



September 12, 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 August 2018.

Golden Gate Restaurant Association Eat Drink SF



Eat Drink SF, formerly known as SF Chefs, was founded by the Golden Gate Restaurant Association in 2009 to celebrate the Bay Area's culinary community and to support their mission to celebrate and empower the restaurant community through advocacy, education, marketing, events and training. Eat Drink SF celebrates the Bay Area restaurant community as a world-class culinary destination, being a festival intentionally focused on local tastemakers.

As GGRA's signature event, Eat Drink SF is a culinary extravaganza over two days which showcases San Francisco Bay Area's gastronomic expertise. Over 120 restaurants participated in four Grand Tastings at Fort Mason and the event attracted well over 8,000 attendees. Mayor London Breed's cooking demo with favorite State Bird Provisions drew a huge crowd!



Among the many people attending included Vas Kiniris, our Executive Administrator, Anthony DeLa Cruz, Secretary of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, Erin Archuleta from Square, Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director at the Office of Small Business, Joaquin Torres Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce, and friends. Chhavi Sahni of GGRA was there to welcome us at check in! Other distinguished guests included our newly-elected Mayor, London Breed and Supervisor Vallie Brown, Public Defender Jeff Adachi and Assembly members David Chu and Phil Ting.

A sincere thank you to GGRA Executive Director Gwyneth Borden for inviting us and congratulations to her and her dream team for organizing such a spectacular event!

Inner Sunset Merchants Association Merchants Walk



It was great to see our Mayor London Breed, who was joined by District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown, Inner Sunset Merchants Association member Angela Petit-Taylor and a group of other merchants, on this Merchants Walk as they connected with local merchants. Also present were Office of Small Business Director Regina Dick Endrizzi and Office of Economic and Workforce Development Director Joaquin Torres. Mayor Breed spoke about ways to strengthen our economy and better understand the power of “local”. Small businesses hire over 326,000 local residents and just a 1% increase in spending with local businesses will generate \$100 million to our local economy. Many thanks for the folks who hosted the Walk.

Mission Merchants Association Mixer



The mixer, hosted at the fabulous Amados entertainment venue on Valencia Street, was held to give MMA Members the opportunity to meet newly-elected District 8 Supervisor, Rafael Mandelman. Supervisor Mandelman gave a short speech and took the time to speak individually with attendees.

Amados has a bar and piano on the first floor and also space in the basement for live music. There were delicious hors d'oeuvres, a pianist tickling the ivories and a good crowd including Mission Merchants Association President Phil Lesser, board members Chris Collins, Jean Feilmoser, Roberto Hernandez, Tracey Sylvester and Debi Cohn, and Building Inspection Commission Commissioner Debra Walker.

Castro Merchants Mixer

This mixer was hosted by Botellón SF, the destination for socializing, drinking and sharing delicious food at Market and Sanchez Streets. Botellón SF captures the culture and spirit known as “El Botellón”— informal street gatherings for drinking and socializing, which launched throughout communities in Spain decades ago.

Castro Merchants President Daniel Bergerac, Executive Administrator Richard Magary and many Castro Merchants members were present, along with Keith Freedman of Host Well.

The finger food was delicious and I enjoyed chatting with many of the folks who attended.



POPS (People Of Parkside Sunset) Meeting



Taraval Police Station was the venue for what turned out to be an excellent meeting with a full room. There was a full agenda, yet President Albert Chow ensured the meeting finished on time. Items included a presentation by three candidates for supervisor for District 4, a discussion about mini grants and Movie Nights at McCoppin Park.

There are eight candidates in the running for D4 supervisor, and of the eight the three at the meeting were Lou Ann Basson, Arthur Tom and Tuan Nguyen. Questions raised of the candidates included topics such as SFMTA and housing density. I was quite impressed by the three of them, but particularly by Arthur Tom who was instrumental some time back in raising over \$1,000,000 for rejuvenating the Sunset Playground, and who has many years experience in real estate and currently is the business and tax auditor for the Treasurer's Office.

The mini grants that POPS are seeking are for the installation of a mural at Taraval and 27th Avenue.

MOVIE NIGHTS AT MCCOPPIN PARK

October 5 – "Hidden Seeker". NASA to inspire interest in science.

October 12 – "Star Wars". Storm Troopers, R2D2 unit.

October 19 – "Wonder Woman". Actress to entertain.

October 26 – "Coco". Face painters.

There will be free popcorn, food and photo booth.

San Francisco City Wide Cleanup "Love Our City"

Most every part of the city is in the process of beautifying their neighborhoods. For this event we gathered at Sergeant John Macaulay Park at Larkin and O'Farrell Streets. Mayor London Breed, District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim and DPW Director Mohammed Nuru energized the crowd, including representatives from DPW, SFFD and Recology and some 80 volunteers. They were then broken into teams and along with their equipment set off to sweep and clean our streets. The city has come under pressure to clean up with so many visitors and locals complaining about and avoiding many parts of our gem of a city which of course impacts our small businesses.



Clement St. Merchants Assoc. Autumn Moon Festival



This was the 2nd Annual Autumn Moon Festival, on Clement Street between 5th and 8th Avenues - a collaboration by Clement St. Merchants Association, Richmond District Neighborhood Center, Community Youth Center of San Francisco, the Office of Assembly-member Phil Ting, and the Office of Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer.

Autumn Moon Festival celebrations have been held throughout Asia for well over 1,000 years. This holiday is a time to reflect upon the bounty of the summer harvest, the fullness of the moon, and the myth of the immortal moon Goddess, Chang-O, who lives in the moon. The Moon Festival is often considered a "Chinese Thanksgiving" because of its celebration of gratitude and inclusion of abundant food - including the popular moon cake. This was a really fun, family-friendly event where attendees had a taste of the cultural diversity of the Richmond District.

I dropped in to visit Seedstore, owned by Cynthia Huie, President of Clement Street Merchants Association, and also stopped by Foggy Notion, owned by Alissa Anderson, their Vice President. Initially I made the mistake of heading to Alissa's previous store location on 6th Avenue and discovered she had moved! Walking back along Clement Street I came across her new, really bright and beautiful location. Congratulations Alissa!

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

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