

in the works

February 2017



Cyclist enjoys new
Mansell bike path
in McLaren Park.

A message from our director

Mohammed Nuru revs up for Arbor Day



Dear Public Works

THE JAPANTOWN AND District 5 communities are extremely pleased with Traci Lawrence and the OnE Team's work. They are making a huge and noticeable difference. Most importantly, they are beginning to change the culture to be more self-managed – the community is learning the correct standard of cleanliness. We love Traci's responsiveness and appropriately assertive style.

Steve N.

HAPPY NEW YEAR OF THE Rooster! We are crowing about the new replacement lanterns on Grant Avenue!

On behalf of the Chinatown Merchants Association and the BeChinatown Committee, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Public Works for your part in replacing our worn red lanterns on Grant Avenue for the New Year! They look terrific!

Eva L.
Chinatown Merchants Association
Board of Directors

I'VE BEEN NOTICING YOUR Pit Stop public toilet program around the City lately and the big improvement.

I have thought for a long time that it's a tragic thing that one of the many indignities of homelessness is the lack of safe and sanitary restrooms. I'm so happy to know that this City is now working to address the problem, and I wanted to pass on the positive feedback.

ÉK

THANK YOU, GREGORY Townsend of the OnE team, for taking time to walk around the Greater Rincon Hill district yesterday. You have a large area to cover within the City (and Treasure Island), so I appreciate your effort to look at a few persistent challenges in the neighborhood. The insights and experience you shared will be

valuable to us going forward as we work to educate property owners and merchants. We will absolutely share the materials you've provided in our communications with stakeholders. We all look forward to working in collaboration with you and the Public Works team to see this neighborhood live up to all its potential!

Andrew R.

Upcoming Events

WED., 3/1

[Van Ness BRT Groundbreaking](#)

Join the City as we break ground on the first Bus Rapid Transit corridor that will revitalize Van Ness Avenue.

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

San Francisco War Memorial Court
Van Ness Avenue, near McAllister St.

SAT., 3/11

[San Francisco Summer Resource Fair](#)

Featuring 200 exhibits from organizations that offer summer programs, classes, camps and other services for youth.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park

SUN., 3/12

[Sunday Streets in the Mission](#)

Kick off the season with Sunday Streets on Valencia Street. Enjoy car-free fun in the heart of the Mission from Duboce to 26th Street on Valencia, with fun, FREE activities for the whole family to enjoy all along the way.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SAT., 3/18

[Arbor Day Community Clean Team and Eco Fair in District 10](#)

Community Clean Team in District 10 Keeps SF beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods. And join us for a crowd-pleasing Eco Fair with family-fun activities.

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Warm Water Cove (24th and Michigan)

SAT., 3/18

[Pollinator Boulevard Planting Event](#)

Join community volunteers for a community planting day to enhance [Pollinator Boulevard](#).

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dolores St., north of Market St.

3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/28

[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



San Francisco Public Works' Bureau of Urban Forestry and Planning Department staff received a 2017 Data and Innovation Award from the Office of Mayor Edwin M. Lee at an awards ceremony at City Hall on February 16th. Mayor Lee was on hand to award staff with the "Picture is Worth a Thousand Words Award" for EveryTreeSF—San Francisco's first-ever Street Tree Census. The award states, "Collecting the data on every street tree in San Francisco provides the building blocks for developing a long-term plan for maintaining San Francisco's trees. By combining this data with a modern and interactive map and supporting visuals, EveryTreeSF both engages our residents in a conversation about our urban forest and serves as an educational tool about the ecological role of our trees." The Bureau of Urban Forestry plans to use the census data to help implement Proposition E, improve tree and sidewalk maintenance, inform future planting programs and promote public stewardship of the City's urban forest.



The Public Safety Campus project team won top honors from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter for structures valued at more than \$75 million. The Public Safety Campus in Mission Bay houses SFPD headquarters, Southern District Police Station and a fire station. It opened in April 2015. Public Works managed construction of the development and also collaborated on the interior design. The campus was funded through the voter-approved Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response bond. The team picked up their award on Feb. 23.





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.



MANSELL ST

A little rain couldn't wash out the good feelings that were shared

A PATH WELL





STREETSCAPE:

at this month's Mansell Streetscape ribbon-cutting celebration. ▶

ALL TRAVELED





Revelers enjoy the new streetscape during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Mansell Streetscape project.

Photo credit: San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

► Neighbors, kids, City officials and other folks gathered together at the corner of Mansell Street and Visitacion Avenue to celebrate the calmer traffic and new walking, biking and jogging paths. ►



- ▶ The \$7 million [project](#) converted two busy lanes of vehicle traffic into permanent pedestrian and bicycle-only pathways in McLaren Park – a first for San Francisco.

“McLaren Park is the Golden Gate Park of the southeast – our largest open space – and the improvements on Mansell open the doors to the wealth of opportunities that exist in the park,” said San Francisco Public Works Director [Mohammed Nuru](#). “Families from the neighborhoods all around McLaren Park can now bike, jog, walk and feel safe since they’re not sharing the road with a bus or car.”

The four-lane road, which some described as a speedway, was transformed. Two lanes were kept for vehicle traffic. The two other lanes were made into a protected pathway for cyclists, pedestrians, skaters and joggers. A planted median keeps the motorists from the other users.

The project also added signage, raised crosswalks, flashing

beacons, solar-powered street lights, landscaped [bioswales](#) for wastewater management, bus stop benches and clearly marked crosswalks at major intersections. Plus, the condition of the road used by vehicles was vastly improved with new paving.

Mansell Street was conceived in the 1950s as part of a never-completed cross-town freeway. By design, Mansell Street primarily served motorized vehicles and the width of the traffic lanes encouraged freeway-level speeding.

The improvement project was a partnership among San Francisco Public Works, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco County Transportation Authority and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, as well as community groups, including the McLaren Park Collaborative, Walk SF and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

Public Works co-managed the community planning process,

designed the new amenities and managed the project through construction. Together with Gordon Ball, our general contractor, we implemented the plan to make Mansell safer, sustainable and more fun for all users of [McLaren Park](#).

Funding came from state vehicle registration fees, gasoline tax revenue, the City’s half-cent sales tax for transportation funds, grants from One Bay Area and the State’s Urban Greening program, and the 2012 Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond.

The new amenities, officially unveiled at the Feb. 4 ribbon-cutting ceremony, were put to use immediately. On a recent Sunday, two bicyclists in spandex sped by, a couple walked their cocker spaniels, kids were riding on the new bike path, joggers with earphones ran by, and a woman with a walker sat on a new bench comfortably waiting for her bus. ■

[Read more about the Mansell Streetscape project in the San Francisco Chronicle!](#)

THIRD STREET DRAWBRIDGE





GETTING AN UPLIFTING FIX →



3rd Street

NO RIGHT TURN ON RED

ROAD CLOSED





If you were in the China basin neighborhood on Feb. 12, you may have noticed that the Lefty O'Doul Third Street drawbridge was in the up position for much of the day. That's because we had a contractor team out there inspecting the bridge in preparation for a major rehabilitation project.

The restoration project, anticipated to begin in fall 2017, is currently in the final stages of design. The Public Works-managed project aims to restore the iconic landmark bridge, which spans Mission Channel Waterway at China Basin. The bridge, designed by Strauss Engineering Corp., first opened in 1933 and has been featured in various Hollywood films such as; *A View to a Kill*, *The Enforcer* and *San Andreas*.

During the inspection, crews shut down the bridge from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. to all traffic – vehicle, bike and pedestrian. However, waterway access was maintained for boats traveling underneath. During the closure, crews inspected the east and west counterweights and counterweight truss and performed other routine inspection and maintenance work.

Construction will be divided into several phases that will focus on repairing the deck, counterweight, electrical and mechanical systems and support structures. Once all the repairs are made, the workhorse bridge will be tested and balanced, a pedestrian gate will be installed and the bridge will be cleaned and repainted to bring it back to its former glory.

The project team will work closely with the San Francisco Giants to coordinate work and bridge closures to minimize disruptions as much as possible during home games.



POTHOLE PATCHING PROLIFERATES

In a typical month, pothole crews patch a significant portion of the roadway rutted by traffic. This year, the number of potholes reported has increased to nearly 3,000, and as more potholes are reported, the numbers are added to the total. The numbers won't be far off.

Like the people who walk on our streets, we are proud that we're the vast majority of the potholes they're reported. We have up to six crews, seven days a week, to smooth out the road and repair the damage by the end of the day.





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San Francisco is not alone. City streets and highways across the rain-soaked west have been pummeled by potholes. The culprit? Water, and lots of it. This is one of the wettest winters in San Francisco, dating back to the Gold Rush era.

If water gets through a crack in the street, it can start to soften up the road's base. When a lot of traffic, and especially heavy trucks and buses, pass over, the cracks get bigger and eventually form potholes.

In the past five years, Public Works crews and contractors have resurfaced nearly 4,000 blocks, thanks in large

part to the voter-approved \$248 million Road Repaving and Street Safety Bond in 2011. The effort has paid off, with our regionally tracked Pavement Condition Index score steadily rising. The better the condition of the pavement, the less likely potholes will form. We only can imagine how many potholes we'd be filling if we hadn't been repaving our streets.

But, unfortunately, as long as there's rain, we expect the potholes to persist. If you see one, please let us know by contacting [311](tel:311). Our goal is to get it repaired within 72 hours, if not sooner.

Putting SF Residents and Businesses to Work

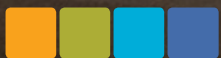
Build locally.

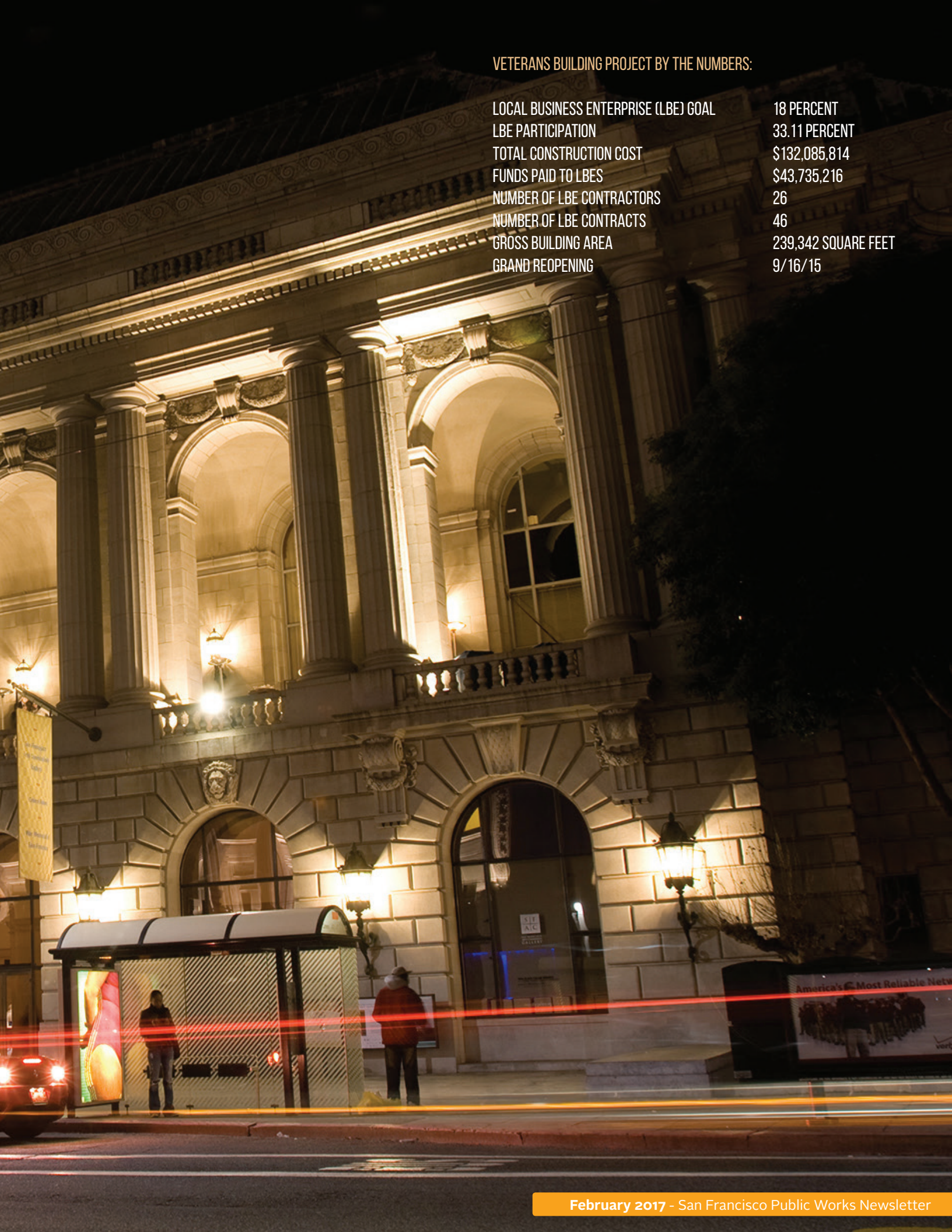
One of Public Works' strategic objectives is to increase work opportunities for San Francisco residents and businesses.

Our work to restore and make the War Memorial Veterans Building more resilient proved that we are up to that task.

According to the Contract Monitoring Division, the arm of City government that tracks local business goals, Public Works exceeded our target for hiring small, local companies to work on the project. The monitor established that we were to use Local Business Enterprise-certified firms for 18 percent of the contract amount. But by the close-out of the project, we had paid \$43,735,216 to small local contractors for a participation rate of 33.11 percent – nearly double the goal.

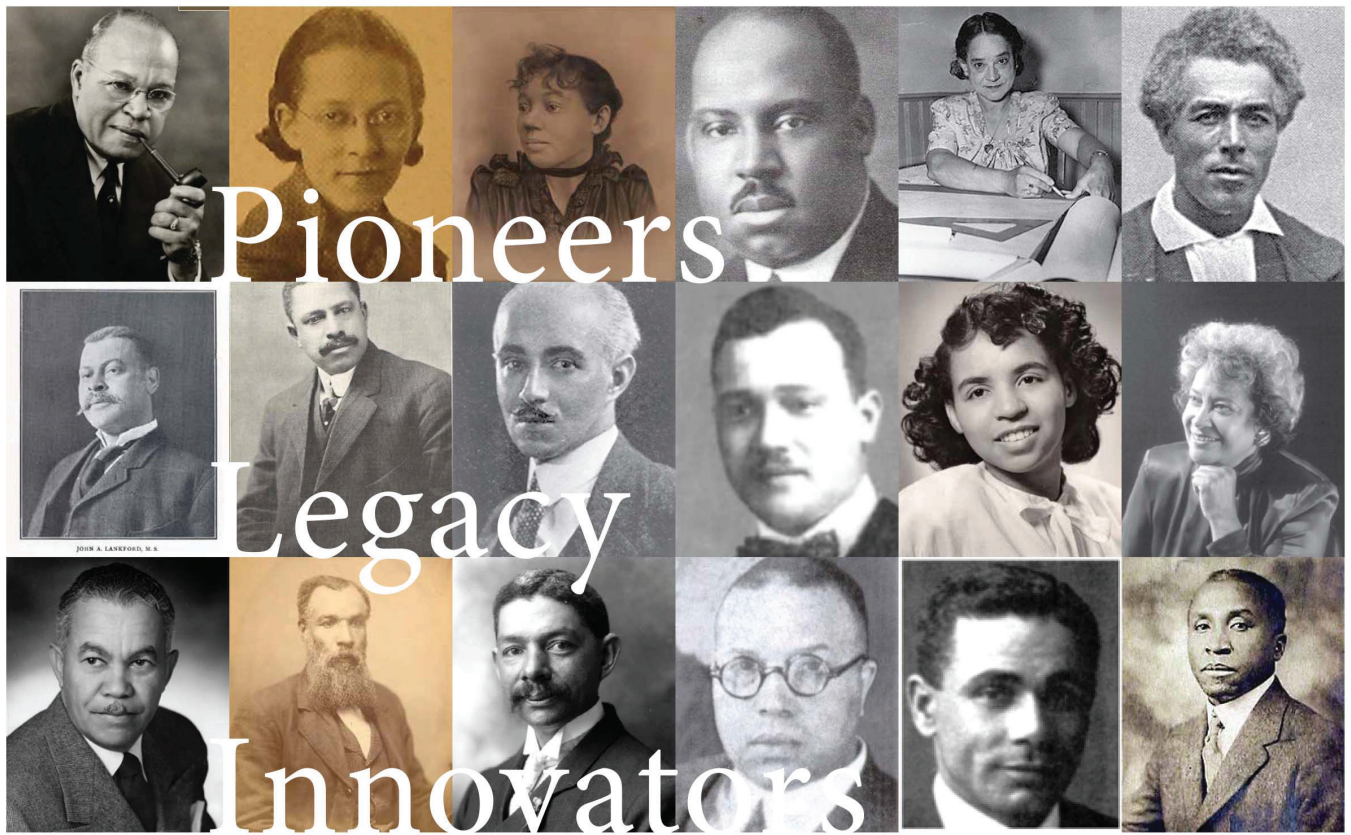
Twenty-six small firms helped restore the historic building. They created custom hardware, did carpentry, roofing, waterproofing, plumbing, glazing, stone repair and performed many other tasks.





VETERANS BUILDING PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS:

LOCAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (LBE) GOAL	18 PERCENT
LBE PARTICIPATION	33.11 PERCENT
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	\$132,085,814
FUNDS PAID TO LBES	\$43,735,216
NUMBER OF LBE CONTRACTORS	26
NUMBER OF LBE CONTRACTS	46
GROSS BUILDING AREA	239,342 SQUARE FEET
GRAND REOPENING	9/16/15



Celebrating Our African-American Leaders: Black History Month at Public Works

It was a small village and a set of Legos that inspired two of Public Works' black pioneers to pursue life-changing careers in design and construction.

Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru and Brook Mebrahtu, a project manager for our bureau of Building Design and Construction, knew their career aspirations at an early age. Their paths to success weren't found easily, and they both faced challenges in their fields with few black role models.

They shared their stories at a Black History Month presentation that Public Works held on Feb. 23 highlighting African-American trailblazers in the design and construction industries.

Nuru, the first African American to head Public Works, has been in the role since 2011. Prior, he served for 11 years as Public Works operations chief.

Nuru left his native Nigeria for Kansas State University, where his father had attended. He knew he wanted to be a design professional, but wasn't sure which concentration to pursue – until he saw a slideshow presented by the landscape architecture program. There was a photo of a man fishing from a boat that reminded him of home. The colors and design in a rendering hearkened back to the

farm where he grew up. That was it: He decided to become a landscape architect.

With a degree in hand, Nuru began corporate jobs in landscape architecture. But he found it hard to harness the passion he found in Zaria, the Nigerian town where he went to high school. There, the focus was on improving community by fostering community – bringing people together to share in work, meals and sports. Ultimately, he had to make a tough decision: Would he continue down the path as a corporate landscape architect or pursue something he believed would be more meaningful?

“If you don't believe you're in the right place, you need to follow your mind and follow your heart,” Nuru told the crowd.



He quit his job in the Maryland-Washington, D.C. area and moved to San Francisco to work at a local nonprofit, the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners, better known as SLUG.

At SLUG, he was able to teach residents how to grow their own food and build community gardens. In that job, he partnered on community volunteer and job training programs with City agencies. That eventually led to a job with Public Works, where he continued to foster volunteerism and workforce development initiatives.

Mebrahtu, meanwhile, knew he wanted to be an architect since his childhood. One of his earliest memories was building structures out of Legos as a toddler in his native Ethiopia.

Although Mebrahtu always had a passion for design and building, he had no idea he would end up as a project manager working on such complex developments as the California Academy of Sciences, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission headquarters and now on the Moscone Center expansion.

As avid soccer fan and player, Mebrahtu studied architecture at UC Berkeley and landed first an internship and then a job at Public Works. Early in his career, he began taking classes in database development during his free time as he considered a vocational change during the dot-com boom. But just as he was wrapping up his studies, the tech economy went bust and he was given an opportunity at work to have a significant role in transforming a formerly hazardous site at 23rd and Treat streets in the Mission District into a public park.

What emerged was the Parque Ninos Unidos Clubhouse, which was recognized by San Francisco Beautiful for improving and artistically beautifying the public realm.

That project inspired Mebrahtu to pursue project management.

Like Nuru, he speaks of teamwork as a key to success. "Nothing gets done individually," Mebrahtu said. "It gets done collectively as a team."

Black History month is an annual celebration of African-American achievements and a time to recognize the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. As an organization, Public Works is proud to practice and celebrate our diversity not only during the month of February, but all year long.



Mohammed Nuru (top row, third from the left) and Brook Mebrahtu (top row, fifth from left) join colleagues at Black History Month celebration.





GROWING COMMUNITY

Nearly three dozen high-energy volunteers joined forces this month to help create a thriving community garden in the Oceanview-Merced Heights-Ingleside (OMI) neighborhood.

Sisterhood Gardens, at Brotherhood Way and Arch Street, had been a long-time dream of neighbors and work has been progressing since the official ground-breaking in spring 2016. Public Works helped prepare the land.

Working alongside representatives from the Public Works Community Programs team and the Department of the Environment, community members got to work on Feb. 11 to weed planter boxes, install gopher wire, plant four Meyer lemon trees, install compost bins, stencil plot numbers on garden boxes and partially assemble a tool shed. More community workdays are planned.



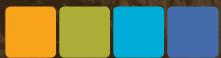
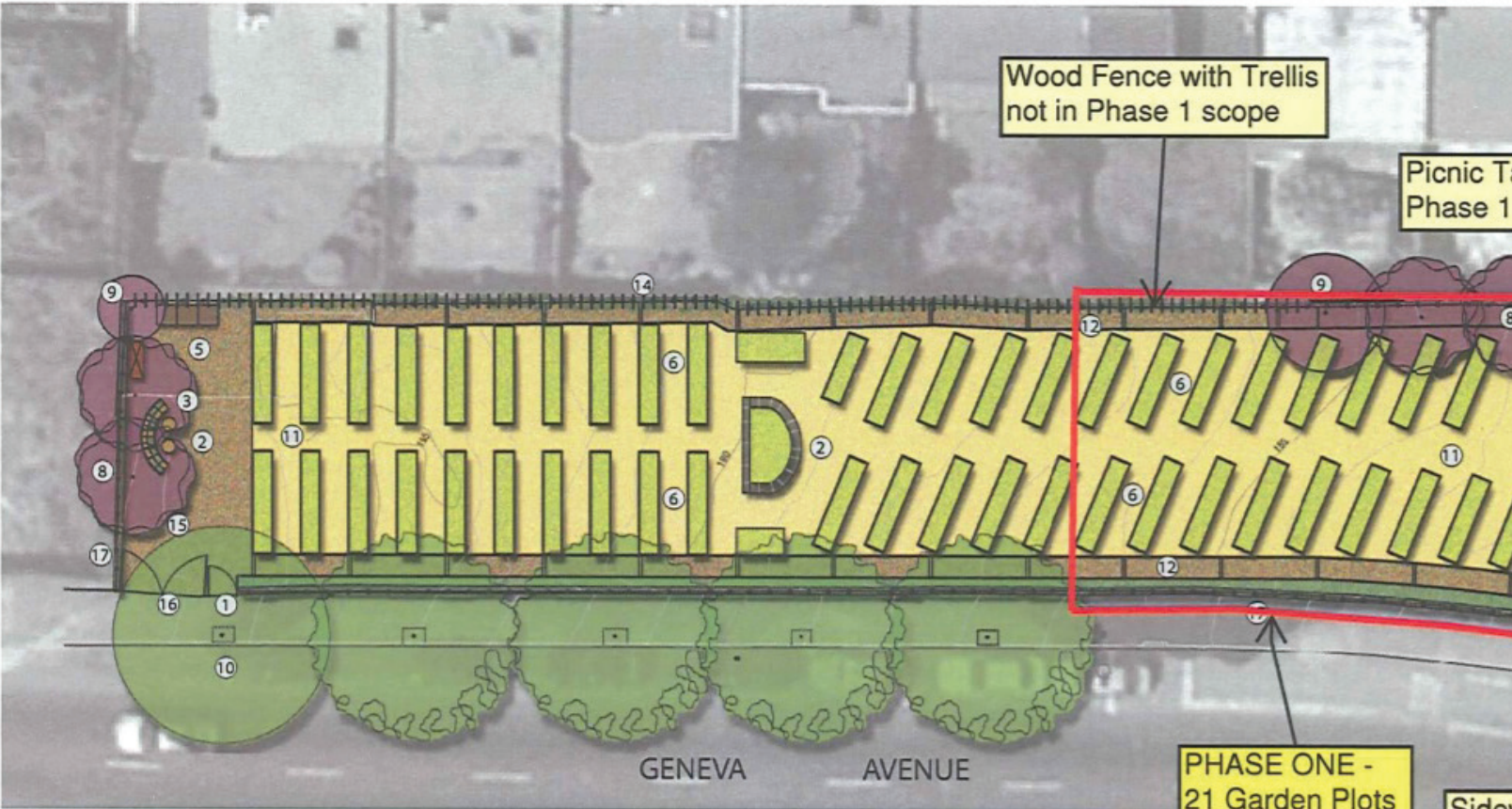


DIGGING IN THE DIRT

Neighbors, City representatives and other celebrants grabbed golden shovels to turn over the dirt to mark the start of construction on the new [Geneva Community Garden](#).









- ▶ Located at Geneva and Delano avenues in the Cayuga Terrace and Outer Mission neighborhoods, the \$1.4 million project will convert an undeveloped, overgrown open space into a 58-plot garden for the community. The 10,427-square-foot garden will feature raised garden boxes, perimeter walls, fencing, gates, signage, seating and spaces to gather.

Public Works' landscape architects worked with the community and the Recreation & Park Department, which will manage the garden, to design the space. The Public Works team created the construction documents and construction managers will be onsite to oversee the work. Giron Construction is the general contractor on the project, which is expected to be completed this summer.

The groundbreaking was a joyous occasion as community members had waited a long time to start

this garden. Part of the delay happened when the environmental report for the parcel found that the near-surface soil contained high concentrations of lead. Environmental remediation on site has been completed by one of Public Works' contractors, so the parcel is now food-safe and ready for a community garden.

The Recreation and Park Department supports and manages a program of 38 [community gardens](#) on City-owned property, where members can grow produce and ornamental plants for personal use. Gardens range in size from a few hundred square feet to thousands of square feet; some offer individual plots, while others have shared plots. Some gardens also offer demonstration gardening or other instructional programming.

For construction updates and more information look [here](#). Also, check out the Chronicle's recent [article](#) by Lizzie Johnson. ■

We're All Aglow: New Hanging Lanterns Adorn Grant Avenue

If you are going to San Francisco Chinatown, be sure to check out the lanterns hanging over Grant Avenue.

They are sparkling with a fresh and classy look; most importantly, they light up Chinatown after dark.

Thanks to the Chinatown community for taking the lead and collaborating with PG&E and Public Works to replace the worn and faded lanterns that hung there before.

Community groups, including Chinatown Merchants Association and the new group BeChinatown Organization, spearheaded the project.

Two of our electricians and two of our laborers teamed up with PG&E employees to install 300 new lanterns overnight from Jan. 31 into Feb. 1. It was just one of the projects we worked on to spruce up the historic Chinatown neighborhood in time for the Chinese New Year festivities.







No Fowling Around: Our Crews Swiftly Cleaned Up the Chinese New Year Parade Route

Celebrating the Year of the Rooster, the feathering flock of domesticated birds were the most popular figures in this year's Chinese New Year Parade.

And as soon as the parade passed by, Public Works crews got to work getting the Chinatown and downtown neighborhoods back in shape after the annual outdoor celebration, held this year on Feb. 11.

Starting at 7 p.m. – right behind the iconic golden dragon at the end of the parade – more than 60 Public Works employees, including laborers, corridor workers, supervisors and assistant superintendents, wielded brooms, rakes, brushes and blowers or drove the fleet of mechanical sweepers, flushers, packers and steamers, to get the streets, sidewalks and underneath the viewing stands spruced up quickly.

By 10:30 pm, life on the parade route that extended from Second and Mission streets to Columbus and Jackson streets, was shipshape.

We want to give a big shout-out to the dedicated workers who cleaned up 16,700 pounds of debris in 3 ½ hours. Now that's something to cock-a-doodle-doo about!










Volunteers Showed their **Love** for the City at Community Clean Team

The rains cleared up just in time for 278 volunteers to enjoy a beautiful, crisp but sunny morning greening and cleaning the Sunset and Parkside neighborhoods for our second Community Clean Team of the season. ►



► The Feb. 25 event kicked off at Sunset Elementary School with a rev-up-the-crowd rally before the dedicated volunteers set out to spruce up nearby parks, medians and the Taraval Street and Irving Street commercial corridors.

And with the blue Pacific Ocean as a magnificent backdrop, more than 60 people pruned back ice plants along the Great Highway to make the road safer and more accessible for drivers and bicyclists.

The Great Highway work was just one of a dozen projects volunteers tackled, as they worked alongside Public Works crews. They also painted out graffiti, picked up litter, weeded community garden beds and added 16 young trees to the urban landscape. District 4 [Supervisor Katy Tang](#)'s office co-hosted the event with us. ►









► Each monthly Community Clean Team event shows the mutual love and respect City workers and residents have for our communities – and this month’s event was no different. Throughout the morning, smiles were on display and laughter could be heard from one team to the next. Everyone came together at the end of the workday to share in a communal lunch.

From 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., there will be activities for all ages to enjoy, including carnival games, goats, planter building and much more.

Click [here](#) for more information about Community Clean Team and how to get involved with our volunteer opportunities throughout the City. ■

Community Clean Team will be back next month! Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 18 to celebrate Arbor Day in District 10. The event also will feature our seventh annual Eco Fair at Warm Water Cove!



SAFETY FIRST.



Meet **John O'Rourke**



Public Works street cleaning crew member John O'Rourke helps care for this neighborhood.

Meet **Aja Monet Banks**



Public Works Graffiti Watch volunteer Aja Monet Banks helps care for this neighborhood.







Sevilla Mann of our Outreach and Enforcement Team does outreach in the Excelsior.





Excelsior Giant Sweep: Problems Found, Problems Fixed

Ain't nobody gonna break this team's momentum.

During the pouring rains that drenched the City in December and January, our Outreach and Enforcement (OnE) Team hit the pavement in the Excelsior District to educate property and business owners about City codes, and our operations crews were out in force there, too, doing a deep clean of the neighborhood.

This was all part of the Excelsior Giant Sweep campaign, a four-week initiative in the Excelsior that focused largely on commercial corridors. Those areas included Mission Street from Avalon to Ottawa streets, Alemany Boulevard from Ocean Avenue to Naglee Street, and Geneva Avenue from Paris to Gloria streets. We also created a multi-lingual newspaper for this program that explains City codes that Public Works enforces, covering such areas as sidewalk cleanliness and proper garbage storage.

We sent out three teams that included representatives from our street cleaning, urban forestry, street repair, graffiti and permitting units. Recology, the refuse

collection company, accompanied us. The OnE Team also had staff on the streets and coordinated the operation.

Together, they addressed myriad issues, among them illegal dumping, dirty or broken garbage cans, improperly pruned trees, litter, graffiti tags, hazardous sidewalks and impeded paths of travel. They pruned, painted, steam cleaned, made repairs and much more.

Public Works crews removed 128 graffiti tags marring poles, signs and parking meters, and 12 property owners abated graffiti on their properties after being warned. Recology found 42 addresses that did not have garbage service or insufficient service – a problem that can lead to illegal dumping. Half of the property and business owners who were put on notice started service right away.

The OnE team will continue to monitor the area.

The special Giant Sweep neighborhood improvement campaign will move to the Mission District in March.

Ex-cop Finds New Home at Public Works

San Francisco Police Department Capt. John Goldberg retired his badge four years ago, but fortunately for the Public Works Project Management team, he still thinks like a cop.

Since January 2013, the 32-year SFPD veteran has worked as a part-time consultant for our group in charge of renovating district police stations. While the architects, engineers and construction professionals are experts when it comes to the ins-and-outs of building design, Goldberg provides invaluable insight into what makes a station user-friendly for the actual users.

“I bring a different perspective,” he admits. “I try to enhance their understanding of the necessities and special requirements that are unique to these facilities.”

As a retired City employee and without affecting his pension, Goldberg can work up to 960 hours a year assisting the project management team working on the projects funded by the voter-approved [Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response bonds](#). For him, it's the best of both worlds – he gets to return to many of the stations he's worked at to tap into the officers' needs, while helping Public Works upgrade the facilities.

Police stations are different from other civic buildings, Goldberg says. They're open 24/7 and must withstand persistent wear-and-

tear. “Cops are hard on buildings because of all the equipment they wear,” he explains. “The walls take a beating and continuously get gauged by gun butts, radios and batons.”

Goldberg's versatility as a leader and sharp thinker was evident throughout his law enforcement career. Early on, the San Francisco native earned a gold medal for his handling of a shooting incident; later, he served as captain at Tenderloin, Central and Mission stations. He completed assignments in investigations, forensics and training; and oversaw the SWAT teams and bomb squad at SFPD's Tactical Company.

Some of his more memorable assignments included the time Queen Elizabeth sailed into San Francisco on her yacht, the filming of the James Bond movie *A View to a Kill* near what is now AT&T Park, and the time he arrested actor Martin Sheen at a downtown protest. (Sheen turned out to be a good sport and ended up posing for photos with officers at the station after the requisite mug shots).

Goldberg's connection to Public Works was cemented toward the end of his SFPD tenure when he became the police liaison for the high-profile [Public Safety Building](#). Mid-project, he was faced with a dilemma: take his scheduled retirement or see the project to completion.

Turns out, he could do both.

John Goldberg stands in the lobby of the police headquarters at the Public Safety campus in Mission Bay.



Personal Safety Tips from a Pro



For a guy who once worked 60 to 70 hours a week with the Police Department, Goldberg still manages to pack a lot into his current 20-hour weeks with us. In addition to consulting on police stations and a new forensics facility, Goldberg is Public Works' in-house personal safety expert, leading workshops for employees.

Here are Goldberg's top tips:

- **Trust your intuition.** If the hair stands up on the back of your neck, there's a reason for it.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.**
- **Put down your smart phone.** It's a distraction – you lose sense of your surroundings and increase your risk. We have five senses and two of them really are to protect you – hearing and sight. If you have your earbuds in and are looking at your smart phone, you've pretty much eliminated those two and increased your vulnerability.
- **Run, hide and fight.** Use fight as a last resort. It may not be macho to run but it's your best chance to protect yourself and get away from whatever is causing danger.
- **Finally: There's no right answer for all circumstances. Everything is situational.**





Awesomeness!

Students from St. James Catholic School cleaned up around their Mission District campus for a day of service, organized by Principal Alex Endo with support from our Community Programs team.

With brooms and bags and wearing blue gloves, the 150 young volunteers got to work over two days on Feb. 2 and 3, picking up leaves and litter and sprucing up their neighborhood.

