

in the works

March 2017



Our Bureau of Urban Forestry crews plant this year's signature tree in St. Mary's Square honoring Rose Pak.

A message from our director



Dear Public Works

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF your work in removing the homeless encampments on Townsend and 6th streets and having the area cleaned. I, along with my neighbors, really appreciate your effort in helping resolve this issue.

Shagun B.

I HAVE NOTICED THAT Public Works is running the sweeper up the west side of Franklin Street. It really helps a great deal to reduce litter in the neighborhood. I give the drivers thumbs up when I see them. Cannot say enough how grateful I am. Keep it up.

Jim A.

THANK YOU TO THE CREW who cleaned and hosed down the Arbol Lane steps this past week. We have lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years and think this is the cleanest we have ever seen those steps!

Norma G. and Richard N.

I WOULD JUST LIKE TO thank the staff of Public Works for setting my mind at ease!

I received a flyer about the Lawton Street Pavement Renovation & Sewer Replacement and was concerned that it would impact my move date from the apartment block at Lawton & 19th Avenue.

I am SO appreciative that the public can call your department and be met with respect and courtesy – not to mention answers to the questions I asked! It was a huge relief to know that my move was not going to be impacted, and I was so impressed by how quickly everyone responded.

Thank you and your department for all your hard work, especially during this crazy rainy season!

Michele M.

I READ ABOUT THE cleanup in SoMa and the Mission. I just had to say THANK YOU!

I find relief in knowing that these areas are now cleaner and safer. A huge thank you to those involved in the cleanup and those with the guts to move forward with this. I feel a huge relief knowing that there are people in SF who can take action to improve our city!

Jenny Y.

I KNOW THAT YOUR organization, and many of the City's others, take a lot of criticism from the residents of the City. I wanted to write in order to thank you and the individuals on the crew that cleaned up the homeless encampment on Townsend along the Caltrain yard.

I live nearby and walked past the encampment regularly. It had been a growing eyesore and area of concern in terms of safety and health for the local residents and businesses. I read

the article about the findings at that location and a few others and in all honesty it was very disturbing.

Personally, I am very happy action was taken to address a concerning situation and you have my deepest thanks and support. I hope others show you and the crews additional support in a very difficult, and, I am sure, somewhat thankless job.

Glenn T.

I WANT TO COMPLIMENT Public Works on the fantastic work I've seen on the pothole repairs. You really do respond within 48 hours to 311 requests for pothole complaints, and best of all, the patches are working and looking great–level, perfect fit and smooth.

You really go out of your way to not only repair the reported pothole, but also the cracks and other potholes on the same street that your crews can find and patch up. I'm impressed by the thoroughness and effectiveness of the pothole crews.

Thank you so much and keep up the excellent work.

Peter O.

Upcoming Events

THURS., 4/6

[Walk to Work Day](#)

Each April, Walk San Francisco hosts Walk to Work Day, a fun and festive day of encouragement celebrating the most healthy, sustainable form of transportation: walking. People who live and/or work in San Francisco are encouraged to walk just 15 minutes of their daily commute.

Stop by the Public Works hub at Mechanics Plaza, at Market and Battery streets, from 7:30-11 a.m. for free Peet's Coffee!

SUNDAY, 4/9

[Sunday Streets – Bayview/Dogpatch](#)

Come out and explore the Third Street corridor! Enjoy car-free fun in the Bayview and Dogpatch neighborhoods from 22nd Street to Donner Avenue on Third Street, with fun, FREE activities for the whole family to enjoy all along the way.

Activity Hubs will be located on 22nd Street, Cargo Way, Oakdale Ave., and Bancroft Street, with dozens of free activities in between offered by local merchants. Combined with the always festive atmosphere of the Bayview and Dogpatch neighborhoods, April 9 will be a special day to explore old and new.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SAT., 4/22

[Community Clean Team in District 6](#)

Keep SF beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Boeddeker Park
246 Eddy St. at Jones

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

[Sunday Streets - Tenderloin](#)

Come and explore the historic Tenderloin District! Enjoy car-free fun in the heart of the Tenderloin, with fun, FREE activities for the whole family to enjoy all along the way.

Activity Hubs will be located on Ellis Street and Golden Gate Avenue.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4/19, 4/26

[Refuse Rate Hearings](#)

The Director of Public Works will hold a series of public hearings on Recology's application to increase refuse rates.

Various times and room locations at San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place

PUBLIC WORKS WEEK TOURS: APRIL 24-27

Throughout Public Works Week, we will offer free guided tours of Public Works projects and facilities. It's a great opportunity for people to get a behind-the-scenes look at what we do.

[Find out more and reserve a spot.](#)

Office of the Chief Medical

Examiner Mon., 4/24; 2:30-3:30 p.m.

San Francisco Staircase Bus Tour

Tues., 4/25; 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Public Works Materials Testing

Lab Wed., 4/26; 12-1 p.m.

Moscone Expansion Project

Wed., 4/26; 2:30-4 p.m. Please wear sturdy boots. If you have your own protective safety gear – safety glasses, vest and hardhat – please bring them. Otherwise, we will provide them for your protection.

Transbay Terminal Tour

Thurs., 4/27; 2-3:30 p.m.



Visitors check out the Materials Testing Lab during last year's Public Works Week tour





Add us on Snapchat!

We'll keep you informed and entertained with Public Works news, events and unique happenings going on all over the City. Add "Sfpublicworks" on Snapchat or scan the ghost icon using the Snapchat camera on your phone.

Public Safety Building Project Benefited San Francisco Firms

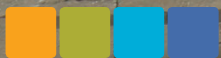
Congratulations to the Public Safety Building team for far exceeding the goal of hiring local contractor firms!

According to the Contract Monitoring Division, the arm of City government that tracks such things, Public Works and Charles Pankow Builders exceeded our goal for hiring small, local companies to work on the Public Safety Building, which was completed in April 2015.

We were required to use Local Business Enterprise-certified firms for 10 percent of the contract work. But by the closeout of the project, we had involved 76 small local subcontractors, for a participation rate of 26.44 percent.







The Rebirth of Bartlett Street

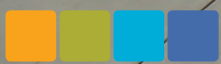
The transformation of Bartlett Street in the heart of the Mission District came to life at a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony this month that coincided with the seasonal opening of the popular Mission Community Market. ►





PUBLIC WORKS

1. THE
PROCESSES
OF THE
CITY







WE CUT THE RIBBON





► [The Bartlett Streetscape Improvement and Mercado Plaza project](#), on Bartlett Street between 21st Street and 22nd Street, features architecturally intriguing pergolas that bring a distinct look to this residential and commercial block.

Other improvements include wider sidewalks, new bike parking, sidewalk gardens, pedestrian-scale lighting, new trees and a roadway design to slow traffic to make the stretch safer for people who live, walk and bike here.

The community-driven design, officially unveiled at a public ceremony on March 16, involved residents and merchants, the Mission Community Market Collaborative, San Francisco Public Works, the Planning Department, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and design firm Gehl Studio. District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen, and her predecessor, David Campos, provided key support to bring this project to life.

The reimagined street was built to provide a vibrant and safe [public space for the outdoor community market](#), art fairs, cultural performances and other neighborhood-friendly activities. This revitalization of Bartlett could not have happened without the strong partnership among neighbors, community stewards and the City. The realization of our shared vision to create a welcoming place for the community to gather certainly is worth celebrating. ■



Public Works Haiku:
Our Crews Delivered.
Peace Plaza Tiles Repaired.
Time to Celebrate.





This month, after the community alerted us about needed repairs at the [Japantown Peace Plaza](#), we got to work ASAP to make the needed fixes.

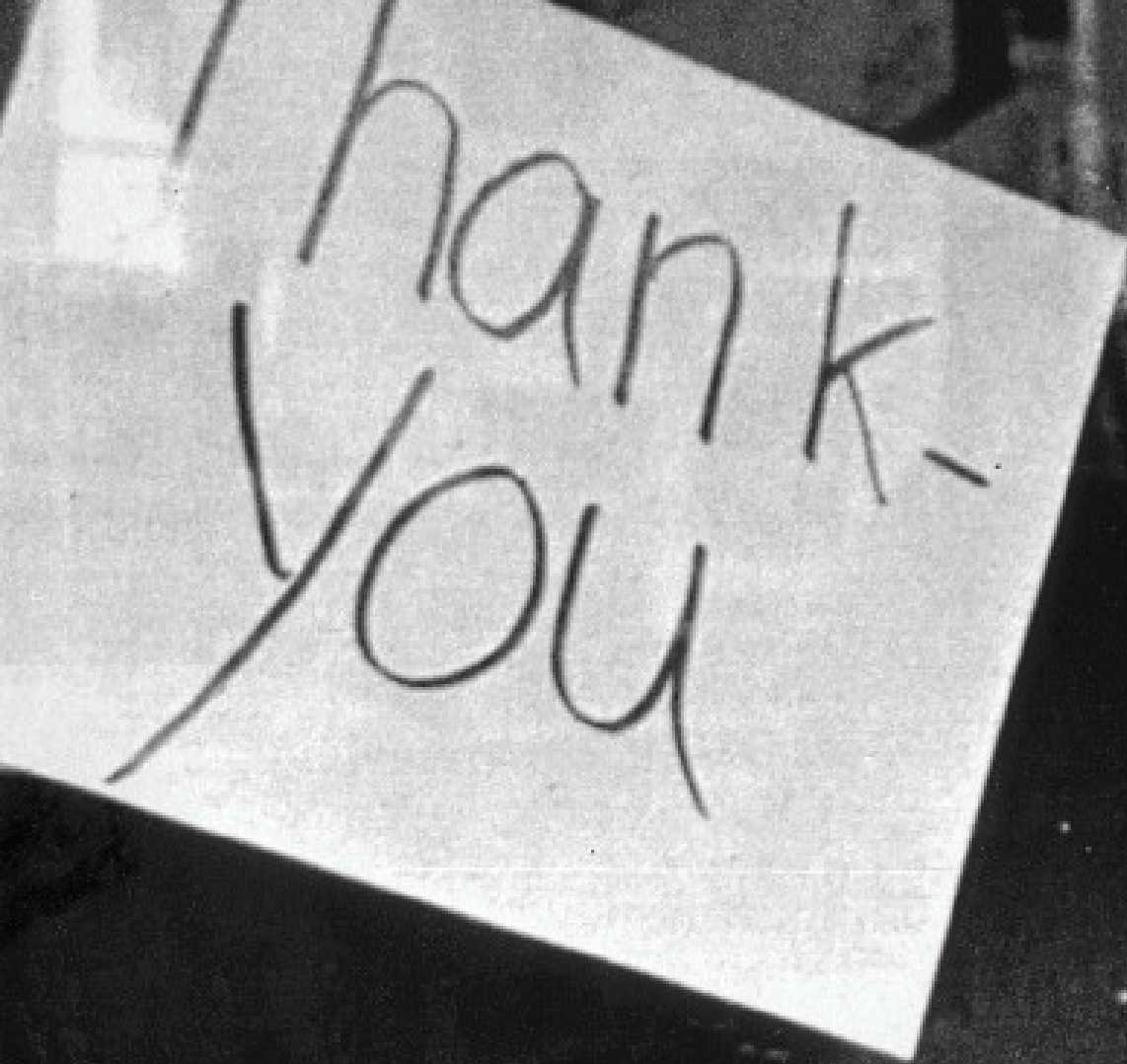
The plaza, located at Post and Buchanan streets, serves as a popular community gathering spot in the heart of Japantown. But there was a problem: More than 200 of the tiles that cover the ground were either broken or displaced, creating an eyesore and a potential tripping hazard. And with the annual [Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival](#) fast approaching, Public Works took action.

In less than a month, three of our cement finishers from the Bureau of Urban Forestry

replaced and sealed the tiles and now are working to have all of them polished and safely secured in time for the busy springtime festivities.

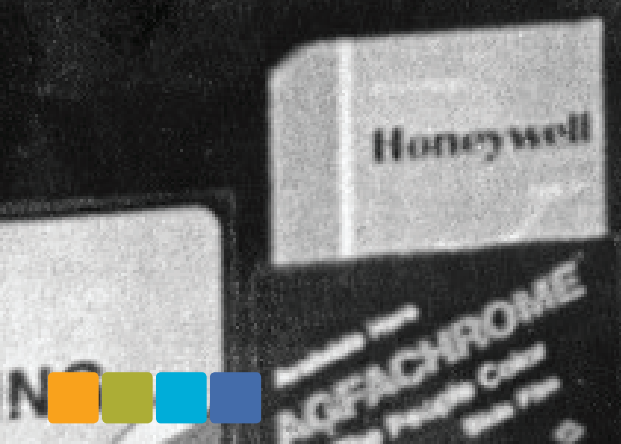
The 50th annual Cherry Blossom Festival will take place on the weekends of April 8-9 and April 15-16 in the area bounded by Laguna, Fillmore, Geary and Bush streets. The festival is one of California's most prominent celebrations of Asian traditions and fills the streets with food booths, cultural performances, martial arts, live music and much more. Join us for the Grand Parade on Sunday, April 16, beginning at 1 p.m. The parade starts at City Hall and ends in Japantown.

San Francisco's Japantown is sandwiched between the Western Addition and Lower Pacific Heights. The area emerged as a safe haven for Japanese immigrants after thousands of residents were displaced from their original homes in the Chinatown and South Park neighborhoods following the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Many Japanese-inspired churches, shrines, restaurants and shops opened to cater to the community and the area quickly flourished to become one of San Francisco's most historic and culture-rich neighborhoods enjoyed by residents and visitors.



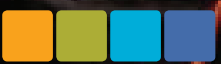
Harvey Milk Plaza Redesign Aims for Iconic Tribute to Gay Rights Trailblazer

When San Francisco's Harvey Milk used his bullhorn to rally crowds at the intersection of Market and Castro streets, he inspired a generation and helped forge the LGBT civil rights movement. ►





Plans for the Harvey Milk Plaza redesign discussed at a recent community meeting.







► After the pioneering gay supervisor was assassinated in 1978, it was at this same place where thousands mourned his violent death and where many still come to this day to remember his legacy.

Now steps are underway to finally make this hallowed ground a fitting tribute to both Milk and the LGBT civil rights movement. An international design competition has been launched to reimagine Harvey Milk Plaza, located on the southwest corner of Castro and Market streets at the Muni Metro entrance.

The competition's aim is to redesign this space at the historic heart of San Francisco's LGBT community to mark the significant contributions of Milk, as well as to recognize his role in the struggle for LGBT civil rights that is still unfolding.

The Harvey Milk Plaza Competition is a partnership of the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, the American Institute of Architects San Francisco and the San Francisco Arts Commission. The Center for Architecture + Design is a charitable organization serving as the fiscal sponsor of the Harvey Milk Plaza Competition.

Initial funding in the amount of \$500,000 to support the design

competition and subsequent plaza development has been provided by an anonymous donor. It's important to note, however, that no funding has been identified to get the project built. It likely would have a hefty price tag and, if publicly funded, the City would need to determine how it would fit with other funding priorities. If financed with private money, the fundraising would be a major undertaking. In addition, the project would need to clear environmental reviews and the public approval process. All that said, the competition opens the door to reimagining the public space.

The plaza design would need to dovetail with the Public Works and SFMTA Castro Accessibility Improvements Project, which is now in the planning stage. As part of a system-wide effort to improve access to public transit, the public space around the Castro Muni Metro station will be improved and a second elevator will be added to provide continuous access to the station. Station improvements include widening the sidewalk, replacing the existing lighting and re-grading the pavement above the station.

In January 2017, the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza held two meetings to collect the community's

vision for a new plaza. At the same time, Public Works staff solicited ideas for the Castro Accessibility Improvements Project. Attendees shared ideas on how best to honor Harvey Milk's contributions with a memorial/art installation and design and create a safe and welcoming public space that is accessible by all.

Castro neighborhood residents and users of the plaza who attended the public meetings expressed the desire for inspirational art that stirs emotions and encourages people to learn more about the plaza's namesake. The community hopes submissions will shape the space into one that may be used for gatherings in times of celebration, mourning and protest, while remaining safe and secure in the early-morning hours and evenings.

Design teams should look to the past to inspire and inform the future, presenting art that inspires the next generation of advocates, LGBT leaders and allies of marginalized communities.

For more information and the competition materials, check out the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza [website](#). ■





Our Volunteers a

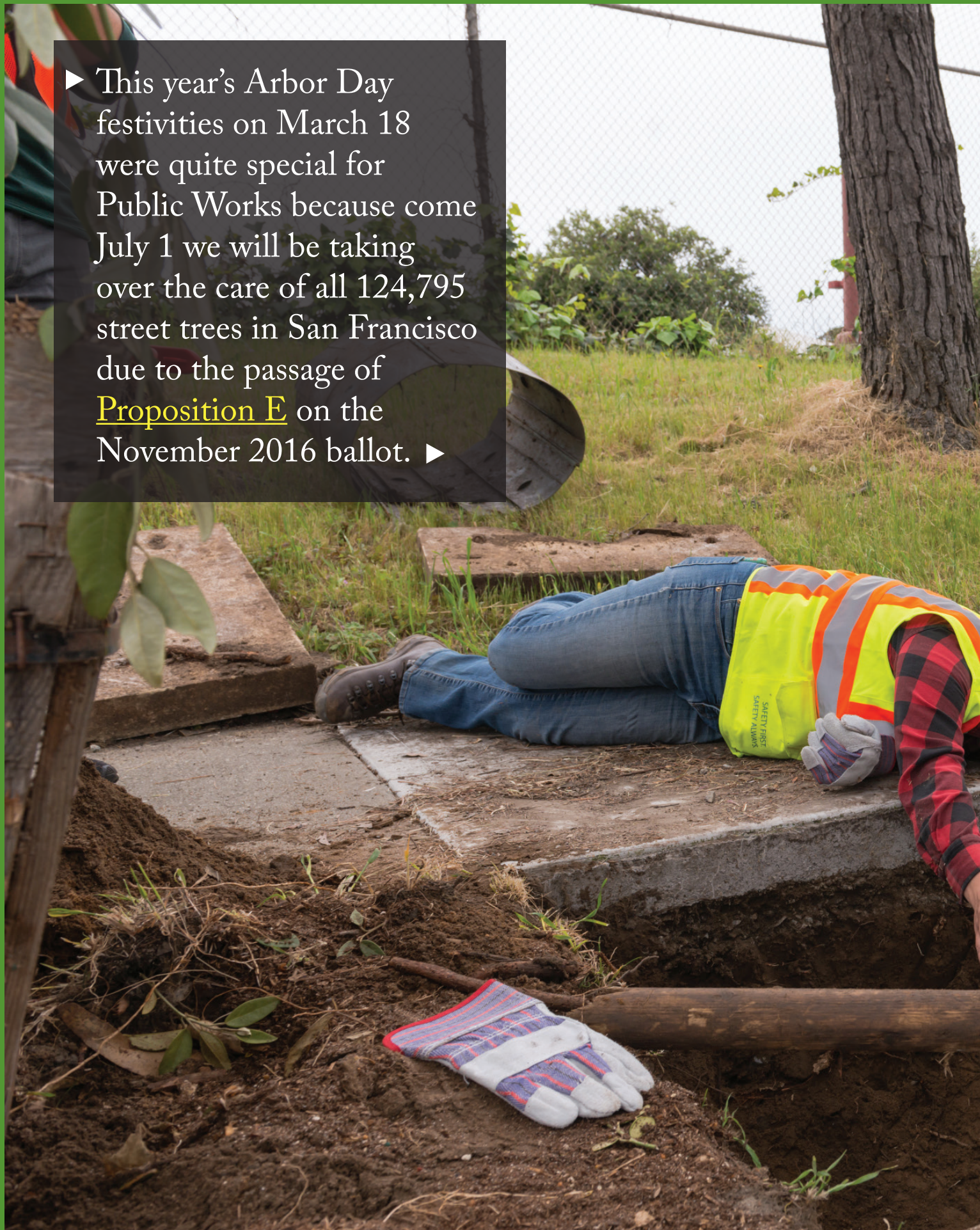


A man wearing a grey baseball cap, a high-visibility yellow and orange safety vest over a light green long-sleeved shirt, and khaki pants is working on a tree pit. He is leaning forward, using a shovel to dig in the soil. The vest has the text 'SFPD SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIVE' on the back. Another person is partially visible on the left, also working. The background consists of dense green foliage. The text 're TREE-mendous' is overlaid on the image in a large, stylized font.

re TREE-mendous

More than 300 volunteers joined forces to celebrate the 145th anniversary of Arbor Day with a Community Clean Team workday and the annual family-fun Eco Fair. ►

▶ This year's Arbor Day festivities on March 18 were quite special for Public Works because come July 1 we will be taking over the care of all 124,795 street trees in San Francisco due to the passage of [Proposition E](#) on the November 2016 ballot. ▶







Families got active at this year's Eco Fair.





► And what better way to celebrate the international salute to trees and the natural beauty they create than by planting more of them on our streets and coming together to clean and green the community. ►









► The event took place at Warm Water Cove in Dogpatch and other District 10 neighborhoods, including Bayview, Hunters Point and Potrero Hill. Before the work began, Supervisor Malia Cohen rallied the crowd and thanked volunteers for spending their Saturday morning flexing their muscles and their civic pride.

Our volunteers broke off into teams to line the sidewalks with 115 new trees on Evans Avenue, Cargo Way, Fairfax Avenue and Galvez Avenue. Volunteers also paired up with Public Works crews to restore native plants and beautify Heron's Head Park and remove weeds and litter on the mosaic [Arelious Walker Stairway](#)

that connects Innes Avenue to Northridge Road.

Meanwhile, at Warm Water Cove, friends and families had a blast celebrating all things trees at the Eco Fair, which was jam-packed with bucket truck rides, human hamster balls, planter box-building, a petting zoo, live music and many more activities enjoyed by visitors of all ages.

The Port of San Francisco, the Department of the Environment and Rec and Park were on site to share their volunteer opportunities and teach the public about the strides they take to better the City. Even a friendly herd of goats stopped by to say

hello (that's BLEET-BLEET in goat-speak) and wish us a happy Arbor Day!

Mark your calendars for April 22 for next month's Community Clean Team happening in District 6. We'll be celebrating Earth Day by improving the Tenderloin, South of Market and Mission Bay neighborhoods. As always, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the speaking program will begin at 9 a.m.

Click [here](#) for more information on how to get involved with Public Works' other volunteer opportunities. ■





Signature Tree Planted In Honor of Rose Pak



On a recent sunny morning, dozens of people gathered in St. Mary's Square in the heart of Chinatown to plant a bare, soon-to-leaf tree honoring neighborhood champion and political powerhouse Rose Pak. ▶






► The March 16 ceremony, which drew community members and City officials, was a highlight of our Arbor Week 2017 festivities. ►







► Every year, Public Works plants a signature tree as living tributes to civic leaders, community advocates, artists and activists for their dedication and devotion to their communities.

Rose Pak, who died last September, was an influential civic leader who devoted herself to serving the community. She was instrumental in extending the Central Subway into Chinatown, advocating for more affordable housing, rebuilding and modernizing Chinese Hospital, enhancing economic vitality and preserving the rich culture

and history of Chinatown. A powerful mover and shaker in the City herself, she always encouraged Chinese Americans to take part in political engagement and community service.

In her honor, we planted a Ginkgo biloba tree, a slow-growing medicinal tree with beautiful fan-shaped leaves that turn a stunning yellow color in autumn. Like Pak, the species is native to China.

Our Bureau of Urban Forestry arborists oversaw the planting operation; and the Recreation and Park Department agreed to host the tree on its property.

The 15-year-old Ginkgo tree will serve as a living tribute to Pak for generations to come. A memorial plaque will be installed on a later day.

This is the 12th year of Public Works' signature tree planting program.

Past recipients include Dr. Espanola Jackson; Irene Crescio; the Brown twin sisters, Marian and Vivian; Nelson Mandela; Sandra Cuadra; Wangari Maathai; Charlie Starbuck; Rosa Parks; Cesar Chavez; Ruth Asawa; Dr. Ellen Wolf; and Dana Woldow. ■



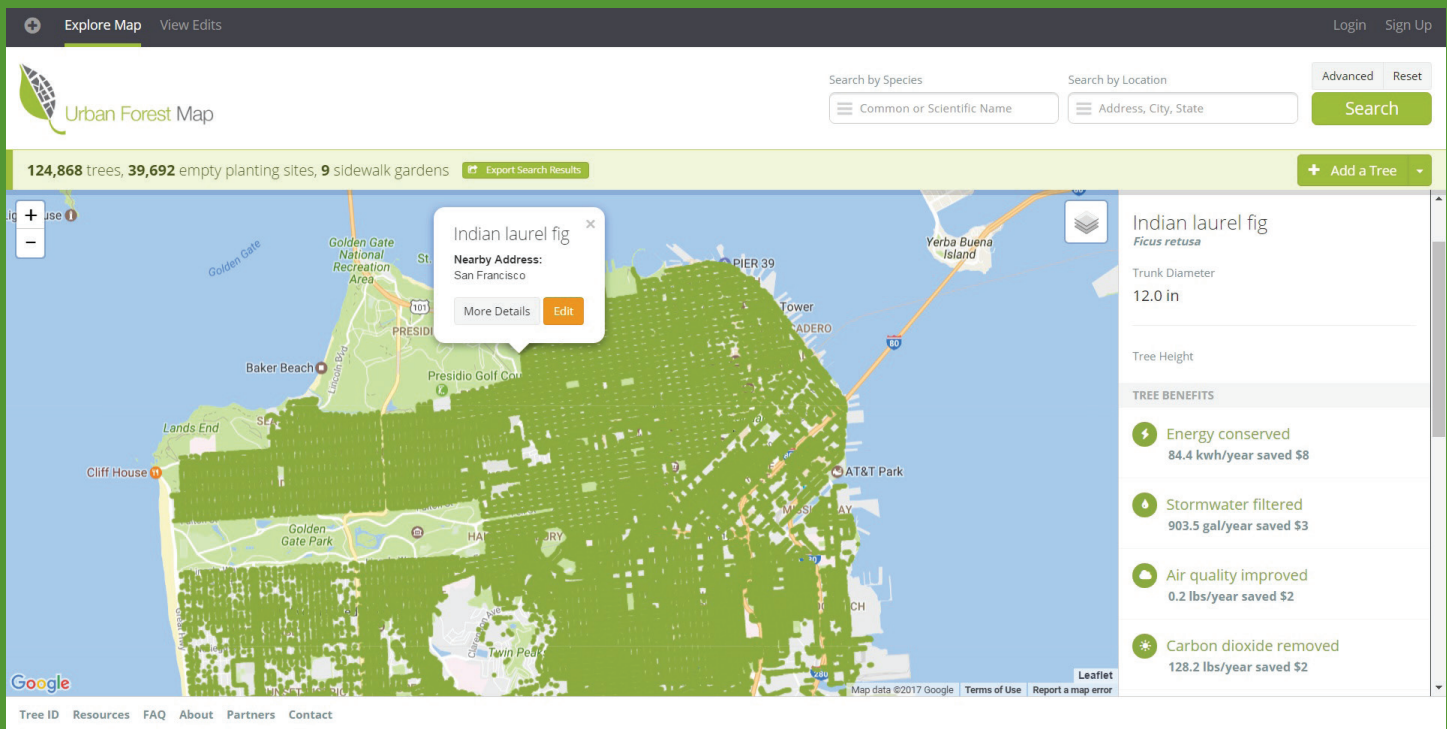


You Can Count on Trees



Chloe Wieland guessed there were 123,468 street trees in San Francisco – only 1,327 short of the actual number. Her estimate earned her a street tree planted in her honor during this year's Arbor Day festivities.





A newly published census on the state of San Francisco’s street trees provides the first clear understanding of how many there are, their location, species and condition – data that will inform how to nurture the vital urban forest for generations to come.

The citywide tree census, known as EveryTreeSF, established a comprehensive geodatabase that found there are 124,795 street trees in San Francisco. That is nearly 20,000 more than previous estimates. It also showed there are more than 500 species. The data looks forward, as well, by pinpointing approximately 40,000 potential planting locations, providing tremendous opportunity to grow the City’s urban forest.

EveryTreeSF census is a collaborative effort among San Francisco Public Works, San Francisco Planning, Friends of the Urban Forest, and the tree inventory firm [ArborPro](#).

Beginning in January 2016, a team of certified arborists began mapping and recording every street tree in the City. Upon completion in January

2017, the census had identified the exact location, species and current condition of every tree, in addition to identifying potential vacant sites for future plantings. Trees on private property or in public parks were not included.

All the data from the census can be found on an online searchable website, [UrbanForestMap.org](#). Visitors can zoom in to find information on street trees anywhere in the City, in addition to calculating the environmental benefits street trees provide. Each tree has its own page presenting its bio and people are welcome to upload a photo to help tell their tree’s story.

The census results come at a time of great opportunity with the passage of [Proposition E](#) in November 2016. Taking effect on July 1 of this year, Prop. E gives Public Works maintenance responsibility for all the City’s street trees and establishes a \$19 million annual set-aside in the General Fund to pay for tree care and to repair sidewalks damaged by tree roots. San Francisco voters

overwhelmingly supported the measure, with 79 percent in favor.

San Francisco Public Works’ Bureau of Urban Forestry will be using the census data to help implement Prop. E, improve tree and sidewalk maintenance, inform future planting programs and promote public stewardship of the City’s urban forest.

Under Prop. E, the trees in most need will be addressed first, with pruning prioritized based on safety considerations, to correct structural flaws and to gain necessary clearances for overhead wires, traffic signs and signals, adjacent buildings and traffic flow. Routine pruning of street trees is anticipated to begin in 2019. Public Works will continue to work with outside partners, including Friends of the Urban Forest, to ensure that replacement trees are planted and the City can grow the street tree population by 50 percent.

A worker installs new eco-friendly paving in a tree basin.





Eco-Friendly Pavement Put to the Test

A small but potentially game-changing experiment is underway at UN Plaza that could help bolster Public Work's quest to become more environmentally friendly.

We are testing use of a recycled material, known as Flexi-Pave, at two tree basins.

Unlike decomposed granite and metal grates typically used on tree basins to protect trees and reduce tripping hazards, Flexi-Pave is made from recycled tires and gravel, which allows groundwater to permeate into the basin, giving nutrients to the tree, controlling erosion and putting less strain on the storm-water system.

For every 10 square feet of material used, Flexi-Pave recycles three used tires. In addition, 30,000 gallons of water can pour through the permeable material every hour, keeping it out of the storm drain and off the street. ►



- ▶ “Flexi-Pave is great for the trees and great for the environment,” said Public Works landscape architect Marci Camacho. She said the department now needs to see how it holds up under tough urban conditions and based on that assessment will decide whether to use it on a larger scale. With 124,000-plus street trees in San Francisco, there’s a lot of potential.

What makes Flexi-Pave ideal for a high-traffic area such as UN Plaza is its ability to withstand powerful cleaning tools, such as steam cleaners and pressure washers, without cracking or damaging its surface.

The LEED-certified and permeable material is new to San Francisco but was introduced in 2001 by K.B. Industries, Inc. and can be found in other Bay Area cities, including Daly City, Richmond and San Rafael. Flexi-Pave got national coverage in 2015 when the folks over at Yellowstone National Park unveiled a 4,000 square foot walkway made of the porous material.

Flexi-Pave usually costs \$18 to \$24 per square foot to install – pricier than decomposed granite – but may hold up longer and provide environmental benefits. The construction firm, Ghilotti Bros, Inc., donated both the material and labor for the pilot demonstration. Crews installed the tree basin material March 14.

Plans are underway to install more Flexi-Pave in UN Plaza later this year. The material will be used to make two of the exhibits installed by the Exploratorium more accessible for wheelchair-users. Flexi-Pave’s non-cracking surface is ADA-compliant and ensures a safe and secure pathway for assisted walking devices.

The Public Works Strategic Plan calls for our organization to test innovative materials and processes that have the potential to reduce our carbon footprint, save water and promote environmental stewardship in other ways. We’ll keep you updated on the UN Plaza tree basin pilot and others in the future. ■





VAN NESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BREAKS GROUND

Construction officially kicked off this month on the [Van Ness Improvement Project](#), which will rejuvenate one of San Francisco's major corridors with new features to make the street safer for pedestrians and better for public transit reliability. ►





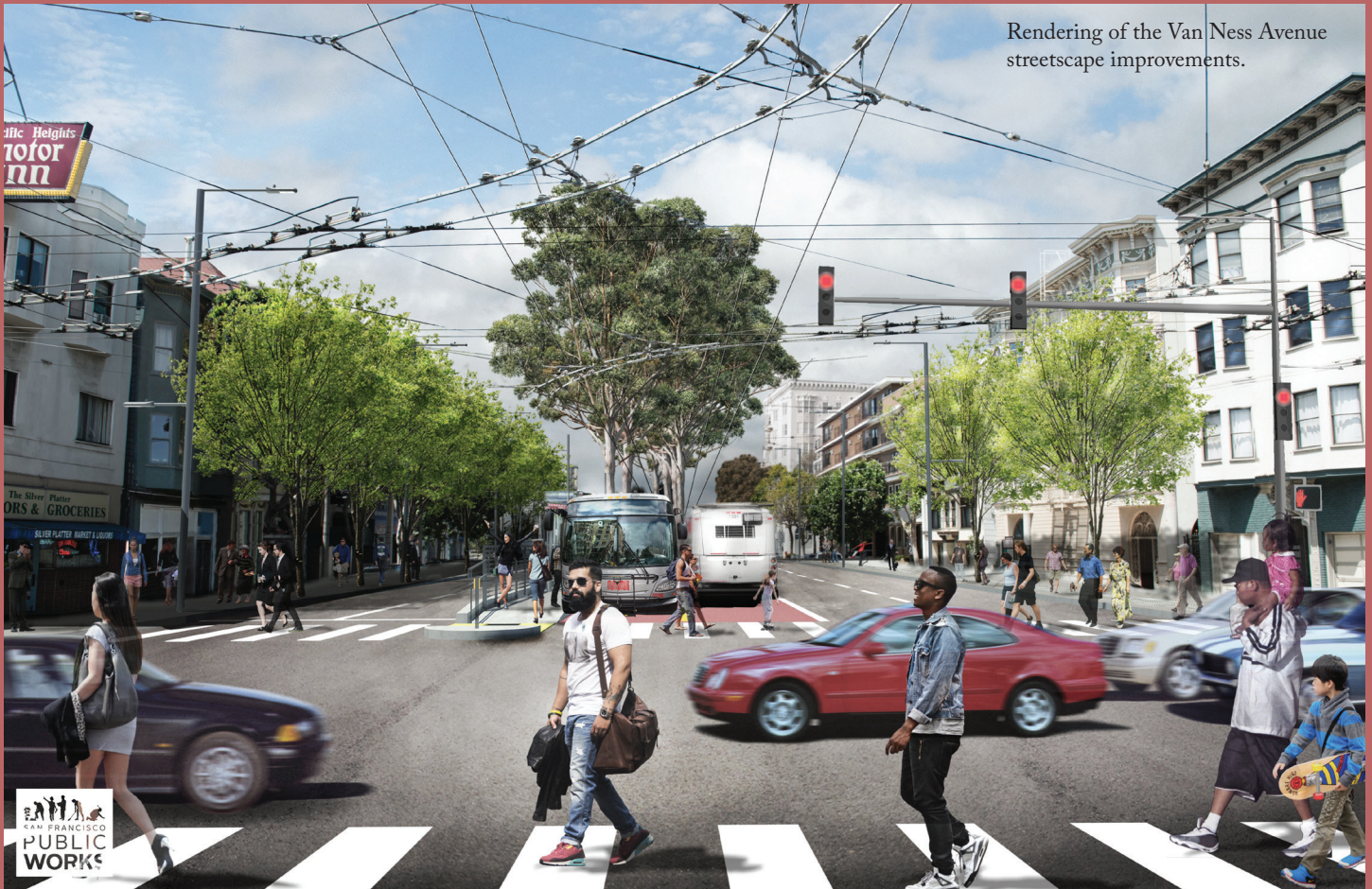
Rendering of the Van Ness Avenue streetscape improvements.





Rendering of the Van Ness Avenue streetscape improvements.





Rendering of the Van Ness Avenue streetscape improvements.

- ▶ The project will usher in the City's first [Bus Rapid Transit](#) route to speed Muni and Golden Gate Transit service by constructing dedicated bus-only lanes down the middle of the street with boarding stations.

Walking along the corridor will be made safer with the addition of sidewalk bulb-outs to shorten the crossing distance, protected medians, high visibility crosswalks and audible countdown signals.

The Van Ness Avenue upgrades also include replacement of the aging water and sewer lines, new streetlights and sidewalk lighting and new landscaping, including trees and rain gardens. In addition, the entire stretch of the

project boundary from Mission Street to Lombard Street will be repaved.

Public Works landscape, hydraulics and streets and highways teams designed many of the improvements and we are managing construction.

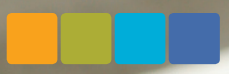
Partners include the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Caltrans and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.

Start of the three-year construction project was marked with a ground-breaking celebration on March 1. ■



SAFETY FIRST.
SAFETY ALWAYS.

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC WORKS



Meet **Silvia Samayoa**



Public Works street cleaning crew member Silvia Samayoa helps care for this neighborhood.

Meet **Marc Christensen**



Merced Extension Triangle resident Marc Christensen helps care for this neighborhood.






A STRATEGIC UNDERTAKING



Employees brainstorm ideas for the new Public Works Strategic Plan.





At least every three years we refresh the Public Works Strategic Plan to ensure we are aligned with our core values and the City's priorities, and that we are taking advantage of new technology and best practices to deliver innovative and exceptional projects and services more effectively and efficiently.

The Strategic Plan is our road map to reaching our vision of a forward-thinking organization that honors the public trust. The plan sets goals that focus our efforts and lays out measurable objectives so we can track our progress. And finally, it identifies initiatives, specific campaigns and actions that ensure the advancement of an objective.

Our Strategic Plan is a tool to not only measure our performance but to stretch the possibilities of what we can and should be doing as an organization vital to the City's well-being.

More than 100 Public Works employees gathered at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park on March 14 for a workshop to polish our new Strategic Plan and to imagine where we see ourselves in the next five years. Participants came from every bureau, division and section within Public Works and represented all levels. It was a

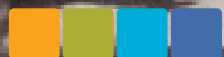
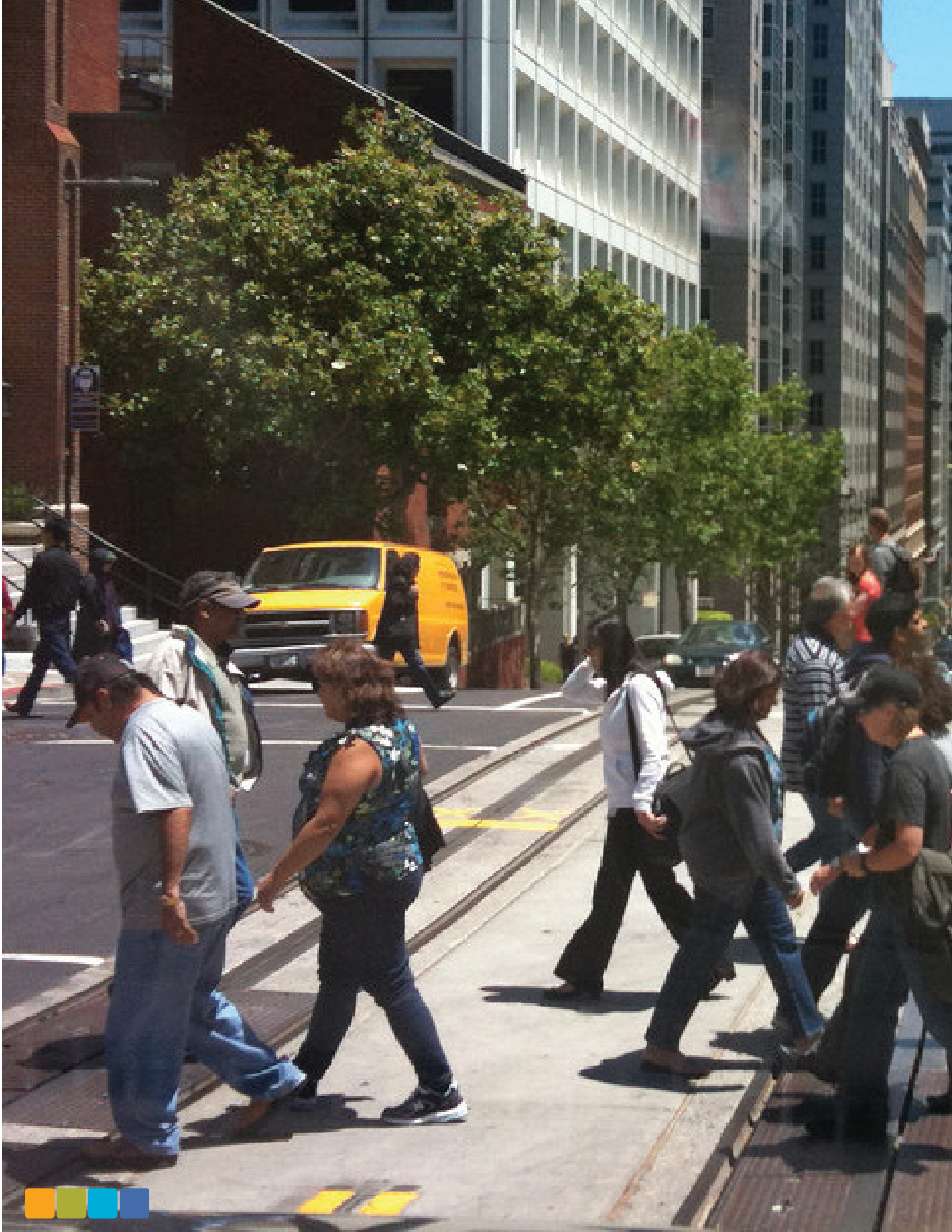
rare opportunity to step back from the day-to-day grind and delve into how to improve what we do as a 24/7 organization.

During the workshop, teams reviewed three overarching goals and focused on developing strategic initiatives to achieve them. Our goals are:

1. Be the best place to work.
2. Drive innovation and exceptional service.
3. Improve and inspire stewardship of public spaces.

Workshop teams developed and discussed more than 30 specific initiatives to accomplish these goals. Among them: identify and implement sustainable practices, create a collaborative think tank, improve project and service delivery, improve workforce development opportunities, bolster engagement with our partners, link planning and design to maintenance and implement new ways to maintain our public spaces efficiently.

At the end of the day, participants felt energized and hopeful. They left with a commitment to share the day's information with their colleagues and to work together to make Public Works a stronger organization to better serve the public.



SAN FRANCISCO'S GOAL: ZERO TRAFFIC DEATHS



Charmer, a friendly grazing goat, hams it up for the camera at our Arbor Day Eco Fair.

