

Debra Walker

Artist, Advocate, Business/Production Management

San Francisco, CA 94110

Summary

Walker is experienced in advocacy, business and production management, organizing and motivating workers and creative solutions. She has run organizations with 300+ members, has chaired several task forces charged with and producing policy and procedure recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the mayor of San Francisco, and has worked for decades as an artist in San Francisco. She has served as business and production manager, project accountant, and political candidate.

Specialties: Land use, development, project management, technology, arts policy, community organizing, painting, all things art related. Small to mid-size project management, statewide political organizing, local political campaigns. She is also working on public-private partnerships with both the non-profit and for-profit sector to create more effective models for responding to safety needs on our streets.

Experience

Commissioner at City and County of San Francisco Police Commission

August 2022 - Present

Serves on commission that works with the chief of police to set policy and conducts hearings on charges of police misconduct filed by the Chief of Police and the Department of Police Accountability.

Commissioner at City and County of San Francisco Arts Commission

January 2000 - September 2022

Served on commission overseeing the City Agency that champions the Arts as essential to daily life by enlivening the urban environment and shaping innovative cultural policy in San Francisco. The Commission oversees Civic Design Review, Community Investments, Public Art, SFAC Galleries, The Civic Art Collection and the Art Vendor Program.

Commissioner at City and County of San Francisco Building Inspection Commission

January 2000 - December 2019

Served on commission overseeing and managing Department of Building Inspection, a 300+ employee department (DBI) Manage and appoint the bodies subordinate to the Commission. Oversee the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of the City and County's Building, Housing, Electrical/Mechanical Codes and ADA Regulations.

Member, past CEO, Project Manager at Developing Environments - Project 2

June 1985 - Present

Member of artist cooperative (Est 1972) since 1986. CEO of DE from 1989-1991. Work with other members to continually comply with changing code requirements and keep building secure for artists living and working space.

Land Use and Arts Advocate

January 1985 - Present

Focused attention on the citywide planning to bring various interests together on very issues to encourage affordable housing, tenant protections, new job production and maintaining off affordability for arts, non-profit organizations and small businesses.

Participates in most city discussions and processes about land use, tenant protections and development. Advocates for artists regarding Cultural Centers, rental assistance programs, arts use protections, stopping displacement, secure funding and stabilizing policies for the arts.

Artist at Debra Walker

1981 - Present

Walker is an internationally-recognized painter and printmaker. Her work is in the collection of hundreds of art lovers around the world. She lives and works in the North Mission in San Francisco.

Owner at JustSF

December 2018 - 2021

Walker founded JustSF to provide tenant ombuds services for tenants in large, rent controlled buildings. JustSF provides advising to negotiate between owners/landlords to keep tenants housed. and prevent evictions.

Project Accountant/Project Manager at Muse Media Center

December 2012 - 2017

Responsible for financial project management of prototyping facility for major project/event/creative design producer. Managed all finances and assisted in production management for large projects.

Visiting Lecturer at California Institute for Integral Studies January

2008 - March 2013

Lectured on art/inquiry/technology to graduate students.

Provided individual instruction in all aspects of the arts from creation, application, meaning through mentoring.

Adjunct Professor at New College of California 2005 - 2008

April 2006 - July 2009

Taught and mentored MFA students in their field of study.

Provided institutional instruction in all aspects of the arts from creation, application, meaning in Creative Inquiry Program. Instructed graduate students to create art history syllabi.

Production/Business Manager at Redgate Communications

January 1990 - January 1992

Oversaw all production and business functions in PR, communications and advertising firm Redgate became the first corporate acquisition in 1994 by AOL.

Oversaw all business and production functions including budgeting, scheduling, personnel. Worked to provide satellite conferencing for product rollouts.

Office/Business Manager at TechniPrint

January 1988 - January 1990

Managed front office of busy technical printer. Installed and managed Novell network. Managed inventory system, created and managed schedules, processed jobs. Was integral in the computerization of this full-service printing facility.

Education

UC Berkeley

No Major- Studio work, 1985, 1988

UCLA

No Major- Studio work, 1975 - 1977

Riverside City College Fine

Art, 1971 - 1973

Civic Engagement

Resistance Labs, 2016 - present

Walker managed texting programs for congressional races across the country, including red-to-blue campaign headed up by speaker Pelosi in 2019.

Planning and Urban Research (SPUR), Board of Directors

2006 - December 2012

Walker served on the board of this land use and planning policy body, with a focus on affordable housing and arts policy.

Past Political Director at California Democratic Party, Women's Caucus

January 2008 - November 2012

Past Member at SFDCCC

June 2001 - January 2012

Walker was an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee from 2001 thru 2012 - serving four years of that as Treasurer. She served as an officer for the state party women's caucus

Candidate at Debra Walker for Supervisor

June 2009 - November 2010

Ran a nearly-successful campaign for supervisor in District 6 in San Francisco.

Chair at San Francisco Arts Task Force

2004 - 2006

Chaired the Arts Task Force which issued an internationally acclaimed report with recommendations to strengthen San Francisco's Arts infrastructure.

Chair at San Francisco Live-work Task Force

2001 - 2002

Chaired the task force that made recommendation to resolve the contentious live-work issue. This process brought together citywide stakeholders to recommend solutions to problems created by live-work developments and to forward alternative solutions to keep artists in San Francisco.

Past Board Member at ArtSpan Open Studios, Dance Mission Theater, Anne Bluethenthal and Dancers, SF Soundsafe

References available upon request