



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor  
Mohammed Nuru, Director



Jerry Sanguinetti, Bureau Manager

**DPW Order No: 181272**

RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL FOR A MAJOR (STREET) ENCROACHMENT PERMIT TO INSTALL MOSAIC TILED STEPS, A MURAL AND A GARDEN HABITAT ON AND ADJACENT TO A CITY OWNED PUBLIC STAIRWAY ON 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BETWEEN KIRKHAM AND LAWTON STREETS.

**APPLICANT:** Hidden Garden Steps organizing Committee  
Attn: Paul Signorelli  
1558 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION:** DPW maintained stairway within 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue public right-of-way between Kirkham and Lawton Streets.

**DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST:** Major (Street) Encroachment Permit

**BACKGROUND:**

1. The Hidden Garden Steps Organizing Committee filed an application with the Department of Public Works (DPW) for a Major (Street) Encroachment Permit for the installation and maintenance of mosaic tiled steps, a mural and a garden habitat of California native and other drought tolerant plants, to create a neighborhood gathering place within the subject space.
2. The Transportation Advisory Staff Committee (TASC) at its meeting of January 10, 2013, recommended approval for the proposed tiled step, mural and landscaping improvements.
3. The Planning Department by letter dated February 8, 2013 determined the proposed improvements to the existing City maintained steps to be in conformity with the General Plan.
4. The San Francisco Arts Commission by Resolution No. 0206-12-026 approved the design of the Hidden Garden Steps project, a tile mural by Aileen Barr and Colette Crutcher at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kirkham Street.



5. This improvement project has been very successful in building a coalition as a DPW Street Parks Program and San Francisco Parks Alliance Projects, with support from former Supervisor Sean Elsbernd and various community groups including the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors, the Nature in the City Green Hairstreak (Butterfly) Corridor and Woodside International School.
6. The subject mural is sponsored by the San Francisco Parks Alliance and supported by the DPW Street Parks Program.
7. This project has attracted students who join neighbors in monthly on-site clean-ups of the subject area, including sweeping the steps, graffiti removal, and the planting of additional landscaping.
8. This project has also received favorable media coverage and SF Weekly called this project the “Best Community Project” of 2011.
9. DPW mailed public hearing notices on April 2, 2013 to property owners within 300-foot of the subject location, notifying them of a public hearing on April 17, 2013, to consider the proposed Major (Street) Encroachment Permit at the subject location.
10. On April 16, 2013, DPW received written comments from the property owner at 1491 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue objecting to the proposed improvements citing that the tiled steps would bring too much traffic to an already busy Kirkham Street.
11. Hearing Officer, Mr. Abel Romero, conducted the hearing and heard testimony presented by DPW Staff, recommending the proposed improvements for approval.
12. Several members of the Organizing Committee attended the hearing and testified in support of the improvement project.
13. No testimony was presented in opposition to the subject improvements during the hearing.
14. The Hearing Officer made his decision after hearing the above testimony, and reviewing the application, reports, plans and other documents contained in the Department of Public Works files

**FINDING 1.** The proposed improvements, based on review of the submitted plans, are in compliance with San Francisco Building Code (SFBC), 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and Title II of the ADA, otherwise known as 28 CFR Part 35 “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services.

**FINDING 2.** The subject encroachment is desirable and convenient to the neighborhood community and students of Woodside International School.

**FINDING 3.** The proposed encroachment design and improvements satisfy all technical requirements as they relate to City Standards and the Public Works Code.



**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommendation of APPROVAL of the request for the proposed tiled steps, mural and garden habitat within the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue public right-of-way.

5/2/2013

5/9/2013

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Sanguinetti, Jerry  
Bureau Manager

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Sweiss, Fuad  
Deputy Director and City Engineer

5/9/2013

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Nuru, Mohammed  
Director, DPW

