



HGS Takes Off: Crepevine Event to Host Design Launch by Artists

Join artists Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher when they formally sign a contract on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, to begin creating the 148-step ceramic-tile mosaic for installation on the Hidden Garden Steps site in San Francisco's Inner Sunset District.

The signing will be the centerpiece of a reception open to the public at Crepevine, 624 Irving Street in San Francisco, from 4 – 5:30 pm; reservations to attend the free event hosted entirely by Crepevine can be made via email at hidden-gardensteps@gmail.com.

Barr and Crutcher, who designed and oversaw construction of the 163-step mosaic completed in 2005 on Moraga Street between 15th and 16th avenues in the same neighborhood, will work with volunteers over the next 12 months to bring this latest community-based, volunteer-driven effort to create a set of ceramic tiled steps along

with gardens and murals to fruition.

"Aileen and I look forward to getting our signatures on the contract and our hands in the clay," Crutcher said. "We are really looking forward to getting started," Barr agreed.

"This is a day we've been anticipating for more than two years," project organizing committee co-chair Paul Signorelli noted. "We've raised \$100,000 in cash

and \$20,000 in in-kind services already, attracted donors from more than seven states as well as from the U.K., and won recognition in 2011 from *SF Weekly* as 'Best Community Art' project. It's going to be spectacular to move into the construction phase."

In addition to featuring the artists, the Crepevine reception will include food and beverages, updates from San Francisco Department of Public Works representatives on the status of onsite structural repairs that are about to begin (please see story in this newsletter), and brief comments from other project supporters.



More information about this San Francisco Parks Alliance and SF DPW Street Parks Program project is available on the Hidden Garden Steps website at <http://hiddengardensteps.org> as well as on Facebook, Twitter (@gardensteps), and other social media sites.



L to R: Artists Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher at the launch of the Moraga Steps

Calendar:

- **September 1, 10-11:30 a.m.**
Monthly Organizing Committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps
- **September 4, 4-5:30 p.m.**
Crepevine (on Irving) Event with Project Artists
- **September 8, 1-3 p.m.**
Garden Clean-Up on the Steps
- **October 6, 10-11:30 a.m.**
Monthly Organizing Committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps

One Step Closer: DPW to Provide Critical Repairs



The Hidden Garden Steps is taking a significant step forward: critically needed structural repairs are scheduled to begin around the end of September. The planned repairs have been confirmed by colleagues from the San Francisco Department of Public Works.

"The new segment of the stairs has been designed," DPW Section Manager Raymond Lui reported earlier this summer, and designs for a new retaining wall were also under preparation at that point. Recent exchanges between DPW staff and Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee members indicate that agreements are now in place so the work can proceed.

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One Step Closer

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Completion of this important part of the Hidden Garden Step project will literally lay the groundwork for additional work on the Steps gardens as well as prepare the site for installation of the mosaic tile steps designed by project artists Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher.

It's a huge step forward for all of us. This is the result of lots of conversations and support from colleagues at DPW as well as support from Supervisor Sean Elsbernd and his chief legislative aide, Alex Volberding, and it puts us much closer to overcoming some of the challenges we've faced in terms of preparing the site for construction.

Organizing Committee Members are now turning their attention toward completion and submission of applications for permits needed from the City/County Board of Supervisors to proceed with installation of the mosaic in 2013.

We Don't Need No Stinking Permits...Well, actually we do.

Permits, like badges, are sometimes necessary to get things moving along in the right way. HGS has created a video to draw attention to our permit campaign. While it may not appear at the next Academy Awards, it was made with a sense of humor that we think you'll enjoy. Our online efforts to raise \$8,000 for project permits will continue through September 9, 2012 on our Indiegogo site at <http://igg.me/p/72580>.



Help spread the word and contribute what you can to our campaign goal. With your support, we'll take another step forward toward completion.

An "Element" of Surprise: An Inner Sunset Grandfather Honors Family



Retired San Francisco State professor Rufus Browning had to think big when he purchased a nine-step design element on the Hidden Garden Steps called "Shooting Star." After all, he plans to honor his four children, five grandchildren, and a grand-niece and -nephew in the design of the colorful tiles.

Shhhhh! Rufus hasn't let the secret out since he plans to surprise his family when the element is finished. Rufus's generous gift was also a surprise to his long-time partner, Judy Goddess, who was at a Steps information table when Rufus walked by with a check for \$6,500. "I was shocked out of my mind. I had no idea," Judy says. In truth, Rufus's interest is a no-brainer. Judy is one of the original planners of the project and remains an active leader.

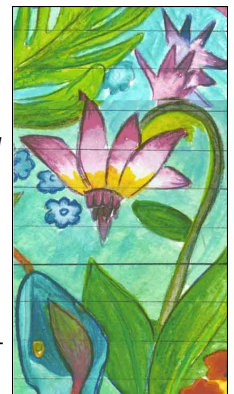
"There will be a useable, physical [outcome for the area]," says Rufus. He praises the community effort that's come out of people getting together to revitalize the long-neglected steps on 16th Avenue between Kirkham and Lawton. Now "people come up and say that 'this is going to be beautiful. I want to be part of this.'"

"They'll be able to say, 'We left our names in San Francisco.'"

Rufus Browning

Rufus has brought his enthusiasm to projects like the Steps from his long tenure as a professor and researcher at SF State. Before his retirement in 2005, he was the recipient, along with his co-authors, of the Ralph J. Bunche and Gladys M. Kammerer awards from the American Political Science Association for the book, *Protest is Not Enough: The Struggle of Blacks and Hispanics for Equality in Urban Politics*. Since retiring, he's been active with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute), where he volunteers as a facilitator for peer-support sessions called the Caring Community Study Group.

In the meantime, Rufus is quick to express his delight in honoring his family through the "Shooting Star" element. By placing their names on the Steps, he says that he's involved in "something you can hand on to your grandchildren....They'll be able to say, 'We left our names in San Francisco.'"



The Shooting Star element was recently sponsored by Rufus Browning.

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Thank you

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

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