

Friends of the Hidden Garden Steps

HGS Hits the Airwaves: KCBS Features Mosaic Kickoff

The Hidden Garden Steps project officially moved into its production phase on September 4 with coverage from KCBS radio reporter Anna Duckworth and articles in the *Sunset Beacon* and the *West Portal Monthly*.

Artists Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher, at a public reception hosted by Crepevine on Irving Street in San Francisco's Inner Sunset District, formally signed contracts to create the ceramic-tile mosaic that is at the heart of this effort to create a second set of tiled stairs surrounded by gardens and augmented with murals. They are currently working on life-sized mock-ups of the 148-step design that could be installed as early as summer 2013, and have begun initial work on creation of individual elements of the mosaic.

There are still plenty of opportunities for involvement. Public workshops will offer volunteers a chance to contribute to the construction of the mosaic over

the next several months; final arrangements for the first session, to be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 1 – 5 p.m., will be confirmed soon and announced in our November 2012 newsletter.

Other efforts to move the project along are continuing with the involvement of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Inner Sunset neighbors and students from the George Washington High School Key Club continue to gather on-site (16th Avenue, between Kirkham and Lawton streets) from 1 – 3 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month to clean the steps, remove graffiti, and add plants to the gardens that are beginning to take shape along sections of the Steps. Additional public-awareness and fundraising events also benefit from the assistance of volunteers, and project supporters are continuing to reach out to individuals and businesses interested in becoming involved in this volunteer-based community effort.



L to R: Artists Colette Crutcher and Aileen Barr working on the design for the Hidden Garden Steps

For more information about volunteering or becoming engaged as a donor, please contact us at hiddegardensteps@gmail.com or join us at our monthly clean-ups.

Calendar:

- **November 3, 10-11:30 a.m.**
Monthly Organizing Committee meeting; follow live on Twitter @gardensteps
- **November 10, 1-3 p.m.**
Garden Clean-Up on the Steps
- **December 1, 10-11:30 a.m.**
Monthly Organizing Committee meeting
- **Currently in Progress**
Campaign to create ISPN presence on the Steps: http://hiddegardensteps.org/Donate_ISPN.html

Adam Greenfield: The Accidental Community Organizer

In his mid-20s Adam Greenfield wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life. Now 32 years old, the San Francisco videographer has homed in on one important pursuit. He's become a strong and active community leader.

Name the project and Adam's had a hand in it. He's involved in the Inner
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Adam Greenfield, seated upon one of the Public Bench Project's gems

HIDDEN GARDEN STEPS

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 hiddegardensteps.org



Adam Greenfield

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Sunset Farmers' Market, the Inner Sunset Sundays, and the Board of the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors (ISPN). He's worked with machine builder Chris Duderstadt to conceptualize and expand the Public Bench Project. He also realized the importance of the Hidden Garden Steps project through the partnership between the Steps and the ISPN.

Community organizing had not always been an interest for Adam Greenfield. A native of the Island of Guernsey, in the English Channel, he has been an Inner Sunset resident for five years. He became a community organizer "completely by accident." After he moved in, he says that he "kind of completely woke up to the fact that I have neighbors!" So he dropped off holiday cards at people's doors and was able to establish personal contact with those who lived nearby. At the same time, Facebook was becoming a perfect place for announcing upcoming events

Joining the resurrected ISPN, he became the "social events guy," even though he says he had no background or previous experience in that area. He started out by organizing events like bar socials and poetry readings. Since then, the Inner Sunset Farmers' Market and Inner Sunset Sundays have been a part of his organizing repertoire.

Adam feels strongly that Inner Sunset "is a really good place. There's a...nice merchant corridor. It's a destination for people who live here. People run into each other. This sort of environment makes it possible to have people turn from just faces in the street to friends." He describes these neighbor-to-neighbor contacts as an important "social safety net."

Adam's interest in the Steps grew with the installation of the bench at the bottom of the Steps, which serves as a respite for tired walkers or simply as a place to socialize.

"The Hidden Garden Steps is a kind of beacon that broadcasts 'community,'" says Adam. "Here is a sign that people care. It's wonderful that the Steps will be gorgeous to look at. I'm just proud that I'm connected with the project."

Chris Angelopoulos, Markets, and Community

A lot may have changed with the advent of the Internet, but one thing that remains the same is customers' dedication to the Sunset District's popular 22nd & Irving Market. Manager Chris Angelopoulos, who's been with the market for 25 years, says that he sees children and grandchildren of original customers come into the store to shop. "You know the whole family. You develop relationships." He adds that customers from as far away as San Mateo and San Rafael make it their business to come into town and shop at the market.

No wonder. The store's been open for over four decades; it was, in fact, one of the first produce markets in the city. An article in the *SF Chronicle* states that "Greek owner Tom Karas and his brother turned what was originally a butcher shop, produce market and grocery story into a single store that sells everything from guavas to kafir limes to Mediterranean specialties." Read the comments about the place on the Internet site *Yelp*, and you'll learn pretty fast why customers love to shop there.



Chris (a nephew of Tom Karas) is married, has two college-age sons, and is a 30-year Sunset resident himself. As a local businessman, he feels a strong sense of being part of such a diverse area of the city. He's shown this dedication to community by reaching out to the Hidden Garden Steps as one of the project's early supporters. He's purchased a tile and keeps a copy of the Steps brochure on prominent display in his window. His involvement has helped set the stage for a valuable partnership between HGS and the business community.

"The 22nd & Irving Market is one of those perfect partners for the Hidden Garden Steps project," says Steps organizing committee co-chair Paul Signorelli. "The market is a neighborhood fixture—a true gathering place—just as the Steps themselves are already becoming a place where neighbors meet and chat."

Chris Angelopoulos agrees: "[The Steps] belong to everyone."

Business owners and members of others groups interested in supporting the Hidden Garden Steps project are encouraged to contact us at hidden-gardensteps@gmail.com.

E-Newsletter Production:

Newsletter Writers:
Arlene Silverman
& Paul Signorelli

Editors/Newsletter Layout:
Paul Signorelli & Licia Wells



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

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

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