

File No. 100309

Committee Item No. 1

Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#### AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: City Operations & Neighborhood Ser.      Date: April 12, 2010

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cmte Board

- |                                     |                          |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Motion                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget Analyst Report                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Analyst Report                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form (for hearings)             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | MOU  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Budget                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subcontract Budget                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Correspondence                        |

#### OTHER

(Use back side if additional space is needed)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Completed by: Victor Young

Date April 8, 2010

Completed by: Victor Young

Date \_\_\_\_\_

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages. The complete document is in the file.



04/08/2010

13:20

SFPD VICE CRIMES -> B OF SUPERVISOR

NO. 328

P02



**San Francisco Police Department  
Vice Crimes Division**

Alcoholic Beverage License

**To:** The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Committee on City Operations  
& Neighborhood Services

**Supervisor Carmen Chu  
Supervisor John Avalos  
Supervisor Sean Elsbernd**

**From:** Inspector Dave Falzon *D Falzon*  
Vice Crimes Division 415/553-9969

**Date:** April 8, 2010

**Subject:** P.C.N. Investigation Regarding: Ms. Lisa Steindler  
Z Space  
450 Florida Street  
626-0453

Ms. Lisa Steindler on behalf of Z Space has filed an application with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control seeking a Type 64 (Special On-Sale General Theater) license for 450 Florida Street (located between Mariposa Street and 17th Street).

**Proposed Hours of Operation:**

Sunday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 midnight \*

\* varies by performance generally concluding by 10:00 p.m.

**Digest**

This application is for a theater license, if approved, this license will allow this theater to serve on-sale beer, wine, and distilled spirits during restricted hours.

**Letters of Protest:**

1

**Letters of Support:**

No record

**Police Calls for Service:**

From November 31, 2009 to March 31, 2010

- 6 2- Alarm
- 3-Suspicious Auto
- 1-Theft

**Police Reports:**

From March 31, 2009 to March 31, 2010

No Record

**San Francisco Plot Information:**

This premise is located in Plot 424

200 Police Reports were recorded for this plot in 2009

This plot is 21 Police Report(s) *under* the citywide average (plus 20%) of 221 Police Reports.

**State Census Tract Information:**

This premise is located in Census Tract 228.01

Population for this tract is: 4676

On-sale license authorized by census tract: 15

Active on-sale licenses: 19 with 0 pending

Off-sale licenses authorized by census tract: 5

Active off-sale licenses: 6 with 0 pending

04/08/2010

13:20

SFPD VICE CRIMES → B OF SUPERVISOR

NO. 328

004

**District Station Recommendation:****Mission Police Station recommendation: *Approval w/conditions*****Vice Crime Division Recommendation:**

Points of consideration:

**APPROVAL w/conditions** recommendation forwarded by **Mission Police Station**.Applicant premise is **not** located in a "high crime" area.

Applicant premise is located in an "undue concentration" area.

1 letter of protest.

No **Record** letters of support.Vice Crimes Division concurs with the **APPROVAL w/conditions** recommendation forwarded by **Mission Police Station**.**Statutory Condition:**

24045.7(a) (2) B&amp;P

Theater companies holding a license under this subdivision may, subject to 25631, sell and serve alcoholic beverages to ticketholders only during, and two hours prior to and one hour after, a bona fide theater performance of the company.

**Proposed Conditions:**

- 1) Bona fide theater performances shall be limited to the hours of 12:00 noon to Midnight each day of the week. There shall be no sales, service or consumption of alcoholic beverages after 12 midnight.
- 2) The sales, service and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall include gallery showings, receptions (e.g. weddings, graduation, parties, dances, etc., or anything other than a bona fide theater performance under the control of the theater company.
- 3) The sale of alcoholic beverages off-premises is strictly prohibited.
- 4) Loitering (loitering is defined as "to stand idly about; linger aimlessly without lawful business") is prohibited on any sidewalks or property adjacent to the licensed premises under the control of the licensee.

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13:20

SFPD VICE CRIMES → B OF SUPERVISOR

NO. 328

005

5) The petitioner shall be responsible for maintaining free of litter the area adjacent to the premises over which they have control.

6) Graffiti shall be removed from the premises and all parking lots under the control of the licensee within seventy-two (72) hours of application. If the graffiti occurs on a Friday or weekend day, or on a holiday, the licensee shall remove the graffiti within seventy-two (72) hours following the beginning of the next weekday.

7) At no time shall the licensee allow a third party promoter to have any control over the marketing, management, operation, or staffing of this theater.

8) No person under the age of 21 shall sell or deliver alcoholic beverages.

end.

Alcoholic Beverage Control  
**PROTEST AGAINST ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE APPLICATION**

State of California

- Please refer to Form ABC-510, Instructions for Protesting an Alcoholic Beverage License Application, before completing and submitting your protest. The ABC-510 can be found at [www.abc.ca.gov](http://www.abc.ca.gov).
- Please print legibly or type. Incomplete and/or illegible information will cause the protest to be rejected.
- You will be notified by letter regarding a hearing on your protest. You will need to attend the hearing to testify and/or present evidence to support your protest.
- A copy of your valid protest, including your name and address, will be provided to the applicant as a public record and a right of discovery for a protest hearing.

I hereby protest the issuance of a license under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to:

The Z Space Studio

(Name(s) of Applicant(s))

For premises at:

450 Florida St. San Francisco, CA 94110

(Exact address of proposed premises)

on the grounds that:

Sale of distilled spirits at that hour is not conducive to <sup>safe</sup> residential neighborhood. Sale of distilled spirits at 12 am. does not fit with the <sup>current</sup> use of the space, performances that generally begin at 8pm and end around 10pm. The application implies a change of use of the space, with increased alcohol consumption later at night.

The residential neighborhood has previously and recently endured extreme disruptions of the peace on a regular basis due to a club, named Whisper, located in the immediate vicinity (500 block of Florida street). Police dealt with continual complaints of disturbance of the peace and vandalism until a shooting finally became the catalyst for its closure. (see attached sfgate.com article).

The density of living spaces in this neighborhood does not fit with a performance space that sells distilled spirits until midnight. The applicant has not proven that the operation will not interfere with the quiet enjoyment of our property. The recent evidence indicates strongly that it would. The previous operator of the facility, Project Artale,  Check here if additional sheets attached never applied for a liquor license.

I, Karen Kinser, declare under penalty of perjury:  
PRINT (Name of Protestant)

(1) That I am the protestant herein; (2) That I have read the above protest and know the contents thereof; and (3) That the same is true of my own knowledge except as to those matters which are therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe to be true.

PROTESTANT'S SIGNATURE

Karen Kinser

SIGNED AT (City and state)

San Francisco, CA

PROTESTANT'S ADDRESS (Street number and name, city, state, zip code)

1800 Bryant St. San Francisco, CA 94110

PROTESTANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (Optional)

DATE SIGNED

2/25/2010

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 2010  
Dept of Alcoholic Beverage Control  
San Francisco

Calls-For-Service

export To  New!

Records 1 through 9 of 9

Call No	Report No	Received Date	Received Time	Priority	Call Type	Unit ID	Disposition	Location
100800593		03/21/2010	03:11:06	B	100A	3D13E	PAS	450 FLORIDA ST
100592670		02/28/2010	17:01:38	B	487	3D17C	CAN	450 FLORIDA ST
100420299		02/11/2010	02:07:00	B	100A	3D16E	PAS	450 FLORIDA ST
100253565		01/25/2010	22:11:10	C	916	3D16D	CIT	450 FLORIDA ST
100222666		01/22/2010	17:14:22	C	7S	3D74		450 FLORIDA ST
100222663		01/22/2010	17:14:06	C	7S	3D74		450 FLORIDA ST
093072033		11/03/2009	13:08:12	C	916	3D16A	HAN	450 FLORIDA ST
093033633		10/30/2009	19:49:48	C	916	3D16D	GOA	450 FLORIDA ST
092930650		10/20/2009	07:30:53	B	100A		CANC	450 FLORIDA ST

End of document



04/08/2010

13:20

SFPD VICE CRIMES -> B OF SUPERVISOR

NO.328

P08

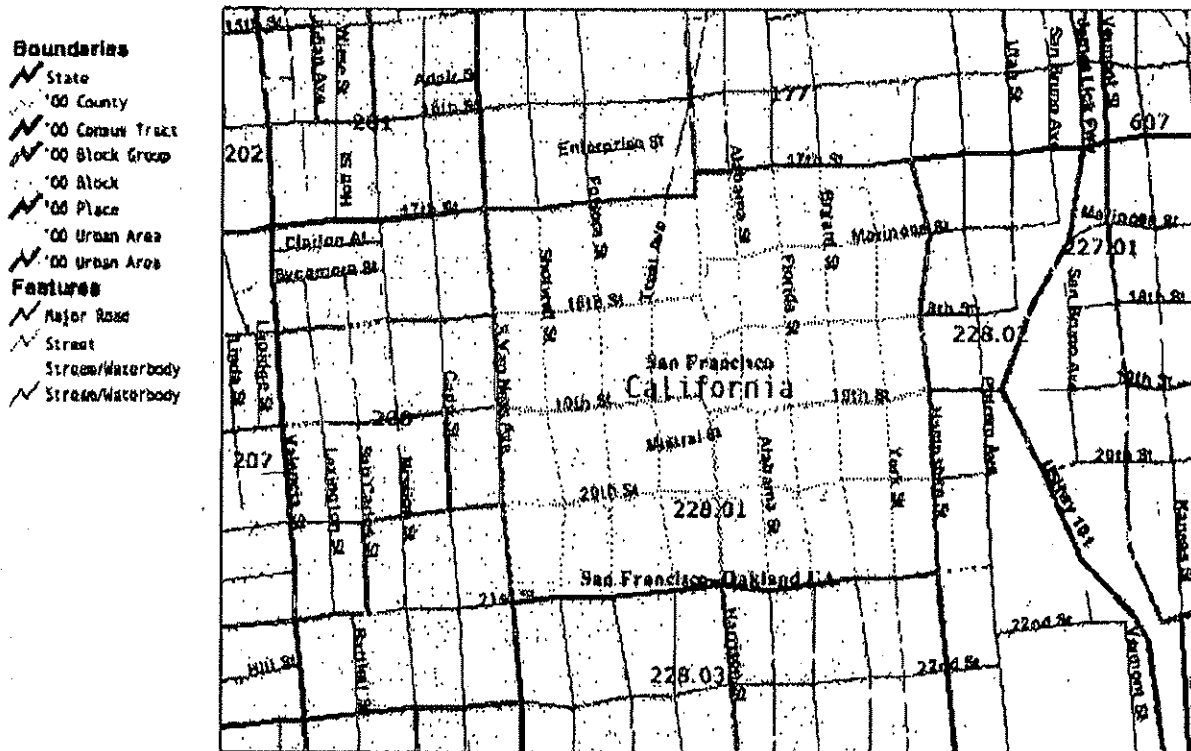
424

# MISSION DISTRICT Major Plots & Major Streets



### Census Tract 228.01, San Francisco County, California - Reference Map - American Fact...

Census Tract 228.01, San Francisco County, California



1.1 mile across

Close

# LIQUOR LICENSE REVIEW

TO: Planning Department  
AnMarie Rodgers/CTYPLN/SFGOV  
Georgia Powell/CTYPLN/SFGOV@SFGOV  
Fax No: 558-6409

File: 100309

Block/Lot: 3969/001

TO: Inspector Dave Falzon  
Police Department  
Fax No: 970-3088

Zoning: ~~RDR-1-G~~ UMLA

Quadr: SE

YMB # 1000253

DATE: January 5, 2010

This item is scheduled to be heard at a meeting on May 6, 2010. **PLEASE E-MAIL OR FAX YOUR RESPONSE BY:** April 19, 2010 to Victor Young, Clerk of City Operations and Neighborhood Services Committee.

Fax No: 554-7714 or victor\_young@sfgov.org

**Applicant Name:** Lisa Steindler  
**and Business Name:** Z Space Studio dba Z Space  
**Applicant Address:** 450 Florida  
**and Phone No.** 415-626-0453

**PLANNING COMMENTS:**  Approval  Denial

Approved as an accessory use to the existing Thrift store located at 450 Florida Street. Permitted pursuant to Planning Code Section 7B1.8 "Tavern Alcoholic Beverage Special Use District".  
Not Considered a "Bar" use per the Planning Code.  
Edgar Quintero, Planner - 558-6390

**POLICE COMMENTS:**  Approval  Denial

*San Francisco Planning Department  
Office of Analysis and Information Systems*

**Miscellaneous Permit Application**

Application Number: MB1000253

Business Name: Z SPACE STUDIO

Received Date: 03/24/2010

Reply Date: 03/29/2010

Agency: BofS

Type: OTHER

Address: 450 FLORIDA ST

Floor:

Size:

Block: 3969 Lot: 001 Zoning: UMU / ABC RUSD

Quadrant: SOUTHEAST

Existing Use: THEATOR USE--ARTAUD THEATOR

Planner: EOROPEZA

Decision: APPROVED

Status Comment: Recommend to approve the proposed type 64 General Theator ABC liquor license as an accessory use to the existing Theator Use located at 450 Florida Street.

Conditions: Please note that the recommendation of approval for the proposed type 64 does not establish a new BAR use at the subject site. Approved as an accessory use to the existing Theator Use only.

# Z SPACE

www.zspace.org

499 Alabama St. #450, San Francisco, CA 94110

Clerk of the Board  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SAN FRANCISCO  
2010 MAR 18 PM 3:13  
BY AK

## Letter of Public Convenience or Necessity

*Type of License: 64 – General Theatre*

*Business Hours of Operation: Offices open from 9am – 6pm Weekdays, performance hours vary according to the needs of each performance, but are generally in the evening, concluding by 10pm*

*Physical Location:*  
450 Florida St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
415.626.0453  
[zspace@zspace.org](mailto:zspace@zspace.org)

*Mailing Address:*  
499 Alabama St. #450  
San Francisco, CA 94110

March 16th, 2010

Dear Board of Supervisors and Public Officials,

I am pleased to write this letter explaining Z Space's application for a **Type 64 General Theater ABC License** and articulating why a license will not only be a public convenience, but also an opportunity for our community to thrive. After over 15 years of developing award-winning theatre in San Francisco, Z Space recently secured a long-term lease at the historic Project Artaud Theatre, where it is now busy reviving the venue as a bustling arts hub; a center that performing artists, visual artists, and patrons can call their home. Our goal is to bring the vibrancy of new voices and new works to the local community and Bay Area by cultivating audiences and artists alike. By enhancing the audience experience with a selection of beverages, Z Space not only secures critical revenue, it contributes to making this community an arts destination.

The Artaud Theatre has a rich thirty-year history of high quality, diverse, and community-enhancing programming that Z Space is proud to carry on. The Artaud Theatre space has hosted performances by high profile performers such as Kronos Quartet and the SFMOMA's presentation of William Kentridge's *The Return of Ulysses*. Z Space not only plans to continue such high quality programming, but also hopes to reach out to local families with our Youth Arts, an arts education program of Z Space that currently engages students of all ages at multiple schools all over the city. Our value to the community is also in our uniquely flexible and affordable venue, which is a highly desired destination for dance, performance art, theatre, and film. With a recently renovated stage and a 268-seat house, Z Space is one of the very few mid sized venues available to the Bay Area's immense number of performing arts groups. To continue and improve the vital programming at this

venue and the opportunities it offers local audiences and performers, Z Space is enthusiastically exploring ways to secure critical revenue.

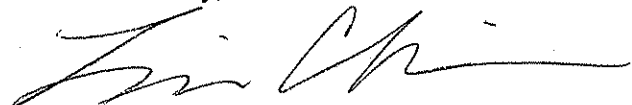
It is reasonable to ask why an additional ABC license is necessary. After all, our neighborhood is no stranger to crime. However, the audience that Z Space attracts is an economy stimulating audience, not a criminal one. Arts patrons are known to spend money near their intended venues, thereby infusing local businesses with new income. Arts destinations raise the desirability of a neighborhood. We also plan to directly reach out to several local businesses, such as CoffeeBar, Slow Club, and the Bay Area Video Coalition to directly create mutually beneficial alliances.

Z Space is not a bar, it's an arts destination, and it will not generate any more noise or any greater nuisance to the community than the Artaud Theatre has for the last thirty years. Z Space makes explicit limitations with all performances that the building is to be empty by midnight, and most performances end by 10pm. Because our theatre is connected to a building full of live/work spaces, each performance must operate under a strict decibel level limit. These regulations and more demonstrate that we are a community conscious organization.

At Z Space, we believe that art enables a community to thrive. Therefore our job is to maximize the satisfaction of our patrons and provide the highest quality art to as many people as possible. Though lofty in our goals, Z Space is still a non-profit business that must support itself. Selling alcoholic beverages at our performances would not only enhance the experience of our patrons, but could become a critical source of revenue for space maintenance and improvement.

For these reasons, Z Space requests that the Board of Supervisors give their approval of our request for an ABC license. We would be happy to discuss any community concerns or conditions by law enforcement officials. In fact, I would be happy to provide an intimate tour of our facilities at request, and would like to formally invite each Supervisor to the fantastic performances coming soon to our space.

Sincerely,



Lisa Steindler  
Executive Artistic Director  
Z Space

**INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS -**

**SECTION 23958.4 B&P**

Instructions This form is to be used for all applications for original issuance or premises to premises transfer of licenses.

- Part 1 is to be completed by an ABC employee, given to applicant with pre-application package, with copy retained in holding file or applicant's district file.
- Part 2 is to be completed by the applicant, and returned to ABC.
- Part 3 is to be completed by the local governing body or its designated subordinate officer or body, and returned to ABC.

**PART 1 - TO BE COMPLETED BY ABC**

1. APPLICANT'S NAME

Z SPACE STUDIO, THE

2. PREMISES ADDRESS (Street number and name, city, zip code)

450 FLORIDA ST., S.F. CA 94110

3. LICENSE TYPE

64

4. TYPE OF BUSINESS

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Service Restaurant      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hofbrau/Cafeteria | <input type="checkbox"/> Cocktail Lounge               | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Club          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deli or Specialty Restaurant | <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy Club       | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Club                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Club         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cafe/Coffee Shop             | <input type="checkbox"/> Brew Pub          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tavern: Beer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fraternal Club        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed & Breakfast:             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater           | <input type="checkbox"/> Tavern: Beer & Wine           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Tasting Room     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wine only                    | <input type="checkbox"/> All               |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supermarket                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Store  | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Station               | <input type="checkbox"/> Swap Meet/Flea Market |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liquor Store                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Department Store  | <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience Market            | <input type="checkbox"/> Drive-in Dairy        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug/Variety Store           | <input type="checkbox"/> Florist/Gift Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience Market w/Gasoline |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other - describe:            |  |  |  |

5. COUNTY POPULATION

4676

6. TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSES IN COUNTY

On-Sale  Off-Sale

7. RATIO OF LICENSES TO POPULATION IN COUNTY

On-Sale  Off-Sale

8. CENSUS TRACT NUMBER

0228.01

9. NO. OF LICENSES ALLOWED IN CENSUS TRACT

15  On-Sale  Off-Sale

10. NO. OF LICENSES EXISTING IN CENSUS TRACT

19  On-Sale  Off-Sale

11. IS THE ABOVE CENSUS TRACT OVERCONCENTRATED WITH LICENSES? (i.e., does the ratio of licenses to population in the census tract exceed the ratio of licenses to population for the entire county?)

- Yes, the number of existing licenses exceeds the number allowed
- No, the number of existing licenses is lower than the number allowed

3x PUB

12. DOES LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAINTAIN CRIME STATISTICS?

- Yes (Go to Item #13)
- No (Go to Item #20)

13. CRIME REPORTING DISTRICT NUMBER

424

14. TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTING DISTRICTS

654

15. TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENSES IN ALL REPORTING DISTRICTS

120,367

16. AVERAGE NO. OF OFFENSES PER DISTRICT

184

17. 120% OF AVERAGE NUMBER OF OFFENSES

221

18. TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENSES IN REPORTING DISTRICT

197

19. IS THE PREMISES LOCATED IN A HIGH CRIME REPORTING DISTRICT? (i.e., has a 20% greater number of reported crimes than the average number of reported crimes as determined from all crime reporting districts within the jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agency)

- Yes, the total number of offenses in the reporting district equals or exceeds the total number in item #17
- No, the total number of offenses in the reporting district is lower than the total number in item #17

20. CHECK THE BOX THAT APPLIES (check only one box)

- a. If "No" is checked in both item #11 and item #19, Section 23958.4 B&P does not apply to this application, and no additional information will be needed on this issue. Advise the applicant to bring this completed form to ABC when filing the application.
- b. If "Yes" is checked in either item #11 or item #19, and the applicant is applying for a non-retail license, a retail bona fide public eating place license, a retail license issued for a hotel, motel or other lodging establishment as defined in Section 25503.16(b) B&P, or a retail license issued in conjunction with a beer manufacturer's license, or winegrower's license, advise the applicant to complete Section 2 and bring the completed form to ABC when filing the application or as soon as possible thereafter.
- c. If "Yes" is checked in either item #11 or item #19, and the applicant is applying for an off-sale beer and wine license, an off-sale general license, an on-sale beer license, an on-sale beer and wine (public premises) license, or an on-sale general (public premises) license, advise the applicant to take this form to the local governing body, or its designated subordinate officer or body to have them complete Section 3. The completed form will need to be provided to ABC in order to process the application.

Governing Body/Designated Subordinate Name:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

PREPARED BY (Name of Department Employee)

WILLIE BULANADI

## Students Act Out

By Emma Talkoff  
Editor-in-Chief

Any performance can be challenging, but performing a poem or short story exactly as it is written, including narration and description, can be even more difficult. Regardless, MVMS eight graders participating in this year's Word for Word workshop seemed to be having a great time.

Every year since 2002, instructors from Word for Word have been bringing their unique style of acting to MVMS students. "Word for Word believes in the power of the short story to provide solace, compassion, and insight into our daily lives," said Valerie Weak, Administrator for the Word for Word Youth Arts Program. "Our goal is to excite students about reading and about literature."

Started in 1993, the San Francisco-based theater company uses every word originally written by the author in its performances, rather than just the dialogue. About ten schools take part in the workshops. Two-to-three schools perform a full production each year. "We work with students as young as third grade, and also go to high schools, and sometimes colleges such as Stanford University with our programs," said Weak.

"I like Word for Word," said eighth-grader Paula Venables. "It's fun. We get to do it in class with people that maybe we wouldn't normally be acting with."

Eighth-grade teacher Ms. Manwaring pointed out the academic benefits of the program. "Reading and interpreting literature is often such a stationary endeavor; it's all in our brains," she said. "This program is exciting because it calls upon our

## MVMS Dances into 2010

By Lea Anderson  
Staff Writer

Dance fever struck Mill Valley Middle School this year as students learned to dance the electric slide, swing and other dances, all leading up to a big finale.

The school began using the dance program in June 2009. Students were taught several dances by Cynthia Glinka, a dance coach, choreographer and founder of both Rejuve Dance and Manners in Motion. She began her career tap dancing through the streets of San Francisco with a group known as Rosy Radiator and the Pushrods. She is now a private dance coach, teaching people how to get active in fun ways, sticking to her slogan, "If you can walk, you can dance."

With this unique five-week dance program students prepared for a dance involving all of MVMS - over 700 people. The finale included a special Michael Jackson tribute to the song "Shake Your Body."



Photo by Lea Anderson

MVMS students rehearse the week before the big lunchtime dance February 10.

With a camera man filming, most students thought it was quite an experience. "It's a new thing for me and I'm enjoying it," said sixth-grader Tina Noorani.

PE teacher Andre Salinas said it was just like any other program - a way to get healthy and "shake your body down to the ground."

whole body and our senses, bringing reading to life with movement, voice, and other elements of drama."

In a typical session, students play a game or two, participate in acting exercises, and run through different aspects of the scripts. The scripts are poems or short stories that have been selected by Word for Word. "We look for pieces that have enough roles for the group of students that are do-

ing the workshop, pieces that tell a whole story in a very short period of time, and pieces that are at an appropriate reading level for the students we're working with," said Weak.

This year, scripts included "A Contribution to Statistics" by Wislawa Szymborska and "Fight" by Laurel Blossom.

Staff Writer Bella Levaggi contributed to this report.



# PANTHER PRINTS



A Quarterly Newsmagazine

Issue #2-February 2010

## Rules, Rules, Rules

Where do these rules come from, and who makes the decisions about them?  
Page 5

## Dance Fever!

School-wide dance program takes to the blacktop once again.  
Page 3

## River Otters Visit MVMS

Furry visitors delight teachers, students and local ecologists.  
Page 4

## New Yearbook Design

MVMS yearbook selects a new company for a new look.  
Page 4

## Assign Yourself Makes the Grade

By Hart Fogel  
Staff Writer

Who says homework can't be fun, especially when you get to assign it to yourself?

Each trimester, eighth grade students complete an Assign Yourself project in science. Students get to pick a topic related to science that interests them, then conduct an experiment or engineer something. They get the whole trimester to work on it and eventually, they bring it to school and do a presentation.

All the hard work pays off when students get to show off their projects. According to science teacher Ms. Downing, these projects let kids research things that they are passionate about. They also get to see the relevance of science and have fun while doing it.

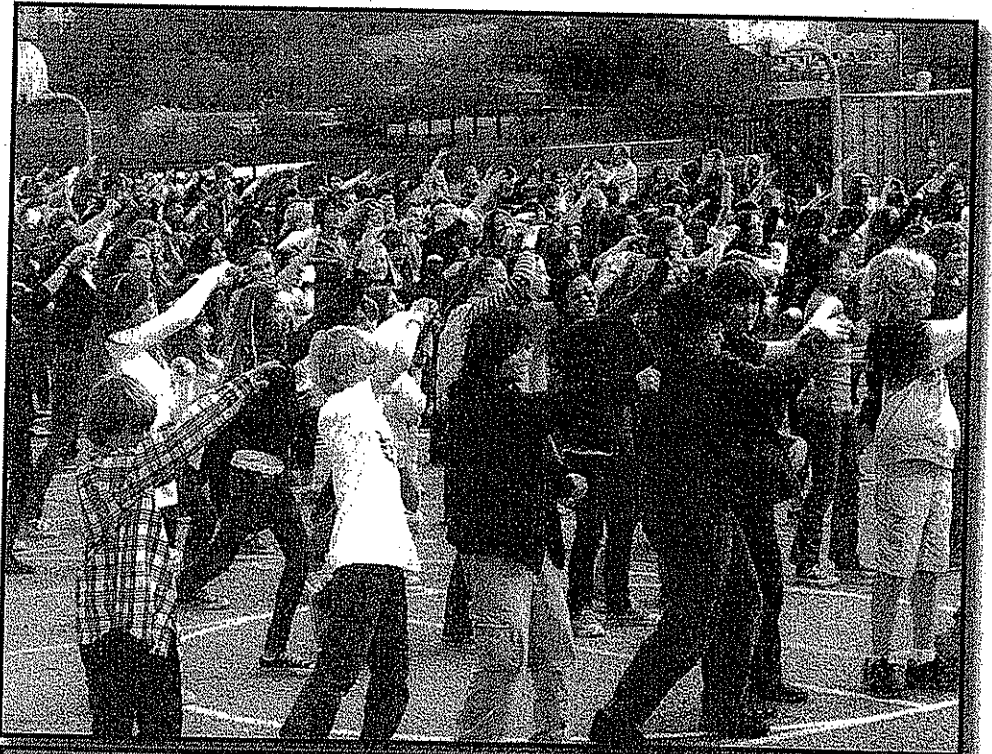
Ms. Eagle, the other eighth grade science teacher, described the way when kids present the projects as "science fair without competition." She said kids must use the scientific method in their projects. They interpret the results of the project to the class. She said that helps them better

understand what happened.

Ms. Downing said these projects usually take 5-to-10 hours of research and work outside of school.

This year, eighth-grader John Elliott built a 14-foot-tall trebuchet, which is a fancy word for a catapult. "Who doesn't like throwing things in the air?" said Elliott.

John used his trebuchet to launch tennis balls. At first, the trebuchet could only launch the tennis balls about 50 feet. After making some changes, John got it to shoot 200 feet. John said the "natural high you get when you watch the trebuchet launch" inspired him to push himself to make it shoot farther.



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## Date Lines

Archive

### Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene

Robert Hurwitt  
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

PRINT E-MAIL SHARE COMMENTS (0)

FONT | SIZE: [ ] [ ]

## Z Space takes over Artaud

Theater Artaud, one of San Francisco's primary if now under-used venues for alternative performances, is about to become a more active site once again. So says **Lisa Steindler**, artistic director of **Z Space**, who announced Tuesday that Z, a major developer of new plays and playwrights, has signed a 10-year-lease for the iconic 286-seat theater.

The agreement will not only give Z its first home in its two-decade history, for its own productions and those of its noted **Word for Word** performance company, but also will allow it "to curate a multidisciplinary presenting program" of theater, dance and multimedia arts, the announcement says. Upcoming events already scheduled include a program of Word for Word staged readings Aug. 31 and a full production of **Anne Galjour's** new play, "You Can't Get There From Here," Sept. 10-27.

#### DATE LINES

Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene 08.07.09

Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene 08.03.09

Date Lines: News from the Bay Area arts scene 07.27.09

More Date Lines »

More information is available at [zspace.org](http://zspace.org).

- Robert Hurwitt

## Litquake to have a ball and roast

Litquake, San Francisco's annual literary festival, will begin celebrating its 10-year anniversary when it holds the Black, White and Read: Litquake's Book Ball at 8 p.m. Oct. 9. The event, at the Herbst Theater's Green Room, will be loosely based on Truman Capote's famous party from the 1960s. The opening night ball will be followed by nine more days of literary spectacle, including an **Amy Tan** roast/tribute emceed by **Margaret Cho**.

For more information, go to [litquake.org](http://litquake.org).

- Chronicle Staff Report

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# UPFRONT

## SPACE UPDATE

new lease that runs through the end of 2013. "So we are very well situated, and quite relieved," she adds.

**Thick House:** Thick Description is giving up the lease on Thick House at the end of 2009, and the company officially went on hiatus after its August revival of Octavio Solis's *El Otro*. Asian American Theater Company, Black Box Theatre and Golden Thread Productions have shows in the Thick House for the rest of the year, but any company looking to rent the House in 2010 should talk to ArtHouse, the landlord.

**New Langton Arts:** The small white box on Folsom Street in San Francisco closed its doors in August. Thunderbird Theatre Company seemed to be the only theatre company that rented the space consistently, but even it moved up to Exit Theatre this year.

**Exit Theatre:** With demand high for its other three spaces—and with Cutting Ball in residence at the fourth space—Exit Theatre has signed a low-cost, 30-year lease on the space across the hall from Exit Café with plans to turn it into Exit Studio (49 seats) and Exit Green Room for classes, rehearsals and receptions. It will also create a new administrative office, converting the existing office into a tech workroom. At press time, it was already renting the space for rehearsals.

**Theatre Rhinoceros:** The

lack of a lease plus skyrocketing rent was finally enough for Theatre Rhino. In August the company left its 16th Street space and is looking for a permanent home. It's moved its offices to ArtHouse and will perform some of its

shows at Eureka Theatre and other locations.

### Intersection for the Arts:

The Mission District-based Intersection for the Arts received roughly \$1 million from The Hewlett Founda-

tion to seek a new space. While unconfirmed reports suggested it was looking at the now-vacant New College space on Valencia Street, at press time the company had nothing specific to report. ■

## Z Space

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 16-YEAR HISTORY, Z SPACE HAS ITS OWN THEATRE SPACE, specifically the 286-seat Theater Artaud. In August, the company signed a 10-year lease on the iconic space. I stopped by the theatre one August afternoon just a couple of weeks after the company moved in, and it was bustling. Staffers were painting the lobby walls white to create a gallery space with thoughts of partnering with California College of Arts and other schools to curate art. Anne Galjour was sitting onstage reading aloud from her new play that opened in September. Word for Word as well as Golden Thread had set up office space. Just a week before, Kronos Quartet was onstage doing some recording, and playwrights Peter Nachtrieb and Steve Yockey had stopped by to do some writing.

"Z Space is where the real cross-pollination of the disciplines happen," says artistic director Lisa Steindler. "We're focusing on new work and emerging artists. The word 'incubator' comes up a lot."

She plans on programming 25 weeks of the year and filling in the rest with outside curating handled by managing director David Szlasa, who will work closely with the artistic community. Among the some 10 projects in the pipeline are a Mark Jackson/Adam Bock

collaboration that will involve dancers from San Francisco Ballet, a new Steve Yockey play, as well as new plays by Lucy Thurber, Mando Alvarado and Annie Baker. She's also working on a "sister theatre" arrangement with New York's Rattlestick Playwrights Theater. Jane Prowse's *Round-Heeled Woman* hits the boards in January featuring Emmy Award winner Sharon Gless, directed by Chris Smith.

"I'm not into the pressure of presenting a season," says Steindler. "I'd rather do two good plays than eight mediocre ones."

Steindler came to Z Space in 2005 and took over the executive director role two years ago. Today the company is nearly debt-free and ready to expand its mission and operations to fill its new home. She says, "I feel like I worked my whole life to be in this moment in this place." —Karen McKeivitt



Lisa Steindler and David Szlasa.

Photo: Cristobal McKinney

