



# Neighbors Say Proposed Indiana Street Building is Great, for Somewhere Else



The proposed ground level of MBC Biolabs' building at 700 Indiana Street.

IMAGE: Courtesy of MBC Biolabs

BY REBEKAH MOAN

MBC BioLabs wants to develop shared laboratory, office, conference, and community rental space for biotechnology startups at 700 Indiana Street. Prospective Dogpatch neighbors indicate that they don't generally oppose life science/biotech labs but contend that the parcel isn't zoned for what MBC BioLabs proposes to do.

The 0.71-acre property is located between Indiana Street and Interstate 280, bordering Esprit Park and Dogpatch Arts Plaza. The parcel is zoned Urban Mixed Use (UMU), allowing residential, commercial, and retail uses, a designation within which housing is often built above active ground floors. UMU was adopted throughout the eastern neighborhoods to help transition formerly industrial areas into light manufacturing.

According to MBC BioLabs' spokes-

person Ryan Guibara, the Planning Department confirmed that the proposed use fits within UMU zoning.

"They have filed applications and are seeking approval for a laboratory building," said San Francisco Planning Department Chief of Staff Dan Sider. "They are proposing to build a lab building. If it turns out once the building is built and up and running that it's something else, that's a compliance problem. If it turns out it's a life science building and not a laboratory, that's not allowed. This is a group that has been told very clearly what the rules are, they knowingly have said, 'We understand, we want a laboratory,' and that's what they're seeking approval for."

Dogpatch residents have doubts about whether the project is, in fact, a lab.

"The zoning for that parcel doesn't allow life science use and we believe that this project is a life science project,"

said Katherine Doumani, Dogpatch Neighborhood Association (DNA) vice president.

"What [MBC BioLabs] is proposing is of little or no benefit to Dogpatch or the neighboring community," said Alison Heath, head of the Potrero Boosters Development Committee. "Biotech is not compatible with housing and public parks. And it will shadow Esprit Park so it's not a good tradeoff."

The 700 Indiana Street parcel has a height limit of less than 58 feet, or four stories. MBH Architects designed the building so it's only three stories, 49 feet, on a portion of the block and two on the other.

"We did this out of consideration of the shadow study, and we let that guide us to make sure we had a very limited impact on the park," Guibara said.

*MBC Biolabs continues on page 11*

# At Dogpatch Studio the Future is Now



"Orbital," displayed in Mission Bay.

PHOTO: Danny Pham

BY DANNY PHAM

Nestled in a walkway outside Uber's Mission Bay headquarters at Pierpoint Lane and Bridgeview Way is a tall, highly reflective serpentine structure that bounces sunlight from its geometric, shiny, stainless-steel tiles. The installation is roughly three and half stories tall. Its shape is akin to a futuristic spaceship composed of three slithering snakes coiling up toward the sky. The silver exterior contrasts with colorful interior tiles, presenting visitors with an entirely new vantage point and light quality when standing inside the sculpture looking up.

"Orbital" is by FUTUREFORMS, an award-winning art and design studio that uses geometry, light, and shadow techniques to create impactful art pieces for urban

spaces. Founded in 2009 by artists Jason Kelly Johnson and Nataly Gattegno, FUTUREFORMS describes its art as "experiential, playful, integrated and engaged with its context, but also strives to present itself as an identifiable element in the built landscape," according to its website.

The studio seeks to enliven urban environments by giving passersby a way to engage with, or pause to consider, each piece. For instance, "Orbital's...dynamic form evokes an era of rapid change and uncertainty, while also inspiring curiosity and playful interaction," according to its description.

Johnson and Gattegno married after meeting while undergraduates at Princeton University's School of Architecture. Their academic backgrounds influence the studio's approach to its work.

"We were both educated as architects. In our early careers we worked in architecture firms, but when we began collaborating it became clear that our interests were more expansive, said Johnson. "We started working together over 20 years ago and deliberately steered our practice to explore the intersections

*FUTUREFORMS continues on page 12*

# City Shaves Sidewalks as Part of Repair Program



San Francisco Public Works pays for sidewalk grinding throughout the City. The measure is supposed to even out pathways and protect against tree root disruption. Often times the grinding takes place adjacent to significant bumps, cracks, and divots, which are left unremediated. PHOTO: Potrero View Staff

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Pedestrians throughout San Francisco have noticed what appear to be random incidences of the grinding down of portions of sidewalks. The patches of polished cement are sometimes adjacent to trees. They often appear nearby unresolved cracks, bumps, and uplifted pieces of cement.

The polishing is being executed through StreetTreeSF, managed by the San Francisco Public Works' Bureau of Urban Forestry. Under the program street trees are pruned and sidewalks are supposed to be repaired, with a focus on uplifts caused by plants and dead roots.

StreetTreeSF was launched in 2017 to help maintain roughly 125,000 street trees and adjacent sidewalks. Funds are supposed to be spent as needed, principally to address pedestrian safety issues. Repairs focus on areas with vulnerable populations and high perambulator traffic, including sites near hospitals, senior centers, schools, and transit stops.

"Public Works urban forestry inspectors are our first line of defense. If sidewalk uplift is not tree-related, we cannot use tree maintenance funds for the repair. If it is tree-related, the inspectors flag it as a priority for our Precision

*SIDEWALKS continues on page 11*



PUBLISHER’S VIEW

Facts

BY STEVEN J. MOSS

Facts are facts. The sun rises and sets as expected by the clock, even if time itself is subject to deeper exploration. Black men are incarcerated at much higher rates than whites. The earth’s temperatures are rising more or less as predicted by complex, data-driven, climate models. Smoking cigarettes elevates the chance of getting lung cancer; consuming lots of sugar does the same for obesity and developing diabetes.

Facts are determined by humans, though, and sometimes change. Until the late-16th century it was common knowledge that the sun and planets revolved around the Earth; people were the center of the universe. Vikings didn’t actually wear helmets fitted with horns, as ubiquitously depicted wherever they’re portrayed, including in a recent *Rick and Morty* episode. This headgear was only used for ceremonial purposes and had largely faded away by the time of the Vikings. Contrary to playground gospel, according to *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, sugar doesn’t affect behavior, at least not like a switch.

Fierce arguments can erupt when a settled fact is unsettled. For his heresy in claiming that the Earth actually orbits the Sun, Galileo was sentenced to life imprisonment by the

Roman Catholic Church in 1633. In 1925, a Dayton, Tennessee high school teacher, John T. Scopes, was charged with violating state law for teaching Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution. While evolution is now widely accepted, reports periodically surface of educators stitching “intelligent design” into their curriculum to expose students to “alternative” explanations of human existence.

Facts don’t exist in isolation, but tend to be connected to larger philosophical, religious, or scientific canons. During the 19th Century pioneers, most newly arrived from Europe, swept across North America. Was the resulting murder and dislocation of the native population an expression of righteous manifest destiny, or an economically driven genocide? Women’s physiology tends to be less muscular than men’s. Does that mean they should avoid participating in sports or industrial arts? Is it fair to allow a female-identifying biological male to compete against a biological female? Is there such a thing as “biological” gender?

We like to think that what’s taught at schools and colleges is empirically based, that students study facts and

PUBLISHER’S VIEW continues on page 13

SHORT CUTS

Homicide

The **San Francisco Police Department** has launched a homicide investigation after a man was killed and another injured following a Mission Bay shooting last month. At around midnight on a Sunday officers were called to the 100 block of Berry Street, where they found a man suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. He was taken to the hospital for life-threatening injuries and later died. His name hasn’t been released. Authorities also discovered a second adult male victim at the scene, who was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. No arrests have been made.

Craft

Last month, the **Museum of Craft and Design** (MCD) appointed **Nora Atkinson** as its new Executive Director, replacing co-founder JoAnn Edwards, who is retiring after 20 years. Atkinson previously led the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington D.C. “We are thrilled that Nora Atkinson has chosen to bring her enthusiasm and ideas to MCD,” said Board Chair Neil O’Donnell. She has a distinguished record of innovation and accomplishment that bodes well for the future of MCD with her at its helm.” In Atkinson’s nearly 10 years at the Renwick she curated *This Present Moment: Crafting a Better World*, *No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man*, and *Murder Is Her Hobby: Frances Glessner Lee and the Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death*. Since 2019 she’s served as the Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator-in-Charge, responsible for exhibitions, acquisitions, staff, patron

relations, research, and publications. Prior to that, Atkinson was the Lloyd Herman Curator of Craft. Her appointment to MCD marks her return to the West Coast; she began her career as a curator at the Bellevue Arts Museum in Bellevue, Washington.

No Coffee

**Philz Coffee** has shuttered its facilities at 1258 Minnesota Street and moved its corporate headquarters to its roasting plant in Oakland. The company opened the now former outpost almost nine years ago on the ground floor of Mill-wheel North, a 39-unit condominium development. It housed a training facility for employees, corporate offices and a retail shop.

Defund then Refund

Two years ago, **Mayor London Breed** slashed spending on the **San Francisco Police Department**, cutting \$120 million from SFPD and the **Sheriff’s Department** following social upheaval triggered by George Floyd’s murder. San Francisco’s crime rates fell seven percent last year, though there’s been heavy media coverage of what seemed like rampant store invasions and still unchecked shoplifting, perhaps more aptly called shop-looting. Now, Breed, backed by one of her mayoral race opponents, **Daniel Lurie**, is pushing Proposition E as the next solution, under which use-of-force reporting requirements would be met through body camera footage rather than written reports unless force involves an injury,

SHORT CUTS continues on page 13



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**PUBLISHER** Steven J. Moss  
**ACCOUNTING MANAGER** Catie Magee  
**MARKETING MANAGER** Richard Romero  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Helena Chiu

**THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS**  
Jenna Duncan, Thomas Hunter II, Rebekah Moan, Steven J. Moss  
Danny Pham, Dena Witkes, Jessica Zimmer

Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff. Published monthly.  
Address all correspondence to: THE POTRERO VIEW, 1459 18th Street, Number 214,  
San Francisco, CA 94107 • 415.643.9578  
E-mail: editor@potreroview.net • production@potreroview.net (for advertising)

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# Local Gyms Offer Opportunities to Stretch, Punch, and Sweat

BY JENNA DUNCAN

Four out of five San Franciscans claim they workout at least once a week, with almost half doing so as part of formal or informal group classes. A number of facilities offer a diversity of opportunities to “move it” in Dogpatch



Proprietor Andrea Bonfante at Dogpatch Pilates.  
PHOTO: Jenna Duncan

and South-of-Market (SoMa); a few are described below.

Dogpatch Pilates is a new addition to the neighborhood, opening last month. Proprietor Andrea Bonfante has been teaching Pilates for 15 years, relocating her studio to Third Street after several years operating in West Portal.

“I did my original training to become a Pilates instructor at Sanchez Street Studios in Noe Valley,” she said.

In 2015, she completed a master’s certificate from the Pilates Center in Boulder, Colorado, and her instructor certification, a 400-hour teacher training program, the same year.

Bonfante’s studio is outfitted for one-on-one workouts or duets; two students at a time. She’s setting up a third station to offer classes for three students simultaneously. She’s a fan of the Pilates chair, which provides a range of upper- and lower-body resistance exercises that can be incorporated into a routine.

Each reformer machine in Bonfante’s studio can be set up as a “tower” with spring adjustments for different height, weight, and strength levels. The tower can be used to isolate arms, legs, and other areas, while still engaging the core. Bonfante has a unique piece of equipment, the Cadillac, which can be operated for trapeze-inspired strength exercises. She plans to install a ladder barrel for backbend and spinal extension movements, and

Ped-O-Pull for foot and ankle motion workouts.

Pilates was designed to be broadly age and lifestyle inclusive, Bonfante said. She often tailors exercises for clients with limited mobility, flexibility,

*GYMS continues on page 4*

# Rapid Robotics Takes Care of Tasks Not Ideal for Human

BY REBEKAH MOAN

Rapid robotics creates mechanical arms that undertake the uninteresting, unclean, and unsafe work a human would otherwise have to do, according to the company’s chief marketing officer, Kim Losey. Numerous manufacturing facilities have challenging labor environments, such as meat-packing facilities, where employees are subject to near-freezing temperatures. Robots can replace people in those jobs.

“The robotic arms do simple operations and tasks that are repetitive or challenging for humans because they’re so boring, no one wants to do them or they’re challenging in other ways,” Losey said. “What I have seen is that there is so much work that could be done and if we can make robots more accessible and less expensive, then we start to see manufacturing grow.”

Deploying robots can increase manufacturing output, which can lead to an overall rise in associated employment, she asserted.

“They’re doing more value-added work instead of putting plastic on pieces,” she said. “If humans are doing thinking work and high dexterity work, and robots are doing the dull, dirty, and dangerous work, that’s a good combination.”

The brainchild of Jordan Kretchmer

and Ruddick Lawrence, Rapid Robotics seeks to solve manufacturing labor shortages by creating robotic arms to eliminate the high expense, lack of flexibility, and long lead times that’s pervasive in robotic automation. Traditionally, developing focused-purpose robots has required a large initial investment. It can take upwards of five months to install automation, be challenging to move to a new location or re-program to accommodate novel parts.

Before Rapid Robotics, Kretchmer founded Livefyre, the web’s largest cloud-based content and community platform for marketers and publishers, which he sold to Adobe in 2016. Through various subsequent advisory and board roles he found himself immersed in the world of manufacturing. He asked himself, “Why are robots so advanced but the manufacturing process so antiquated?”

Rapid Robotics was born in 2019 when Kretchmer teamed with Lawrence, who has spent his career working in robotics, hardware, and manufacturing. They settled on Hooper Street for the company’s location because Potrero Hill is centrally located and easy for people to access from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

“Also, the building is cool and has

*ROBOTICS continues on page 13*

## HANDY NUMBERS

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|---|--|
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| Recology                                      | 415.330.1300   |
| San Francisco Animal Care and Control         | 415.554.6364   |
| San Francisco Fire Department (non-emergency) | 415.558.3200   |
| San Francisco Police Department               | 671-2300; tip line, 415.822.8147<br>SFPDBayviewStation@sfgov.org |
| SFHOT/Homeless Outreach Team                  | 311 or 415.734.4233  |
| State Senator Scott Weiner                    | 415.557.1300   |

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**Green Benefit District | [GreenBenefit.org](https://greenbenefit.org)**

Interested in nurturing your green thumb? Help the Green Benefit District prepare the Vermont hillside for planting. Sign up for these planting events and more at [greenbenefit.org/volunteer](https://greenbenefit.org/volunteer). GBD Property Owners - keep an eye out for election communication, voting commences March 1st!

**The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association | [potreroboosters.org](https://potreroboosters.org)**

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association informs, empowers and represents the residents of the Potrero on issues impacting our community in order to develop and maintain complete, vibrant neighborhoods. We’re continuing to **meet via Zoom** on the last Tuesday of each month. Go to [www.potreroboosters.org](https://www.potreroboosters.org) to learn more about how to join us!

**The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association | [potrerodogpatch.com](https://potrerodogpatch.com)**

The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association promotes and advocates for independent, locally owned businesses while actively supporting our neighborhood and our wonderful communities.

**PREFund | [prefund.org](https://prefund.org)**

PREFund brings neighbors together to support education and build community. We are accepting new members to our Community Advisory Board this Fall! Learn more [prefund.org/volunteer](https://prefund.org/volunteer)

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Please join our monthly **volunteer days** on the second Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This month it is February 10th.

If you can, please **donate** to help keep Starr King Open Space open, accessible, and well-maintained for our neighbors. [StarrKingOpenSpace.org](https://StarrKingOpenSpace.org)

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Left to right: Orangetheory Fitness; Club Pilates; 3rd Street Boxing Gym

PHOTOS: Jenna Duncan

GYMS from page 3

or who are recovering from an injury. “My oldest client is 87, and I have taught people in their teens,” she said. “It can definitely be useful for anybody, any gender, anything.” According to Bonfante, some clients work to build and strengthen their bodies and muscles; others want to address injuries or reduce pain. She offers three-packs of 55-minute individual sessions for \$325. Orangetheory Fitness, on King Street, attracts clients from SoMa and the Financial District, according to Coach Adrian Fernandez. The facility offers 60-minute, high-intensity, cardio circuit classes. The brand was founded in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2010 by fitness guru Ellen Latham,

a spinoff from her successful Pilates gym, Ellen’s Ultimate Workout. It’s now a franchise and can be found throughout the country. The concept behind Orangetheory Fitness and its trainer-led workouts is reaching a heart rate that’s in the “orange zone” for one’s height, weight, and physicality, maintaining it for a set amount of time. The orange zone helps maximize metabolism and keep energy levels optimal to benefit muscle groups, heart, and cardiovascular system, according to the company’s website. According to Jeremy Townsend, Ph.D. a kinesiologist at Lipscomb University who has studied post-exercise oxygen consumption (EPOC), as quoted in *Inverse*, the idea behind EPOC is that high-intensity workouts create an “oxygen debt” that requires effort to

repay, even after the training is over. This, potentially, is the fitness holy grail; free aerobic gains while lying on the couch. The longer the intensity, the more this “afterburn” seems to last, up to 36 hours, according to Orangetheory’s website. “Orangetheory’s training zones are based off percentages of maximum heart rate, so if an exercising individual wants to maximize EPOC, it would be suggested that they try to enter...a higher intensity and longer EPOC,” said Townsend. Orange Basic memberships start at \$69 a month, rising to \$159 for unlimited classes at most locations. There are additional costs to purchase a heart rate monitor. Free 30-minute at-home workout videos are available online. Club Pilates is tucked into a non-descript apartment building in a quieter part of SoMa. The facility offers Pilates workouts on the reformer, featuring a patented, total-body workout machine with pulleys and weights, created to strengthen the body’s core – abdominal muscles and lower back – and major muscle groups. The studio is part of a franchise, with more than 600 in operation. Club Pilates On-demand is available for \$9.99 a month, offering videos for households with a reformer machine. Free half-hour introductory classes are available most

days. A basic, in-person membership providing four monthly course credits per guest is \$129 a month, after a \$99 initiation fee. 3rd Street Boxing Gym is located near the Muni T-train stop at 23rd and Third streets, where passersby can hear the thumping of gloved fists slamming solid mass or witness the rhythmic action of boxers dancing around bags. The facility offers boxing, kickboxing, and body conditioning. Part of the iLoveKickboxing family of gymnasia, which share similarly designed classes and a shared philosophy of total body fitness, 3rd Street Boxing Gym has been operating in Dogpatch since 2003. The fitness center features one-on-one workouts, boot camps, nutrition coaching, and drills for conditioning, endurance, balance, strength and flexibility. Coaching is tailored to experience level, according to the website. The facility offers cardio machines, weights, and TRX, a wall-mounted resistance system with handles and bands, meant to isolate the upper body. A basic monthly membership costs \$125. Unlimited boxing, strength and Muay Thai classes cost \$185 a month. To become part of the academy, which features personalized training and sparring, is \$215 per month.



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# Minnesota Street Property Slated for Historic Hearing

BY REBEKAH MOAN

A concerned neighbor has requested that the proposed permit for 945 Minnesota Street be withdrawn from the Historic Preservation Commission’s (HPC) calendar, asserting that it doesn’t comply with the San Francisco Planning Code (SFPC). “It is not allowable to use illegal construction at the adjacent property to justify building in the Required Rear Yard and Mid-Block Open Space, as this project is proposing,” former Planning Department employee Spencer Gosch wrote in an email. “I request that the project be withdrawn from the Historic Preservation Commission calendar until an SFPC-complying design is requested, preferably by a different Planner, and provided.” “Our staff have been working with the Applicant to appropriately document the existing conditions and work

on the site,” responded the Planning Department in an email. “Right now, we’ve directed the Sponsor to update the drawings to reflect the latest conditions on the site.” The Department intends to bring the project to HPC at a February 21 hearing. Planning believes it’s compliant with code because legislation adjusted the rear yard obligation for properties in 945 Minnesota Street’s zoning district. The new requirement is that the rear yard can equal up to 30 percent of the total depth lot. “I don’t mean to suggest that I’m second-guessing the HPC or any subsequent body if this is heard on appeal, which we imagine it will be, but our reading here is this is ready for a hearing and that’s what we anticipate will happen later in February,” said Planning Department Chief of Staff Dan Sider.





My name is Cynthia Cravens, and I am a:

- Long Time San Francisco Democrat
- Lifelong CLASSIC Liberal
- Running for California Senate District 11



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[cynthia4senate.org](https://cynthia4senate.org)

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# Three Generations of Community Activists

BY JESSICA ZIMMER

Edward Hatter has been the executive director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, also known as “the Nabe,” since 2004. He recalls applying for an internship at the Nabe in low-income housing development when his grandmother, Enola Maxwell, served as the nonprofit’s ED.

“I remember seeing the announcement on her desk. Then I had to talk to her about what the job entailed, which was basically everything else the center might need,” said Hatter.

Since 1922, the nonprofit has offered a shifting array of community-oriented services to Hill residents. Today, the Nabe offers programs for youth, seniors, and families of color living at the Potrero Annex and Terrace, Sunnydale, and Alice Griffith public housing complexes. The Nabe leases its childcare facility to Wu Yee Children’s Services, San Francisco’s largest Head Start and Early Head Start provider. It offers extracurricular education and college and career awareness programs for six- to 13-year-olds, adulthood preparation for those between the ages of 16 and 25, and peer counseling for 10- to 21-year-olds in detention.

In the mid-1990s Hatter was a construction intern at the Chinatown Community Development Center (Chinatown CDC). He worked alongside Enola and Gordon Chin, Chinatown CDC’s founder, who directed the nonprofit until 2011. Hatter’s first task was to advocate for restoration of low-income housing on the edge of Chinatown that’d been lost as a result of demolition of the International Hotel, known as the I-Hotel, in the late 1970s. The rebuilt

I-Hotel opened in 2005 with 104 units of low-income housing.

Hatter was awarded the Nabe’s low-income housing development internship. Toward the end of his time in the position, Maxwell sent him a Nabe job announcement for program coordinator with facility management experience and a background in construction. Hatter got the job.

After Maxwell passed in 2004, the Nabe’s board promoted Hatter to executive director. According to Hatter, the Chinatown CDC internship taught him to go to the community, figure out what people wanted, and what results should look like.

“That work prepared me for what I did next and have done ever since, running the Nabe and assisting with the revitalization of public housing on the Hill,” said Hatter.

Hatter’s goal in directing the Nabe is to ensure that Hill residents, particularly families living in Potrero Annex and Terrace, have adequate resources. He also works on developing intra-community connections.

“I remember Edward asking if he could bring a group of young people from the Hill to Chinatown, so they could see what it was like,” said Reverend Norman Fong, who served as Chinatown CDC director from 2011 to 2020. “This was in the late-1990s and early-2000s. There was a lot of tension between the AAPI and Black communities. It helped the young people that came and those whom they told about the visit understand that the two communities have common ground.”

Ronald Hatter, Enola Maxwell’s son and Edward’s father, worked as a case manager for Intensive Home-Based

Supervision programs in the late-1980s. The programs provide youth on juvenile probation with structured supervision as an alternative to detention. In 1987, Ronald collaborated with Jack Jacqua, who currently manages the Nabe’s peer counseling program for youth in detention. Together, the two started the Omega Boys’ Club, a nonprofit focused on youth development and violence prevention. Later, Ronald brought in Dr. Joe Marshall as an administrator, who remade the organization into “Alive & Free.” Ronald finished his career by working as a case manager for the City’s food stamp program.

Barbara Dundy, Enola’s older daughter, was a beautician.

“She owned a number of shops here in the City,” said Edward Hatter, who pointed to her role in helping to elect Sophie, Enola’s daughter, to the position of District 10 Supervisor in 2000. “She was part of the social scene, helping with campaigns for Sophie and Enola. She would hold small cocktail parties, bring her friends in, raise money, anything she could do. Most of her shops were in the Western Addition.”

Horace Peter, Sophie Maxwell’s husband, was a supervisor for San Francisco Public Works in the cement department.

“He worked there long before Sophie became supervisor. He worked his way up. He retired shortly after she became supervisor,” said Edward Hatter.

Discussions about the Maxwell and Hatter families often turn to Enola.

According to Goat Hill Pizza co-owner, Philip De Andrade, Enola’s persistence and compassion led to a “like mother, like daughter” legacy for Enola and Sophie.

“It was a question of working with two dedicated professionals who cared about the community. Their work came from the heart as much as the brain. I am proud to have supported both of them in their efforts to aid the community,” said De Andrade.

Chin said Enola, Sophie, and Edward demonstrate a commitment to place that’s lasted for three generations.

“I wish that happened more in other neighborhoods. It would be great if members of families saw an area as one that they embody, own, and protect. Potrero Hill is so much better because of their work,” said Chin. “There are not too many other families that have helped lead the City for half a century.”

*This is the second of a two-part series. Part one appeared in the View’s January 2024 issue.*

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The designation “San Francisco” was first applied to the San Francisco Bay in the early-16th Century when Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed into the inlet. Cabrillo named the bay, and the surrounding expanse, for Saint Francis of Assisi, a Catholic monk identified with poverty, charity, and humility.

In 1775 Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala called the area that’d become the city “Yerba Buena.” The name means “good herb”, likely referring to the abundance of wild mint. “San Francisco” was first applied to the town in 1847, possibly as a nod to its large population of Italian immigrants. Less than 500 people lived in the vicinity at the time. By 1850 more than 200 Italian Americans resided in San Francisco. Those drawn by the Gold Rush quickly bought land or worked in service industries rather than stay in the mines.

Franciscan missions and presidios were built throughout North American as part of a strategy to expand and protect the Spanish empire, as well as convert Native Americans to Christianity. Mission San Francisco de Asís was founded in 1776 by Father Serra, just five days before the Declaration of Independence was signed on the other side of what’d become the United States of America. Mission Dolores Basilica was built 100 years later. San Francisco de Asís is often called Mission Dolores, due to its proximity to a nearby, now undergrounded, creek, Arroyo de los Dolores. Having survived the great earthquake and fire of 1906, the mission church is San Francisco’s oldest intact building and the only complete Mission Chapel in the chain

of twenty-one established under Father Serra.

Born in 1181, **St. Francis of Assisi**, who was canonized by the Catholic Church in 1228, founded the Franciscan Order of the Friars Minor, the women’s Order of St. Clare, and the lay Third Order. He was a leader of a movement of evangelical poverty. His zeal, consecration to poverty, charity, and personal charisma drew thousands of followers. Francis’s devotion to Jesus and his desire to follow Jesus’ example reflected and reinforced important developments in medieval spirituality. “The Poverello” is one of the most venerated religious figures in Roman Catholic history; he and St. Catherine of Siena are the patron saints of Italy. In 1979 Pope John Paul II recognized him as the patron saint of ecology.

It’s said that in 1214 St. Francis embarked on a journey to Spain early in the development of his new religious order, making a pilgrimage to the burial site of St. James, **one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, considered the first apostle to be martyred.**

The Ohlone people occupied the Bay Area for thousands of years, spread amongst 40 tribal settlements: the Tamien, Chochenyo, Matalan, Sagan, and others. Spanish settlers brought waves of epidemics, chiefly smallpox and measles, decimating their population, dwindling to 2,500 by 1830. After Mexican independence from Spain in 1822 accelerated the collapse of the mission system, successive floods of prospectors and pioneers from the Eastern U.S. and unscrupulous fixers pushed the remaining Ohlone to the margins of California society.

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COMMUNITY | FEBRUARY

**Now through 3/2 Saturday**  
**Lunar New Year: Dragon on Parade**  
Zodiac on Parade features five wooden dragon statues installed in and around San Francisco. The publicly submitted artwork reflects upon the culture, people, and traditions surrounding the Chinese New Year. For more information on the installations, planning a route to find all five dragons, and details for entering this year's photo contest: <https://bit.ly/48CEit8>

2 fri

**Dance: Lenora Lee Dance's 15th Anniversary Season**  
Featuring the world premiere of "In Visibility," a 15-minute immersive piece inspired by efforts to stop the prison to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention pipeline in California. The performance focuses on separation of families and mass detention of immigrants as forms of incarceration and serves as a meditation on reconciliation and restorative justice, speaking to the power of individuals and communities to transcend. "Convergent Waves: EP," 45 minutes, highlights experiences of Chinese and Latin American migration in El Paso, Texas over the decades and as Title 42 came to an end. This piece is narrated through the voices of people who have lived in the city for generations, as well as those working to provide resources and support for the individuals and families crossing the border. 8 to 9:15 p.m. \$25 to \$60. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/420Y5jq>

2 fri

**Culture: Contemporary Jewish Museum Free Admission**  
The Contemporary Jewish Museum explores contemporary perspectives on Jewish culture, history, art, and ideas. Normally \$16 for adults, on the first Friday of each month admission is free. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3BWApAL>

3 sat

**Education: Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival**  
Discover a variety of fun games and puzzles. Kindergarteners through eighth graders are welcome, accompanied by an adult. Granola bars will be provided. Please bring a reusable water bottle. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free; all participants must be registered. Space is limited. Live Oak School, 1555 Mariposa Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/424VapP>

3 sat

**Health: Children's Dental Health Fair**  
Free dental services worth more than \$150 offered to children up to age 17, including orthodontic screenings, cleanings, fluoride treatment, games, prizes, face painting, balloon art, photo booth and music. Must be accompanied by parent. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. University of the Pacific's Dugoni School of Dentistry, 155 Fifth Street. For more information: [dental.pacific.edu](https://dental.pacific.edu), email [pr@pacific.edu](mailto:pr@pacific.edu), or call 415.929.6550.

4 sun

**Dance: The Rebirth of Apsara**  
Charya Burt's *The Rebirth of Apsara* is a full-length dance/theatre work that investigates the relationship between art and war, exploring how Cambodian arts — particularly Apsaras, fabled female celestial beings — have embodied the essence of Cambodian culture from ancient mythology to post-genocide resurrection. Mirroring Charya Burt's own life's journey as an artist interested in the impact Apsara has had on Khmer civilization and Cambodian artists of today, Burt sets her re-imagined classical dance gestures to a musical score by renowned Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung. 3 p.m. \$12.50 to \$25.00. Z Space's Steindler Stage, 450 Florida Street. For more information and to purchase tickets: <https://bit.ly/490PLCD>

5 mon

**Art: Clay Days Spring 2024**  
Clay Days is a shared ceramic studio specializing in hand-building studio practices. Sessions hosted from the beginning of February through the end of May. Registration entitles participants to eight studio sessions to use at their convenience. Clays, glazes, tools, and kiln firings are provided. 6 to 9 p.m. \$150. SOMArts, 934 Brannan Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/47UUDbz>

**2/9 Friday through 2/11 Sunday**  
**Books: California International Antiquarian Book Fair**  
Features collections and rare treasures from around the globe, including

manuscripts, modern first editions, children's books, ephemera, maps, and autographs, as well as antiquarian books on a vast array of topics. \$25 Friday admission; \$15 Saturday and Sunday admission. Pier 27, The Embarcadero. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3vDybWX>

10 sat

**Valentine's Day: Bark at SPARK "Puppy Love"**  
Cupid's bow is loaded and ready with adoptable pups ready to capture your heart, pet-centric vendors to spoil the "ruff" of your life, and Valentine's Day activities you and your pup are

CALENDAR continues next page

1. fold paper in half & cut out a heart shape.

2. use a brush to create an even layer of glue on the surface of the paper.

3. sprinkle glitter onto the wet glue surface, let dry, & glue the glitter heart to a blank card or use as a gift tag.

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CALENDAR from previous page

guaranteed to “dig.” 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. SPARK Social SF, 601 Mission Bay Boulevard. For more information: <https://bit.ly/47JCWeG>

2/16 Friday – 2/18 Sunday  
Gardening: Pacific Orchid Exposition and Plant Sale

Thousands of orchid flowers and plants on display, with judging by the American Orchid Society, plants for sale from San Francisco Orchid Society

members as well as 20+ local, national and international nurseries. This year’s theme, “Timeless Orchids, A Journey Through History,” will showcase orchids’ significance in various cultures, with displays of orchids alongside artifacts that highlight their role in art, medicine, and cultural practices throughout history. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. \$10 advance tickets purchased online. San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 9th Avenue, Golden Gate Park. For more information: <https://bit.ly/3S1Ab2A>

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23 fri

Black History Month: *BlackKkKlansman*  
In 1972, Colorado Springs’s first African American police officer investigated the local Ku Klux Klan chapter by posing as white on the phone, while sending a Jewish colleague to impersonate him at KKK meetings. Directed by

Spike Lee, *BlackKkKlansman*’s Oscar nominations include Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Supporting Actor for Adam Driver, with Lee winning Best Adapted Screenplay. 6 p.m. \$10; free for Mechanics’ Institute members. Mechanics’ Institute, 57 Post Street. For more information: <https://bit.ly/47UTJfb>

24 sat

Lunar New Year: Parade  
Featuring nearly 100 participating groups, the Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco is the biggest procession celebrating the Lunar New Year outside Asia. Featuring Grand Marshall Awkwafina, award-winning actress, comedienne, and rapper. Parade route: Second at Market streets to Kearny Street and Columbus Avenue. 5:15 to 8 p.m. Free standing room; bleacher seats start at \$41. For more information: <https://chineseaparade.com/>



New day, on Utah and 15th streets.

PHOTO: Potrero View Staff

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MBC Biolabs from front page

“Based on the preliminary shadow studies which we first saw at the end of November and are still waiting to receive the final study, the proposed development significantly shadows Esprit Park,” DNA President Donovan Lacy said.

Whether potential shadowing of Esprit Park is sufficient to require mitigation will be determined by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD), with a hearing on the issue scheduled for February 15. Under the Sunlight Ordinance, which City voters approved in 1984, a one percent rise in park shadowing due to a new building is allowed, with higher increases permissible if the Planning and SFRPD commissions determine that the shadow won’t have significant adverse impacts on park use.

Because of the project’s size and scope, MBC BioLabs must also secure Planning Commission approval, with a hearing likely to take place in the latter half of this year, according to Sider.

The current design features half the structure clad in black and gold-tone metal shading over floor-to-ceiling windows. Facade materials would include stucco, smooth and texturized concrete, corrugated metal panels, and decorative perforated bronze-tone aluminum sheets. The building would have roughly 70,650 square feet of commercial space suitable for 70 to 90 small biotech companies. Below-grade parking would be included for 59 cars, with room for six bicycles. A rooftop terrace would offer a place to relax. A fuel cell technology system installed by Bloom Energy would produce 40 percent of energy needs onsite.

“I love the plans,” said Indiana Street neighbor and the *View’s* marketing manager, Richard Romero. “I think it could be an incredible addition to the area but having a beautiful building that serves the people who work there and not really keeping in mind how to benefit the community is the question I’m always asking.”

“I do think what they have is a brilliant business model,” Heath added. “Certainly, the work being done there will save lives and they’re offering something that perhaps no one in the Bay Area is providing but it shouldn’t be in that location. That site is ideal for housing and active ground floor uses while there are better nearby sites where zoning actually allows biotech.”

“We would much rather see a mixed-use housing and commercial/retail development in this location,” Lacy said. “Now that the developer is working with our Development Committee, we are optimistic that we will be able to work with this developer to come to a successful outcome.”

SIDEWALKS from front page

Concrete Cutting, our slicing contractor, and Public Works cement crews,” said Christopher Heredia, Bureau of Urban Forestry public information officer.

StreetTreeSF repairs trees and sidewalks in zones identified as high-injury corridors by Vision Zero, the City’s road safety policy. In addition, StreetTreeSF reviews 311 calls about tree-related sidewalk uplift, some of which are forwarded to Precision. Under company, rather than municipal, policy, Precision completes jobs within 24 hours Monday through Friday.

Heredia said repairs needed in high-traffic pedestrian corridors or near

Crosswords

BY DENA WITKES

- ACROSS**
- 1. Top dog
  - 6. Not too bright
  - 9. Matzo meal?
  - 14. Palindromic spinning mechanism
  - 15. Vegan character on "The Simpsons"
  - 16. Niku Steakhouse option
  - 17. Bell-bottoms feature
  - 18. Umami detectors
  - 20. Zoo keeper?
  - 22. "The Seinfeld Chronicles," for example
  - 23. Hankering
  - 26. Shenanigan
  - 28. French cosmetics giant
  - 29. Coke or Pepsi
  - 30. What Marcie calls Peppermint Patty
  - 31. The "O" of XO
  - 33. Plugging away
  - 34. Cutting remarks
  - 36. Santa \_\_\_ winds
  - 39. Potrero Hill resident Patrick Mākuakane, for one
  - 43. Yellowstone grazer
  - 44. Message on a Wonderland cake
  - 45. \_\_\_ Plaza Park
  - 46. 'Rents, sibs, etc.
  - 47. Trounce, in gamer lingo
  - 49. "What \_\_\_ you so long?"
  - 50. Workbench clamp
  - 53. Post-workout reminders
  - 55. Tot
  - 56. Authorize
  - 58. Bring down the house
  - 60. Pasta shape at La Connessa
  - 62. Made less harsh
  - 66. Alternate pasta shape
  - 67. OPEC member
  - 68. Night vision?
  - 69. "Thus..."
  - 70. Plea at sea

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| 33 |    |    |   |    | 34 |    | 35 |    |    |    | 36 | 37 | 38 |    |
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| 66 |    |    |   |    |    | 67 |    |    |    | 68 |    |    |    |    |
| 69 |    |    |   |    |    | 70 |    |    |    | 71 |    |    |    |    |

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- 71. Castor and Pollux
- DOWN**
- 1. Bark Avenue sound
- 2. Cyberchuckle
- 3. Starr King Elementary org.
- 4. Flavor at Milkbomb
- 5. Length x width
- 6. Occasion for dinner at Piccino or Chez Maman East
- 7. Balast Point's Habaero Sculpin, in short
- 8. "Is there any way for me to get out of this?"
- 9. Port of a process
- 10. "Three Billboards Outside \_\_\_\_\_, Missouri"
- 11. Mother's helper?
- 12. Home to the Ewoks
- 13. Takes a breather
- 19. Food Network personality, e.g.
- 21. August 2022 headline "San Francisco Wants to make Cooking with \_\_\_ a Thing of the Past"
- 23. Caesar's "veni"
- 24. Bottom line
- 25. Hit it off
- 27. Come out on top
- 32. "What's the \_\_\_?"
- 35. Olfactory, Harmonic, and New Belgium
- 36. Brass or bronze
- 37. "That's so uncool!"
- 38. Up and about
- 40. Mens \_\_\_\_\_ (criminal intent)
- 41. Husk-wrapped order at La Paz Restaurant
- 42. Mug shot subject at SPRO?
- 46. Plays dead, say
- 48. Hush-hush org.
- 50. Italian scooter
- 51. Confident way to solve a crossword
- 52. Tolerate
- 54. Whale constellation
- 57. 2018 District 10 Supervisor candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Ellington
- 59. Ozzy Osbourne duo?
- 61. "\_\_\_\_ Te Ching"
- 63. Poseidon's realm
- 64. Mr. Potato head piece
- 65. Private convos on Insta

Solution on page 14.

vulnerable populations are flagged as top priority.

Typically, Precision’s work involves horizontal sidewalk slicing, a process of cutting through cement grids. Slicing reduces trip hazards from one-quarter inch to more than two inches in height. StreetTreeSF contracts with Precision to repair spots with sidewalk uplift of two inches or less. Areas that exhibit uplift of more than two inches go into queue for repair by Public Works’ cement shop, restored as time and resources allow.

“Slicing versus demolishing and replacing sidewalks around street trees saves millions in taxpayer dollars yearly. Slicing is better for the environment. It eliminates the need for demolished concrete to be transported to and disposed of in landfill,” said Heredia.

A 2021, Board of Supervisors Budget & Legislative Analyst performance audit of StreetTreeSF found that while the overall condition of the City’s

streets improved between 2011 and 2021, pavement condition varied across neighborhoods. In 2019, close to 30 percent of District 10’s street segments were ranked as failed, poor, or at risk, with the highest percentage of failed sections in San Francisco. Less than 10 percent of District 11’s segments were categorized as failed, poor, or at risk. District 6 had no failed street segments at all. Redistricting in 2022 may have altered district-specific findings.

StreetTreeSF completes 25,000 to 30,000 repairs a year, at a typical cost of \$75 per restoration. The City allocated \$7.3 million for a two-year contract with Precision, which expires June 5, 2025. Precision was selected through a competitive bidding process. Monies for tree-related sidewalk repairs come from the City’s tree maintenance fund, a \$19 million general fund set-aside.

“What I find notable is that the sidewalk may be ground down a few feet away from areas that remain quite

rough, with tripping hazards,” said former Potrero Hill resident, Debbie Findling, who now lives on Liberty Hill. “It’s as if the City pays to pick up specific pieces of litter, and not others. Plus, often the grinding seems nowhere near a tree.”

“Sidewalk slicing is a practical solution to a sidewalk lifting from tree roots. It’s far less costly and disruptive than replacing sidewalk pavers. I speak from experience since I repaired many sidewalks in my career as a contractor,” said Keith Goldstein, Potrero-Dogpatch Merchants Association president.

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FUTUREFORMS from front page

of public space, art, architecture, and technology. We also shared a common interest in exploring emerging design and fabrication methods using computational tools.”

Those computational tools include cutting-edge design software, computer numerical control (CNC) machining, laser cutting equipment and industrial robotic arms which can be seen throughout FUTUREFORMS’ studio inside the American Industrial Center at 2325 Third Street, where conceptualizing, designing, and building takes place.

“We’re obsessed with the details of things. I think some things get lost when they’re made entirely elsewhere, and you have no kind of connection to it. We’re always experimenting with different ways to design and make, and we like to do as much as we can in-house in San Francisco,” said Johnson. “All of this has guided how and why we work today. What emerged from all of these years of experimentation is not so much an aesthetic or a style, but more of a way of approaching the world and a creative process.”

The Dogpatch and Potrero Hill neighborhoods have played a large role in nurturing the couple professionally and personally.

“In particular, the overlapping creative communities of the American Industrial Center and the California College of the Arts have been incredibly inspiring over the years,” said Johnson.

In addition to founding and running FUTUREFORMS, Johnson and Gattegno are full-time professors at the California College of the Arts, where they teach

courses on architectural design. Minnesota Street residents, the two have been involved with local organizations and causes over the years. Johnson is on the board of the Green Benefit District, which aims to bolster funding, governance, advocacy, and volunteerism to create greener urban spaces in Dogpatch and Potrero Hill, and recently joined the Museum of Craft and Design’s board. He led installation of the public red chairs and tables in Woods Yard Park to help activate the space. Gattegno newly joined the board of Friends of Jackson Park, which fosters community support and advocacy to renovate that commons.

The studio’s latest sculpture being developed for a San Francisco location, “Metamorphosis,” consists of a series of stacked spherical forms that amplify light patterns onto neighboring surfaces through a laser-cut exterior. Supported by the Potrero Gateway Project, a community initiative to improve derelict space around and under the U.S.-101 freeway, the art piece will be installed between San Bruno, Vermont, and 17th streets early this summer.

FUTUREFORMS public art projects are displayed in Tennessee and Florida, as well as other places. All share the studio’s futuristic, ultramodern, and architectural design aesthetic. “Cosmos,” installed in Sunnyvale, California, is a stainless-steel shade canopy that resembles a tree made from origami-like tiles. “Lightweave” is suspended in an overpass in Washington D.C.’s north of Massachusetts Avenue neighborhood and translates ambient sounds into dynamic auroras of patterned LED light. FUTUREFORMS is presently developing works to be erected in Las



Nataly Gattegno and Jason Kelly Johnson, founders of FUTUREFORMS.

PHOTO: Danny Pham

Vegas and Los Angeles.

“Today, our studio is involved in many overlapping creative pursuits including public art, fine art, furniture, consulting, and arts master planning.

We are lucky to have an incredible group of talented and dedicated staff that keeps the studio and shop humming,” said Johnson.

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SHORT CUTS from page 2

complaint of injury, or firearm. It'd also liberate SFPD to substantially increase its reliance on public safety cameras and drones... SFPD's core problem is a top-heavy command structure and incoherent public and political attitudes toward policing, which have damaged morale and undermined recruitment. The solution isn't more technology, but better management, and a wholesome conversation of what we want police to do, and not do, and who or what will fill the gaps. Let's stop bending with the winds and engage in the necessary hard homework. **No on Proposition E.**

International Affairs

“When I’m back in Israel, I’ll work on a Knesset resolution that calls for better leadership in San Francisco to solve the homelessness, crime, and fentanyl problems,” quipped Noe Valley resident Yoni, in response to last month’s **Board of Supervisor’s** eight to three vote – District 10 Supervisor **Shamman Walton** on the “aye” side – demanding a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas war... Now that the Board has taken care of one conflict, should we expect it to standup for others: criminal violence in Mexico, internal strife in Haiti and Venezuela, violent extremism in the Sahel? The world is a big place, with lots of pressing issues. It’s easier to focus on anywhere else but here.

No Cash

In 2019 the **San Francisco Board of Supervisors** voted unanimously to require most businesses to accept cash rather than debit or credit cards only. Citing discrimination against those who don’t have bank accounts and the poor in particular, lawmakers amended the Police Code to require brick-and-mortar businesses to accept cash payments for goods and services other than professional services. However, the law is regularly ignored, including by such retailers as **Jane the Baker** and **Bi-Rite Market**. While it’s unlikely that these high-priced

establishments are heavily frequented by low-income people, it’s disrespectful of them to flaunt a rule intended to maintain a semblance of equity.

PUBLISHER'S VIEW from page 2

neutral “truths,” not opinions or religious beliefs. But outside some scientific disciplines – excluding medicine, notorious for overemphasizing white male physiology over women and people of color – few academic disciplines are wholly without bias. Who or what is the focus of attention in a history course; through what lens anthropologists or sociologists evaluate ancient, or even today’s, societies; what political system works best, or even how to define “best,” are all subject to interpretation.

Facts are different than beliefs, though closely held values are often asserted as if they’re certainties, even if proponents base their claim on religious imperatives or a declaration of “fundamental human rights.” The U.S. Constitution is deployed as a kind of Magic 8 Ball, but that document is as often a political tool as a truth. Slavery was okay until it wasn’t. Universal abortion access wasn’t protected until it was, then again it wasn’t. Even definitions of who is a “murderer” change according to constitutional impulses, sometimes encompassing solely the person who pulled the trigger, other times roping in an “accomplice” who participated in the crime that led to the death.

Towards the end of his stump speeches Donald Trump often states that if re-elected President,

On Day 1, I will sign a new executive order to cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content on our children.

This declaration, which largely aligns with Nikki Haley’s views, consistently elicits spirited audience approval. It’s a murky kind of signaling; how

many Americans can define “critical race theory” and how it’d be applied in schools? Who wouldn’t be opposed to teaching kids “insane” or “inappropriate” content?

Education, from pre-kindergarten to college, is the focal point of culture wars because it’s supposed to be the slow or sudden cure – or bulwark against attacks on the status quo – for faux facts, “feelings are facts,” or the difficult transition from one common-held reality to another. Knowledge tends to leak out, however, whether it’s spoon-fed by a second-grade teacher, hidden in the lyrics of a rock song, stumbled across in a library, revealed through an accidental encounter with a wise “other” stranger, in a post-secondary institution, or even sometimes on social media.

The ticket to a fact-based society – even as facts change – is nurturing the ability to recognize the truth when one sees it and being enthusiastic about, or at least not wholly resistant to, learning new things. Content is important, context even more so, but it’s the capacity to effectively critique what’s presented, to argue passionately but respectfully through reason and analysis, that’s the key to enlightenment.

As the speed of change accelerates so too does opposition to it. Evolving demographics, artificial intelligence, big data, advanced exploration of the oceans and space, as instantly conveyed through TikTok, X, and Instagram, are introducing new, sometimes faux, facts at an increasingly fast pace. These could be accepted as truth or trigger chronic social unease and political unrest.

Future historians may tell us what happened.

ROBOTICS from page 3

great light,” Losey added. “And parking is relatively reasonably good. There are some fun restaurant spots and access to food trucks too.”

Rapid Robotics is near other companies engaging in robotics hardware work, for instance, mobile CT scanning,

which makes it easier to network with people in the mechanical space and spurs new ideas.

One of Rapid Robotics’ new ideas is using an AI vision system to undertake image-related tasks, such as inspecting modules for serial number and barcode verification, as well as missing components. Traditional systems require separate reviews for each of those tasks; with AI it can be done simultaneously.

“The AI vision system allows us to deploy robots even faster, and that ultimately drives down the cost of doing these robot deployments so manufacturers have more access to them,” Losey said. “That’s why it’s great to be in the Potrero Hill area and centrally located because it allows us to bring in the best machine-learning talent in the area.”

Talent helps Rapid Robotics maintain what it dubs the three S’s: speed, service and support, and savings. Losey said by focusing on speed, the other two S’s invariably follow, along with a fourth: scale. Speed means offering 24/7 support to customers, solving issues with robotic arms in a half-hour 98 percent of the time. Using cloud connectivity Rapid Robotics can check data logs to find anomalies and diagnose what’s wrong without being onsite, dispatching someone if required. Traditionally, the repair process is slowed because companies have to send a technician to the site, diagnose the issue, order a part, and shutdown the assembly line for the overhaul.

“It takes time and no manufacturer has that kind of time,” Losey said. “If a line in the production is down, it’s stressful for everyone involved.”

Rapid Robotics shortens that time-frame and reduces stress for manufacturers, which Losey hopes will translate into more sales and scale.

“As we expand, we are strengthening our core vision and expanding to new tasks or capabilities for robotics to help manufacturers close the labor gap and meet demand for their products,” Losey said. “And we have a lot of fun along the way.”



Charred pallets and a melted shopping cart remain from a several-week encampment that caught fire in the early morning of January 18th on the corner of Mariposa and Pennsylvania. PHOTO: Thomas Hunter II



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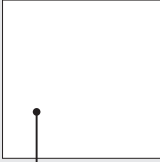


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Clean up, on Utah and 14th streets.

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**Applications Due February 16, 2024**

The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) is soliciting applications from Bay Area residents to serve on the TJPA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for its annual recruitment. This is an opportunity for individuals to provide input on the operation of the world-class Salesforce Transit Center (Center) and rooftop park, which is owned and operated by the TJPA, and to help shape the discussion on the development of The Portal also known as the Downtown Rail Extension project, which will connect Caltrain's 77-mile system and ultimately, the California High-Speed Rail Authority's statewide system to its northern terminus, the Grand Central Station of the West, in downtown San Francisco. Past CAC members have contributed to the successful planning, development and construction of the Center and rooftop park; the creation of the transit-oriented neighborhood surrounding the Center; and the economic vitality of the Center and its retail offerings.

The TJPA seeks to appoint Committee members that represent the diversity of the Bay Area. There are 15 seats on the CAC representing the following constituencies: Bicycle advocate, Daily AC Transit Rider into San Francisco, Daily Caltrain Rider into San Francisco, Daily MUNI Rider on a line through the Transit Center, Disabled advocate, Environmentalist, Local Business from District 6 (zip code 94105 or 94107), Local Resident from District 6 (zip code 94105 or 94107), Member of a planning or good-government non-profit organization, Member of the Citywide (San Francisco) business community, Member with expertise in real estate development or real estate finance, two (2) Regional transit advocates, Representative from labor, and a San Francisco based public transit advocate.

CAC full-terms are for a period of two years and each member is eligible to serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. The TJPA CAC regularly meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and meetings are held at the TJPA office, 425 Mission Street, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA. Consistent attendance is required. For more information about the CAC, please visit <https://www.tjpa.org/about-tjpa/citizens-advisory-committee>.


**How to Apply**

Applicants are encouraged to indicate all seats that they qualify for listed on the application. Staff will review applications and make recommendations to the TJPA Board of Directors for their consideration.

To be considered, submit an application to the TJPA via e-mail at [cac@tjpa.org](mailto:cac@tjpa.org) or by mail: 425 Mission Street, Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94105. Applications are available online at <https://www.tjpa.org/about-tjpa/citizens-advisory-committee/recruitment> and at the TJPA office; and are due by February 16, 2023.

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After many years of disrepair the sidewalk on the 300 block Missouri Street is finally being fixed.  
PHOTO: Potrero View Staff



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