



Hidden Garden Steps

A Community Project with Public Art

November 16, 2012

Nick Elsner
San Francisco Department of Public Works
875 Stevenson, #460
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Elsner:

Thanks a million for all your assistance as we move forward with the community-based volunteer-driven Hidden Garden Steps project. Our effort to create another neighborhood gathering place by installing mosaic tiled steps, a mural, and a garden habitat of California natives and other drought-tolerant plants, including many that help the endangered Green Hairstreak butterfly to thrive, will provide substantial improvements to the City-County property on 16th Avenue between Kirkham and Lawton streets in San Francisco's Inner Sunset District.

We've been very successful at building a broad-based coalition as a San Francisco DPW Street Parks Program project and a San Francisco Parks Alliance project with Supervisor Sean Elsbernd's support. Our informal community partners include the Inner Sunset Park Neighbors, the Nature in the City Green Hairstreak [Butterfly] Corridor, and Woodside International School (the art instructor and her students have already completed a colorful mural at the foot of the stairs to beautify what previously was a drab gray concrete wall often marred by graffiti). We also routinely attract students (e.g., Washington High School Key Club volunteers) who join neighbors in monthly onsite clean-ups to sweep the steps, remove graffiti, add plants to the gardens, and complete other onsite work.

Donors have been wonderfully supportive and generous: more than 200 people locally as well as from seven states outside of California and from the UK have given more than \$100,000 toward the project. Media coverage has also been favorable; *SF Weekly*, for example, called Hidden Garden Steps "Best Community Art" project in 2011, and our local neighborhood and city-wide newspaper and radio colleagues have been increasingly covering our successes.

We're looking forward to continuing to work with you through the application process that will move us closer to completion of the project. Please don't hesitate to let us

know if there's anything else we need to do as we seek approval at the City-County level for the Hidden Garden Steps project.

With warmest regards,



Paul Signorelli

Hidden Garden Steps organizing committee co-chair (with Licia Wells and Liz McLoughlin)

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