

THE PORTOLA PROGRESS

Produced by the Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee (PNSC)

Crossing the Street: Tales from the Portola



Wooed by stories of an earlier, simpler neighborhood where families helped each other paint houses and celebrated holidays together, churched together, swam off Hunters Point on Sundays, shared bootleg stills and joyfully poured out into the street at the end of World War II, visual artists Oscar Melara and Kate Connell have been seeking a closer relationship with the people they share fences with.

Through a series of engagements on one city block in the Portola —story gathering, block parties, portraiture—the artists are collaborating with their immediate neighbors to produce a social sculpture and as a result of this experience, a collection of handmade books that describe the Portola and its history. These books will become part of the new Portola Branch Library’s reference collection.

The books will be presented with an exhibition documenting their development at the new Portola Branch Library:

Saturday, October 2, 2010, 3:00-5:30pm
380 Bacon Street San Francisco, CA 94134.

Crossing the Street is funded by the Creative Work Fund.



Kate Connell & Oscar Melara

PNSC Community Wide Meeting

Please join us if you can!

The next meetings are:
September 23

November 18

Meetings are from
6:30 to 8pm

Location to be Determined
Dinner is provided.

Join the Portola Yahoo Group for updates on the neighborhood.

For more details, please contact Shirley:
shirley.pnsc@gmail.com
(415) 574-9170.

Stay in the Portola Weekend is September 25-26th



The 4th Annual Portola Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, September 25th at 23 gardens in the Portola. The self-guided tour showcases beautiful gardens, offers music, prizes, and food. All proceeds will go toward creating a scholarship for a deserving student from the Portola at CCSF’s acclaimed Environmental Horticulture/Floristry department. You can buy your tickets at Fat Beli Deli (2598 San Bruno Ave) and Family Connections (2565 San Bruno Ave). Contact Ruth Wallace at 415-420-6185 or ruth@redandruthies.com for more information.

The PNSC is proud to present the 8th Annual Portola Festival on Sunday, September 26th from 10am to 4pm. The festival will take place on San Bruno Avenue from Felton to Bacon Streets. Please join us for a day of free fun filled entertainment, arts and crafts, and more. For more information, please visit our website: www.portolafestival.org. We are looking for volunteers for the festival. Contact Shirley Chen at Shirley.pnsc@gmail.com or (415) 574-9170 to volunteer.



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In the Community

Bayview Police Station

201 Williams Avenue, 671-2300

Part 2 of a 2-part Story

By Lia Smith

In our last issue, we ran the first part of an article on Bayview Police Station and described some of the philosophies of our local police. Read on to learn how Bayview station is working with local residents to improve safety.

Important to Know: The majority of officers working at Bayview request the assignment.

Sergeant Kirk Yin is an example of an officer who is at Bayview by choice. "I love my guys," he said of the officers he supervises. "They're young and dedicated." Sgt. Yin, a certified department translator (Mandarin), loves all aspects of police work, including making arrests, volunteering for community events, and joking around with young people. A number of residents cite the first annual Portola Safety Fest in 2008 as the event when they got to know Sgt. Yin.

The Portola Safety Fest collaboration is an example of the kind of interactions Bayview Police Station wants to foster and build on. Suhr and his officers depend on citizens to help them safeguard Bayview. "Community input is the lifeblood of the information we need to do our job," he said. Suhr holds his officers to high standards and depends on the community to help his officers grow. He also does not stint when it comes to praise so morale is high at Bayview. Bulletin boards displaying "Officer of the Month," "Captain's Compliments," and "Citizens' Commendations" give public recognition of the on-going hard work and diligence of Bayview officers. The prominent memorials to Isaac Espinoza and Nick Birco, two Bayview officers killed in the line of duty, remind officers to resist becoming complacent, desensitized, or careless in their work.

Safe Haven & Portola Watch

You may have noticed the "Safe Haven" signs in shop windows along San Bruno Avenue. This is a merchant agreement to give safe haven to anyone who feels they are being targeted by a thief or thug looking for someone to assault. This brainchild of officers Percy Hernandez, Kevin Lee and Kirk Yin has been duplicated by Third Street merchants. Safe Haven shows that our community is organized and that there's an on-going conversation among residents, merchants and police.

Portola Watch is open to all residents and conducts monthly meetings and neighborhood walks. We are trying to make it a Portola tradition that much of our safety comes from the interconnectedness of our community and not unrealistic expectations



that the police can somehow be everywhere all at once. The primary job of the police is to prevent violent crime and they depend on us to be the eyes and ears of our neighborhood. (See page 5 for more information on our new Public Safety Coordinator.)

Strengthening our ties to Bayview Police Station

"Be demanding," Captain Suhr said. "Let us know what you want. Praise my officers and also let me know when you think they could be doing better. My staff is the best, but I'm not going to say we don't hit a cone once in a while. We're on the course, just not straight up the middle all the time."

- Call the police whenever a crime occurs. The anonymous tip line is 822-8147.
- Attend the Bayview Station Community Meetings held on the first Tuesdays of every month at 6 p.m. Express your concerns and share information with the Police Department and other city agencies at this open public forum.
- Understand that police rotate for our safety. Broad experience helps police to increase their effectiveness. Consider a favorite officer a lifetime resource and keep in touch. S/he will be glad to hear from you and the exchange of information and caring will strengthen our communities.
- Contact Aura Horton, Administrative Assistant to Captain Suhr, [aura.horton@sfgov.org] and ask to take a tour of the station with your children.
- If you're interested in serving on the Bayview Advisory Board, send an e-mail to Captain Suhr, expressing your interest [greg.suhr@sfgov.org]. This is a work group and board members are expected to take action.
- If you'd like to receive the Captain's regular bulletins, send your e-mail to sfpdbayviewstation@sfpd.org and Ms. Horton will put you on the listserve. (They are not in Chinese...yet.)

Help McLaren Park

By Chuck Farrugia and Dan Brady



McLaren Park is one of San Francisco's great treasures. It has trails, open countryside and views that are remarkable. Yet many residents of San Francisco do not know much about this wonderful place.

Over two years ago a "friends" group (Help McLaren Park) emerged to put focus on the plight of playgrounds in McLaren Park. Help McLaren Park is a grass roots, neighborhood-based organization. They are working with other local groups, city government and non-profit organizations to restore lost playgrounds, repair crumbling trails and increase safety for all who visit.

Through their hard work and determination Help McLaren Park has been awarded with several grants, one being the Community Challenge Grant worth 75 thousand dollars and the other, a SF Parks Trust grant of two thousand dollars to help fund their first informational kiosk on the northeast side of the park (which should be installed this August). However, if it weren't for the financial support and contributions made by our very own neighbors through activities such as garage sales, flower sales, chili cook-offs, a pancake breakfast and pizza nights, the politicians at City Hall would turn a blind eye as usual to our blighted park.

Although the goal is to improve all areas of McLaren, HMP's biggest project to date is focusing on restoring the playground at the Burrows and Peru St. area. There they wish to create an inviting picnic/play area for families to spend the day. This well sheltered spot in McLaren Park is an ideal location for kids to frolic and play while their parents can prepare a BBQ and relax in the warmth of the

southeastern sun. New BBQ pits, a water fountain, a toddler play structure with swings and fresh landscaping are all realistic ideas that could be incorporated in the re-design of this neglected play area.

It is possible to make McLaren Park even more beautiful than it is right now. If we do so, McLaren Park can provide more places for San Francisco's children, specifically those in the Portola, Excelsior and Visitacion Valley Districts, to have local and immediate experiences of nature. The Help McLaren Park group is doing their best to see this happen right now.

There are many ways you can help. You can volunteer or attend any one of their McLaren Park clean up days or events. You can donate by writing a check to NPC/Help McLaren Park and mail it to NPC's office: 451 Hayes St., 2nd Floor, SF CA 94102 or make an online donation by typing the link: <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=61f346>

But most importantly, please consider joining the movement to restore a precious jewel right here in our own backyard. Joining is a few clicks away on their web site www.helpmclpark.weebly.com or just send them an email at helpmclpark@gmail.com.



Sponsor an edition of the Portola Progress!

The PNSC printing budget is limited and we need help to pay for the printing of future newsletters. As a result, we are offering sponsorship spaces in our newsletter. We are also accepting individual donations.

To donate or sponsor the printing of future editions of the newsletter, please e-mail or call Shirley Chen, PNSC Program Manager at shirley.pnsc@gmail.com or 415-574-9170.

Ask for the current ad rate and size sheet.

PNSC Board & Staff

Board:

Barbara Fenech
Irene Crescio
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Maryann Fleming
Ruth Wallace
Terrence Chan

PNSC Staff:

Shirley Chen,
Program Manager
Gabriel Haas,
Public Safety Coordinator

Merchant News

What kinds of murals would you like to see on and around the Avenue?

By Lia Smith

Lia Smith goes out in to the neighborhood every quarter to get the community view about various topics. With 3 murals and one in the works on San Bruno Avenue businesses, Lia asked Portola neighbors and business owners what kind of mural would they like to see in the neighborhood. Read all the different ideas!

Flowers, trees, the birds and the bees. I'd like to see colorful murals that are nice to look at, that make people feel good. Can you take a picture of my employee? He's more photogenic.

Gladys Malouf, Manager,
Round Table Pizza,
2660 San Bruno Avenue
(photo of employee)



Interactive; murals with humor; not the same old things like the Blue Tower, the fog, McLaren, etc. No more Blue Towers, please.

Cory Ferris, City
College of San
Francisco

A mural that plays with 3-dimensional space of the local architecture, the actual building that the mural is on. Use distortion and illusion of space, like sets from The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. Play with depicting what's behind the wall, as if the wall were transparent.

Keith Ferris, Burrows Street



I'd like to see a mural that encourages people to protect the environment. People should recycle, compost, and re-use everything. Please don't dump computers in the street, or motor oil in our water supply. There should be a sun, which means happiness. Green trees and green scenery are peaceful. The mural can remind us to preserve our beautiful earth for ourselves, our children and the future. 我希望看到一面鼓勵人們保護環境的壁畫。人們應回收，堆肥，和重複使用各種東西。請不要將電腦丟在街邊，或將機器油倒入

我們的排水系統。壁畫應該有一個太陽，意指快樂。綠色的樹和綠化的風景帶來寧靜。壁畫可以提醒我們，為我們，我們的孩子和未來，保護我們美麗的地球。

Michelle Do, Michelle's Hair Studio, 2772 San Bruno Avenue

The murals should show the amazing diversity of people I see on San Bruno Avenue. A lot of young people from Thurgood, Burton, Martin Luther King, buy food along the Avenue. There are people from cultures all over the world on this street. The mural should reflect local nature and the people who are here every day.

Sharena McGowan, Ambassador,
DPW Street Sweeper



A mural could remind people that people from all over the world are here, making positive contributions—Korean, Mexican, Central American, Cambodian, Samoan and Fijian, Vietnamese, the Philippines. Some people think it's all Chinese, but it's not. I would want to see something new, creative, maybe 3-D. I like blues, golds, and silver.

Karla Mora, La Loma #10,
2456 San Bruno Avenue

Alemany Island Beautification Project

Imagine turning off Alemany Boulevard onto San Bruno Avenue and seeing a San Francisco Garter Snake and Mission Blue butterflies rising out of a native garden on the traffic island. And imagine seeing 48 "Portoloteria" images gracing the cyclone fences that lead into the Portola. The PNSC has been working on this "Gateway to Portola" project since 2008 and hopes to be granted a Community Challenge Grant in late September 2010 for its execution and completion in 2011. To date, we have sought community input, collaborated with City College's Horticulture Department, worked with artists Kate Connell and Oscar Melara, and recruited neighbors who are willing to climb 50 foot scaffolding or paint a panel. If you would like to know more or would like to get involved, please contact Lia Smith at lsmith@ccsf.edu or Shirley Chen at shirley.pnsc@gmail.com.



Alemany Circl Pillar Now



Alemany Circl Pillar Projected

Welcome our New Public Safety Coordinator!

My name is Gabriel Alejandro Haas, and I was recently brought on by the LISC AmeriCorp program to work as the new Public Safety Coordinator for the Excelsior Action Group and the Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee. I look forward to meeting a lot of you, and hopefully we can collaborate to build stronger alliances and improve safety in the two communities. In the Portola, I will be convening the Portola Watch monthly meetings, providing support/resources to execute Portola Watch objectives, organizing monthly foot patrols, and creating long term sustainability for the Portola Watch. I hope you join us for our meetings and foot patrols and work with us on long term solutions to enhance neighborhood safety.



Just to tell you a little about myself, I was born and raised in San Francisco, and have lived in the Portola for the last 15 years. I graduated from SF State in the Urban Studies (City Planning) department last year, along with a minor in Chicano Studies. Having been chosen to work in this position through AmeriCorp, I am very excited to have a chance to work in my field and develop professionally, as well as help improve communities that are close to my heart. Out of the 12 AmeriCorps interns in the Bay Area this year, I believe I am the only one that is working in a neighborhood that they grew up/live in. Hopefully we will get a chance to meet in person, and discuss your concerns, your issues and our solutions. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at haas.gabe@gmail.com or 415-756-8563.

Volunteer for the Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee!

If you are interested in volunteering for the PNSC, please use the contact information on the back. We are always looking for more volunteers to help write articles for the newsletter, volunteer at the annual festival, or start up new projects to improve the San Bruno Avenue Corridor.

Get copies of the Portola Progress!!!

Get copies of the Portola Progress, the quarterly newsletter produced by the PNSC by:

Sending \$2 to the PNSC at 4702 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 and we will mail you all of the editions for 2008-2010.

Or pick up free copies in the neighborhood at:

Family Connections
(2565 San Bruno Ave.)

Subway
(2599 San Bruno Ave.)

Fat Belli Deli
(2598 San Bruno Ave.)

Portola Library
(380 Bacon St.)

Palega Park
(500 Felton St.)

Bethel Grace Lutheran Church
(465 Woolsey St)

在社區

灣景警署
201 Williams Avenue
671-2300
第二部份

Lia Smith

我們在上期刊登了灣景警署報導的第一部份，介紹了本區警署的一些宗旨。今期我們介紹灣景警署如何和本地居民合作，改善安全。

重要須知：大部份在灣景警署工作的警員，均要求調往此處

警官Kirk Yin是一名選擇來灣景工作的警員之一。「我喜歡我的同僚，」他指他主管的警員，「他們年輕，投入工作。」Yin警長是一名檢定的部門翻譯員（國語），喜歡警務的所有工作，包括逮捕、在社區活動義務工作、和年輕人開玩笑等。很多居民指出他們是在2008年第一屆Portola安全日中認識Yin警長的。

Portola安全日合作活動，是灣景警署希望促進和發展的社區互動例子之一。Suhr和他的警員需要市民幫助他們保護灣景區。「社區提供的意見，是執行我們工作所需的重要資料，」他說。Suhr對屬下有高標準的要求，同時需要社區幫助他的警員成長。他從不吝嗇讚美，因而灣景警署的士氣高昂。壁報板上貼出「當月傑出表現警員」、「警長讚詞」、「市民表揚」等，表揚灣景警員一貫的辛勞和勤奮。懷念兩名在執行任務時被害的警員Issac Espinoza和Nick Birco之突出追悼會，提醒了警員在工作中不可自滿，麻木，和大意。

安全港和Portola Watch

大家或者會留意到沿San Bruno Avenue商店窗口出現的「Safe Haven」安全港的標誌。這是商人協議，為任何人如感到他們成為被搶或襲擊對象時，可以隨時進入避難。這是警員Percy Hernandez, Kevin Lee和Kirk Yin的主意，此模式已被三街的商人仿效。安全港顯示我們的社區是有組織的，而居民、商人、和警方之間持續有交流。

Portola Watch歡迎所有居民參加，他們舉行每個月的例會和本區巡察。我們正在使此活動成為Portola一個傳統，強調安全來自社區的互相守望相助，因為在任何時候在每個地方都有警察是不可能的。警察的



主要任務，是預防罪案，而他們需要我們在社區做他們的耳目。

加強我們和灣景警署之聯繫

「要要求嚴格，」Suhr警長說，「告訴我們你們想要些什麼。稱讚我的警員，同時告訴我們他們如何可以做得更好。我的部下是最好的，但我不會說我們完全不會出錯。我們在正軌上面，只不過不是所有時間都在正中而已。」

- 任何時候發生罪案時請報警。你可以無須講出姓名，電話號碼是822-8147。

- 參加每個月第一個星期二下午六時在灣景警署舉行的社區會議。在此公開的公眾論壇中，向警務處和其他政府機構表示你的關注和分享資訊。

- 明白警員之輪調是為我們安全著想。警員有不同的經驗，可以加強他們的效能。你可和你喜歡的警員保持永久聯絡。他／她會高興的聽到你的信息，而資訊和關懷的交流，亦將幫助加強我們的社區。

- 聯絡Aura Horton，警長Suhr的行政助理，aura.horton@sfgov.org，請她安排帶你的孩子參觀警署。

- 如你有興趣服務灣景顧問委員會，請發一通電郵給Suhr警長，表示你的興趣，greg.suhr@sfgov.org。這是一個工作小組，我們期望委員會成員採取行動。

- 如你想定期收到警長的通訊，請發電郵sfpdbay-viewstation@sfpd.org，Horton女士將在電子郵件名單內列入你的名字（但通訊…目前仍未有中文版）。

商人新聞

過馬路：講述Portola的故事

在較早時候，這裡是一個較簡單的社區，家庭互相幫助油漆房子，一起慶祝節日，一起上教堂，在星期日游泳到獵人角去，一起分享盜版劇照，在二次大戰結束時一起湧上街頭，視覺藝術家Oscar Melara和Kate Connell受到啟發，一直在尋求和芳鄰建立較密切的關係。

通過一系列在Portola區一個街段的參與活動——收集故事，街會，畫像——藝術家和他們毗鄰的鄰居這了一個社會雕塑，並因此而收集了多本手製的書籍，講述Portola區和它的歷史。這些書本現在已成為新的Portola圖書分館參考部藏品。



這些書籍，將連同一個紀錄其編製過程的展覽，將於新圖書分館展出：

2010年十月二日星期六

下午三時至五時卅分

Portola圖書館

380 Bacon Street

San Francisco, CA 94134

“過馬路”項目，是由Creative Work Fund資助。



Alemanya Island交通島美化計劃

想像從Alemanya Boulevard轉入San Bruno Avenue並看到一條三藩市東帶蛇和米慎藍蝴蝶在交通島的本地花園出現。再想像看到48個“Portoloteria”的形象，增添進入Portola區的旋流圍欄之優美。PNSC自2008年開始此“Portola入口”計劃，希望在2010年九月底得到Community Challenge Grant的資助，實施計劃並在2011年完成。直至今日為止，我們一直在徵詢社區的意見，和市立大學園藝系合作，與藝術家Kate Connell與Oscar Melara合作，並徵召願意爬五十呎的架台或繪製一面畫板的鄰居。如你想知道計劃詳情或想參與，請聯絡Lia Smith, ljsmith@ccsf.edu或Shirley Chen, shirley.pnsc@gmail.com。

九月二十五日和二十六日的周末，請留在Portola區



第四屆年度參觀Portola區花園將於九月二十五日星期六參觀此區二十三個花園。這個自助的參觀活動，展示此區的一些美麗花園，並有音樂，抽獎，和美食。所有收入將用於設立一個助學金，幫助一名來自Portola區市立大學著名園藝系的學生。你可以在Fat Beli Deli (2598 San Bruno Ave)或Family Connections (2565 San Bruno Ave)購票。查詢詳情請聯絡Ruth Wallace, 415-420-6185或ruth@redandruthies.com。

PNSC的很高興於九月二十六日星期日上午十時至下午四時主辦第八屆Portola街會。街會將於San Bruno Avenue從Felton到Bacon街一段舉行。請和我們一起樂享節日，此免費活動包括娛樂，美術和手工藝等等。查詢詳情，請瀏覽我們的網頁www.portolafestival.org。我們同時徵求當天可以協助的義工。如果你有意義務協助，請聯絡Shirley Chen, shirley.pnsc@gmail.com或(415) 574-9170。





Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee

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www.pnscsf.org

The Portola Neighborhood Steering Committee is a group of neighborhood merchants, property owners, and residents who have come together to coordinate efforts for improving San Bruno Avenue and the Portola neighborhood.

The PNSC's goal is to revitalize San Bruno Ave. by increasing cleanliness, working with property owners to fill vacancies, providing support to existing merchants, promoting the shopping district, and attracting resources for physical improvements. The PNSC also builds community pride through organizing special events such as the Portola Festival and collaborating with other community groups.

The PNSC is funded by Bay Area LISC and the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

To: