

From: [Jane Chin](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Stephanie Linder](#)
Subject: Admission fees Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2022 8:56:08 AM

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

February 16, 2022

Supervisors Haney, Mar and Safai,

My name is Jane Chin and I am a native San Franciscan residing in the Outer Richmond, District #1, for more than 35 years. As a lifelong fan of open spaces and public parks, Golden Gate Park has a special place in my heart because of its location, accessibility, natural beauty and all that it offers to those who come to use and enjoy it.

Both as a San Francisco resident and as a board member of the SF Botanical Garden, I am delighted by the Board of Supervisors approval of the amendment to our Lease and Management Agreement. The merging of the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden to establish the Gardens of Golden Gate Park will be an enhancement to the city of San Francisco for its residents as well as be an attraction for visitors from all over the world.

I support free admission for residents and vets at all three sites to enable more families and those who have served our country to enjoy the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.

To offset the costs of making the gardens free for SF residents and veterans it is vital to adopt flexible pricing for the Garden Improvement Fund to generate the much needed resources to support critical infrastructure, such as pathways, irrigation, plantings, repairs, and upgrades that are all essential to keep the gardens well maintained and thriving. Our admission prices have been benchmarked against other major botanical gardens and we are confident that the increases for nonresident adults are reasonable. Through the national Museums for All program, families with low incomes, regardless of residency, visit free of charge. We are committed to ensuring that families who cannot afford admission will be allowed entry.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane Chin
830 Thirty Fifth Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121

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

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

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

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
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

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

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

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

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

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

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: [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](#)

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

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

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

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: [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

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: [Harry S. Pariser](#)
To: [Harry S. Pariser](#)
Subject: Tea Garden privatization and Conservatory control transfer
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 12:11:02 PM
Importance: High

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

Note to Iltres Jalpa: 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 cover a "deficit") to this "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, have to prove residency, stand in a line (which, otherwise, would not exist) so that the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, an institution 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-dollar fence and destroying lovely gardens to create corporate event spaces and a new "nursery," a 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 this agreement, they will pay nothing for events. They have used this privilege to hold \$50 evening 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.

Economies have nothing to do with it!

• Offering free entry to veterans does not make these three public spaces a "safe space" for veterans as callers to the Budget and Rules Committee 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.art-protection.com/v1/uf7?o=hpw%3A%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Flist%3DPL8LsmQ7L1kZjgJ_HwRdygvgW3sdjpaqg-Y1YxZWRN2MjZTMSNjNNA--4b-NTMjNjM2MmIzZWY5YzZWE2YUUN2I2OWFY2ZMmTIZDEzNzYzYjMtOjD0N8YmF0NDU4YjA1NTAxOTY3Nw==4p-YXAoOnNuZHQyOml0b3RmYWNkNmYyYjYzZmDEYjYjMTgZjkYWNWY2U4ZjZm2MjpwOk4=

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 an audit by Harvey Rose to show 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 4 PM (when people can come).

Regarding the new lease agreement: RECTALS 8, Section 6.7 This should be amended to have the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society pay all revenues from the entry tolls, after collection 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 they should even bother calculating them?

10. Section 6.11 Clause (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 40% 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 4 PM, April through October; every Federal and City Official Holiday and every Saturday or Sunday, e.g. once a week on 27. Transition 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 RFD.

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 the government providing services "for free." People might get used to it.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Harry S. Pariser
Inner Sunset



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

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

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

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

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: [Sarah Ryan](#)
To: [Jalipa Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: In support of Gardens of Golden Gate Park Merger
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 2:23:05 PM

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

Dear Brent,

I have been a volunteer and a member of the San Francisco Botanical Garden for six years. I am writing in full support of the Mayor's proposed ordinance (File 21-1295) to merge the SF Botanical Garden, Japanese Tea Garden and Conservatory of Flowers into the Gardens of Golden Gate Park. 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.

I plan to participate in the public comment portion of tomorrow's committee meeting.

Thank you,

Sarah Ryan
(415) 254-3369

From: 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

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

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: [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

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

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: [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

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

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>