

TENDERLOIN

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



Tenderloin Newsletter

March 2024



Dear Tenderloin residents and communities,

Thank you for tuning in to the Tenderloin Community Action Plan (TCAP), a neighborhood-driven collaboration between residents, community organizations, businesses, non-profit partners, led by San Francisco Planning in close coordination with many other City agencies. We are thrilled to share our most recent progress in our beloved Tenderloin. Our first newsletter of 2024 includes many highlights including some major milestones:

- Release of Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis
- Application for the Public Space Working Group
- Launch of the first of three TCAP Small Business Grants

We started the new year with Mayor London N. Breed's Press Release on the City's progress with the TCAP, highlighting critical services being delivered through TCAP funded community action projects. Watch the media coverage here.



Highlights of Community Action Projects

TCAP continues to support delivering **21 Community Action Projects!** In December 2023, with the support of United Way Bay Area, the Community Action Projects cohort gathered for the second time to identify the collective impacts of their projects: neighborhood outcomes that support the community in stronger ways than the sum of each project's individual outcome.

Here are some exciting updates of the TCAP projects:



Community Celebrations and Park Activities

The cohort identified the collective impacts as:

- **create a new positive narrative about the Tenderloin**
 - **increase community connections**
 - **increase celebrations of Tenderloin creative and businesses.**
- The **6th Tenderloin People's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony**, organized by the Tenderloin People's Congress, drew the participation of elected officials and a lively crowd of 300 to Boeddeker Park on December 15, 2023. Attendees were treated to 10 performances filled with holiday spirit and joy.
 - The **Tenderloin Sinulog Festival** on January 21, 2024, hosted by the Filipino Community Development Center at Saint Boniface Catholic Church, welcomed approximately 200 enthusiastic participants. The event showcased captivating performances alongside a spirited balut eating contest.
 - The Southeast Asian Community Center orchestrated the **Tenderloin Tet Festival** on February 3, 2024, drawing elected officials and an impressive crowd of 500 to commemorate the Vietnamese New Year on Larkin Street.

These diverse events not only celebrated multi-cultures of the neighborhood but also fostered stronger community bonds, uniting residents in a shared celebration of their heritage and identity. Moreover, the increased foot traffic generated by these gatherings provided a welcome boost to local businesses.

Upcoming community celebrations include **Tenderloin Eid Festival** (Apr 20, 2024) at 500 block Ellis St, **Tenderloin Blackness** opening event (May 2, 2024) at the Tenderloin Museum, and **Flores De Mayo Festival** (May 5, 2024) at Boeddeker Park.





Public Space Activations

The cohort identified the collective impacts as:

- **more green space/public space available**
- **increased community coordination**
- **new capacity for ownership and maintenance**
- **increased street activation**
- **improved neighborhood health and safety**

- The **Golden Gate Greenway** project is in the process of installing the first parklet in front of 826 Valencia, increasing green space along the 100 block of Golden Gate Avenue. New green barricades have replaced the old SFMTA plastic barriers and new trees have been planted in new metal planters. The second parklet at 111 Jones will be installed at the end of March 2024 and the third parklet at Saint Boniface Church will be forthcoming in late spring/early summer 2024. Finally, a new garden sponsored by Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS) was completed in February. The garden will be maintained by LSYS and will be watered by community members including biweekly by Wu Yee's children. New, exciting programs will be coming to the Greenway including a week-long series of activities (April 9-12) sponsored by Boys and Girls Club serving neighborhood children during Spring Break Week.
- **Elm Alley School Street** project received SFMTA approval for street closure during school hours (8 am- 4 pm). New furniture and play infrastructure have been added to the street for school children and other after school programs to use. The project vision is to create a safe, clean and active street for children of the Tenderloin Community Elementary School to play and exercise and for their families and the school community to gather. Elm Alley can also serve other after-school programs in the neighborhood, providing open space where there is a significant lack. Exercise, play and art will help improve the safety of this part of the neighborhood.

Three more public space projects are in design and scoping phase including: **Tenderloin Dog Park** on Myrtle alley will be hosting monthly events where dogs and their owners will be able to enjoy increased open air space and social activities; **Larkin Street Green Canopy** project is bringing planters, lanterns, and improved lighting to the Little Saigon section of Larkin Street, including the two intersecting alleys Olive and Willow; and **Tenderloin National Forest** which will bring more maintenance to make this rare space available to the neighborhood.

Youth/Family Support

The cohort identified the collective impacts as:

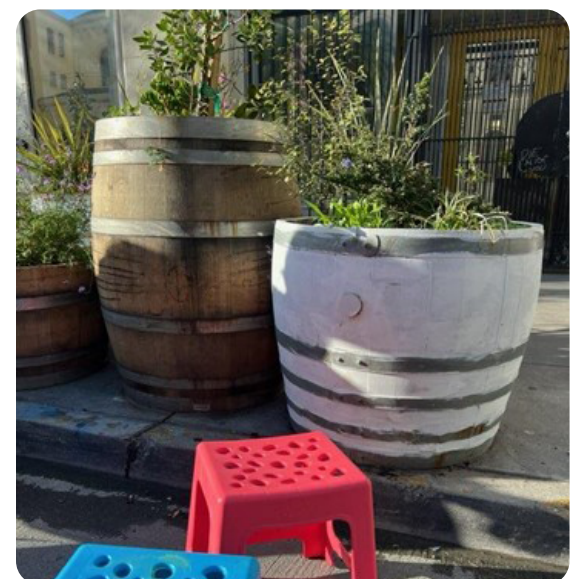
- **improved education and career outcomes**
 - **increase in positive activities and decrease in crime and drug uses**
 - **improved mental health**
 - **community leadership development**
- **Arab Youth and Mental Health Center** opened on 49 Grove Street in November 2023 and has provided one-on-one sessions to more than 30 Arab youth and served over 100 additional family members to improve their mental health. The center will continue to provide essential services and close the gaps in serving Arab youth and their families.
 - The **Teen Drop-In Center**, led by the Salvation Army KROC Center, is also expected to soft launch near the end of April, and will provide low barrier access to facilities such as a fitness gym, basketball gym, game room, and more.
 - The **Tenderloin Housing Tutoring program** is also in progress! The Program offers students a free bilingual tutoring program during both the school year and summer break.

Community Wellness

The cohort identified the collective impacts as:

- **improved and dignified standards of living**
- **increased access to housing service and economic mobility for immigrant households**
- **and increased connection to mental healthcare.**

- **Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH) Food Program**, which completed its service in December 2023, delivered 23,000 meals prepared by La Cocina entrepreneurs to supportive-housing residents recovering from long-term homelessness to improve their access to quality and healthy food, and quality of life. Over 80 percent of residents indicated that they feel a sense of dignity and respect receiving La Cocina meals.
- **BiSHOP** has hosted two housing education workshops in Arabic serving 32 community members to increased access to housing service and economic mobility for immigrant households.
- The **Night Navigator Program** run by Code Tenderloin in collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, is the newest addition to the street teams addressing a long-needed gap of providing services and care during the night. Since November 2023 thru end of January 2024, the program had over 3,600 street engagements, with over 1,200 full intake resulting in over 75 Substance use treatment connections and over 260 for other social services such as shelter.
- TLCBD continues to make the streets cleaner and safer. 29 stewards as part of the **Park Stewardship Program** have supported the upkeep of three parks and 227 community events. 17 **Safe Passage Ambassadors** have escorted children, seniors, and people with disabilities at nine intersections to and from school and 43 special community events. 16 **Clean Team** members responded to over 13,000 311 calls for service to remove human and animal waste from streets and sidewalks, as well as graffiti removal.



Updates of Strategic Priorities

1

Youth Investments

Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis is Released!

Read the report [here!](#)

We are excited to share the completion and release of the **Tenderloin Youth Services Gap Analysis**. This report is a collaboration between TCAP and the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (DCYF), to help shape the DCYF's funding decisions for youth programs in the Tenderloin for the next five years.

TCAP conducted an in-depth analysis of the unique needs of youth in the Tenderloin, in response to concerns from parents and youth service providers over the unique needs of Tenderloin youth. Tenderloin has the highest concentration of children and youth in the city who are exposed to an open air drug market on a daily basis. TCAP heard many concerns about Tenderloin youth being absorbed into the open air drug trade. TCAP conducted focus groups and interviews with connected and disconnected youth, those who are most vulnerable without connection to any services. This in-depth analysis found the following key challenges for Tenderloin youth:

1. Lack of safe navigation for children and youth in the neighborhood.
2. Lack of age-appropriate and unstructured low-barrier programming for disconnected teens and Transition-Age Youth (TAY).
3. Insufficient support to navigate job readiness and career exploration.
4. Need for enhanced culturally competent services that are tailored to the unique needs of immigrant youth and families.
5. Lack of outreach and programming for youth involved in the justice system.
6. Need for cross-organizational collaborative efforts that tailor to the unique needs of Tenderloin youth.

Each of these challenges informed a recommendation for DCYF:

1. Additional staff support for safe navigation of children to after-school programs.
2. Low-barrier and low-structure programming for teens.
3. Enhance workforce development and career exposure for disconnected teens and TAY.
4. Culturally Responsive Programs for Immigrant Youth.
5. More outreach and programming targeted towards Tenderloin youth involved in the justice system.
6. Dedicated Staffing and Resources for a Youth Services Collaboration and Coordination Program Focusing on the Tenderloin.



The report has been submitted to DCYF for the department to consider our findings in its decision-making process. The announcement of awardees is expected early March. We are confident this collaboration ensures that DCYF's investments can adequately address the unique challenges faced by youth in the Tenderloin, close the gaps in existing youth services, and positively impact the lives of children, youth, and their families.

2

Public Space Activations

Apply to be on the Public Space Initiative Working Group!

TCAP is announcing an application process to form a **Public Space Initiative Working Group**. The purpose of this working group is to support TCAP in collaboration with City agencies to draft priorities for public space improvements and activation, design pilot projects, and advocate for their funding and implementation in the neighborhood.

If you are interested, please [apply here](#). Application is open from March 4 to March 31, 2024.

This initiative is seeking to form a Community Working Group of up to 15 participants to advance the following strategies:

- A revitalization of the neighborhood alleys: Transform alleys into open space and recreational opportunities.
- The design of neighborhood gateways: Mark and celebrate the identity and strengths of the Tenderloin.
- Placemaking on commercial corridors and public safety hot spots- to support Tenderloin residents and local businesses.
- Activation of underutilized lots for recreation- to increase open space and recreational access

We encourage interested community members and/or representatives to apply. We are looking for public space users, advocates, experts or enthusiasts to form a dynamic and knowledgeable team. Stipends are available for Tenderloin residents and optional for those working in the Tenderloin.

3

Small Business Support

Sign up for Business Training Grant Info Session Webinar (March 27th, 3-4pm)

The Planning Department and the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) are gearing up to launch three new funding programs in the coming months to support small businesses in the Tenderloin, focusing primarily on revitalizing Little Saigon on Larkin Street.

This will complement the street activations planned along Larkin Street. These include the TCAP funded monthly activations at Myrtle Alley and Larkin Street Green Canopy project, as well as the engaging Compton's Cafeteria Riot Play and Dodge Alley socials, made possible through Tenderloin Community Benefit District's (TLCBD) mini grants funded by OEWD. Given the public safety challenges and violence on the 100 block of Hyde in the past few months, TCAP is also adding a special focus to support existing businesses on that block to align with other agencies' effort to improve public safety.

First of TCAP's three grants is available now for Business Training! Limited funding is available to support immigrant-owned businesses with limited English proficiency with existing storefronts on Larkin St between Golden Gate and Geary and Hyde St between Golden Gate and Turk. Eligible applicants will receive \$15,000 after completing 12-hour business training and developing a business plan supported by the New Community Leadership Foundation.

Another two grant opportunities will also be released in the next two months to enhance existing storefronts and address filling vacant storefronts along Larkin Street. Stay tuned for more details on these programs!

[Click to sign up for the Business Training Grant info session on March 27th, 3-4pm to learn more!](#)

OEWD is offering one final round of Storefront Opportunity Grant. Applicants must attend one (1) FINAL Commercial Lease Negotiation webinar for their current program on Thursday, March 7th from 1PM – 3PM before applying.

Sign up for the webinar [here](#). The last day to apply for the grant will be Monday, April 8th by 5PM. Apply [here](#)!

4

Activating Housing Priorities

The Tenderloin team identified community housing priorities from past outreach events, the Tenderloin Community Survey, and through conversations with community organizations and housing providers. TCAP is currently exploring opportunities with community partners to advance policies and

analysis for improving SRO rehab and funding advocacy.

In addition, TCAP has participated in several community conversations with regards to with the housing needs of the Arab community. Based on these conversations, we are examining their housing needs and how we can better serve them.

Street Conditions Progress

The City provides various street outreach and response efforts throughout the City, with some efforts specific to the Tenderloin.

The Joint Field Operations (JFO), a multidepartment effort led by the Department of Emergency Management to improve street conditions in the Tenderloin continues to operate seven days per week from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The schedule for March 2024 can be found [here](#). The work of JFO is dependent upon commitments from several city agencies. On a daily basis, staff from SFFD, HSH, MTA, DPW, SFPD, and DEM all work collaboratively. Additionally, several Community Benefits District staff (including TLCBD Clean Team) contribute to the effort as needed.

HSOC teams and the JFO also work very closely with the BEST (Bridge and Engagement Services Team) Neighborhoods from DPH Office of Coordinated Care. Launched in March 2023, BEST Neighborhoods is a neighborhood-based, multi-disciplinary, behavioral health team with peer counselors, clinicians, nurses, and psychiatric practitioners serving the Tenderloin and SoMa 5-days a week. The BEST Neighborhoods team provides behavioral health assessment, engagement, and community-based therapeutic interventions

with the goal of transitioning people off the streets and into to long-term care and supports. **From October to December 2023, BEST Neighborhoods had 1202 engagements with people in the Tenderloin and SoMa neighborhoods, connecting 119 people to medical care, 61 people to behavioral health care, plus many more to shelter and other ongoing supports.**

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing have also launched four dedicated staff from Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) focused on Polk Street alleys and the Tenderloin Police District as part of a State grant addressing entrenched unhoused in the Tenderloin footprint. The team offers a variety of placement options for immediate respite from the streets as well as housing assessments to determine long-term planning for permanent housing options.

The Night Navigator Program run by Code Tenderloin, funded by TCAP as a Community Action Project and in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, also continues to support the City's interagency efforts to address the night open air drug ecosystem, addressing a long-needed gap of providing services and care during the night. The team operates 4-days a week from 7am – 3am and provides street level engagement and referrals and connections to resources. **Since November 2023 through the end of**

January 2024, the program had over 3,600 street engagements, with over 1,200 full intake resulting in over 75 Substance use treatment connections and over 260 for other social services such as shelter.

For more information on San Francisco's array of street response efforts and what to do when you observe someone in distress on the street, please go to the city's OkaytoCall/SF Coordinated Street Response Program website.

TCAP also supported SF Planning's legislative team in the review and analysis of **legislation** introduced by Supervisor Preston to limit concentration of Tobacco Paraphernalia Establishments in the Tenderloin. Community members identified these businesses in the neighborhood as another magnet for the open air drug scene in the neighborhood. The Planning Commission heard this legislation on Feb 8, 2024 and **recommended modifications** to further prohibit this type of use. The Commission **found** that the proliferation of variety stores selling drug or tobacco paraphernalia is a land use exacerbating illicit drug use in the neighborhood and the overconcentration of these types of stores also prevents neighborhood-serving uses from locating in the district. This Ordinance will be heard at the Board of Supervisors in March.

What you should look forward to...

Some TCAP highlights in the next few months:

- Public Space Initiative Working Group Discussions
- Small Business outreach and programs roll-out
- Community Celebrations include: Tenderloin Eid Event (4/20), Tenderloin Blackness event (5/2), and Flores de Mayo Festival (5/5).

Looking forward to continuing advancing community-driven projects and priorities with you all !

~ SF Planning's Tenderloin Team

 **For more info:**

<https://sfplanning.org/project/tenderloin-community-action-plan>



San Francisco Planning