

# Friends of the Hidden Garden Steps

## Mosaic Half Complete

More than 75 volunteers packed St. John of God's Community Hall for the March 23, 2013 Community Tile Workshop to help lay mosaic tiles for the Hidden Garden Steps. Thanks to broad community support, the Steps mosaic is now 50% complete, and more than \$200,000 in cash and in-kind services are moving the project ahead.

But the four-hour drop-in workshop last month wasn't all about work.

"It's beautiful," Suzanne Sporri said as she—together with her husband Ruben Flores and daughter Maya—saw the completed tile they purchased.

Supporters of all ages helped lay in background pieces of tile and learned more about the project. An additional \$3,000 was raised as a result of the workshop. And completion of the mosaic itself is projected for fall 2013.



L to R: Susanne Sporri, Maya Flores, Artists Colette Crutcher and Aileen Barr, and Ruben Flores.

## Calendar:

- **April Monthly Clean-up:**  
*Cancelled due to City repairs on the Steps*
- **SF DPW Public Hearing For Steps Permits**  
*Wednesday, April 17 at 9 a.m.*

## Vitamin Express: Thanking the Community



Giving something back to San Francisco's Inner Sunset community is at the heart of Vitamin Express President/Owner Michael

LeVesque's support for the Hidden Garden Steps project.

The store, he notes, has received tremendous support from neighbors ever since he opened it in 1982, so he has purchased a tile to be included on the mosaic: "This is our way of thanking the community," he explained.

A community activist himself—he's currently working on an anti-fluoridation campaign—he says that "being a good citizen is a lot of work!"

*(continued on page 2)*

## Don't Miss Your Chance to Be on the Stairs!



Time is growing short to join us in creating a new lasting landmark public art space in our community.

Sales of the tiles are continuing to move quickly; please don't miss this opportunity to have a permanent presence on the Steps and be part of this community-based volunteer-driven project.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://hiddengardensteps.org> or contact us at [hiddengardensteps@gmail.com](mailto:hiddengardensteps@gmail.com)

## Help Place Our Fire Department on the Steps

Honoring local fire-fighters is high on our agenda this month as project artists Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher continue working on the mosaic.



As we approach the anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire on April 18, Sherry Boschert has begun a grassroots online campaign to raise nearly \$7,000 to dedicate an entire multi-step element—the fire-red Indian Paintbrush image—to the fire fighters.

"We posted a video on the crowd-funding site Indiegogo," Boschert says, "in which grateful citizens describe the many ways that firefighters have helped them." The video, which features some local firefighters, powerfully conveys their challenging work and remembrances of colleagues injured or killed on the job.

"The flower in the mosaic will contain a message of gratitude to firefighters," she added, noting that the native California flower is one of the first to reappear after a wildfire.

*The Indiegogo campaign ends on May 22, 2013. To contribute, please visit <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/an-artistic-thanks-to-firefighters>. Sharing the link with family, friends, colleagues, and others will help us create this wonderful tribute.*



**A Project of San Francisco Parks Alliance & a Department of Public Works Street Parks Partner**

Hidden Garden Steps c/o San Francisco Parks Alliance, 451 Hayes Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 621-3260 [hiddengardensteps.org](http://hiddengardensteps.org)



## Vitamin Express

(continued from page 1)

Vitamin Express, at 1428 Irving Street (between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> avenues) remains a one-stop shop where one can find homeopathic remedies and cosmetics, vitamins, supplements, food bars, teas, books, and much more. As its website says, it carries everything from “vitamin A to the herb zizyphus.” LeVesque says he started the store so that he himself could have access to nutritional supplements; he had had a severe case of polio as a child and, while he recovered, he continued to suffer from severe pain after exercise. After he started to take calcium and magnesium, the pain was eased, he recalls. His daughter has also been a beneficiary of Vitamin Express: she has cerebral palsy; has taken amino acids, vitamins and minerals for years—a regimen that has alleviated her symptoms, according to LeVesque; and she now works at the store as a certified nutritionist.

“We have a dedicated clientele,” LeVesque notes, adding that acceptance of homeopathic products is relatively new. When he opened his first store across the street on Irving in 1982 (350 square feet compared to today’s 1,500 square feet in its present location), “people came in and whispered” because they were concerned about how others viewed alternative medicines. Today, LeVesque says, the products are phenomenal—and, he adds, they match any price quoted elsewhere.

For more information about Vitamin Express, please visit <http://vitaminexpress.com>.



Detail of Vitamin Express tile on the Hidden Garden Steps.



### E-Newsletter Production:

Newsletter Writers:

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## SF DPW Public Hearing For Steps Permits Set for Wednesday, April 17 at 9 a.m.

A new opportunity to express support for the Hidden Garden Steps project is just around the corner: San Francisco Department of Public Works (DPW) staff will conduct a public hearing in City Hall on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 beginning at 9 a.m. to determine whether to recommend that the City/County Board of Supervisors approve permits to proceed with installation of the 148-step ceramic-tile mosaic.



The hearing, to be held in Room 400 at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place in San Francisco’s Civic Center, is an opportunity for all of us to show the widespread support the project has attracted locally as well as from donors in seven other states and in Europe. Those who cannot attend can help us by sending letters to the Bureau of Street-Use & Mapping, 1155 Market Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103 before April 17.

Thanks in advance for moving the project toward completion.

## Expand Your Portfolio: Support Community Art with a Hidden Garden Steps Logo

Entries are being accepted through May 15, 2013 for anyone interested in submitting a logo design to be used to promote the Hidden Garden Steps project.

Participants are encouraged to draw upon the project website at <http://hiddengardensteps.org> for inspiration in creating a single image or logo that in some way reflects the varied and beautiful artwork created for the project. The winning logo, to be chosen by a panel of artists and organizing committee members from Hidden Garden Steps, will be one that is simple, clean, and easily reproduced in a single-color format so it can be used on promotional materials, including items of apparel, for this community art project.

The winner will be acknowledged and the logo will be reproduced in an upcoming issue of the Hidden Garden Steps online newsletter. The winner’s name will also be placed on a tile within the completed Hidden Garden Steps mural to be installed permanently on 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Kirkham and Lawton streets in San Francisco’s Inner Sunset District.

There is no entry fee. Hidden Garden Steps will retain the copyright with control over the use of the winning logo. To submit an entry, please send the completed logo to [hiddengardenlogo@yahoo.com](mailto:hiddengardenlogo@yahoo.com) and include the artist’s name, address, telephone number, and email, and, if applicable, the name of the school the artist is attending.

**Our deep appreciation and thanks to the Friends of the Hidden Garden Steps for helping to transform our community one step at a time**

## Hidden Garden Steps

c/o San Francisco Parks Alliance, 451 Hayes Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

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