

June 11, 2018



from The President's Desk

by Henry Karnilowicz

The following represent just a few of the issues and events that SFCDMA supported and participated in during May 2018.

About two months ago we accepted a sponsorship from Healthy Spot, a formula retail, that did not require us to support them in any way. Unfortunately they applied to move into a space in Noe Valley that Castro Merchants and an alliance of pet shops opposed. It's disappointing that apparently there was no attempt to have this issue brought before the Council delegates and that allegations were made that I was retained by Healthy Spot in their Conditional Use Application, which was untrue. At no time have Healthy Spot, who are listed as a sponsor on our website, approached me to support them in their Conditional Use application, nor even to discuss their application, about which I had no knowledge.

I have decided that SFCDMA will no longer accept any sponsorships without approval from our delegates. I also will urge all associations to bring to the Council any issues when there is a potential conflict with an adjacent association regarding formula retail.

I am truly proud of all our Member Associations and am confident that this is just a minor hiccup and that our family of associations will just get stronger as we move forward.

San Francisco Small Business Week



In cooperation with Adam Straus and his team, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations we worked for about three months organizing all the events.

The kick off event was InspireSF at the recently renovated Metreon, where there was an excellent attendance of small businesses and representatives from city agencies, including Regina Dick-Endrizzi and Marianne Mazucco-Thompson, and small business commissioners, Mark Dwight, Irene Riley, Stephen Adams and Miriam Zouzounis. The event included an inspirational panel interview with leading entrepreneurs. Tallia Hart, President & CEO San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, welcomed everyone and introduced the moderator Reem Assil, Owner & Chef of Reem's California & Dyafa. The panelists included the entertaining Lisa Q. Fetterman, Founder and CEO, Nomiku, Matt Cohen, Founder and CEO, Off the Grid (Northern California and State of California SBA Small Business of the Year) and Sam Mogannam, Founding Partner, Bi-Rite Family of Businesses.

The Board of Supervisors at the Board of Supervisors Chamber presented awards to honorees from each of their districts at the Small Business Awards and Breakfast Reception in the War Memorial Green Room was truly spectacular.

The MC was the dapper Stephen Adams and Mayor Mark Farrell, who presented awards to a select group of small businesses. I was thrilled to see that Cassava Restaurant on Balboa Street was an honoree, with the award presented to Owner General



Manager and SFCDMA Secretary, Yuka Ioroi, and her husband, Owner Executive Chef, Kristoffer Toliao.



Kudos to our Executive Administrator Vas Kiniris, who, in collaboration with Shop and Dine in the 49, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, organized over 20 neighborhood merchant corridors for A Taste of San Francisco. Each neighborhood offered a “taste” their local neighborhood culture by featuring wine tastings, art shows, musicians, artists, pop ups and sidewalk sales. Thank you merchants of San Francisco for supporting our Taste of San Francisco’s Neighborhoods! It’s the diversity, creativity and entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of the City. Special thanks to Balboa Village, Castro, Chinatown, Merchants of Butchertown, Divisadero, Excelsior, Fillmore , Glen Park, Haight , Inner Sunset, Noe Valley, North Beach, Sacramento St, Union St, Valencia St, and West Portal for participating. Special thanks also to San Francisco Small Business Week, San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), and San Francisco Office of Small Business for your help.



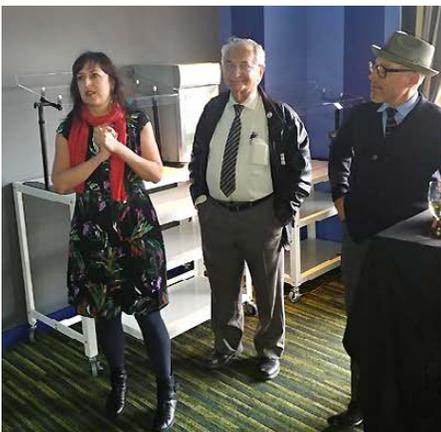
To celebrate Small Business Week Airbnb presented Tech After Dark at their Brannan Street headquarters, which included dinner, drinks and networking and a panel discussion about technology’s ever growing impact on small business.

Facebook presented an informative workshop at Hong Kong Lounge on Geary Blvd., with an excellent attendance. During this bilingual event, Thomas Li masterfully explained all the ways that Facebook can be used to help promote small business.



GGBA put on a fabulous MEGA Make Contact event at the BMW Showroom on Howard Street. Dawn Ackerman, GGBA President, was one of the speakers. She drew attention to issues the LGBTQ business community has with the Small Business Administration at the national level, despite the continued support they receive from the San Francisco SBA Office. She will be meeting with the local director of SBA to enlist their support to change the direction at the national level. Of course SFCDMA will support the GGBA in this matter.

Larkin Street Social Mixer



To welcome one of newest members, Larkin Street Business & Property Owner Association, into the fold, we held a Social Mixer at the beautiful COVA Hotel. Many thanks to our hosts Susie McKinnon, Larkin Association Neighborhood Development Consultant, and Simon Sin, Larkin Association President and COVA Hotel CEO, for warmly welcoming us. Attendees were treated to wine and nibbles at their Upper Deck Bar and enjoyed fantastic views of downtown San Francisco from the rooftop terrace. Among those assembled were Daniel Bergerac, President of Castro Merchants, Jen Lee, Vice President of People Of Parkside Sunset, Jean Feilmoser, Board Member of Mission Merchants Association, Paul Pendergast, Vice President of Golden Gate Business Association, Bill Barnickel, President of the Outer Sunset Merchants and Professional Association, Miriam Zouzounis, Board Member of South of Market Business Association and Vas Kiniris, Executive Administrator at SFCDMA.

Second Annual Homesharers Trade Show



Vas Kiniris attended this event to promote the work of and bring attention to the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations and the neighborhood merchant corridors. Among the attendants was Airbnb cofounder Joe Gebbia. The event provided an excellent opportunity for us to reach out to hosts to advocate shopping at local businesses.

Greater Geary Blvd. Merchants Annual Luncheon



This annual fixture was the 25th Geary Merchants Luncheon, held this year at the Kabuki Hotel. Orchestrated by Greater Geary Merchants President David Heller, the theme was San Francisco 2028. There was an excellent video presentation about the future of transportation in the city, which included visuals of flying vehicles. The speakers were Mayor Mark Farrell, Mayor Willie Brown, Jim Lazarus from the Chamber, District Attorney George Gascon, SFMTA Director Ed Reiskin and Fiona Ma. Awards were presented to a firefighter, police officer and to Total Mac, a merchant on Geary Blvd., and to the Shell Car Wash.

People Of Parkside Sunset Clean-Up



President Albert Chow organized this wonderful event with some 200 volunteers signing up. Everyone, including Supervisor Katy Tang, Police Captain Robert Yick, SFPD Cadets and a DPW crew, met at 8:30 am at the Ortega Public Library.

The gathering broke up into 14 teams and set off to clean all the public areas in the Sunset. I am so proud of Albert and POPS for their caring about their community.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets to this week's SFCDMA Gala!

The 68th Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner

June 13, 2018 at the prestigious Olympic Club Lakeside.

PURCHASE TICKETS

Thank you to everyone who is helping us promote small business in San Francisco. I will keep you - our Membership - in touch with my June schedule of meetings and events in my next monthly newsletter - **"from the President's Desk"**.



Henry Karnilowicz

President

San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

henry@sfcdma.org



SFCDMA