost roughly \$1.2 million dollars today, housed all the city's departments in one convenient location. Designed by architect E.P. Whitman, the building was a marvel, but the land was not. City Hall

had been built on top of the Hayward Fault. In order to avoid an earthquake induced disaster, City Hall moved to a new high rise building on Foothill Boulevard in the 1970s. In 1999, a modern City Hall was built on Watkins Street to better withstand earthquakes.



### Alameda

Alameda's City Hall was built in 1896 to replace the Old Town Hall at the corner of Park and Webb, which also housed the fire department, the police office and town jail. Designed by the architectural firm of Percy and Hamilton, the building features popular Romanesque designs used on so

many buildings of the period. A dominant feature of the building was a tower rising from the center of the structure. Damaged during the earthquake in 1906, a portion of the tower was removed, and the 120 foot clock tower was finally removed in 1937, when structural defects made it a hazard.

# GREEN SCENE

City Hall is making it easy to RECYCLE  
and COMPOST just about anything



We are now composting in the kitchen areas and restrooms in City Hall. Most of the material that was going in the trash bins can now be put in the green bins – it then gets made into compost for local farms. Please place items like paper to-go containers, paper coffee cups, left-over food, napkins, paper towels, milk cartons, and plastics labeled “compostable” in the new green bins. These containers are conveniently located in kitchens and break rooms. Paper towels placed in the containers near the sinks in the restrooms will also be composted. Please help us reduce waste and use the receptacles properly by not placing anything other than paper towels in the restroom bins. For a comprehensive recycling guide for city departments visit [SFEnvironment.org/sfgovrecycles](http://SFEnvironment.org/sfgovrecycles).

## Mike's Movie Review

### The Day the Earth Stood Still... Again

Movies, as books before them, are often inspired by the society that bore them. They feed off of the collective conscience, and reflect the feelings, emotions, and fears shared by the people of their time. Such is the case of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, both the original and the remake.

Originally released in 1951, *The Day the Earth Stood Still* was received with mixed reviews. Shaped by the events of its recent history, the movie showcases man's fear of his own power to destroy, coupled with its relative historical infancy. Just six years prior, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. The unprecedented destruction caused by these weapons shocked the world, and for the first time the possibility of total self destruction became a reality.

The original movie depicts Klaatu, an alien from an advanced civilization, as a savior of mankind whose intent is to warn the human race of the dangers of atomic power. While the updated version shares many common themes, it differs slightly in its message. This time Klaatu, played by Keanu Reeves, has come to save the planet, but not necessarily the people. Instead of the threat of nuclear holocaust as portrayed in the original, this time we are in danger of destroying the environment, and eventually the planet itself. “If the Earth dies, you die. If you die, the Earth lives.” Ultimately, after witnessing the depth of human compassion, Klaatu concedes to spare the people of Earth. Unfortunately, the process had already begun.

Overall, this movie doesn't really deliver. Its message is so transparent you pretty much understand the plot from the previews alone. Yes, we get it: environment good; technology dangerous, change your ways, etc. Reeves gives his usual static performance, playing this role exactly the same as every other he's done: blank

look, no emotion. The movie is visually interesting, but in the end, it is just another doomsday, end-of-the-world movie that seems so prevalent in recent years, as this seems to be a repeating theme in human history.



## SF CITY ID CARD

On January 15, 2009, Mayor Gavin Newsom, members of San Francisco's elected family, and

senior governmental officials took part in a press conference to roll out San Francisco's new Municipal Identification Card program. The SF City ID Card program officially launched on January 17th, and since that time has already served hundreds of San Francisco residents.

This new program allows all residents of San Francisco to obtain a photo identification card that streamlines access to city services and connects residents to local businesses. Among other services, the card serves as proof of identification and residency, provides discounts on San Francisco family excursions, restaurants, and museums, and serves as identification to open a checking account at participating banks.

Karen Hong, San Francisco's County Clerk, said, “Through this program, the County Clerk's Office can issue City ID Cards to the residents of San Francisco, simplifying access to city services to those who are the most vulnerable and need the services the most.”

Cities such as Oakland, New York, and Miami have shown interest in starting similar programs. For information visit [www.sfgov.org/sfcityidcard](http://www.sfgov.org/sfcityidcard) or call 311.





# BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S INAUGURAL MEETING



*Board Chambers ready for the inaugural event.*

## Behind the Scenes

The inaugural San Francisco Board of Supervisor's meeting took place on January 8, 2009, featuring all four newly elected Supervisors and seven currently-seated Supervisors. While the actual meeting lasted less than three hours, weeks of logistical preparation occurred. Security details, furniture arrangement, audio-visual equipment installation, ticket management, and crowd control all had to be coordinated so that this momentous meeting could take place without a hitch.

When the doors opened, the invited guests, elected officials, and public spectators poured in to find the Chambers in spectacular fashion. The hard work and dedication performed by the various building staff, including custodians, engineers, security officers, media services, and laborers, as well as the coordination of minute details with the Clerk of the Board's office, allowed these attendees to enjoy a seamless event.

Preparations continued all the way up until the meeting start time as more and more of the general public queued in lines from the front doors of the Chambers down the hall and through the North side gallery, reaching almost all the way to the Mayor's office main doors. The overflow crowd, consisting of over two hundred people, watched from a big screen television in the North Light Court.

After 7 rounds of voting by the full Board, numerous vote changes and some exciting announcements, hundreds of people waiting in anticipation in the North Light Court cheered as a new President of the Board of Supervisors was elected and took his position in the Board President's chair. While the excitement of the occasion lasts on the minds of those who attended, the proud employees in City Hall will consider their hard work another job well done.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



*Under the Dome* was able to meet up with then-Supervisor Tom Ammiano just as he was packing up and getting ready to depart for his new post on the California State Assembly. The days before his swearing-in, we were able to ask the soon-to-be Assemblyman some questions focusing on his time at City Hall and his future.

**Q: What will you miss the most about City Hall?**

*A: The interesting and provocative people.*

**Q: Do you have a favorite location or room in the building?**

*A: The rotunda and grand staircase.*

**Q: How did you feel on your first day as an elected official?**

*A: Like it was the first day of school.*

**Q: Any previews for our readers about items on your legislative agenda once you start in the Assembly?**

*A: I will focus on health and education issues.*

**Q: What two pieces of advice can you give the incoming Supervisors?**

*A: 1: Communicate.  
2: Don't Steal Legislation.*

# The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery and Wolfgang's Vault Present

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
t: 415.554.6080 f: 415.554.6093 [www.sfacgallery.org](http://www.sfacgallery.org)

## *The Art of Change*

**The Influence of Rock Music and Art on Social Change**

**Dates:** January 9 – April 13, 2009

**Location:** San Francisco City Hall, Ground Floor  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102

**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm, FREE



*Crowd At Trips Festival, January 21, 1966*  
Gene Anthony - Photography



*Tina Turner with Ike in San Francisco, 1967*  
Baron Wolman - Photographer

As part of our ongoing Art at City Hall program, the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery is pleased to present *The Art of Change: The Influence of Rock Music and Art on Social Change*. This exclusive multi-media exhibition features iconic photography, rock and roll poster art, and live music memorabilia. Wolfgang's Vault is the world's largest collection of live concert recordings and music

memorabilia, which includes the vast archive of Bay Area music promoter Bill Graham. The San Francisco Bay Area has long been a hotbed for social activism and inventive musical performances and the materials included in this exhibition reveal the stories that have both contributed to and documented significant social changes of the past five decades. Technology, provided by Guided By Cell, allows visitors to listen to interviews and personal accounts recorded exclusively for this exhibition from the represented musicians, photographers and graphic artists. Most notably, visitors can dial-up Tina Turner who gives her own account of Feminism and the Sexual Revolution!

January 2009 marks the ten-year anniversary of San Francisco City Hall's renovation and remodeling project. It is fitting to celebrate the vibrancy of San Francisco's musical and social histories in one of this city's most treasured landmarks.

# The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery

401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
t: 415.554.6080 f: 415.554.6093 [www.sfacgallery.org](http://www.sfacgallery.org)

## *Spiraling Echoes*

**A Sound Sculpture for the Rotunda of San Francisco City Hall**

**Dates:** February 13, 2009 – May 8, 2009

**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8am – 8pm, FREE

*Spiraling Echoes*, a sound sculpture by world-renowned, San Francisco-based artist Bill Fontana, was dedicated on February 12, 2009 in the City Hall Rotunda. Bill Fontana's original soundtrack includes past and present audio moments recorded throughout San Francisco, from Enrico Caruso's voice to cable car bells. Commissioned as part of the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery's Art at City Hall program, the site-specific installation is designed to interact with the architecture of San Francisco's historic City Hall.

Eight specialized speakers called transducers, which narrowly focus sound, have been mounted around the circular colonnade inside the dome. The richly-layered soundtrack pairing urban noises with historical recordings is most clearly audible along the two fourth floor corridors overlooking the Rotunda. The directional ultrasonic beams of sound reflect off the surfaces of the architectural elements, creating spiraling echoes that become gradually softer as they move from the upper walkways to the floor of the Rotunda.

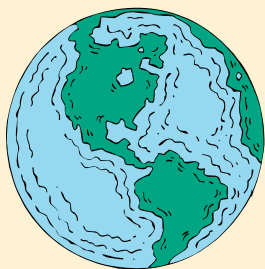


As visitors walk through the Rotunda, they may be startled at first by the natural sounds of birds singing, echoing fog horns on the Bay, or the crack of a bat and the noise of the crowd at AT&T Park. Each beam of sound is randomly audible only for an instant, transmitted by the moving transducers. Bill Fontana stated, "Spiraling Echoes activates the architecture of City Hall with the movement of sound. Encountering the installation will evoke a rethinking of the history and context of this site."

Speaker of the House and San Francisco resident Nancy Pelosi is also a supporter of Fontana's. Pelosi states, "San Francisco is a city known for its creativity and innovation, and Fontana's project in City Hall would embody this spirit in one of most visible and widely-used public spaces in San Francisco."

Bill Fontana is an American composer and artist who developed an international reputation for his pioneering experiments in sound. Since the early 1970's he has used sound as a sculptural medium to interact with and transform our perceptions of visual and architectural spaces. He has realized sound sculpture and radio projects for museums and broadcast organizations around the world. For further information visit his website: [www.resoundings.org](http://www.resoundings.org).





## EARTH HOUR

**March 28, 2009**

**8:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

*A global event created to symbolize that each one of us, working together, can make a positive impact on climate change*

At 8:30pm on March 28, 2009, tens of millions of people in hundreds of cities around the world will come together once again to make a bold statement about their concern about climate change by doing something quite simple—turning off their lights for one hour. Earth Hour symbolizes that by working together, each of us can make a positive impact in the fight against climate change. Visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) for more information.



## BUILDING MANAGEMENT

### Locked Out?











Be reminded of City Hall's policy if you find yourself locked out of your office. Building Management cannot let any person into an office inside City Hall. Please contact the Sheriff's Control Room at 4-7251 for assistance. Be prepared to show identification!



## SHAPE UP!



### HEALTHY HABITS

-  Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
-  Don't add extra salt to anything.
-  Park in the farthest parking space and walk briskly to your destination.
-  Ask for veggies instead of french fries as a side.
-  Take a walking break instead of a coffee break.
-  Switch to diet soda instead of regular and save on calories.
-  Get off the bus or train a stop or two early and walk those extra blocks.
-  Pack chopped veggies as a crunchy afternoon snack.
-  Skip the bread before dinner at restaurants.
-  Eat slower and in smaller portions.

