

## March 2012 E-Newsletter

### Cori Holland: A Love of Steps

By Arlene Silverman

Cori Holland loves steps—and owes her good health to a set of them—so it was natural for her to dive into the Hidden Garden Steps shortly after talking with other project volunteers.

She recently recalled how she had suffered nerve damage several years ago that resulted in numbness in one of her legs. Losing confidence in her gait, she was told by a doctor to climb stairs. She walked up and down the Lyon Street's 280 stairs (she still knows the number) until the leg problem was gone.

When she and her husband, Campbell, moved to the Inner Sunset over two years ago, she found that she loved the sense of community, the friendliness of the shop owners, and her proximity to the park. But she didn't become aware of the Hidden Garden Steps project until December 2011, when she happened to run into Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee members Paul Signorelli and Licia Wells outside their home as she, Campbell, and her mother were walking the Steps. Of course, it was not long (minutes? seconds?) before Paul and Licia told her all about the project.

That meeting has been a gift to the Steps. With

great enthusiasm, Cori joined the organizing committee in January. She has worked in the garden (though she admits that she has a "black thumb"), has helped at the Steps table at the Inner Sunset Farmers' Market near 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Irving Street, and is actively engaged in raising funds to help meet the project's \$300,000 budget. Through her position as a senior account manager at NoMoreDirt (<http://nomoredirt.com>), a service that places cleaning staff in venues such as museums, restaurants, and art studios, she has shared with Hidden Garden Steps planners the importance of communicating with corporate leaders. Her knowledge has resulted in an interview with a large telecommunications company in early March to discuss their potential support of the project.

No surprise: Paul is very pleased

that he and Licia ran into Cori that day in December: "She's a gem among gems," he says, "and she clearly has an affinity for the neighborhood and for San Francisco."

"I love this city," she agrees. A fifth-generation Californian, Cori was brought up in Orange County, spent time in Barcelona and Maui and then moved to San Francisco eight years ago.

"The city is very nurturing," she says. "There's acceptance of all kinds of people here."



Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee member Cori Holland

### Calendar:

- **March: Campaign to raise \$8,000 for permits**
- **March 3, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
*Monthly organizing committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps*
- **March 10, 1-3 p.m.**  
*Garden clean-up on the Steps*
- **April 7, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
*Monthly organizing committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps*

### SF Arts Commission Approves Steps Design

Members of the San Francisco Arts Commission formally approved Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher's design for the Hidden Garden Steps tile mural that will, when completed, span the 148 steps on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Kirkham and Lawton streets in San Francisco's Inner Sunset District.

The final vote was completed during the Commission's meeting on February 6.

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## Steps Design Approved *continued from page 1*

“Our project officer, Carol Marie Daniels, used to be our neighbor and is a staunch supporter of our steps project,” Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee co-chair Liz McLoughlin noted. “With her help, we have surmounted another official

hurdle in our effort to beautify San Francisco’s Inner Sunset.” Commission approval is one of many steps needed to complete the project, and comes at a time when project volunteers are engaged in a campaign to raise nearly

\$8,000 needed for applications and permits at the City/County level in San Francisco. (Please see the note on this page for more information about how you can become involved in this effort.)

## Woodside International School: Students Making Art on the Steps

*By Paul Signorelli*

Among the most stunning transformations on the Hidden Garden Steps site so far is the mural at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kirkham Street—created last summer through a collaboration between Woodside International School and Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee members.

The collaboration began with an exchange of email messages between Woodside International School art instructor Angie Crabtree and Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee co-chair Liz McLoughlin; continued as school headmaster John Edwards offered his support; moved closer to reality with approval for the mural by members of the San Francisco Arts Commission; and was completed at the end of July 2011 through the efforts of Angie and a few of her Woodside students.

Angie said she was first drawn to the project by the sight of its predecessor on Moraga Street between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> avenues: “I was in awe...I wanted to be part of this project,” she recalled.

Itzel, a Woodside student, was among those onsite during the month-long effort to complete the mural: “I love painting. We did a mural at school last year,” she said while the project was in progress. “When you do creative things, you can express yourself through art...you can draw whatever you want. It reduces your stress. It takes all your problems away.”

John, looking back on what was accomplished and looking forward to the school’s continuing efforts to support community art projects, says, “We will be approaching DPW at some point to paint more garbage cans as we have on the one at 10th Avenue during the [Inner Sunset Street] Fair and the two at 17th...We have passersby photographing them routinely along with the murals we work on year-round on our own school buildings. Little children keep

dragging their parents over to run their hands over them...All of this is both fun and of great community value.”



Painting of the mural by Woodside International School in July 2011

**Able to help us jump through hoops? We are looking for creative ways to raise nearly \$8,000 for project permits required by the City/County of San Francisco to proceed with the Steps.**

**To be part of this effort, please contact  
[paul@paulsignorelli.com](mailto:paul@paulsignorelli.com).**

### **Thank you**

for helping to transform our community  
one step at a time.

**To donate and/or volunteer,**  
please visit <http://hiddengardensteps.com>.

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