The Points of Departure public artwork graces the new public plaza at Masonic Avenue and Geary Boulevard.
9/2
2018 Commons Block Party on 1st Sundays
This family-friendly event will feature recreational activities for all ages, a selection of bar and street food offerings curated by Off the Grid, music and promotional appearances by Bonnette San Francisco KOIT 96.5 FM, an open-air bazaar with one-of-a-kind goods created by local SF Ety artisans, free DIY arts and crafts activities and more. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fulton and Larkin streets

9/8
Love Our City: Citywide Cleanup
Join your neighbors on Saturday, Sept. 8, as we get swept up with civic pride and all do our part to keep our city clean. The ask is simple: LOVE OUR CITY! Grab a broom and dustpan, sweep the sidewalk in front of your home or business and pick up litter in your neighborhood.

9/9
Sunday Streets in the Western Addition
Come dance in the streets with the Sunday Streets car-free route along the Western Addition’s main corridors! Fillmore and sections of Fulton and Baker streets will be open to pedestrians, cyclists, roller-skaters, toddlers, families, seniors and everyone! 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

9/11
Climate Action Summit Tree Planting
This event will be hosted by Friends of the Urban Forest, American Forests and San Francisco Public Works with support from the Tenderloin Community Benefit District. Volunteers and dignitaries will plant trees throughout the Tenderloin and SoMa. 9 a.m. tree-planting kickoff; 11 a.m. tree benefits calculation demo. Turk and Hyde Street Mini Park

9/12 - 9/14
Global Climate Action Summit
The Global Climate Action Summit will bring people together from around the world to "Take Ambition to the Next Level." It provides an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of states, regions, cities, companies, investors and individuals with respect to climate action.

9/15
Community Clean Team in District 10
San Francisco Public Works’ longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods. 8:30 a.m. – Registration 9 a.m. – Speaking program Warm Water Cove 300 - 424th St.

9/15
Community Clean Team in District 10
San Francisco Public Works’ longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods. 8:30 a.m. – Registration 9 a.m. – Speaking program Warm Water Cove 300 - 424th St.

9/29
Portola Garden Tour
The Portola Garden Tour will celebrate 12 years in San Francisco’s Garden District. Our tour is a benefit for The Portola Garden District Scholarship at City College of San Francisco for deserving students of the Environmental Horticulture and Floristry Department. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Thank you
My wife and I want to thank Johnny Friedman for his diligence in sweeping our street (Sharon Street between 15th, 16th, Church and Sanchez). Not only has Johnny been professional in his work, but he is an absolute pleasure to see in the neighborhood. He is an outstanding ambassador for the City. We applaud what appears to be an increased effort to keep our street clean!

Bill T. and Rhonda R.

I want to let you know how great your Clean & Green Team was at our garden workshop, Saturday, Aug. 4. The crew put its all into our hillside project at the Goettingen Stairs. We had been retaining walls and benches installed to help with erosion and to create a new public space here in the Portola. Please come and see it. We are very happy with our new gathering spot that didn’t exist a few short weeks ago.

We appreciate the extra help to clear the brush and pick up trash on our hillside. The hill is steep and our group is aging. We have recruited some younger, new to the neighborhood to the group as well to supplement our experience. Your crew of young people really make a difference in that they amplify our efforts and allow us to spend time with them. Several of them had helped us before and it was great to talk to them and catch up with their activities.

Thank so much for making the Clean & Green Team available to us.

Ruth W. Goettingen Neighbors Group

Here’s a brief message to tell you about the magnificent volunteers who joined the work party on Saturday to prepare the ground for the shrubs we planted. They cleared away vegetation from the places where shrubs were planted. They pulled up ivy and bramble and rolled big piles of it into tarps and then into the compactor truck. They scraped off dried grasses, dug up fennel and leveled planting spots to create hospitable places for the 120 new shrubs. Meanwhile, the Public Works Clean & Green Team not only joined our volunteers in these tasks, they also did a great job clearing more of the fennel from the open space behind St. John School.

So here is a special thank you and shout-out to those who spent a lovely sunny Saturday morning as volunteers working together on the Glen Park Greenway and enjoying a lunch of sandwiches afterwards.

I’m sure that I speak for the whole neighborhood in thanking you for making the greenway a better place to walk and enjoy Glen Park.

And, as always, a special thanks to the many people and organizations that support our project, including San Francisco Public Works, the San Francisco Parks Alliance, the Community Challenge Grant and Glen Park Hardware.

See you on the Glen Park Greenway!

Nicholas D. Public Policy Collaboration

We appreciate your assistance, and look forward to participating in the September neighborhood cleanup day.

Frances G.
TASTE the rainbow

Different colors of fruits and vegetables indicate the different nutrients they contain. Consuming a rainbow of fruits and vegetables helps ensure you get enough of the different nutrients you need for good health.

**RED**
Lowers cholesterol, reduces the risk of heart disease, improves circulation, reduces inflammation, bolsters endurance and athletic performance and improves better digestion.

**ORANGE/YELLOW**
Boosts immune system, eye health and strong bones and reduces risk of macular degeneration and inflammation response.

**GREEN**
Helps clear toxins from the body, lowering risk of cancer, supporting digestive enzymes and absorption of nutrients, boosting the immune system, increasing energy and speeding tissue healing.

**BLUE/PURPLE**
Improves memory, boosts immune system, protects cells from damage and reduces the risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease.

**BLACK**
Provides beneficial minerals, including iron and calcium, and antioxidants that may lower risk of heart disease and stimulate the immune system.

**WHITE**
Provides antiviral and antibacterial properties and may help reduce cancer-causing chemicals.

**GROAK** (verb) to stare at people who are eating in the hope that they will offer to share their food.
EPISODE 0037 - 8/31
Love Our City!

Saturday, September 8, marks the Love Our City kickoff, as we get swept up with civic pride and all do our part to keep our city clean. The ask is simple: Grab a broom and dustpan, sweep the sidewalk in front of your home or business and pick up litter in your neighborhood.

Together, we can make a meaningful, positive impact.

EPISODE 0036 - 8/24
Under One Roof

Hang out with Building Design and Construction project managers Samuel Chui and Julia Groat. Samuel and Julia are taking us behind the scenes of the City's new permit center and office building, located at 49 South Van Ness Ave.

EPISODE 0035 - 8/17
Step by Step

We take you across the City to check out six of San Francisco’s most iconic public stairways. How many have you visited?

EPISODE 0034 - 8/10
A Ray of Hope

Get to know Ray Lui, the section manager of Public Works’ structural engineering team and a structural specialist with FEMA Urban Search and Rescue California Task Force 3. Ray has been practicing structural engineering for nearly 30 years and describes his profession as one that helps make dreams come true.
Mayor London Breed, all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors, City department staffers, residents and merchants from across San Francisco will join forces on Saturday, Sept. 8, for a citywide cleanup to spark a renewed commitment to Love Our City and keep it clean.

The ask is simple: Grab a broom and dustpan, sweep the sidewalk in front of your home or business and pick up litter in your neighborhood.

Public Works will provide the necessary cleaning supplies to anyone who wants to participate in Love Our City. Brooms, garbage bags and dust pans will be available at 40 neighborhood kickoff locations. If you can’t make it to one of the sites, consider uniting with your neighbors to spruce up your block, or work on your own.

The citywide cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon. To register and to find out which kickoff location is closest to your home or business, visit the Giant Sweep website at sfgiantsweep.org.

“San Francisco is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and it takes a team to keep it looking that way,” said Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru. “With the combined efforts from other City agencies, nonprofit groups, schools and volunteers, we can keep the momentum going and maintain the cleanliness of our streets and sidewalks every day of the year.”

Residents from neighborhoods throughout San Francisco already have pledged to participate in Love Our City and are urging more people to sign on.

“I believe it is the responsibility of every San Franciscan to do their part in keeping our city clean,” said Marc Christensen, president of the Merced Extension Triangle Neighborhood Association, who for years has been making daily rounds in his neighborhood picking up litter.

“Whenever possible, throughout the year,” he added, “spending a few hours to clean up trash and weeds on our sidewalks, curbs and streets will make a huge impact.”
Masonic Avenue Makeover Adds Safety and Beauty to the Busy Corridor

This month, we celebrated the newly completed Masonic Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project that offers transformative safety upgrades for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists, along with new infrastructure, landscaping, street trees and public art.

The Points of Departure public artwork graces the new public plaza at Masonic Avenue and Geary Boulevard.
New landscaping along Masonic Avenue features native and drought-tolerant plants.
Advocates for safer streets showed their delight at the streetscape ribbon cutting.

HOORAY for fixing our most dangerous streets!

Thank you @sfpublicworks for the Masonic Avenue makeover. Our neighborhood is safer and more beautiful with gorgeous trees and lighting, thanks to your hard work. I ride on the new bike lanes with joy every day. I cannot thank you enough!
The project also aims to activate the public realm with a new plaza at the corner of Masonic Avenue and Geary Boulevard. There, Mayor London Breed gathered on Aug. 14 with Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, SFMTA Director of Transportation Ed Reiskin, SFPUC General Manager Harlan L. Kelly, Jr., District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown, District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Brian Wiedenmeier to commemorate the multi-agency project that touches three supervisorial districts and has been guided by community support since its inception.

The two-year, $26 million project began taking root a decade ago with a community petition signed by more than 500 people and a Board of Supervisors resolution to improve safety on the corridor.

From 2009 to 2014, there were 113 traffic collisions on Masonic Avenue between Fell Street and Geary Boulevard. This includes 14 pedestrian collisions and 24 bicycle collisions, including two fatalities. The collisions landed Masonic on the City’s Vision Zero High Injury Network, and an unenviable designation that put the corridor in the priority queue for improvements.

Vision Zero SF is the City’s transportation safety policy that has resulted in building better and safer streets, educating the public on traffic safety, enforcing traffic laws and prioritizing resources to implement effective initiatives that save lives. Vision Zero aims to eliminate all traffic deaths in San Francisco by 2024.

The streetscape improvements on Masonic Avenue extend from Fell Street to Geary Boulevard; with additional roadway repaving that stretches to Haight Street and Presidio Avenue.

The upgrades include improved pedestrian access to transit and new bus bulb-outs, plus new cycle tracks, widened portions of sidewalk, water and sewer upgrades, new lighting in medians, pedestrian-scale lighting on sidewalks, new trees and plantings and the conversion of the southwest corner of Geary Boulevard and Masonic Avenue into a dynamic public plaza.

For the new plaza, the San Francisco Arts Commission commissioned artist Scott Oliver to create a site-specific installation, titled Points of Departure, which consists of three signposts featuring multiple arrows pointing in all directions with a total of 111 place names – both familiar and exotic – and their respective distances. In keeping with the project’s commitment to community input, the place names were derived from a questionnaire the artist presented to individuals he encountered near the plaza and adjacent bus stops.

The two-year, $26 million project began taking root a decade ago with a community petition signed by more than 500 people.
The outdoor courtyard at the new Navigation Center offers an open-air respite for shelter residents.
San Francisco’s determined push to provide stable shelter and services for people living in encampments moved forward this month with the dedication of the Division Circle Navigation Center on a site that less than a year ago housed a parking lot.

Unlike traditional shelters, Navigation Centers allow people to bring their partners, pets and belongings with them. In addition to room and board, case managers provide support to connect them with employment opportunities, health services, public benefits and permanent housing.

The City’s newest Navigation Center, which utilizes two giant, light-filled, tent-like structures, serves 125 people at a time. The land, located adjacent to the US Highway 101 onramp near South Van Ness Avenue and 13th Street, is owned by Caltrans and signals the first time state highway land has been used to shelter homeless people.

Public Works managed the Division Circle project and provided design services. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing manages operation of Division Circle and St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco, a nonprofit service provider, is responsible for case management, medical care, mental health and substance abuse screening and finding housing for clients. Mayor London Breed hosted the Aug. 3 dedication ceremony.

“We appreciate our great partnership with the City of San Francisco to sustain vibrant communities,” said Caltrans Director Laurie Berman. “The Division Circle Navigation Center is an innovative approach that makes use of Caltrans properties near downtown to help address the homeless crisis in San Francisco.”

The Navigation Center model was spearheaded by then-Mayor Ed Lee in 2015 with the aim of transitioning people from the streets into supportive housing or reuniting them with family. Division Circle is the fifth to open.

Two new Navigation Centers are under construction and set to open in the fall. One is located on vacant Caltrans property at Fifth and Bryant streets in the South of Market; the other, at 125 Bayshore Blvd. in the Bayview at a former office and warehouse complex.
Goodbye Dreary, Hello Glorious: New Transit Center Wows
At this month’s Salesforce Transit Center ribbon-cutting ceremony, many featured speakers – including former Mayor Willie Brown, Mayor London Breed and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi – could remember a time when San Francisco’s premier transit center was a drab and dingy complex that felt neither safe nor special.

A magnificent skylight tops the Grand Hall.

Visitors to the transit center’s rooftop park can enjoy gardens and a colorful place to eat lunch.
And while the journey to completion of the sprawling five-block terminus has been a long one, spirits were high for the crowd of hundreds at the Aug. 10 ribbon cutting – as well as the thousands who turned up the following day for a grand-opening block party that spread throughout the Salesforce Transit Center’s light-filled grand hall, its impressive bus decks and the paths and play structures gracing the magnificent 5.4-acre rooftop garden.

Formerly known as the Transbay Transit Center prior to naming rights by Salesforce, the building has been on the radar of Bay Area commuters and City residents for years as plans came together for a much-needed regional hub for transit lines that also doubles as an urban oasis for people who visit, live and work in the East Cut, the burgeoning South of Market neighborhood that’s also home to new high-rises.

What hasn’t been widely publicized, however, is San Francisco Public Works’ key role in the delivery of the $2.26 billion center that logged more than 5 million working hours, providing the City with thousands of new permanent jobs and tens of thousands of construction jobs.

Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru was appointed by then-Mayor Ed Lee to the governing board of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority in 2014, a panel he now chairs. He was soon followed by Ron Alameida, a Public Works project manager and licensed architect whose portfolio includes numerous prominent Bay Area medical centers, including the new Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, who was brought on board to oversee the transit center project.

The mammoth building is not just a rudimentary transit depot; it has blossomed into a vibrant center with public art, lush gardens and an outdoor amphitheater. Coming on line soon are retail establishments, cafes and a health club. The hope is to one day bring Caltrain and high-speed rail into the center.

The Salesforce Transit Center is on track to become what many have coined the “Grand Central Station of the West” – a place where journeys begin and end, and a destination all its own.
Volunteers Shine in District 6

The Tenderloin, South of Market and Civic Center neighborhoods got a little extra TLC this month as nearly 200 volunteers showed their civic pride at our Community Clean Team workday.
Eddy Street in the Tenderloin gets extra TLC at the August Community Clean Team workday.

Volunteers work on landscape maintenance.
The Aug. 18 event was co-sponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim’s office and kicked off with an energizing rally at Boeddeker Park located on Eddy Street.

Our dedicated volunteers, which consisted of families, friends, students and community groups, teamed up with Public Works crews to improve their neighborhoods before they ended the day with a communal lunch.

While some of the 13 teams removed weeds and litter and added decomposed granite to empty tree basins along Market and Polk streets, others planted trees at Rincon Hill Dog Park and refreshed street furniture on Mason, Taylor Jones and Leavenworth streets.

The work didn’t stop there – members of the Tenderloin Boys & Girls Club stayed behind at Boeddeker Park to clean the playground equipment, wash the windows and countertops inside the recreation center and sweep debris and litter off the basketball court.

Community Clean Team is an opportunity for the City to come together to help keep our streets, sidewalks and public spaces clean and looking fresh. The program is now in its 18th year and has become a staple in each of the City’s 11 districts.

The next Community Clean Team will take place on Sept. 15 in District 10 as we do our part to keep the City’s coastal neighborhoods litter-free. We’ll meet at Warm Water Cove, located at 300 – 24th St., for a kickoff rally at 8:30 am. See you there!

For more information and to register for the September event, visit our volunteer page.
The 22nd Street Green Connection project in San Francisco’s Dogpatch neighborhood is coming to life with the addition of eye-catching crosswalks festooned with bright green stripes.

The nifty crosswalks are just one element of the streetscape upgrades, which also include new sidewalk widening at the intersections, new street trees, bike racks, benches, light fixtures, sidewalk landscaping, a newly repaved road and more.

The improvements stretch along 22nd Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and Illinois Street. Construction broke ground this past January and is scheduled to wrap up in early fall.

The Public Works-managed project aims to enhance the vibrant Dogpatch commercial corridor and provide a safe and enjoyable connection for people walking, cycling, driving and taking transit.

Our landscape architects designed the project based on a conceptual design developed by the community.
The Public Works Outreach and Enforcement (OnE) Team conducted a three-day Eco Blitz on Polk Street between Green and Geary streets this month to provide outreach to the merchants and identify safety and cleanliness violations, including tripping hazards, grimy sidewalks, empty tree basins, graffiti on both public and private property, and dirty and overflowing trash cans.

In total, we found 182 deficiencies during the Aug. 19 to 21 operation – with the expectation that they will be remedied.

OnE Team’s public information officers walked a total of 13 blocks along the commercial corridor, visiting every business to check for compliance with City codes, and to make sure that problems under the City’s jurisdiction also are addressed.

Eco Blitz is about taking pride in our city by putting OnE Team members on the ground to remind business and property owners of their responsibilities to help keep San Francisco clean and safe.
San Francisco is a city of hills, and that also means we’re a city of stairways – from the Bayview to the Castro, from Russian Hill to Golden Gate Heights. In fact, Public Works maintains more than 188 stairways across the City.

Some are adorned with mosaic tiles or located amid lush gardens, others are no-frills concrete and metal; all serve a functional purpose of giving people on foot a safe path of travel up and down hillsides or to access pedestrian bridges.

One of our most notable staircases is along Macondray Lane, a two-block pedestrian pathway on the southeastern side of Russian Hill that served as the inspiration for Barbary Lane in Armistead Maupin’s Tales of the City series. His main characters, Anna Madrigal, Mary Ann Singleton and Michael “Mouse” Tolliver, lived in an apartment house at the make-believe 28 Barbary Lane. One way they got there was to climb a wooden staircase from Taylor Street.

Websites and books have been dedicated to San Francisco’s stairways. And so has a recent episode of Public Works TV, titled Step by Step. Check it out.
Property owners caught improperly pruning or removing a street tree in San Francisco could have their fines reduced if they attend a new class that the Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry is offering to educate the public about the benefits of proper tree care and stewardship.

Taught by San Francisco Urban Forester Chris Buck, the inaugural tree-care class held in late July was attended by three property owners who qualified for a fine reduction after appearing at an administrative hearing for a review of their citations. Fines start at $2,031 per tree.

The class, which is being offered monthly to eligible property owners, reviews why trees only should be pruned by qualified and licensed arborists; how improper pruning harms trees; and the many benefits trees can bring when cared for properly, including providing storm-water management and carbon sequestration.

The class also covers the San Francisco Urban Forest Plan that maps strategies for San Francisco to grow its street tree population and provides an overview of StreetTreeSF, the voter-backed initiative that gives Public Works the maintenance responsibility for the City’s 125,000 street trees to ensure appropriate care.

While the class serves to validate a property owner’s fine reduction, it also is an opportunity to showcase how trees provide environmental benefits and beauty to our urban streetscape.
Making Friends with **Sunset Boulevard**!

The Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry crew partnered with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, the Friends of Sunset Boulevard, this month as they continued to...
make strides to revitalize the major neighborhood corridor that stretches 2.3 miles from Lake Merced Boulevard to Lincoln Way.

The team of nearly 40 Sunset District residents met in the Outer Sunset near 37th Avenue and Irving Street on Aug. 25. They were joined by District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang, Public Works Superintendent of Urban Forestry Carla Short and our lead gardener, Brian Lease, who impressed the crowd as he showed off his green thumb during a demonstration on how to properly plant and tend to the wildflowers that will enliven the median.

The group also spent time weeding and picking up paper cups, candy wrappers and other trash left behind by litterbugs.

The workday marked the second volunteer event along Sunset Boulevard to restore and beautify the median that has been pocked in recent years with water-starved grass and litter. Public Works has devoted more gardeners to Sunset Boulevard and is committed to bringing the landscape back to life with drought-tolerant and native plants and irrigate the plantings with recycled water until they become established. The good work of the volunteers provides some extra TLC.

The San Francisco-based nonprofit, Climate Action Now!, also is part of the team, setting a goal to plant an additional 350 native trees along the median.

Meanwhile, Public Works has developed a draft master plan to guide the landscape management, maintenance and tree succession for Sunset Boulevard. It notes projects that already have been completed and captures ideas for future consideration, including wildflower planting, tree planting locations and the potential replacement of the existing Hetch Hetchy-supplied irrigation system with a reclaimed water system. Michael Rieger, the Public Works project manager overseeing the master planning process, also was on hand at the volunteer workday to discuss the possibilities with neighbors.

If you are interested in participating in a Sunset Boulevard event, email volunteer@sfpublicworks.org and we will send you updates on the next Friends of Sunset Boulevard workday. For other opportunities, visit sfpublicworks.org/volunteer.

The workday marked the second volunteer event along Sunset Boulevard to restore and beautify the median that has been pocked in recent years with water-starved grass and litter.
A Public Works street cleaner picks up litter at La Playa and Cabrillo streets in the Outer Richmond next to an art piece that pays homage to Laffing Sal, an icon of the now-defunct Playland at the Beach oceanside amusement park.