

Public Space Working Group:

# Meeting 1 Notes

Thursday, May 30, 2024

5:00pm-6:30pm

**Location:** 222 Taylor Community Room (hybrid)

**Presentation Slides:**

## Meeting Objectives:

- Introduce members of the group and share memories and experiences related to TL's public spaces to build a sense of community and shared purpose.
- Provide a clear overview of the TCAP, emphasizing the strategic priority of public space activation, and collectively define the purpose of the working group.
- Facilitate group reflections on public space opportunities, existing initiatives, and barriers.
- Define roles and responsibilities within the working group, set a regular meeting schedule, and outline the next steps.

## 1. Introductions

## 2. TCAP Overview

The meeting commenced with an overview of the **Tenderloin Community Action Plan**, a neighborhood-driven collaboration designed to address the current needs of the Tenderloin area and develop a collective vision for its future. Key points discussed included:

- **Funding and Projects:**
  - The plan encompasses 21 community projects funded by Mayor Breed's \$4 million grant dedicated to the Tenderloin.
- **Strategic Priorities:**
  - The plan focuses on four main strategic priorities:
    - Small Business Support
    - Youth Services
    - Public Space and Activation
    - Housing
- **Investment Blueprint:**

- The plan outlines an investment blueprint that emphasizes community leadership and involvement to guide the allocation of resources and project implementations.

The presentation included an overview of **Open Space Planning & Activation as a part of TCAP**, where the importance of public space was highlighted. Key points included:

- **Defining Public Space:**
  - Public space is defined as open areas accessible to the general public, including roads, pavements, plazas, public squares, parks, and beaches.
- **Why it is a Strategic Priority of TCAP:**
  - The Tenderloin has the lowest ratio of open space per resident in San Francisco, underscoring the need for more public areas for children, seniors, and families.
  - The community has expressed a significant need for increased public space.
- **Benefits of Public Space Improvements:**
  - Enhancements and activation of public spaces, through placemaking, create positive experiences for residents, increase safety, and deter drug dealing and usage on sidewalks.
  - This strategy is seen as complementary to enforcement and health services interventions.
- **Potential Areas Identified for Activation:**
  - Potential areas for public space improvements and activation include alleys, commercial corridors, neighborhood entrances, and underutilized lots.

### 3. Purpose of Working Group

The Tenderloin Community Action Plan's Outreach and Engagement network includes a Community Stakeholder Group, various working groups, and city agencies. Working groups were intended to focus on developing community-based solutions to local issue areas. As the first of many, the Public Space Working Group was designed to support TCAP and the City, at large, to outline key priorities for enhancing and utilizing public spaces in the TL. The group will be responsible for designing small-scale pilot projects that serve as test cases for larger initiatives and advocate for the necessary funding and resources to bring these projects to life.

## 4. Roundtable Discussion

### 1. What challenges or barriers currently exist in utilizing or improving public spaces in the Tenderloin:

#### a. Investment:

- i. The neighborhood requires more investment; the current allocation of \$4 million is only a small fraction of the city's budget.
- ii. There is a need for sustained investment to maintain programming.
- iii. The TL is underserved and underfunded.

#### b. City Infrastructure:

- i. The city lacks the necessary infrastructure to open up public spaces effectively.
- ii. Physical improvements are hindered by city regulations such as zoning requirements and permits.
- iii. Advocacy is needed to push the city to collaborate with the community.
- iv. Slow Streets do not apply to the Tenderloin, resulting in no Slow Streets or ground murals.

#### c. Density

#### d. Public Safety

#### e. Cultural Responsibility

#### f. Stewardship:

- i. The need for investment in stewardship and stewardship training.

#### g. Collaboration:

- i. Community-based organizations (CBOs) need to work together rather than compete for resources.
- ii. Improved communication with residents is essential.
- iii. More cross-collaboration for events and activations is needed.
- iv. Public spaces can be used to connect and elevate social / essential services.
- v. Projects should support the relocation and assistance of homeless individuals to ensure sustained improvements.

### 2. Which of the 4 public space opportunity areas resonate most with you? Are there specific areas of types of public spaces that you would add?

- a. Group resonated with alleyways and commercial corridors most.
- b. Additional Areas of Opportunity
  - i. Cultural spaces.

- ii. Storefronts and neighborhood gathering spaces.
- iii. Health / wellness and food events.
- iv. Larkin Corridor
- v. Entrance of 7th and Market.
- vi. Roads and intersections.

3. **What Public Spaces or public space initiatives are already happening in the neighborhood this group can elevate or align with.**

- a. **Code Tenderloin:** Activation with food trucks/pop-ups 1-3 times a month.
- b. **Tenderloin Walking Tours**

5. Closing Thoughts and Reflections:

- a. Activations should lead to action, and stewardship should be tied to placemaking.
- b. Creating a grid of potential projects, from quick activations to large-scale changes, can help guide us.
- c. Emphasize the importance of having a long-term vision to keep the community engaged while working on feasible short-term goals.
- d. Identify what is legal, potentially legal, or non-actionable, and connect existing stewards to nearby resources.
- e. Highlight available resources and grants within San Francisco.
- f. Show the community how to use activations to build community and work towards physical improvements.
- g. Develop a toolkit to help the broader community identify and utilize available resources and connections.

Strategies, Terms and Activities:

- **Events:** Activation, music, play street, food fest, giveaways, street cleaning.
- **Art:** Wall, ground murals, sculpture, stickers.
- **Plants, libraries, seating.**
- Merchant activities, job postings, and volunteering opportunities.
- **Health-focused initiatives.**
- **Placemaking:**
  - Recreational amenities, programming, signage.
  - Campaigns such as TCAP, TL Week, Tend 2 the Loin.

**Working Group Participants:** Ana Gonzalez (virtual), Anita McDevitt, Leontine Collins, Tyree Leslie, Carlo Gomez Arteaga, Cyntia Salazar, Alec Hawley (virtual), Ale Diaz, Miguel Ibarra, Scott Bravmann

**Staff:** Tolu Atoyebi (Planning), Shijia Lu (Planning), Ilaria Salvadori (Planning), Jaime Vilorio (TNDC)

**Not Present:** Norma Carrera, Jude Alnajjar, Yamen Alnajjar, Serra Er, Tyree Leslie, Kent McCormick, Soumia Laktebi