

From: [Adele Framer](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public comment for September 20, 2023 BOS Government Audit & Oversight Committee
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:39:56 PM

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Comment on 2. 230951 [Urging the Recreation and Park Department to Publicly Share Information Regarding Pilot Activation of UN Plaza and Take Steps to Mitigate Any Impact on the Farmers' Market]

My name is Adele Framer. I live in current District 8. I've enjoyed shopping at the farmers' market on UN Plaza for more than 20 years, like thousands of other San Francisco voters.

I urge all supervisors to support this resolution.

I am very concerned about the health of the farmers' market. There are signs that the relocation to Fulton Plaza has been very rough for them. The new location is out of the way, too small, and logistically difficult. The farmers cannot afford much in the way of financial losses.

Everyone agrees that the farmers' market has been a shining asset to the city for 41 years. The crowds attracted by the farmers's market transformed UN Plaza every market day. It was established with a state grant to remedy a food desert. Without the market, the area is still a food desert.

The farmers' market is a small business and its members are mostly people of color who have worked hard to feed a poor neighborhood as well as thousands of other San Franciscans. If the farmers' market fails, I urge the committee to consider how this will affect food equity in the heart of San Francisco. How will this make our city look?

Overall, the UN Plaza project is poorly planned. Other than a paragraph describing skate ramp construction for Rec & Park's Planning application, I can find no formal plans, studies, or projected demographics or usage patterns for the skate park project. It never went before the Rec and Park board. The Planning department was told it was a temporary installation. Exactly how temporary is this slipshod pilot project?

This is not an obscure corner of the city. UN Plaza is a historic landmark and the gateway to our Civic Center. The Civic Center of the city of San Francisco belongs to all San Franciscans.

Why a skate park? Will that bring in the same kind of foot traffic as the farmers' market? I want to know why the Recreation and Park board did not explore other alternatives that would keep the farmers' market in place on UN Plaza. The night market organized by Supervisor Joel Engardio was a raging success. People come out for food. Why not have food in UN Plaza 7 days a week?

Sincerely,

Adele Frammer

From: [Tara Cahn](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Government Audit & Oversight Committee
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 5:36:56 PM

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Please include below letter as public comment for Government Audit and Oversight Committee Meeting this week.

Submitted on behalf of, Grace Rasmussen Aoyama Teresi, farmer, owner, Miramonte Farms

A

Honor the founders
farmer's perspective

Honor working people
Grace Rasmussen Aoyama Teresi

Honor farmers



In the early 80's, during a major recession, the Heart of the City Farmer's Market was conceived by the political will of Diane Feinstein, the support of Market Street Development Assoc. Bernie Ayerush, non-profits such as the American Friendship Committee, and farmers represented by Don Aoyama. Now, we are kicked to the curb after surviving the pandemic.

Have you considered?

How much will it cost to remove all the bricks and where are you going to store them? Are you going to remove all the columns when the year each country signed the UN Treaty? Concrete and Asphalt is at least a 5 million dollar deal and is not good for the environment as the surface is hot. Did the board of Supervisors actually ask the constituents for the funds?

Why did the Parks and Rec. Department want to ramrod this deal without any consideration of the farmers? Wouldn't it be cheaper to have other venues on the days the market is not there such as recycling demonstrations, makers and craft fairs, and a music event.

It is very evident that not much consideration was given. On Wed. after the market was closed, removal of the bricks ensued. The deal was done.

Farmers are environmentally conscience and we aim to please our customers. We harvest the crops that capture the sun which give you energy and the roots mine the minerals. I practice dry farming and provide nutrient rich produce for more than 40 years and the lack of respect is evident.

You take a way the parking, you jam us all up in a small space, and there is no dialogue.

On top of that, I have to arrive at 6 am, unload a ton of produce, park a truck, and hope the produce is there after driving 2 hrs, at my ripe age of 65.

I treat all people with respect. You don't care.

Relationships are the most important aspect of life. My late husband, Don Aoyama came to the Civic Center Farmers market the day after Loma Prieta earthquake in the fall of 1989 and all the grocery stores were closed due to the lack of electricity. He was mobbed. Customers were so happy to see him. When things get tough, farmers get going.

From: [Friedland](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment re Civic Center Farmers Market/Skate Park plan.
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 12:06:40 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Government Audit and Oversight Committee,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the shift of the Farmers' Market from UN Plaza to Fulton Street for the sake of installing a skate park and other recreational equipment.

I'm not a resident of the Tenderloin, but I'm an employee of the City and County of San Francisco, and I work in the Tenderloin.

Rec & Park's plan for UN Plaza is mean-spirited and unproductive:

1) The farmers worked very hard throughout the pandemic to bring food to the heart of the city, especially to marginalized and poor folk who depend on this market for their produce needs.

This is how the City rewards them? By making farmers' jobs more difficult? Why take away their ease of parking? Why not prioritize their needs? **The shift has already impacted their livelihood. According to one farmer, due to the parking squeeze and the reduction of tent space with the relocation, each farmer is losing between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per week during their peak produce season.**

It's already very tough to be a small-scale farmer in the U.S. Let's give them the respect and ease-of-operation that they deserve.

2) **A skate park will not succeed in UN Plaza, and it doesn't meet the real needs of the Tenderloin community.**

Is this installation actually for the purpose of making the UN Plaza safer and more citizen friendly? Or, is it for burnishing Mayor's Breed's terrible image nationwide with respect to drug-dealing in that area? The skaters and drug dealers will co-exist just as Urban Alchemy staff and drug dealers are co-existing. The installation of ping pong tables will not cause the dealing to stop. **The dealing would only, temporarily, shift to Market Street and further into the streets of the Tenderloin.**

Parents will still not want to bring their kids to the UN Plaza to play if they have any other option.

If the Mayor and the City would like to make the Tenderloin District more "family friendly," they should instead come up with initiatives to improve the lives of the families that actually *live* in the Tenderloin, first, by close listening to the businesses and families of the neighborhood to learn what their unmet needs are.

Minimally, some honest assessment of the success of this skatepark in serving the Tenderloin community should be made after its first six months of operation if Rec & Park decides to move forward on this ill-conceived plan.

Thanks for considering my opinion as a worker who frequents UN Plaza many days a week and as a City of San Francisco employee and resident.

L Friedland
friedlandstaying@yahoo.com

From: [Susan Keyte](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: I'm Against Replacing Heart of the City Farmer's Market With a Skate Park!!!
Date: Monday, September 18, 2023 8:34:08 AM

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I've just read the following SF Chronicle article and am horrified at this development.

‘It’s going to be a nightmare’: SF displaces farmers market to make room for skate area

I own a condo in Opera Plaza & am surrounded by drug users, drug dealers & homeless enablers. Your idea of opening a skate area, etc. a few blocks away will be a huge magnet for more of what we're already experiencing.

In addition, you'll be ruining any chance for the new IKEA store to survive. It appears you have no idea of the disastrous consequences of this insane idea to Market Street, the tenderloin AND our beautiful Farmer's Market. You're going to bring more of the same lowlife teenagers & 20 somethings we're already dealing w/ 24/7.

Quote from SF Chronicle article:

“A message sent to the Recreation and Park Department was not returned before publication. However, Phil Ginsburg, general manager of San Francisco Recreation and Park, told the farmers market's Board of Directors that the recreation area is an experiment and that the vendors will be allowed to return if the project does not improve the public health issues in U.N. Plaza”

STOP. LEAVE US ALONE. DON'T DO THIS!!!!!!!!!! DECENT PEOPLE LIVE HERE, WE DON'T NEED OR WANT THIS KIND OF EXPERIMENT!!!!!!!!!! YOU BOTH KNOW DISTRICT 2 & I WONDER WHERE YOU LIVE THAT YOU WOULD COME UP W/ THIS HAIRBRAINED IDEA AS A REMEDY.

PLEASE RECONSIDER. Thank you.

Susan Keyte

Opera Plaza Condo Owner
[601 Van Ness Ave., #741](#)
[San Francisco, CA. 94102](#)
415-605-6903

From: [Tara Cahn](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: United Nations Plaza Heart of the City Farmer"s Market Heritage Site
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 3:18:07 PM
Attachments: [United Nations Plaza Heart of the City Farmer"s Market Heritage Site.One of the hidden Jewels of SF.Final.docx](#)

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Clerk Stephanie Cabrera:
Re: Government Audit & Oversight Committee Meeting this week. Public comment submission.

Please see attached letter.

Thank you,
T.Cahn

Tara Cahn Architecture
Former Fulbright Scholar

From: [Jan Michaels](#)
To: [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Farmer's Market Location Change
Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023 1:15:50 PM

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Please put me down in the record as a SF resident who opposed the location change of the Farmer's Market at Civic Center Plaza. The market needs the extra space to thrive. A skateboard park at UN Plaza is not a good idea. It will not improve anything. Thank you, Jan Michaels

1580 Jackson St #11
San Francisco CA 94109