

LEGISLATING FOR EQUAL ACCESS

THE SAN FRANCISCO PLACES FOR PEOPLE ORDINANCE

POSTER PREPARED BY: **Robbin Abad Oculillo**
Lead Policy Planner
robin.abad@sfgov.org

DESIGN SUPPORT BY: **Gary Chen**
Graphic Designer
gary.chen@sfgov.org

ADDITIONAL SITE ANALYSES BY: **Stella Kim**
Public Life Intern

San Francisco leads the nation with innovation in good civic governance. Pavement to Parks, initiated in 2009 as a joint program of the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, Municipal Transportation Agency, and Mayor's Office of Greening, has been touted internationally for its community-based approach to creating and testing publicly-accessible, neighborhood-serving open spaces.

In 2013, the San Francisco Mayor's Pedestrian Strategy recognized the importance of community-based public space projects as part of the toolkit for creating safe, walkable neighborhoods by including a goal to create twenty "parklets" and two "pedestrian plazas" per year.

Since the inauguration of Pavement to Parks, several other related projects such as "Living Innovation Zones" and the Market Street Prototyping Festival have emerged in San Francisco. These short-term projects may last from one week to two years, and are comprised of temporary or "reversible" installations and events that test community-generated concepts for public space. These and Pavement to Parks – together with other programs such as Sunday Streets, Play Streets, and Vision Zero "painted safety zones" – form a spectrum of innovative solutions for diversifying and optimizing the use of our streets to better serve the open-space and mobility needs of our citizens.

Though public demand for community-generated public open spaces continued to increase, the City's interagency review, permitting, technical, and financial assistance services remained based on older models for managing our public spaces and rights-of-way. The interagency and often cross-jurisdictional nature of projects poses procedural complexities that formed barriers to wide participation by community groups; while weak or inconsistent code bases limit the range of enforcement and quality-control responses available to City agencies.

The Places for People Ordinance is a comprehensive, interagency permitting framework that streamlines the community-based development of trial and demonstration projects and public activation events across San Francisco. The framework reflects national best practices, synthesizing the models of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, and other cities.

The placemaking/placekeeping movement is at a pivotal juncture – where grassroots activities have effectively registered with government institutions, resulting in more responsive planning strategies, marked policy shifts, and a reformation of modes of governance. The Places for People Ordinance – the first ever of its kind in the country – signals a new era for the practice of city-making, for both governments and citizens.



GOALS OF THE LEGISLATION



BEST PRACTICE PRECEDENT STUDIES



TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENT

