

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Golden Gate Park on Saturday, April 4—the park’s actual birthday—at the parkwide Community Day celebration that marks the beginning of a series of events celebrating San Francisco’s treasured historic, cultural, recreational and environmental resource.

An illuminated 150-foot observation wheel, featuring 36 six-person gondolas, will be installed in the park’s music concourse through March 1, 2021. According to Phil Ginsburg, General Manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, the observation wheel will be “the center of a yearlong party that connects yesteryear with tomorrow.” Rides will be free on April 4.

In 1870, Golden Gate Park was a vast expanse of sand when the state legislature set the outlines of the park. Skeptics said a park could never be built on the windswept sand dunes of western San Francisco, but determined engineer William Hammond Hall and John McLaren, an inspired and committed gardener, teamed up, embodying the city’s can-do spirit. Their vision, along with that of others throughout 150 years, has resulted in 1,017 acres of gardens, playgrounds, lakes, picnic groves, trails, monuments, and an array of cultural venues that make Golden Gate Park everyone’s park.

The Presidio of San Francisco is the first park in the United States to achieve the international Green Flag Award, which recognizes the highest standards of management, maintenance, and development in public parks and

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District anticipates joining PDA

A multiyear community planning effort for the future of the Richmond District may soon be getting underway, based on a recent San Francisco Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee resolution submitted to the supervisors and approved unanimously on January 14.

Supervisors Sandra Fewer and Eric Mar spearheaded the process to create and plan Priority Development Area (PDA) designations for the Richmond and Sunset District corridors. There are currently 12 existing PDAs in the city, primarily in the eastern neighborhoods of the city.

A PDA is an urbanized area that is served by public transit or has proximity to jobs, good schools and other urban resources. All of San Francisco qualifies under these standards. A PDA generally is a subsection of a city that defines a reasonably discrete plan area or adjacent areas. The PDA designation is voluntary and is an incentive-based program that makes an area eligible for grants and infrastructure support.

The proposed legislation will authorize the San Francisco Planning Department to apply for and to create a new designation of the Richmond and Sunset District corridors and West Portal/Forest Hill Station Area as PDAs by two Bay Area regional authorities, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). This effort will be part of the Plan Bay Area 2050 update.

Once the proposal is submitted, an approval by the MTC and ABAG is expected. PAR has expressed its support of this resolution based on the overarching goals of the planning process: supporting a healthy and

sustainable environment; planning for housing equity and growth based on regional growth in housing demand; and investment in neighborhood infrastructure—including transit and community services—to support existing and future needs of the community.

The State of California provides funding to the Bay Area regional authorities based on compliance with goals described in the highlights section below. In turn, the regional authority will provide grants to subsidize the preparation of a PDA plan and support funding of infrastructure improvements in a designated PDA.

On Monday evening, January 6, Supervisor Fewer held a community meeting at the Richmond Recreation Center to introduce the PDA planning initiative and collect initial comments from neighbors about structuring the planning process and framework. A representative from the SF Planning Department presented the background and objectives of past PDAs and what is anticipated for the Richmond District planning process.

Following the presentation, Supervisor Fewer’s legislative aide conducted a brief question and answer session with community members to collect initial reactions and input. Notes of the meeting are available through Supervisor Fewer’s aide, Ian Fregosi, at ian.fregosi@sfgov.org.

Plan Bay Area 2050, adopted by ABAG and MTC, is a 30-year regional plan for the nine-county Bay Area that is required to meet state and federal laws and must be updated every four years. The plan must comply with SB375, which mandates a sustainable-

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Winter 2020 PAR Meeting

featuring

Speakers
on the
upcoming March
ballot propositions

•••

**Wednesday, February 19
7 to 9 p.m.**

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement & California Streets)

Limited street parking is available.

- Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary •

Letter from the President

Dear PAR Members,
We hope everyone's 2020 is off to a good start.

The big news in the neighborhood is Supervisor Sandra Fewer's decision not to seek a second term. We wish Supervisor Fewer the best in her next chapter. PAR has enjoyed a great relationship with the supervisor and her office over the last three years.

While, of course, we don't always agree with every position the supervisor has taken, I have been very impressed and grateful for her high level of engagement and presence in the neighborhood.

Supervisor Fewer has regularly joined us for our membership meetings, attended a number of our board meetings and consistently ensured that PAR is looped into city decisions and plans that affect the Richmond. Her dedication to the neighborhood is absolutely beyond question, and we hope to work with the supervisor in other capacities for years to come.

We also appreciate the great work and outreach from her staff members Ian Fregosi and Angelina Yu. On behalf of PAR, thank you for all your efforts and for encouraging us to do our One Richmond act every day!

As we turn to electing Supervisor Fewer's successor, I expect that PAR will host a candidate's forum to give our members and neighbors a chance to meet and ask questions of the people seeking to represent the Richmond.

In the meantime, all eyes are on the national election, but there are a number of initiatives on the San Francisco ballot in March. We'll be hosting speakers on those initiatives at our February meeting. Of particular interest to the west side may be Proposition B, the \$628.5 million earthquake preparedness bond. Part of the funding is designated for expansion of the firefighting water system.

The PAR board recently heard from retired San Francisco Fire Assistant Deputy Chief Tom Doudiet regarding the need to expand the auxiliary water system, a high-powered system that connects to the bay for water.

It was built after the 1906 earthquake but only covers the northeast part of the

city. Some of you may recall that Tom previously spoke at one of our membership meetings about the major firefighting challenges that a 1906-type earthquake would present and the inadequacy of the existing water supply for the parts of the city not served by the auxiliary system.

Those interested in learning more can find detailed commentary from Tom in the *Richmond Review's* website. Following the results on Prop B, PAR will be tracking which resources are dedicated to the west side and what needs may remain.

But let's hope for another year of only the kind of seismic activity that makes you roll over in bed and ask yourself "Was that an earthquake, a truck going by, or was I just dreaming?"

We look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood.

Kate Lazarus

sfparpresident@gmail.com

PAR requests community input for PDA plan

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communities strategy that achieves greenhouse gas reduction targets by linking land use to transportation.

The plan must also accommodate all of the projected housing growth in existing urbanized areas in the region for the projected population and jobs and meet objectives for equity, environmental resiliency and mobility.

A PDA designation does not override local land use controls, zoning or plans, or mandate any particular outcome. It does not bind the city to adopt particular zoning controls or growth projections by area.

PAR recently sent a letter, including the following sentiments, to Supervisor Fewer regarding its interest in being actively engaged in this planning process.

One of the resolution's goals is a "community-driven planning" process. As noted in the January 6 community presentation by the Planning Department, and followed by questions and comments from community members, we (PAR) wish to emphasize the value of public engagement throughout the planning process.

There were several references made to

"planning to plan," which we envision to be an organized program for community input and discussion with and facilitated by planners and public officials. PAR is interested in maintaining direct involvement in the public engagement process.

We request that the planners propose a process and schedule, including public notifications that will detail specific agendas and topics, so that the community is informed in advance of surveys, workshops, reports and/or presentations so that those community members and stakeholders that are interested will be able to participate in the discussions.

The planning process is an opportunity to engage the community in dialog to address both existing needs and new needs that will arise from the addition of more housing: improved infrastructure, dislocated residents, economic equity, cultural and income diversity, business needs, sustainability, education, public safety and resilient resources for disaster preparation and recovery. These topics are best dealt with by an outreach program that enlists active and direct participation by the community.

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First woman in the job

Parks Conservancy names new president and CEO

In May, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy hired Chris Lehnertz to be president and CEO.

The Parks Conservancy is the nonprofit membership organization created to support park stewardship and conservation, enhance the experiences of park visitors, and build a community dedicated to conserving the parks for the future. It supports some of the Richmond's most iconic Lands End, and the Presidio as well as others across the Bay Area.

Chris brings extensive experience managing some of America's most iconic national parks and a passion for making parks relevant and accessible to all communities. Her distinguished career at the National Park Service (NPS) included serving as Superintendent at Grand Canyon National Park, General Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Director of the NPS Pacific West Region, and Deputy Superintendent at Yellowstone National Park.

Throughout her NPS career, Chris successfully led a number of complex and challenging projects and issues, including dam

removal on the Elwha River in Olympic National Park, the addition of lands to Joshua Tree National Park, improved working conditions at Grand Canyon National Park, and stewarding natural and cultural resources in the face of substantial increases in visitation. She was the first female superintendent of both Grand Canyon National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is the first female president and CEO of the Parks Conservancy.

Before joining the National Park Service in 2007, Chris spent 17 years with the US Environmental Protection Agency in Denver and Washington DC, implementing an array of environmental protection statutes, including the Clean Water



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More art—sans controversy—graces walls at GWHS

One of the landmark buildings in the Richmond District is George Washington High School.

In 1933, a city bond measure was passed to build new schools in the city, and one of the schools was George Washington. San Francisco did not have enough funds to complete the project, so the federal government, under the Works Progress Administration, took over completing the project.

Timothy Pflueger, one of the finest architects of San Francisco at this time, designed the high school—considered modern for the time—as well as many of San Francisco's famous buildings. The academic building was started in 1934 and finished in 1935. Other buildings on the campus were built over a period of years, with, the final one—the music room—being finished in 1952.

The Washington high school project qualified under the Federal Art Program (part of the New Deal), so artwork was included and was completed by 1936. While much has been written lately about Victor Arnautoff's *Life of George Washington*, I will not go into details about this mural but, instead, write about the other artwork in the buildings.

In the school library, on the second floor, there are three

murals by artists who also painted murals at Coit Tower. In the entrance to the library, there's a mural by Gordon Langdon entitled *Modern and Ancient Science*. On the eastern wall, there is a mural entitled *Advancement of Learning Through the Printing Press* by Lucien Labaudt. A mural by Ralph Stackpole, entitled *Contemporary Education*, fills the western wall.

On the football field, at the south end, is a massive relief frieze, *Athletics*, by Sargent Johnson. Although Beniamino Bufano received the original commission for the frieze, his concept became controversial, and the project was ultimately turned over to Sargent Johnson, who had studied under both Stackpole and Bufano. Johnson was one of the few African-American artists in the WPA program.

Thanks to funding in part by former supervisor Eric Mar, the City's Historic Preservation Commission nominated George Washington High School for landmark status. The board of supervisors has not taken up this nomination because of the current controversy surrounding the Arnautoff murals at the school.

To see more photos of the artwork at George Washington High School, go to RichardRothman.net.



Advancement of Learning Through the Printing Press, by Lucien Labaudt, is one of the murals enhancing the halls of George Washington High School.

Lehnertz

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Act, Clean Air Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Her work also included manag-

ing partnerships with states and American Indian tribes, environmental and natural resource departments, and local government and non-governmental organizations.

Chris started her conservation career in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado where

she worked seasonally for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the US Forest Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. She received a degree in environmental biology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and holds a secondary education certificate from Metropolitan State College in Denver.

Chris and her spouse, Shari Dagg, will reside in San Francisco, where they will be looking for a dog to add to the family.

The Richmond is talking . . .

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green spaces around the world. Only 2,000 sites in 15 countries have been so honored.

“We are so proud to be the first park to fly the Green Flag Award in the United States,” said Jean Fraser, CEO of the Presidio Trust. Originally a military outpost, the Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service in 1994, and, in 1996, the Presidio Trust, a federal agency, was created to preserve the unique resources the site offered.

The Presidio now hosts a variety of activities—25 miles of trails, docent-led art tours, and community celebrations—many of which are free. A free shuttle that travels throughout the park also makes stops at The Embarcadero and the Transbay Terminal to pick up Presidio visitors.

WWW.SFPAR.ORG

Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working, or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes! I/we want to support the Richmond District.

First name(s)		Last name	
Name of business (for business members)			
Address			
City		State	Zip
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E-Mail PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.			
Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Business			
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting membership, \$20.00/year and above <input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above <input type="checkbox"/> Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above			

Please complete and cut out this form and mail it together with your check (payable to the Planning Association of the Richmond) to

PAR
5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356
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THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Join, contribute or pay your dues the easy way—online at sfpap.org/site/inline-par-via-paypal.html.

