

Draft Tenderloin Community Priorities Tenderloin Investment Blueprint

November 2024

The *Tenderloin Investment Blueprint* is designed to uplift neighborhood priorities for investment and policy shifts in the Tenderloin for the next 2-5 years. It will serve as a neighborhood advocacy platform to leverage local, state, and philanthropic investments.

This document includes a compilation of community priorities gathered as part of TCAP's outreach and engagement in the past two years. Outreach and engagement included TCAP's participation in 17 ongoing community-led meetings, collaboration with over 17 partner CBOs, participatory budgeting process, community-driven surveys, amongst others.

Outreach and engagement for this plan is designed in collaboration with TCAP Outreach Partners. Led by Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Center in partnership with Saint Anthony's Foundation, Chinatown Community Development Center, Glide, and Tenderloin Community Benefits District, TCAP outreach partners leverage their existing strong organizing and advocacy resources to elevate the needs of a wide range of community groups and stakeholders. Together, they conducted a comprehensive field scan of organized groups within the Tenderloin to direct outreach and inform the blueprint's key priorities.

As part of the engagement process, TCAP Partners are actively accessing these priorities, which will then be vetted by the Tenderloin community in the next four months to ensure they reflect the needs of the neighborhood accurately.

The following includes eight themes each including community priorities compiled to date. The upcoming public vetting process will further refine, focus, or expand these priorities to deliver a collective advocacy platform for the Tenderloin Community.

1. Street Stewardship and Cleanliness

1.1) 24/7 Stewardship on safe routes

Create safe routes for north-south and east-west paths for families, children, and neighborhood residents and workers to and from BART stations on north-south and east-west streets such as Leavenworth and Eddy Streets. Increase coordination amongst the existing stewardship providers in the neighborhood to accommodate these safe/routes 24/7.

1.2) Retain and increase coordinated street response and ambassadors

Retain the resources that provide stewardship as street ambassadors, cleaning, and joint field operations to address tents and encampments and enhance their coordination.

1.3) Community transparency

Provide frequently updated tools to share cleaning, ambassador, and street response resources and schedule within the Tenderloin with the community to improve transparency and empower the community with the knowledge of available resources, gaps, and outcomes.

2. Eliminating Open-Air Drug Trade and Open Air Drug use

2.1) Addressing Drug Trade Issues

Work towards reducing the density and visibility of the open-air drug trade, especially in areas near residential housing, schools and parks. Explore community agreements to minimize harm and improve the quality of life for residents.

2.2) Strengthening Enforcement and Advocacy

Identify enforcement strategies and advocate for City resources to resolve the most critical issues including increased police presence, and Federal resources for investigation.

2.3) Enhancing Coordination Among City Resources for Street Outreach and Stewardship

Improved coordination amongst City resources and street ambassador providers to increase the efficiency of street outreach, stewardship, and ambassadors.

2.4) Kid's Safe Zone

Establish a Children's Safe Zone with increased safety measurements and standards for children and families within the TL, with where there's a higher concentration of families and children and youth services.

3. Public Space Improvements and Activation

3.1) Art and Cultural Programming

Secure necessary resources and build capacity to support weekly public space activations and events through distribution of mini-grants, the allocation of staffing in City agencies and in the community, and improved and coordinated neighborhood promotion to uplift both Tenderloin quality of life for its residents and the neighborhood image for its visitors.

3.2) Placemaking on Streets, Alleys, and Underutilized Sites for Recreation

Increase funding for community-based projects that transform underutilized sites such as parking lots and plazas into mini-parks, school streets, and event spaces that serve the neighborhood's high density of youth, seniors, and families and provide amenities fostering social interaction.

3.3) Neighborhood Gateways and Commercial Corridors

Strengthen the identity of the neighborhood at key gateways and along commercial corridors by allocating resources for tactical placemaking installations such as local art and signage, landscaping, ground murals, and interactive pop-up events.

3.4) Neighborhood Greening

Support and streamline prioritization by City agencies of greening in the Tenderloin, by leveraging both federal and local grants, to reduce heat island effects and create lush open spaces. As one of the most disadvantaged neighborhoods in San Francisco, the Tenderloin has high heat vulnerability and one of the lowest rates of tree canopy per resident.

4. Youth Investments

4.1) Increase low-barrier and low-structure programming for teens

Support funding for accessible, unstructured, and age-appropriate programming, such as a drop-in center tailored for teens and Transitional Aged Youth. In light of community concerns regarding the increase in disconnected youth, the purpose is to provide a welcoming social space, offering a safe environment for young people to connect, build community, and engage in enriching activities like sports tournaments, cultural events, and creative workshops.

4.2) Enhance workforce development and career exposure for disconnected teens and TAY.

Strengthen workforce development initiatives in the Tenderloin to engage disconnected teens and TAY, providing exposure to diverse career options and equipping them with skills aligned with their interests and potential career paths, ensuring they have opportunities to break cycles of poverty and build a brighter future.

4.3) Additional staff support for safe navigation of children to after-school programs.

Additional staff support is essential to ensure children and families can safely navigate the neighborhood. This includes safe passage to community events, afterschool programs, and schools, bridging the gap until substantial street improvements are achieved.

4.4) Culturally Responsive Programs for Immigrant Youth

Provide tailored culturally responsive services for immigrant youth and families in the Tenderloin. Programs should aim to address the unique needs of the community and promote a more inclusive and supportive environment, which could lead to increased access to resources, effective educational support, empowerment, and self-efficacy, increased mental health and well-being, and trust and positive relationships with the community.

4.5) More outreach and programming targeted towards Tenderloin youth involved in the justice system

Create programs for justice-involved Tenderloin youth, focusing on violence prevention, addiction recovery, and opportunities for success. These initiatives should include diverse offerings such as academic support, arts and recreation, leadership training, mental health counseling, substance abuse prevention, gang intervention, and case management for TAY and diversion youth.

4.6) Dedicated Staffing and Resources for a Youth Services Collaboration and Coordination Program Focusing on the Tenderloin:

Support dedicated staffing and resources to support collaboration amongst youth service providers will help build meaningful partnerships with nonprofit organizations, schools, and other stakeholders involved in serving children, youth and their families in the Tenderloin. These partnerships will equip Tenderloin youth service providers to address the unique needs of local youth more effectively through increased knowledge sharing, collaboration, and comprehensive support with service providers and the City.

5. Strengthening Services for Community Wellness

5.1) Targeted and Coordinated Support for Vulnerable Populations

Strengthen coordinated and culturally competent services for vulnerable communities, such as

immigrant communities or transgender communities, to improve access to housing, mental health support, immigration services, amongst other critical services.

5.2) Support the well-being of Tenderloin residents through enforcement against open-air drug use in addition to prevention, treatment, and harm reduction

Enhance enforcement for immediate relocation to available services to prevent open air drug use, encampment, and negative social behavior coordinating response teams, ambassador programs, and law enforcement.

5.3) Enhance Low-barrier access to treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

Expand successful models that offer a low-barrier access to treatment, such as the night navigator model with telehealth.

5.4) Collaboration and colocation: Conduct asset mapping to identify service gaps and opportunities for service changes and enhance services at existing locations by:

- Collocating additional services to address gaps and integrate SUD treatment with general mental health care
- Removing services that no longer is successful or address the needs

6. Small Business Support

6.1) Stabilizing Existing Businesses

Provide tailored, in-language training resources and support in developing business plans to help existing businesses stabilize and adapt to challenges. Additionally, provide comprehensive assistance with city grant applications and guidance on becoming certified city vendors, ensuring businesses have access to valuable resources and opportunities.

6.2) Improve Storefront Condition

Provide funding, technical assistance, and project management support to help businesses undertake essential façade enhancements and physical upgrades. Improve the built environment and street conditions to attract customers and boost business activities.

6.3) Support Entrepreneurs in Filling Vacancies

Decrease vacancy rates by attracting entrepreneurs and offering comprehensive services, including real estate brokerage support, leasing assistance, and tailored small business development resources.

6.4) Enhance Neighborhood Commercial and Cultural Corridor

Support community and cultural organizations in revitalizing neighborhood commercial corridors, such as the Little Saigon corridor. Promote public space enhancements and cultural activations that celebrate the Tenderloins rich multicultural and immigrant heritage.

7. Housing

7.1) Improve and Maintain Conditions of Existing Deeply Affordable Housing

Address varying degrees of quality in the existing stock of deeply affordable units, particularly Single Room Occupancy buildings, through policy shifts, removing regulatory barriers to cost-effective rehabilitation, and advocacy for dedicated state funding for rehabilitation.

7.2) Protect Vulnerable Residents at Most Risk of Homelessness

Provide additional protections and subsidies to stabilize vulnerable populations, including seniors, youth, individuals with disabilities, and families with children.

7.3) Expand On-Site Case Management Services

Enhance behavioral health and substance use support for PSH and SRO residents, addressing low service provider ratios and high incident rates.

7.4) Improve Access to Affordable Housing for Families and Transitional Aged Youth

Support development of 100% affordable housing for diverse populations, including families with children and Transitional Aged Youth.