Proposed Portsmouth Square Improvements

San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department
Chapter 29 Legislation
June 2020





GENERAL DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE – Today/Historical

- Culturally significant plaza that has existed since mid-1800s
- Special significance for Asian Americans throughout Northern California, located in the Chinatown neighborhood:
 - One of the densest neighborhood in the San Francisco
 - Hosts multiple cultural and community events
 - Provides accessible open space for many that reside in SROs and dense living environments

• Features Today:

- Terraced; several hardscape plazas
- Two playgrounds
- A clubhouse
- Underground parking structure
- Various historical markers
- Restroom building
- Pedestrian bridge extending over Kearny Street

GENERAL DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE – Proposed

- Outreach & concept design phase extensive community & stakeholder engagement
 - 5 community workshops (with record attendance)
 - Numerous stakeholder interviews
 - Surveys and meetings
- Renovations will provide safer, more sustainable park
- Improved facilities to better serve public:
- Terraced; several hardscape plazas
 - Consolidated, larger play area
 - New, larger clubhouse with large assembly area
 - Accessible design for all abilities
 - New plantings & water efficient irrigation
 - New seating & paving
 - Removed pedestrian bridge
 - Stage area
 - Energy efficient lighting for improved safety

DIRECT & INDIRECT BENEFITS

- Increased property values for surrounding businesses and residential buildings
- Increase in commerce for local merchants
- Decrease in health spending by having accessible open space that leads to improved physical and mental health
- Decreased operations and maintenance costs through updated facilities and infrastructure with clear sight lines and activated edges

FISCAL ANALYSIS

- Estimated project cost: \$65,000,000
- Anticipated funding source: \$9,000,000 (Transit Center Impact Fees and Community Facilities District – CFD)
- Additional anticipated funding sources: Transbay Transit Center CFD, philanthropy, and other sources
- Job creation: 5.93 jobs/\$1M
- EIR Work has begun; schematic design phase has begun
- Approx. \$975,000 spent to date on environmental review: PM labor, EIR consultant, design consultant (concept & schematic phases), surveys

NEXT STEPS

- Once environmental review is complete, SF Rec and Park will be better suited to fundraise.
- SF Rec and Park has a strong record of partnerships with individuals, community groups, foundations, and corporate sponsors to support parks and recreational programming.
- Design to continue
- Construction cannot commence until environmental review is complete and sufficient funds are in hand.