

1 [Urging Support of Community-Initiated Beautification Projects on Public Property and for the  
2 Public Good]

3 **Resolution supporting and urging Departments to facilitate an easier process for**  
4 **community-initiated beautification projects on public property, including, but not**  
5 **limited to, the improvement projects for the Kensington Bridge, Havelock Bridge, Low**  
6 **Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio, and the Richardson Triangle in Cow**  
7 **Hollow.**

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9 WHEREAS, San Francisco is strengthened by robust civic engagement, especially with  
10 volunteers who help to maintain public open spaces and help to enhance neighborhood  
11 assets for the public good; and

12 WHEREAS, Historically, the City and County of San Francisco grants rights to  
13 community groups to create illustrious projects that have become neighborhood attractions  
14 such as the Hidden Steps projects on 16th and Moraga and 16th and Kirkham; and

15 WHEREAS, The Public Works Department helps to facilitate dozens of projects across  
16 San Francisco to meet the City’s Better Streets and Complete Streets Plans, which include  
17 community-sponsored landscaping of street medians and streetscapes; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Arts Commission oversees hundreds of proposals for  
19 art placed on City-owned property or City-financed projects on private property; and

20 WHEREAS, While there are programs that support community-sponsored projects on  
21 City land; the process for some can be confusing, expensive, and complicated, such as with  
22 the Kensington Bridge on Portola Drive and Kensington Way in the West Portal neighborhood;  
23 the Havelock Bridge on Havelock Street and Circular Avenue in the Sunnyside neighborhood;  
24 the Low Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio; and the Richardson Triangle on  
25 Lombard Street in Cow Hollow; and

1           WHEREAS, For the past few years, West Portal volunteers successfully partnered with  
2 Public Works to clear up debris and litter at the foot of the Kensington pedestrian bridge and  
3 establish new plantings, but are facing a long, arduous process to approve a proposal from  
4 the neighborhood to add a mid-century modern mural on the pillars of the bridge to prevent  
5 chronic vandalism; and

6           WHEREAS, Sunnyside neighbors have volunteered and successfully partnered with  
7 Public Works to clear up debris surrounding the Havelock bridge, trim overgrown ivy blocking  
8 proper safety lighting, establishing new plantings, and partnered with the Municipal  
9 Transportation Agency to establish a much-needed crosswalk at the landing that continues to  
10 be a concern for pedestrian safety, but are a facing long, arduous process to approve a  
11 proposal from neighbors to add a mural that will add to traffic safety and prevent chronic  
12 vandalism, and

13           WHEREAS, Thirteen artists donated 97 murals for the Low Acuity Continuing Care  
14 facility in the Presidio, which was built during the COVID-19 pandemic for medical overflow,  
15 but was never activated; and after the closure of the site, the murals spent months in limbo  
16 despite a great deal of public interest in these works because no City department was willing  
17 or able to act a as a steward for the works; thankfully a non-profit partner saved them by  
18 volunteering to act as a custodian until the murals could be redisplayed around the City; and

19           WHEREAS, The Cow Hollow neighborhood has been working on a Lombard Street  
20 beautification plan for years and have been met with high administrative barriers in execution;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, Despite several attempts to convene with staff from various departments,  
23 there has not been a clear determination on how best to proceed with these projects due to  
24 jurisdictional matters; and

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1           WHEREAS, San Francisco’s public spaces benefit from the vibrancy of public art  
2 projects, especially when initiated by residents and neighbors as it cultivates placemaking and  
3 community-building; and

4           WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco greatly benefit from private  
5 community-public partnerships that help with beautification projects that not only enhance the  
6 quality-of-life for residents, but invites visitors and acts as a deterrent to vandalism and blight;  
7 now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and applauds the efforts of  
9 community members and residents who volunteer their time and crowdsource funds to  
10 improve public land that serves the greater good; and, be it

11           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Arts  
12 Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Street Use and Mapping, and  
13 the Department of Real Estate, to facilitate and to expedite the issuance of the required  
14 permits and permission for the public art installation on the Kensington Bridge and the  
15 Havelock Bridge; and be it

16           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City Administrator’s  
17 office, Arts Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Street Use and  
18 Mapping, the Department of Real Estate, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation  
19 Authority, Recreation and Parks, and the Public Utilities Commission to collaborate and to  
20 facilitate a streamlined, clear, and accessible process so that neighborhood groups and  
21 community members are able to propose and to fundraise for beautification projects on public  
22 land with support and ease.

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