

Please Support the Places for People Legislation!

Amandeep Jawa <deep@deeptrouble.com>

Fri, Oct 21, 2016 at 3:53 PM To: London.Breed@sfgov.org, aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, David.Campos@sfgov.org, eric.mar@sfgov.org, jane.kim@sfgov.org,

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Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett PI San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

Since June of 2010, the parklet in front of our house at 937 Valencia has been the only parklet sponsored by a private resident, so far. As much as we have enjoyed this distinction, my wife & I would love to see other homeowners experience all the great community building our parklet has fostered. We believe the Places for People legislation will help make that a reality, and also will make our lives easier as well.

As it is, our parklet has been a huge success for us and for our neighborhood. Families stop by all the time, as do tourists and just people walking by. I can't tell you how many notes of thanks we have gotten, or how many people have stopped by to tell us how much our parklet has meant to them. Also, our parklet has become a destination for musicians busking, for theater troupes like Shakespeare in the Park, and various events like LitQuake. We've met so many neighbors and have seen so many people really connecting with the space. It has simply been great.

That all being said, dealing with the City to keep our parklet permitted has been confusing and expensive, & I hope that the new legislation will help. One problem is that the City requires insurance forms that are inappropriate for a resident. like myself, as the sponsor. My insurance company typically only gives these forms to businesses. Every year, I have to explain and struggle with DPW to get this straightened out. Additionally, it is unclear how much insurance I will need on the parklet: when I signed up I was told it was \$1,000,000 liability, but at some point DPW started telling me it was \$2,000,000, which is not what I agreed to at the outset. Fees and processes should be kept low or waived for entities and individuals making investing and maintaining public spaces in their neighborhoods. It's also important that the Planning Department is given a central role in developing and approving projects, since they have led the community engagement aspects of the program for the City since it started in 2009. All and all the permit renewal process needs to be streamlined and re-thought. I'm hopeful that this new legislation will tackle issues like these.

I really hope more neighborhoods and homeowners will be able to experience all the positives that come with creating public space in their neighborhoods, and with your support for this legislation, this will be possible!

Thanks Amandeep Jawa & Kimberly Conley **Owners**. Deepistan National Parklet www.deeplet.org

BUILD: PUBLIC

October 25, 2016

Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: Places for People Legislation

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of Build Public, a local nonprofit focused on innovating how we develop and maintain public open space in San Francisco, I am writing to express my support for the Places for People legislation to streamline and clarify the community-led placemaking process in San Francisco.

San Francisco has some amazing public open spaces that help define this City. However, as the population continues to grow, it is important that we keep pace by creating new public open spaces in underserved areas. Given the need for more housing, it is essential that we look for new ways to provide public places for recreation by converting underutilized spaces, particularly the public right-of-way, into safe and active places for people to gather and play.

Public space experimentation under Pavement to Parks has expanded due to large community demand for innovation and placemaking on our streets, but there's no clear permitting process or structure to address these temporary installations, leaving approval processes lengthy, confusing, and expensive.

Creating these entirely new types of open spaces is a challenging process, and requires an interactive and engaging process of experimentation and demonstration to gauge their viability within various neighborhoods throughout the City. The Places for People programs provide an excellent means of testing out these new types of open spaces. The importance of the temporary, tactical, and community-driven nature of the Places for People programs cannot be overstated when it comes to shifting how people think about the public realm.

Build Public supports the effort to simplify placemaking efforts in our City, while also increasing transparency, and encourages you to do the same by passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jared H. Press Interim Executive Director BUILD: PUBLIC Sup. London Breed Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102

/ October 24, 2016

Gehl Studio Inc. 1211 Folsom Street, 4th Floor San Francisco CA 94103 USA

gehlpeople.com mail-us@gehlpeople.com +1 (415) 636 9130 Dear Supervisor Breed:

San Francisco has become a model for cities across the U.S. considering how to create a public space network that is more responsive to its citizens, provides amenities for people of all backgrounds, and leverages private investment to improve the common good. Internationally, our city is recognized as a pioneer in "tactical urbanism", a set of tools that has unlocked the bottom-up potential of citizens and businesses to contribute to an improved public realm while innovating in ways that government can't do alone.

Our city is a global leader in civic innovation, and nowhere is this more visible than on our streets, where projects addressing the need for places for people and balanced mobility infrastructure have come through a partnership between citizens, businesses, elected leaders and city agencies.

The leadership and collaboration of agency staff and directors has been essential to this experimental phase. But the space to innovate has been hard-won: outdated codes, and indeed outdated conceptions of what public space is for, have meant that success was contingent on project-by-project coordination between agencies. Oftentimes public applicants have been casualties in an uncertain and opaque process. More concerning is that the level of investment required due to this uncertainty and inefficiency has meant that temporary public space improvements have been disproportionally sited in neighborhoods and streets where sponsors and capacity exist to support them. This has left many wondering if public space improvements are only for the well-off, and the troubling conflation of the arrival of public amenities and gentrification and displacement.

The proposed legislation addresses these issues by streamlining permitting, clarifying roles, reducing barriers to participation, and providing a mechanism for crucial operations and maintenance financing accessible to all of San Francisco. As someone who has been involved with this process since the introduction of Park(ing) Day, Parklets, Pavement-to-Parks Plazas and the Better Market Street plan, we can attest that this is a necessary evolution and more importantly, enshrines a key value for San Francisco's streets: that they are a place by, and for, our city's people.

Gehl Making Cities for People Gehl works to enhance livability with city governments, business improvement districts, and civic organizations of diverse cities: Denver, New York, Copenhagen, Lexington, Nashville, Boise, Seattle, Sydney, Melbourne, London and Stockholm to name just a few. In all cases, San Francisco is cited as a model for unlocking innovation. But the hard work of innovating in the public realm is not complete until we also provide a means to replicate our own success, and make those benefits available to all of our citizens.

The proposed Places for People legislation is a common sense step in the city's successful trajectory. It addresses vital issues of equity and access and streamlines the permitting process to lower the barrier for participation for everyone. It removes uncertainty for city agencies as well as the private sector that is investing in San Francisco's public realm. The time is right for this legislation, as both government and citizens have spent more than a decade investing in experiments—from the Market Street Prototyping Festival, Living Innovation Zones, Parklets, Pavement to Parks Plazas, and of course, Park(ing) Day. We urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt this legislation and take another important step in making the City of San Francisco an innovative and internationally recognized City for People.

Respectfully,



Blaine Merker Director, Gehl – San Francisco Partner and Co-Founder, Rebar Co-Founder, Park(ing) Day

John Bela Director, Gehl – San Francisco Partner and Co-Founder, Rebar Co-Founder, Park(ing) Day

cc: Supervisors Aaron Peskin, David Campos, Eric Mar, Jane Kim, John Avalos, Katy Tang, Malia Cohen, Mark Farrell, Norman Yee, Scott Wiener

Directors Mohammed Nuru, John Rahaim, Ed Reiskin

Sunny Angulo, Nickolas Pagoulatos, Andres Power, Andrea Bruss, Vallie Brown, Jeremy Pollack, Ashley Summers, Kanishka Karunaratne, Shiela Chung Hagen, Erica Maybaum, Barbara Lopez



October 21, 2016

Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of Gray Area Foundation to urge you to support the Places for People legislation to streamline and clarify the community-led placemaking process in San Francisco.

Gray Area, in partnership with Intersection for the Arts, developed the first Urban Prototyping Festival in 2012. This year Gray Area provided incubation to 10 prototypes from the 2015 Festival, to allow them to be installed for up to two years on Market Street, in conjunction with the 2016 Market Street Prototyping Festival.

Urban Prototyping is a fun and engaging way to involve the community in solving urban problems and designing their communities. Following the success of the first Urban Prototyping Festival in 2012, Urban Prototyping has become a global movement spreading over 3 continents and engaging thousands of people in participating in the planning and design of their city.

This year Gray Area partnered with Autodesk to provide 6 months of workshops, 1000 square feet of workspace at the Grand Theater, and a Tool Lab full of woodworking and metalworking tools for 10 design teams that were selected for incubation from the 2015 Market Street Prototyping Festival. We hosted monthly critiques and Meetups for the community, in which we brought in speakers with a range of expertise in creating public art. A tremendous amount of resources went into this program along with the promise of a more interactive, beautiful, and accessible Market Street. In the last month of the program, problems with permitting derailed the Incubation curriculum and forced many of the design teams to redesign or stop working. Ultimately, only 2 of the 10 teams were able to install semi-permanently as planned and an additional 3 were able to deploy their projects for the three day Festival only. This outcome was frustrating and deflating for the teams who worked so hard to create robust and safe long-term projects.

We are currently presented with an opportunity to learn from this experiment and create legislation to streamline the process. San Francisco initiated many of the US

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placemaking strategies, but the truth is, the current way of doing business has slowed progress down, and we've fallen behind. This legislation will lift the veil on a process that has been confusing, largely because it has never been defined and standardized, and create a simpler, less costly permit process to ensure that all communities have access to placemaking. Further, the process still maintains the same level of inter-departmental collaboration and oversight needed to ensure that all improvements are abiding by current laws.

As a policy leader, I hope you appreciate this commonsense policy to simplify and standardize placemaking efforts in our City, while also increasing transparency. I urge you to support this policy so that all San Franciscans have access to better public space to get to know their neighbors and build community.

Sincerely,

Josette Melchor Executive Director



Let's Keep San Francisco Beautiful

Darcy Brown <darcy@sfbeautiful.org>

Thu, Oct 20, 2016 at 11:45 AM To: London.Breed@sfgov.org, aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, David.Campos@sfgov.org, eric.mar@sfgov.org, jane.kim@sfgov.org, john.avalos@sfgov.org, Katy.Tang@sfgov.org, Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org, Norman.Yee@sfgov.org, scott.wiener@sfqov.org

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Dear Supervisors.

On behalf of San Francisco Beautiful, I am writing to urge you to support the Places for People legislation that will streamline and clarify the community-led placemaking process in San Francisco.

San Francisco Beautiful is a strong supporter of individual community members and organizations who take the creative initiative to improve their neighborhoods by adding a parklet or other placemaking project that improves the livability of their neighborhood. However, the process takes courage and perseverance because of the current permitting process which can be discouraging. We don't know how many projects that would have added to the unique civic beauty of San Francisco, were stalled or stopped due to the daunting process of securing permits.

The committed residents of San Francisco deserve the ability to contribute to the community by realizing their visions for public space in our city. But right now the system is simply too prohibitive for residents who don't have an understanding of the workings of our city government.

This legislation will lift the veil on a process that has been confusing, largely because it's never been defined and standardized, and create a simpler, less costly permit process to ensure that all communities have access to placemaking. Further, the process still maintains the same level of inter-departmental collaboration and oversight needed to ensure that all improvements are abiding by current laws.

Your support of this legislation is greatly appreciated by the members of San Francisco Beautiful and by the residents of every community in this city.

Very truly yours,

Darcy Brown Executive Director San Francisco Beautiful 100 Bush Street #1812 San Francisco, CA 94104

darcy@sfbeautiful.org

10/20/2016

Office: 415- 421-2608 Mobile: 415-307-7707



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition 1720 Market Street San Francisco CA 94102

T 415.431.BIKEF 415.431.2468

sfbike.org

October 14, 2016

Re: Places for People Program - SUPPORT

To Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and our 10,000-plus members, I'm writing in strong support of the legislation to establish the Places for People Program.

We were deeply involved and had strongly advocated for the establishment of the City's first parklet program, which ultimately became Pavement to Parks. We're proud of the progress that has been made thus far in pushing our city to rethink how public right-of-way can be used.

Our members have consistently prioritized car-free space through programming like Sunday Streets as a means to better biking in San Francisco. We know that creating more inclusive, people-friendly streets through programming lays the groundwork for everything from establishing community to advocating for more people-friendly streets through infrastructure and redesign. We also acknowledge that many of these major street redesigns necessitate a slow and thoughtful public planning process while our members continually push the City to deliver more and to do it faster.

As more streets are being redesigned, there is a need to balance the "mega projects" like Better Market Street with smaller projects to test, pilot and be flexible with how our streets are used and how space is allocated. Places for People would increase those opportunities while also streamlining the process so that the program is affordable and accessible to all. This program can only be successful if the ideas are truly community-generated and local residents are stewards to each of the projects from idea to implementation.

The current process is cumbersome and hard to navigate. We applaud the work of the Planning Department to simplify the process while increasing the interagency coordination, and thus we hope the Land Use and Transportation Committee will recommend this legislation for approval by the full Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Janice Li Advocacy Director San Francisco Bicycle Coalition



October 20, 2016

Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to encourage you to support the Places for People legislation. My support for this legislation stems from The Street Plans Collaborative's extensive research on best practices for public space stewardship around the country, as well as my own positive experiences with small-scale public spaces and community events in my own neighborhood of the Castro.

San Francisco is a leader in the development of unique public spaces. Since 2008, the City and its community partners have created numerous new public space programs to create plazas, parklets, and living innovation zones in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Initiated by neighborhood stakeholders, these public space projects support San Francisco's strong culture of grassroots civic engagement. Along with other programs such as Sunday Streets and Play Streets, these initiatives form a spectrum of innovative solutions for optimizing the use of our streets to improve safety and better serve the open-space and mobility needs of our citizens.

To date, these programs have allowed for experimentation in response to significant community demand for innovation and placemaking on our streets. But, there is no clear permitting process to address these temporary/trial installations. The approval processes is confusing and expensive. Places for People will finally address the need for a clear, standardized, and transparent process.

In passing the Places for People legislation, San Francisco would join other leading cities in the effort to re-think public space and event permit ordinances to make it easier for community partners to create projects that align with city goals around civic engagement, safety and public life:

- The City of Seattle, WA is engaging in a robust effort across departments to amend city codes to dramatically reduce permit fees and red tape for community partners initiating projects for public use and enjoyment.
- The City of Portland, OR is in the midst of a major overhaul of existing processes to permit events and innovative projects in the public right of way. The City's forthcoming Livable Streets Strategy will create a roadmap that encourages and supports placemaking and community uses in the public right-of-way.

In line with these efforts from other West Coast cities, the Places for People legislation will:

- Support San Francisco's progress towards policy goals, such as those outlined in the Mayor's Pedestrian Strategy and our city's Vision Zero initiative
- Benefit San Francisco's diverse communities by lowering process and financial barriers to public space programming that is frequent, diverse, and free to the public
- Facilitate greater equity of community public space projects in all neighborhoods, especially those that have fewer resources
- Define clear parameters for operations, permit terms, and enforcement



As a policy leader, I hope you appreciate this commonsense policy to simplify and standardize placemaking efforts in our City, while also increasing transparency. I urge you to support this policy so that all San Franciscans have access to better public space to get to know their fellow neighbors and build community.

Sincerely,

Julie Flynn

Project Director, The Street Plans Collaborative Resident – Castro District



October 20, 2016

Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of Walk San Francisco, I am writing to urge you to support the Places for People legislation to streamline and clarify the community-led placemaking process in San Francisco.

Walk San Francisco has been involved in advocating for public space projects for the past 18 years. We've collaborated with many different organizations and community groups, such as Yerba Buena Community Benefit District, Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association, Central City SRO Collaborative and more, to develop innovative projects that reimagine our streets as shared public space.

We've heard—and experienced—the community building that happens in these spaces. Impromptu, spontaneous moments in parklets or at Sunday Streets foster connections that bring our communities together.

We've also heard from our community partners, however, that they wish processes were simpler and clearer. Some of our partners had to speak with three different city agencies and file multiple permits to install their project, while others went through the lengthy processes and ultimately weren't able to install the project they hoped to build. This process will introduce a simple pre-application process so community members know whether their project will work early on in the process.

More communities ought to be able to imagine – AND BUILD – their visions for public space in San Francisco. But right now the system is simply too prohibitive for people who don't have a lot of time and money on their hands. San Francisco was a leader in placemaking across the U.S., but the truth is, the current way of doing business has slowed progress down, and we've fallen behind.

This legislation will lift the veil on a process that has been confusing, largely because it's never been defined and standardized, and create a simpler, less costly permit process to ensure that all communities have access to placemaking. Further, the process still maintains the same level of inter-departmental collaboration and oversight needed to ensure that all improvements are abiding by current laws.

As a policy leader, I hope you appreciate this commonsense policy to simplify and standardize placemaking efforts in our City, while also increasing transparency. I urge you to support this policy so that all San Franciscans have access to better public space to get to know their fellow neighbors and build community.

Sincerely,

Juoh Genara

Nicole Ferrara Executive Director

333 Hayes Street, Suite 202 | San Francisco, CA 94102 415.431.WALK | walksf.org October 21, 2016

Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102 YERBA BUENA COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISTRICT

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (YBCBD) to urge you to support the Places for People legislation to streamline and clarify the community-led place-making process in San Francisco.

Since 2011, the YBCBD has partnered with the Department of City Planning and the Pavement to Parks program on a wide range of public space improvements in the Yerba Buena district including:

- Parkmobiles: Yerba Buena Parkmobiles are mobile, high-quality, robust containers that hold lush gardens and can be towed and installed in parking spaces to create temporary gardens. The YBCBD installed 6 Parkmobiles throughout the neighborhood.
- Portable Bike Corral: The YBCBD held a student design competition, co-sponsored by Pavement to Parks, to design a temporary unit that allows cyclists a secure place to lock their bikes and that can be moved by 1-2 people, easily compressed, easy to use, and is visually engaging.
- Annie Street Plaza: A temporary two-year pilot project of the Pavements to Park program that turned an underutilized alley into public open space.
- Living Innovation Zone "Pause" on Market Street at Yerba Buena Lane: A three-year installation and partnership between City Planning and the Exploratorium to create an interactive and creative way for people to explore public open space.

Without the coordination and support from various City departments, these distinct, interesting and attractive projects would have never been realized. They give people a reason to engage and interact with the public realm and create vibrancy in unexpected places.

The YBCBD has worked closely with staff from City Planning and other City agencies to ensure that all streetscape projects meet the complicated and often challenging permitting requirements. The Pavements to Parks program has been essential to the implementation and realization of many of the YBCBD's streetscape projects. A more streamlined approach as outlined in the Places for People Legislative Package would allow organizations like ours to continue our efforts to improve the quality of life in our districts and make our public spaces more enjoyable and accessible to all users.

The YBCBD urges you to support the Places for People Legislative Package to make it easier to navigate the complex and lengthy permitting process and ensure that our neighborhoods continue to be vibrant spaces for us all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Lance Burwell, St. Regis Residences YBCBD Board Chair

Cathy Maupin

YBCBD Executive Director

Cc: Director, Public Works; Director, SFMTA; Director, City Planning



Board of Supervisors San Francisco City Hall 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl San Francisco, CA 94102

CC: Directors of Public Works, SFMTA and SF Planning, and Supervisors' Aides

October 18, 2016

Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of Youth Art Exchange (YAX), I am writing to urge you to support the Places for People legislation to streamline and clarify the community-led placemaking process in San Francisco. YAX *sparks a shared creative practice between professional artists and public high school students, furthering youth as leaders, thinkers, and artists in San Francisco.*

Over the last 5 years, Youth Art Exchange, formerly Out of Site Youth Arts Center, has worked closely with City of San Francisco departments to design, build, and install 2 parklets, create several public installations, develop semipermanent street furniture, participate as a youth partner in the Market Street Prototyping Festival, and is currently partnering with the Asian Art Museum, SF Planning Department, and the SF Public Library to install a Living Innovation Zone in Civic Center. We have worked diligently to bring our youth, all San Francisco Public High School students, to contribute to the built environment of the city that they see around them.

We foster the exploration of fields like architecture and other arts by youth that may not generally have access to them. These programs are also relevant to students' lives by making a real impact in their communities, cultivating them as young leaders who design the city that they see around them. Through our projects, our youth engage with communities that are grappling with the meaning of public space and issues of equity and rapid change that are reflective of the city as a whole. This is a clear way for young people in San Francisco to matter.

Since we have been involved in many different placemaking projects of various scales, we've had to navigate seemingly countless city agencies to move projects forward. I wish the process were simpler and clearer. We have even opted out of doing some incredible short term installations and community building activities as a result. This process will introduce a simple pre-application process so community members know whether their project will work early on in the process.

More communities ought to be able to imagine – AND BUILD – their visions for public space in San Francisco. This legislation will lift the veil on a process that has been confusing, largely because it's never been defined and standardized, and create a simpler, less costly permit process to ensure that all communities have access to placemaking. Further, the process still maintains the same level of inter-departmental collaboration and oversight needed to ensure that all improvements are abiding by current laws.

As a policy leader, I hope you appreciate this commonsense policy to simplify and standardize placemaking efforts in our City, while also increasing transparency. I urge you to support this policy so that all San Franciscans have access to better public space to get to know their fellow neighbors and build community. YAX looks forward to better engaging youth in placemaking where they live.

Sincerely,

Reed Davaz McGowan, Executive Director Youth Art Exchange

Youth Art Exchange | 755 Ocean Avenue | San Francisco, CA 94112 | youthartexchange.org | (415) 574-8137