

**From:** [Diana Carrasco](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** GG PARK PRIVATIZATION  
**Date:** Monday, February 14, 2022 12:40:58 PM

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

Hello,

Stop selling our City to the rich! This City belongs to all of us and most of us can't afford to live but stay because it's our home. I am a third generation native San Franciscan. Mayor Ed Lee taught you all well .. sell the City. Outrageous! We should NEVER have to prove we're too poor to get into a venue. NEVER! FREE is what my City has always done for us San Franciscans.

If you're going to sell our City then reduce our TAXES!! We should NOT have to pay for something we will never be able to enjoy again!

You and all in City Hall are breaking this native's heart, and MANY MORE of us, each minute, hour, day, week, month and year you are in office/ You are Criminals and Sell Outs!! . SAD!

I want my words to be placed in the public-comment files for both File 21-1305 and File 21-1295.

**SINCERELY!**

Native San Franciscan who truly loves her City  
Diana Carrasco

**From:** [Shelana deSilva](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for BoS Budget and Finance Committee Agenda Items 1 & 2  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:05:28 PM

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

Dear Mr. Jalipa,

Please find my public comments on the Mayor's resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and SF Botanical Garden and the associated fee ordinance below. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Shelana deSilva

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My name is Shelana deSilva, and I am a park equity advocate. I live in Oakland and recreate with my family frequently in Golden Gate Park.

I support the Mayor's resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden management and I support free resident admission at all three sites, especially because the flex pricing ordinance would allow the merged gardens to generate much needed revenue for the Garden Improvement Fund to keep all three gardens beautiful and safe.

During the pandemic, park and open space workers have faced an astonishing rise in visitation and usage, in some places of up to 200 - 400% over pre-pandemic visitation numbers. It's absolutely critical for people to be able to recreate safely outside, to connect to nature and each other, to learn about the natural history of where we live so that we can educate and inspire our future climate stewards, and to support our wellbeing. Cooperative agreements like this one are important tools that allow open space and park managers to work TOGETHER to better serve communities, especially during fiscally and logistically challenging moments like this.

Under this proposed ordinance, San Francisco residents can take advantage of this incredible resource at no cost. All Californians rely on safe access to nature, now more than ever. I respectfully urge your aye votes for the resolution and ordinance. Thank you.

**From:** [Tish Brown](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:32:07 AM

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

To Budget and Finance Committee:

I emphatically support the resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers and Japanese Tea Garden with the SFBotanical Garden (SFBG) where I am a volunteer.

The proposal for free residential admission to all 3 sites is a wonderful gift to the City, and can cite my experience. In my 30 years as a staff member with an office at the de Young Museum, I went next door to visit the Japanese Tea Garden only 2 times. Why? Because it was necessary to pay!

However, it's crucial to allow the Gardens to have flex pricing to support the garden improvement fund the will allow maintenance\ not only of the plant material but the fragile wooden buildings at the Japanese Tea Garden and especially the Conservatory of Flowers. In the 1990s the conservatory building was almost lost due to need for repairs and survived only due to extraordinary nationally based fundraising.

Thank you,  
Tish Brown  
109 Edgewood Ave, 94117

**From:** [dewsteele@gmail.com](mailto:dewsteele@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mayor's resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden management  
**Date:** Saturday, February 5, 2022 9:50:19 AM

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

Dear Brent,

I wanted to write and let you know that as a San Francisco resident, I support the Mayor's resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden management and I support free resident admission at all three sites if the flex pricing ordinance allows the gardens to generate much needed revenue for the Garden Improvement Fund to keep all three gardens beautiful and safe. These wonderful gardens need more resources, not less, to support critical infrastructure like pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades. These special places are living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value – they need investment. Our current non-resident adult admission pricing is low compared to botanical gardens across the country, and does not provide the stable revenue the gardens require.

Thank you for your attention.

Andrea Dew Steele

**From:** [Sandra Swanson](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** File 21-1305  
**Date:** Saturday, February 5, 2022 9:51:36 AM

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

As a current and long-time board member of the Conservatory of Flowers, past-trustee of San Francisco Botanical Garden, and past-president of San Francisco Garden Club, I write to express my strong support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the SF Botanical Garden Society, currently co-managing the Botanical Garden, to also co-manage the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Park. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) to eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow flexible pricing for non-resident adult admission fees at reasonable rates. Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Sandra Jewel Swanson  
Board, Conservatory of Flowers  
Past Trustee, SF Botanical Garden  
Past President, San Francisco Garden Club

**From:** [Michael McKechnie](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for co-management and flexible pricing for Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Sunday, February 6, 2022 1:15:43 PM

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

Members of the Board of Supervisors, my name is Michael McKechnie, and I'm a 36-year resident of the Buena Vista district of San Francisco. I am currently a docent at the Botanical Garden, and I was Executive Director of the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society from 2000 to 2011. Thus I have both a current and a historical perspective of management, fundraising, curatorial and public programming at the Garden.

There are four points I believe are essential to understand about the Botanical Garden Society's current capabilities.

1. The relationship between the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society has never been stronger. Owing to the capable leadership of Phil Ginsburg and Stephanie Linder this partnership truly benefits San Franciscans and visitors to our city.
2. Private fundraising under Stephanie Lindner's leadership has become substantial and sustains much, but not all, of the fiscal needs of the Garden.
3. The curatorial functions of the Garden — acquisitions, cataloging, collaborating internationally, protecting endangered species— are remarkable in their completeness.
4. One key result of these three foundational strengths is robust public programs, especially youth education programs, through which San Francisco public school youth are taught to love and support the natural world.

Extending these abilities, honed over many decades, to the historic Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers will greatly benefit those collections and the public programs they support. The proposal to extend free entry to both San Francisco residents and military veterans, with flexible pricing for non-residents and non-veterans, provides a much needed boost to the maintenance of these three beloved institutions and an enhanced experience for San Franciscans.

I urge you to approve the two resolutions made by Mayor Breed including the amendment made by Supervisor Mar.

Thank you for your attention to this email.

Michael McKechnie  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joanne Whitney](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Gardens of GG park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 9:56:00 AM

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

Dear supervisors

- I support the Mayor's resolution to merge the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden management and I support free resident admission at all three sites if the flex pricing ordinance allows the gardens to generate much needed revenue for the Garden Improvement Fund to keep all three gardens beautiful and safe
- these gardens need more resources, not less, to support critical infrastructure like pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades
- these special places are living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value – they need investment
- our current non-resident adult admission pricing is low compared to botanical gardens across the country, and does not provide the stable revenue the gardens require

Joanne Whitney  
PhD., PharmD  
Retired Professor UCSF  
Sent from my iPhone  
415 317-9026  
415 566-7755

**From:** [Barbaccia, Joseph](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments for Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Monday, February 7, 2022 3:18:24 PM

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

Dear Brent Jalipa,

My Name is Dr. Joseph Barbaccia; I live in the Forest Hill neighborhood. I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposed lease and management agreement (File 21-1305) that allows the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, which currently co-manages the Botanical Garden, to also co-manage the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with the Recreation and Park Department. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow flexible pricing for non-resident adult admission fees at reasonable rates.

I have served as a children's and adult docent in the Botanical Garden since 1996 and as a member of the Botanical Garden Society Board since 2000. These gardens are special places in our City and are living museums that contain historic and iconic structures as well as extraordinary plant collections from around the world. These places are also cherished by San Franciscans and visitors from around the world.

Joseph C. Barbaccia  
99 Marcela Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94116-1471



**From:** [Alyse](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** File 21-1305, Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 11:50:31 AM

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

Dear Supervisor Walton,

I write to you in your capacity as President of the Board of Supervisors concerning legislation that is coming before you next week that would relinquish control of the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park to the Botanical Society, who currently have control over the Strybing Arboretum (now called the Botanical Gardens). I am strongly opposed to this for the following reasons.

When I was a child, everything in Golden Gate Park was free, including the Conservatory of Flowers, the Japanese Tea Garden, and the Strybing Arboretum. That was the only way my working-class father was able to take his wife and four children to all of these places. There are now fees for the Conservatory and the Tea Garden, and Arboretum is free to only those who live in San Francisco (which is patently unfair).

The Botanical Society has indicated that they plan on raising fees on the above-mentioned attractions once they assume control. What are now prohibitive fees for some will become prohibitive for many more. An increase in fees will discourage people from visiting these attractions, and those who live out of the city (like our next door neighbors in Daly City) are not likely to come to the park at all.

I strongly support an elimination of all fees to each of these attractions, and this would include everyone, no matter where they live. Please do not allow the complete opposite of this to happen - an increase fees - by giving control to the Botanical Society.

Additionally, there has to be community outreach on these issues before anything can be decided. I only learned about all of this today from a friend. The city should have disseminated this information widely so everyone could weigh in on this matter. I suspect many would feel as I do and support an elimination of all fees. Please allow the people most affected to have a voice.

Sincerely,  
Alyse Ceirante  
District Four

**From:** [Mary McCutcheon](#)  
**To:** [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment supporting 2/2/2022 agenda items 211305 and 211295  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 8:51:09 AM

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

Good morning Supervisors Haney, Safar and Mar,

My name is Mary McCutcheon and I am a resident of the Richmond neighborhood, District 1 where I have lived for over 40 years.

I am writing to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) before you today.

When the Covid pandemic spread to San Francisco nearly two years ago it was a frightening and isolating time for us all. As San Francisco shuttered offices, restaurants, theaters and museums our parks found safe ways to open to the public and became places of refuge for myself and countless other San Francisco residents.

I am a retired senior and live alone so exercise and companionship are essential for my physical and emotional well being. Words cannot express my gratitude to the Botanical Garden for providing a beautiful and safe place where I could meet with friends. When the pandemic became overwhelming my morning walks in the tranquility of Japanese Tea Garden renewed my spirits. Merging the three Gardens is a brilliant idea and can only enhance the botanical experience of residents and visitors alike.

I am a volunteer with Friends of the Japanese Tea Garden as well as a member of the Botanical Garden and plan to continue to support the Gardens in the future. That said, I strongly support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I believe this ordinance will provide San Francisco residents a new sense of pride and ownership of our gardens. I also support allowing dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees. If you compare our Garden fees with the Botanical or Japanese Garden fees of Brooklyn, Buffalo, Phoenix or Portland you will see they are far below average.

Supporting these proposals is good for San Francisco.

Thank you,

Mary McCutcheon  
530 42nd Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121

**From:** [Natasha Hopkinson](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [NATASHA Hopkinson](#); [Vanessa Fajardo](#); [SFBG](#)  
**Subject:** (File 21-1305) & (File 21-1295)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:47:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

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

Dear Supervisors and the Budget and Finance Committee:

My name is Natasha Hopkinson and I live in the Richmond Neighborhood. I am writing to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

The Golden Gate Park has meant so much to my son and grandson as well as to me. We want it to thrive as it gives so much to people in search of a connection with nature here in our city.

Thank you,



NATASHA HOPKINSON  
542 29TH AVE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121  
917-407-1731  
[NATASHAHOPKINSON@POST.HARVARD.EDU](mailto:NATASHAHOPKINSON@POST.HARVARD.EDU)

**From:** [Nancy Rasmussen](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Feb 2 -- Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:41:57 PM

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

Dear Mr. Jalipa

My name is Nancy Rasmussen and I live in the Sunset/Parkside Neighborhood. I support the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Parks. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

These special places are living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value – they need investment. Additionally, these gardens need more resources, not less, to support critical infrastructure like pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades.

Thank you,

Nancy C. Rasmussen

**From:** [Ann Tubbs](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal for Botanical Garden  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:32:47 PM

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

The proposal to combine the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory with our wonderful Botanical Garden is a no-brainer! It makes sense in so many ways.....elimination of duplication, and creation of a VERY impressive attraction for tourists and garden lovers from all over. Gardens of Golden Gate Park....doesn't that sound impressive?! Wouldn't you want to go if you were visiting from London or Amsterdam....or Seattle....

Since I live in San Francisco (SOMA), naturally I support making entrance to the Tea Garden and Conservatory free for residents. I almost always take our out-of-town visitors to the Botanical Garden and am happy to treat them, since I get in free by virtue of living here.

At the same time, it is obviously crucial that the gardens receive the funding they need. Please support this proposal and help it move forward.

Thanks!  
Ann Tubbs

**From:** [Steve Pairman](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Non Resident Pricing at the Gardens  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:15:55 PM

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

Dear Brent Jalipa of the Budget and Finance Committee,

My name is Steve Pairman and I live in the Richmond Neighborhood nearby to Golden Gate Park. I am writing to express my support for proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

The reason I support dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees is because

- These gardens need more resources, not less, to support critical infrastructure like pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades.
- The Gardens are special places and living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value – they need investment.
- The current non-resident admission pricing is low compared to botanical gardens across the country, and does not provide the stable revenue the gardens require.

Thank you,

Steve Pairman  
Local Resident  
Firefighter Paramedic

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Tea Garden - petition and Consent to Lease  
Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2012 12:11:02 PM  
Importance: High

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

Re: Letter to the Board of Supervisors. Please post this letter in both File 21-1305 and File 21-1295. Also please include the attached image if possible.

Thank you.

Dear Board of Supervisors:

As someone who is a direct neighbor of the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society for more than three decades, I am well-qualified to comment on the egregious proposed privatization of the Tea Garden and transfer (originally proposed to be instituted with a million-dollar payment to Parks Alliance, the current private business operator to correct a "deficit") to the "Society," an organization that has been a horrific steward of Strybing Arboretum.

I strongly oppose agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which through an anti-democratic process, has been gifted the 55 acres of Strybing Arboretum to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would maintain discriminatory admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers.

Particularly egregious are the plans to fleece working people for additional sums on weekends and special occasions. "Working people" also includes those of us who will go to these three formerly public spaces with our guests. Either we pay or they pay. Meanwhile, members of the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society enter for free with their guest. Many of these people do not live in San Francisco so they would ordinarily be paying.

All entrance taxes need to be abolished! The San Francisco Botanical Garden Society has more than \$20 million in assets and San Francisco has a budget of more than \$12 billion.

Charging makes neither economic nor social sense!

• Entry taxes give a bad impression to visitors and visitors already have a bad impression thanks to corporate media and bad government policies.

• It is not fair for us to pay for guests who are permanent residents in a line (which otherwise would not exist) so that the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society can institute on controlled by wealthy individuals many of whom do not even reside here, let alone live in the Sunset, Haight or Richmond.

Despite their pretensions and fabricated statistics, the entry taxes actually generate negative income after expenses. The collection itself is expensive: millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent on ticket booths, staff time, advertising, a \$1.1 million fence and destroying lovely gardens to create corporate event spaces and a new "nursery" gated complex built on the ruins of classic gardens.

• The San Francisco Botanical Garden Society has operated secretly without community input. A meeting complex with new nursery, strongly opposed by the Sierra Club, was never built. The taxpayer-funded sign rotted on the hill before being trashed. Instead, the "nursery" project was downsized and moved to an area where gardens had to be destroyed in order to build the new complex. This was all done without any public input.

• The San Francisco Botanical Garden Society pays a mere \$100 per year for rent! Under his agreement, they will pay nothing for events. They have used this public illegality to hold \$50 million piano concerts and similar functions geared towards wealthy people. The intent of privatizing the Tea Garden and transferring total control of the Conservatory to the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society is to use them as staging areas for events that will profit the Society.

Economics have nothing to do with it!

• Offering free entry to events does not make these three public spaces a "safe space" for veterans as claimed. I personally have heard from the late Alexander Sileraz, a disabled USMC veteran and Salvadoran immigrant who was raised in the Inner Sunset, about how the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society called the cops on him to persecute him on numerous occasions.

Watch the videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DPL8LumQ7k>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DPL8LumQ7k>

The only way to make these formerly public areas safe and accessible to everyone is to make entry free and expand entry hours from April to November.

ALSO: We need and I believe have shown exactly what the flaws in this pricing system and contractual language show. It is completely unfair to taxpayers to hand over these two public spaces to private interests without such a study.

As far as these two ordinances go, if you are not willing to reject this amendment and ordinance, please consider the following changes if you wish to support social equity. All of these should be incorporated in the Lease Agreement.

We need:

• Regular community meetings (Inner Sunset residents and other concerned citizens can attend). • Trustee Notes to be available on their website. • Either free entrance to all or no surge pricing and increased free entry days on weekends and after 5 PM (when people can come).

Regarding the new lease agreement: RECTALS 8 Section 6.7(b) should be amended to have the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society pay all revenues from the entry tolls after collection on expenses. These should not include advertising (which it does currently).

There is no reason why the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society should not pay the same rates as anyone else for using public space. This is completely unfair and needs to be amended!

If they keep the admission revenues to use for their own purposes, then why should we bother calculating them?

10. Sect on 6.11 (b)(iii) which maintains that the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society does not need to reimburse the City for the entry of its members needs to either be deleted or amended so that the City receives 0% of membership fees. Otherwise, this is socially inequitable.

Clause (c) should be amended to read the Strybing Arboretum (and the other gardens) will be open without charge every day after 5 PM April through October every Federal and City Official Holiday and every Saturday or Sunday, e.g. once a week on 27. Transit on Agreement. No money should be paid from the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society to Parks Alliance that would otherwise go to the General Fund or RPD.

Those are all of my suggestions.

When streets and roads were closed to provide recreation during Covid, the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society remained gated for months. The likely reason? They could not figure out a way to safely open and collect money. Opening it up for free would have set a bad precedent.

People might have gotten used to it. Because in San Francisco, the "temporary" often becomes permanent. And we can't have government propping services "for free." People might get used to it. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Harry S. Parisier  
Inner Sunset







**From:** [Matthew Dzadoovsky](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** 2/2/22 Budget and Finance Committee - San Francisco Botanical Garden  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 7:10:33 PM

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

Dear Brent Jalipa of Budget and Finance Committee,

My name is Matt Dzadoovsky and I live in the Outer Sunset Neighborhood nearby to Golden Gate Park. I am writing to express my support for proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

The reason I support dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees is because these gardens need more resources, not less, to support critical infrastructure like pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades. The Gardens are special places and living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value – they need investment. The current non-resident admission pricing is low compared to botanical gardens across the country, and does not provide the stable revenue the gardens require.

Thank you,

Matt Dzadoovsky  
SF Resident

**From:** [Eva Monroe](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [melgarstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:melgarstaff@sfgov.org)  
**Subject:** public comment/SFBG MOA amendment 2/2/22  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 5:07:34 PM

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

Dear Brent Jalipa and Supervisor Myrna Melgar,

My name is Eva Monroe. I am a 40 year active resident of Forest Hill, SF and I am a long time resident of this wonderful city - 55 years, not including college at USF. I have served the Botanical Garden as a Children's Docent, SFBG Board of Director and SFBGS Board of Directors Chairperson. Know and love this Garden, the Japanese Tea garden and COF.

I am writing in support of tomorrow's 2 important agenda items for the Budget and Finance Committee - The SFBG Memorandum of Agreement amendment for the SFBG Lease to add The Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, and to make these two gardens free for all SF residents, codifying flex pricing to offset lost revenue, allow a multi garden value ticket and generate more revenue for the critical Garden improvement fund. Please vote to approve these two agenda items!

This is win-win situation for SF and its citizens and all potential visitors to these world class garden attractions in Golden Gate Park.

These gardens/living museums - deserve more resources, not less to support critical infrastructures like safe pathways, careful irrigation, plantings, repairs and upgrades for the benefit of our visitors.

I want to keep our gardens accessible, safe and beautiful for my grandchildren and for generations to come!

Thank you for helping to move these initiatives forward!

Sincerely,

Eva Monroe.

**From:** [Patrick Collins](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Amendment to Lease Agreement for Botanical Garden  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 8:31:14 PM

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

Dear Clerk Jalipa,

I am a longtime homeowner in Bernal Heights, a donor to the SF Botanical Gardens and a longtime supporter of our city parks. I am writing to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Parks.

I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

I will add that I recently went to the Tucson Botanical Garden and discovered that Tucson Garden's fees for non-residents are much higher despite their garden being less than a tenth of the size of the SF Garden.

Best Regards,

Patrick Collins

132 Elsie St, San Francisco, CA 94110

**From:** [Monica Martin](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** SF Botanical Garden Society's proposed lease and management agreement amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 4:25:14 PM

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Dear Clerk Jalipa,

My name is Monica Martin and I live in the Castro neighborhood. I am writing to express my support for proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Parks. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

These special places are living museums containing historic and iconic structures, as well as extraordinary plant collections with significant conservation and educational value and they need investment.

Thank you,

Monica Martin  
236 Collingwood St  
San Francisco 94114

**From:** [Ruth Wilcox](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Resolution regarding the merging of SFBG, COF, and JTG/Free admission for SF residents and all vets and active military/Continuation of Dynamic pricing  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:33:37 PM

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Dear Brent,

I am a resident of San Francisco, living close to Golden Gate Park. I am also a Children's Walk Guide and Docent at the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and a member for 5 years of the Board of Directors at SFBG.

My family members and I are frequent visitors to Golden Gate Park. We enthusiastically support the resolution that would merge the operations of the Conservatory of Flowers, The Japanese Tea Garden, and the Conservatory of Flowers. We also support the Mayor's resolution that would make the JTG- and the COF free to San Francisco residents and for all veterans and active military. I also endorse the continuation of the flex pricing that has helped support critical garden maintenance and improvement. Living museums need updating, care, and are affected by weather, and wear-and-tear from visitors. The continuation of flex pricing will help compensate for the loss of garden improvement revenue due to the expansion of free admission. Our admission prices at all 3 gardens are in the middle range or lower than other public gardens across the country.

Thank you and the Supervisors for your consideration of these proposals.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Wilcox

**From:** [Denis Mosgofian](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on File 21-1305 & 21-1295  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:12:59 PM

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**Note to Brent Jalipa:** Please post this letter in both File 21-1305 and File 21-1295.

I strongly oppose agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which has been wrongly gifted the 55 acres of Strybing Arboretum, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. This expands the privatization of parts of Golden Gate Park, or as Rec Park Commissioner Buell prefers and promotes, the “the site specific revenue generation” from our public spaces. Private uber public.

Moreover, this consolidation in private hands is most likely to result in expanding RPD Ginsburg’s institutionalized low wage non-benefitted workforce (kept below 20 hours/week) such as exists in the Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Garden and in post-2010 recreational programming.

I support the Mayor’s proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would maintain no admission fees for San Francisco residents at the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers.

All fee revenue over and above the cost of care and maintenance of the various gardens and staff should go directly into the RPD maintenance funds or to the City’s General Fund.

Consider also that no City workforce should be restricted and manipulated to working less than 20 hours a week so the City will not have to pay for benefits.

Thank you,

Denis Mosgofian  
94122

**From:** [Debbie Zambetti](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:05:46 PM

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Dear Mr. Jalipa and Supervisor Ronen,

My name is Debra Zambetti and I live in the Bernal Heights Neighborhood. I am writing to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Parks. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

Thank you,

Debra Zambetti

**From:** [janesmalley1@juno.com](mailto:janesmalley1@juno.com)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Botanical Garden File 21 and File 1295  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 1:55:46 PM

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Please post this letter in both File 21-1305 and File 21-1295

I strongly oppose agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which, through an anti-democratic process, has been gifted the 55 acres of Strybing Arboretum, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would maintain discriminatory admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers.  
Jane Smalley

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**From:** [Susan Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Jalapa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for gardens of golden gate park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 12:49:30 AM

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Dear Mr Jalapa,

I live in Noe Valley (94114) and I am writing to express my support for proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

Thank you,  
Susan Hunter

**From:** [Jessa Barzelay](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support for proposed Lease and Management agreement amendment - SF Botanical Garden + dynamic pricing  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 10:18:56 PM

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Dear Mr Jalipa,

My name is Jessa Barzelay and I was born and raised in SF and have been an Outer Sunset homeowner and voter for the last 12 years. I was also the Director of Learning and Engagement at SF Botanical Garden for six years. While there, my two young children were the beneficiaries of all the Garden, the Japanese Tea Garden, and the Conservatory of Flowers had to offer. Indeed, my children, like most of our City's residents, have always linked the three magical plant places in their hearts and minds.

I am writing to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers, in partnership with Recreation & Parks. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees. Having been a long-time senior staff member of the nonprofit running SFBG, I know EXACTLY how critical admission funds were to support the beautiful collections cherished by hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. This trifecta of centers that mean so much to SF residents for their tranquility, biodiversity, and cultural richness deserve to be united, free, and supported through dynamic pricing.

Thank you,

Jessa Barzelay  
2158 35th Avenue  
415-272-8630

**From:** [Sullivan, Mike](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 4:47:00 PM

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Dear Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:

My name is Mike Sullivan, and I live in the Cole Valley neighborhood. I am writing to express my support for proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers.

Thank you.

Mike Sullivan

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**From:** [Betsy Johnsen](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Botanical Garden Merger  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 4:43:55 PM

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

Dear Supervisor Mar,

My husband and I are longtime residents of the Outer Sunset. We are also longtime supporters and members of the SF Botanical Garden, and I do volunteer work there every week. I talk to the thousands of people who go there. They are from around the world and across the country. And lots of them are city residents who treasure the garden in their daily lives.

We support the Mayor's resolution to merge the management of the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden (File 21-1305).

We also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

This will streamline the management and save money better used on necessary infrastructure, and open up the experience to many more.

Thank you,

**Betsy Johnsen**  
Law Offices of Betsy Johnsen  
Family Law & Mediation  
Email: [BetsyJohnsen@gmail.com](mailto:BetsyJohnsen@gmail.com)

**From:** [Susan Salenger](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** San Francisco Botanical Garden  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 2:45:03 PM

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Dear Mr. Jalipa,

My name is Susan Salenger and I am a former SF city resident who loves the Botanical Garden and who still visits all the time. I would like to go on record to express my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers.

I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

Thank You,  
Sue Salenger

Susan Salenger, Author  
*Sidelined: How Women Manage & Mismanage Their Health*  
<http://www.susansalenger.com>

**From:** [Jane Scurich](#)  
**To:** [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 9:08:44 AM

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

January 31, 2022

San Francisco Budget and Finance Committee and Board of Supervisors

My name is Jane Scurich. From 2007 to 2017, I was employed as the Director of Development at the Conservatory of Flowers (COF). For two years during the recession, I also served as the Director of Major Gifts at the San Francisco Parks Trust (SFPT), now known as the Parks Alliance, which provided me experience with both organizations. Although I retired in 2017, I have continued to support COF as a member of the Advisory Council since 2018. As a member of the San Francisco Garden Club I assisted in fundraising for the new plant nursery and the Celebration Garden.

Throughout my tenure at the COF, I encountered donor confusion due to the SFPT fiscal sponsorship of COF. It was very difficult for donors to understand the relationship and appreciate the philanthropic needs of COF. It is also very unusual for an organization as large and established as the Conservatory to operate with a fiscal sponsor, a relationship usually created for a new nonprofit or a small and very focused community organization.

During my years of service at COF, one topic that regularly arose from guest services at our staff meetings involved visitors inquiring about a multi-use ticket to all the gardens in the park. The U.S. Travel Association hosted their International Pow Wow in San Francisco sometime around 2010. Prior to the event and during the convention, many travel consolidators inquired about one ticket to visit all three gardens. The proposal before you for one ticket to visit the three gardens is an answer to a long-asked question.

I would like to add my support for the proposed lease and management agreement amendment (File 21-1305) that allows the Botanical Garden Society, which operates the Botanical Garden, to operate the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers. I also support the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) that would eliminate residential admission fees for the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers and continue to allow dynamic pricing for non-resident adult admission fees.

As a frequent traveler (although now limited due to Covid) to national and international botanical gardens and conservatories, I find the admission fees to our local gardens to be quite low. Some of my favorite gardens have much higher admission: Atlanta BG is \$22.95, NY BG \$28, Brooklyn BG \$18. I do not think the combined ticket price for the three gardens would be a deterrent to non-resident visitors.

This proposal offers so much for San Francisco: an opportunity to unite the three gardens under one leadership, eliminate redundancies, bring national and international attention to these world class gardens, create a well-conceived case for support from major philanthropists, and offer free admission to the majestic Conservatory and Tea Garden for San Francisco residents!

An advantage to the Rec & Parks Department is the streamlining of reporting and supervision. Currently, the Director of the Conservatory and Botanical Garden, a Rec/Park employee, works collaboratively with the Executive Director of the BG. At the Conservatory, The Director oversees the horticultural employees of Rec/Park, and oversees development, event rental, guest services, operations, volunteer, and education departments, responsibilities that will be managed by SFBG Society.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Scurich, [jscurich@gmail.com](mailto:jscurich@gmail.com)



**San Francisco Group, SF Bay Chapter**

Serving San Francisco County

To: Budget and Finance Committee, SF Board of Supervisors

Date: January 21, 2022

Subject: Questions regarding the Gardens of Golden Gate Park proposal (File No. 211305)

As part of the Budget and Finance Committee deliberations, the Sierra Club SF Group would appreciate information on the following issues regarding the Gardens of Golden Gate Park proposal:

1. Will the raise in out-of-town fees cover the cost of free admission for residents? Please outline the projections for this. If not, what is the estimated loss for the first year? And also for subsequent years, once COVID is not a factor in people visiting San Francisco.
2. A quick review of a past budget found online seemed to indicate that the Tea Garden brings in four times as much revenue as the Botanical Garden. If this is the case, it seems that this lease is going to result in the Tea Garden paying for the Botanical Garden expenses. The Botanical Garden Society took over the management of the SFBG with claims that it could raise funding for the SFBG. Has that not been the case?
3. Despite the Tea Garden bringing in considerably more revenue, the lease still reserves the first funding for the Botanical Garden. There is no set-aside for the Tea Garden. Why is that? Shouldn't extensive funding be set aside for the Tea Garden?
4. What kind of changes would the SFBG Society be able to make in the Tea Garden? For instance, could they build new buildings in the Tea Garden, put up new advertising, change the plant palette? Would this lease allow the Botanical Garden Society to sublease the Tea House to a different entity of its choosing, such as Starbucks?
5. The lease says that the Department of Recreation and Park can make additional changes to the lease after the Supervisors vote. Do these changes have to go back to the Supervisors, or are they pre-approved with this vote?
6. The Tea Garden is valued for its beauty and as a place of quiet contemplation. Will public be denied access to the Tea Garden due to private fundraising events? Will there be a limit to the number of times a year that the Tea Garden could be closed off to the public?
7. The original Botanic Garden lease is for 10 years, with the option for renewal -- that is a total of 20 years. Twenty years is a long time for valuable City parkland to be managed by an outside



organization. With this new lease, will the 20 years be extended or will the lease continue to function under the original 20-year agreement?

8. The pagoda in the Tea Garden is undergoing extensive and expensive renovation according to traditional building methods. The Botanical Garden Society is not an expert in either Japanese style gardens or architecture. How will the cultural and architectural integrity of the Japanese Tea Garden be preserved? Will funding be siphoned off of projects such as the pagoda or other restorations? Will voting positions be reserved on the SFBG Society Board for representatives of Japanese Culture and experts in Japanese gardens and architecture?
9. Exhibit E 1 d. states that :

*"Expenditures from the Gardens of Golden Gate Park Improvement Fund will be used by City and SFBGS only for the payment of costs and expenses for maintenance, renovation and improvement of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park and will not be used for any other purpose unless the Parties otherwise agree in writing. Expenditures from the Gardens of Golden Gate Park Improvement Fund are intended to enhance the Gardens of Golden Gate Park and not to replace traditional sources or levels of City funding. Expenditures from the Gardens of Golden Gate Park Improvement Fund must be agreed upon by the Garden Director after consultation with the Executive Director and are subject to approval by the General Manager. "*

The proposal to combine management for the Gardens of Golden Gate Park is presented as solely to benefit those gardens. However, the above provision seems to allow the Recreation and Park Department to divert funds to other projects or uses without any public or BOS oversight.

Thank you for considering these questions.

*Becky Evans*

Becky Evans  
Chair, Executive Committee

Mrs. J. Paul Woollomes  
248 Park Lane  
Atherton, CA 94027

January 25, 2022

Budget & Finance Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Committee Meeting January 26  
10:30am

Dear Budget & Finance Committee,

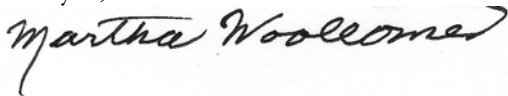
I have volunteered at the Conservatory of Flowers in the San Francisco Botanical Garden for many years. I have helped with development and now serve on the Conservatory of Flowers Advisory Council. I have seen first-hand the importance of the Conservatory of Flowers to the Bay Area visitors, especially children and to the many visitors from around the world. You could say that it is the iconic "face" of the San Francisco Botanical Gardens.

The previous Director of the Botanical Garden, Matthew Stevens envisioned combining the Japanese Tea Garden, the Conservatory of Flowers, and the Botanical Garden. He worked toward that goal for several years. The three gardens are within walking distance of each other. Combining them under one umbrella would improve efficiencies and San Francisco would have one of the top gardens in the country. A merge would eliminate redundancies while allowing enhanced, combined educational and cultural experiences. Additionally, I believe, the three gardens together would also encourage greater philanthropic support for capital improvements for each garden.

I understand that fees would be eliminated for San Francisco residents. Needless to say, the combined gardens will need maintenance and enhancement funds. This could be done through Flex pricing for nonresident adult admissions only. It would not impact nonresident children, youth, or senior tickets.

I strongly support combining the Conservatory of Flowers, The Japanese Tea Garden, and the Botanical Garden. (The Gardens of Golden Gate Park.) I also support flex pricing as a practical way to help fund the care and enrichment of the gardens. I hope that you will look kindly on the proposals.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Woollomes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Martha Woollomes