



Formation of Tenderloin Community Action Plan Public Space Working Group

The Planning Department is excited to announce the formation of the Tenderloin Community Action Plan (TCAP) Public Space Working Group, set to kick off in May 2024. Comprised of a diverse cohort of 16 community members and representatives, this dynamic team is poised to drive positive change within the Tenderloin's public spaces.

Roles and Objectives

As an advisory group, the Public Space Working Group will inform TCAP's strategic priority on public space improvements in the TL. The Group will collaborate with City agencies, community stakeholders, and the larger community to develop innovative strategies for public space improvements and activation in the Tenderloin. As one of four TCAP Strategic Priorities, the working definition of Public Space is "space, outdoors generally speaking, that is open and accessible to the general public. Public spaces community members have identified as priorities for the TL through ongoing engagement include, but are not limited to, neighborhood alleys, neighborhood gateways, commercial corridors, public safety hot spots, and underutilized lots.

The work of this group aims to enhance the livability, vibrancy, and safety of public spaces within the Tenderloin with an emphasis on placemaking. Placemaking strategies such as installation of parklets, temporary street closures, or local art projects and events, can be used as a powerful complement to enforcement and health services to create positive experiences and build capacity for community celebrations. Public space activation and stewardship of this nature supports deterring drug dealing and use on the sidewalks, and they overall improve public safety, and quality of life of Tenderloin residents.

Key focus areas include:

- Revitalization of neighborhood alleys
- Design of neighborhood gateways
- Placemaking on commercial corridors and public safety hot spots
- Activation of underutilized lots for recreation

Summary of Selection Process

The application and selection process for the group were managed by the Planning Department's Tenderloin Community Action Plan Team.

The TCAP team followed multiple steps for this process:

1. Created and distributed an application questionnaire that focused on gathering input to inform the criteria for the selection process, including applicants' interests, expertise, personal backgrounds, connections to the Tenderloin neighborhood, and their vision for engagement with the community, as well as racial, ethnic, and cultural representations.



2. Distributed the questionnaire via TCAP's newsletter, listservs, and community connections, as well as through TCAP Outreach Partners (Outreach Partners) which includes the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), the Tenderloin Community Benefits District (TLCBD), the Chinatown Community Development Corporation (CCDC), the Saint Anthony Foundation, and GLIDE. Initially, TCAP provided a two-week period to file applications and, with input from Outreach Partners, extended the timeline to four weeks.
3. Conducted additional outreach to ensure a diverse representation of applicants, including youth, racial and cultural groups, and those with various areas of expertise, among other criteria.
4. With input from Outreach Partners, formulated a set of guiding principles and evaluative criteria to ensure that the selection process was grounded in the values of equity, inclusion, and collaboration. Their input guided our team to:
 - a. Define the scope of public space,
 - b. Broaden criteria to include not only a range of expertise in public space, but also those with a passion and interest in the topic with limited expertise and allow for continuous learning,
 - c. Provide leadership development to members who are interested.

Based on this process the cohort was selected to meet the following criteria:

- Connections to the community representing residents, workers, or community advocates,
- A wide range from those with genuine interest and passion for public space who are invested in learning, to those who have expertise in public space improvements and activations,
- A range of representation of those who serve youth, children, families, single-person households, and unhoused.
- A diverse representation of race, ethnicity, culture, age, and LGBTQ+

Selected from a pool of 31 applicants, 16 members with a wealth of perspectives, lived experiences, and passions were selected to be a part of the Public Space Working Group. The cohort reflects representation from various racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ+ backgrounds, as well as spanning different age groups and educational and professional backgrounds. To build capacity and amplify voices, the cohort includes individuals with specialized experiences in and perspectives on public space, such as youth, seniors, artists, street ambassadors, people with disabilities, and those engaged with unhoused communities. Above all, the Working Group members have a dedication and love for the Tenderloin and invaluable expertise in the neighborhood.

The Public Space Working Group will convene monthly from June 2024 to April 2025, engaging in collaborative discussions, planning sessions, and community outreach efforts. Through this dedicated timeframe, the group aims to develop actionable strategies and pilot projects. The structure and



content of the meetings will be largely driven by members of the Working Group with support of Planning and Community Partners.

Working Group Members

- Serra Er, Tenderloin Native, Youth Advocate
- Leontine Collins, Former Resident, Community Engagement Specialist
- Anita McDevitt, Resident
- Jude Alnajjar, Resident, Youth
- Yamen Alnajjar, Resident, Youth
- Scott Bravmann, Tenderloin Community School Volunteer, Youth Advocate
- Tyree Leslie, Resident, TL Walking Tour Ambassador
- Ana Gonzalez, Resident
- Cyntia Salazar, Resident, Tenderloin Community Benefit District (TLCBD)
- Norma Carrera, Resident, Tenderloin People's Congress
- Soumia Laktebi, Resident, Bill Sorro Housing Program (BiSHoP), Arab Community Advocate
- Kent McCormick, Resident, Business Owner, Youth with a Mission (YWAM)
- Alejandra Diaz, Healing Well
- Miguel Ibarra, SF Community Health Center
- Carlo Gomez Arteaga, Transgender Cultural District
- Alec Hawley, Community Volunteer, Public Space Designer

Get Involved!

For those who want to stay informed, [quarterly updates](#) will be posted on our website and the work of this working group will be shared with the greater Tenderloin community as part of TCAP's general outreach. This is a pilot working group, and we expect to have other similar opportunities in the future. In the meantime, we invite all community members to provide their questions, input, and ideas to help drive the work of the Working Group by contacting Iaria Salvadori, TCAP Public Space Program Manager (ilaria.salvadori@sfgov.org), or Tolu Atoyebi, TCAP Planner (sydney.atoyebi@sfgov.org).

We are thrilled to embark on this journey of revitalizing and activating public spaces in the Tenderloin neighborhood. Together, we can create vibrant, inclusive, and thriving public spaces that reflect the identity and strengths of our beloved neighborhood.

Best Regards,

TCAP Team

Attachments

Appendix A: TCAP Public Space Working Group Application

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TCAP Public Space Working Group Application

SF Planning's Tenderloin Community Action Plan is announcing an application process to form a Public Space 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.

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 - *to 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.*

Commitments:

- Participate at 1.5 hours monthly meetings from April 2024 to March 2025
- Up to 2 hours of work between monthly meetings as needed.

We would like to work with Tenderloin applicants: 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. **Deadline to apply has been extended to March 31st, 2024!**

Thank you for your interest in joining the *Tenderloin Community Action Plan (TCAP) Public Space Initiative!*

* Indicates required question

Larkin Street Youth Services new sidewalk garden on the Golden Gate Greenway (February 2024).



1. Full Name *

2. Phone Number *

3. Email *

4. What is your age group? *

Mark only one oval.

12 - 15

15 - 18

18 - 24

24 - 64

65 and up

Interest and Expertise

5. What experience, skills, or knowledge do you have that would be beneficial to the group? (check all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

Resident of the Tenderloin

Youth service provider/youth advocate

Street ambassador/ Public safety

Public space or parks activation/programming

Park operations

Public space advocacy

Public space designer/ Architect

Cultural programming

Artist

Small Business owner/ manager

Property manager for SROs/permanent supportive housing

Other: _____

6. Are you able to commit to attending 1.5 hours monthly meetings from April 2024 to March 2025? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Maybe

7. Are you able to commit up to 2 hours of work between monthly meetings as needed? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Maybe

8. From your perspective, what are the three top public space priorities for the Tenderloin? *

9. In a few words, tell us why you are interested in joining this new Public Space Working Group. *

10. How do you envision working with the Tenderloin community and with the other members to achieve the Working Group goals? *

Personal Background

11. Do you identify with any of the following? (Check all that apply.) *

Check all that apply.

- Black or African American
- Native American
- Chinese
- South Asian
- Southeast Asian
- Middle Eastern/North African
- Hispanic/Latinx
- White
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

12. Are you a person with disability? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

13. Are you a parent or guardian? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

14. What is your connection to the Tenderloin? *(Check all that apply.)* *

Check all that apply.

Resident

Formerly Lived in the Tenderloin

Business Owner

Work in the Tenderloin

Property Manager

15. If you are a resident of the Tenderloin, what is your current type of dwelling?

Mark only one oval.

Apartment (own)

Apartment (rent)

Single Room Occupancy

16. Do you work or volunteer in the Tenderloin? *

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

17. If you answered Yes to the previous question, please describe in what capacity you work in the Tenderloin.

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