

BAYVIEW FOOTPRINTS



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Welcome to the March 2008 edition of Bayview Footprints newsletter which spotlights the Bayview Footprints Collaboration's member groups that express their commitment to our community and its residents through the arts. Meet Heidi Hardin and Bert Bruno, whose contributions to Bayview community arts are extraordinary. Discover Malik Seneferu who daily combines talent and community commitment. Visit the unique Public Glass on Carroll, one of our newest member groups. And, on the way, stop by the Quesada Gardens mural where gardening and art collide.

Congratulations to all these community-builders, and thank you for recognizing that art is one of the best ways to express the strength and beauty of our amazing neighborhood.

ART! SCIENCE! COMMUNITY INVESTMENT!

Think Round, Inc. and the Children's Mural Program

The spirit of personal and social transformation through the arts and environmental science has run through the Children's Mural Program since its birth over fifteen years ago. Now under the direction of Think Round, Inc. (TRI), a founding member group of Bayview Footprints, the award-winning Children's Mural Program still sets the bar of community-based arts education high.

Not that anyone is resting on laurels! TRI's new TEEN Theater Arts (Set Design) Program at Willie L. Brown, Jr. Academy will turn theater sets into public murals created by twenty-five students between now and June. TRI's new Family Arts Program will soon begin on Saturday mornings at the Bayview Opera House, celebrating families, cultures and art from around the world and using resources from the de Young Museum's Education Department.

Think Round, Inc. is a new not-for-profit founded by Heidi Hardin, a practicing artist and educator working in Bayview Hunters Point since 1984. Hardin is widely admired for her work with at-risk children and youth through the Children's Mural Program and the companion program, KEEP! (Kid's Environmental Education Program!) - both taught by fine artists from the community and Hunters Point Shipyard.

Generations of Bayview Hunters Point children, more than 4,000 of them, have benefited from creating artwork under the watchful eyes of accomplished mural program artists. You may have seen the tile art and painted murals that lend vibrancy to public spaces at the Opera House, library, MLK Pool and elsewhere throughout Bayview. Children, some of them adults now, can still point to the work as proof of their place and investment in their community...a primary objective of Think Round, Inc.

Hardin's innovative strategy includes using visual art techniques and instruction to explore environmental issues like the Superfund clean-up and reuse of Hunters Point Shipyard. Over the years, her program has found a place in all five of the neighborhood's elementary schools. New public art programs are under development for community high schools.

Learn more about Hardin's inspirational work at HeidiHardin.com or call 415.602-9599 to sign-up for Family Arts Program classes.

Lights! Curtain! Community!

PATHLIGHT PRODUCTIONS - INFINITY GOSPEL MINISTRIES

Reverend Bertron Bruno believes. He believes in theater, in his community, in the young people who populate his plays, and in his faith. In 1994, those beliefs came together in Bayview Hunters Point own Pathlight

Productions, an innovative program that continues to transform lives on both sides of the foot lights.

Reverend Bruno has produced plays and skits at the San Francisco Main Library, Barnett School, the Bayview Opera House, and the Calvin Simmons Theater in Oakland. He's conducted drama workshops for young people and adults, used theater to showcase conflicts that affect communities and youth, and connected program participants with counselling to truly touch their lives in positive ways.

Catrice Washington, one of the stars of Pathlight's recent "I'll Be Home for Christmas," wrote an essay about her experience, which included "Thanks to Mr. Bruno's Junior Drama Class, kids can come here and learn to live their dreams." Well said, Catrice!

Pathlight Productions is fueled by the love of American Theater and African American involvement in the arts. A new after-school drama class at Willie L. Brown Academy will be launched in the coming weeks featuring a dozen or more students. Look for the results as they spill outside the theater in the forms of cultural enrichment, community awareness, mental stimulation, high self esteem, and organizational and leadership skills for at-risk youth and adults.

Meet Reverend Bruno and the other creative forces behind Pathlight online at sfpathlight.com or call 415-822-4604 for more information.

Bayview Webspot

The right spot to surf the internet while enjoying food and drink is Bayview Webspot, an internet café with a twist, opening its doors on the corner of Third Street at Oakdale. Webspot's grand opening is March 22nd, 11am to 5pm, and features a free raffle of a 30GB iPod with speakers and case.

Walk inside Webspot's future home, a large space that has seen better days, and you'll have trouble imagining a thriving business. But FJ Cava, the creative force behind Webspot, points out a bar, tables, and a classroom setting featuring floor-to-ceiling white boards as though he sees them already.

At Bayview Webspot, you'll be able to surf the Internet, buy a package of blank DVD's, and enjoy light food and drinks, all while earning points towards a new computer, iPod or software. For low- and moderate-income residents, this could mean a critical chance to use and learn computers in a fun supportive atmosphere, close-to-home.

Cava calls this aspect of the business Surf 4 Success, his expression of community values. He is committed to strengthening low- and moderate-income communities by providing access to high-end technology in a safe, friendly and educational environment. The business hopes to offer practical encouragement to those who may be on the cusp of owning a computer, but haven't made the jump.

"FJ's business will be such a great addition to the Third Street corridor," said Lola Whittle, who heads the Renaissance Bayview Business Resource Center where FJ works.



"Webspot will not only enhance Third Street, but will also showcase the services that we so passionately provide at the BBRC."

What will you be eating while surfing the Web at Webspot? How about a granola bar and Soba tea? Cava wants to showcase healthier choices of snacks and drinks, as an alternative to what you might get elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Cava opened an internet café in Gabon, in Central Africa, several years ago. He is a graduate of San Francisco State University's MBA program, and is Program Manager at the BBRC. Bayview Webspot is his most recent example of what can happen when an entrepreneur with community values gets busy.

Hot tip: Look for a Bayview Footprints Third Thursday gathering at Webspot in April.

For more information about Bayview Webspot visit www.sfwebspot.com or stop by 4742 Third Street, Tuesday through Sunday from 1pm to 9pm.

This is a pivotal moment for Third Street revitalization, FJ, and Renaissance Bayview Business Resource Center (Ren/BBRC). FJ's business will be such a great addition to the Third Street corridor. The Webspot will not only enhance the Third Street corridor, but it will showcase the Ren/BBRC services that we so passionately provide. FJ is a Bayview resident, Program Manager of the Ren/BBRC and soon to be a local business owner.

The BBRC is part of the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center, and supports the entrepreneur from idea through start-up and beyond. One program, the Business Assistance Center, offers small businesses shared office space and intensive business management consulting.

If you're ready to access the power of entrepreneurship to transform your life, contact the Bayview Business Resource Center.

**3801 Third Street, Suite 616
415.647.3728
recenter.org**

Bayview Footprints features businesses and business resources each month. If you have an interest in the business life of Bayview, or need assistance with your own business, we'll do our best to connect you to the right folks. Just call 415.822.0800 or email info@quesadagardens.org.

FUTURE COMMUNITY ART CENTER

By Rebecca Haseltine

A vision for a Community Art Center at Hunters Point Shipyard is bringing artists and community members into fruitful dialog these days. Due to efforts of artists who have been part of the Shipyard arts community for years, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency is now including a Community Art Center within an arts district planned for the Shipyard.

This advances a dream that an Art Center will one day provide residents of the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood much needed space for after school classes, rehearsals, performances and other art-related activities. We envision active cooperation between the Community Art Center and existing cultural centers in Bayview.

Shipyard artists have been meeting with individual artists in the community to build partnerships and to find out needs and dreams for such a center. Excitement is brewing as a broad coalition of artists in all disciplines - theater, music, dance, video, literary and visual arts - brainstorm together.

The Community Art Center Work Group and Shipyard Trust for the Arts are members of the Bayview Footprints Collaboration of Community-Building Groups. For more information about plans for the Community Art Center, email: haseltine@earthlink.net.



HOME GROWN ARTIST - MALIK SENEFERU

You've seen Malik Seneferu's artwork. It graces a neighborhood resource guide, has hung on walls at the library and in Bayview homes, and most recently was featured at Joyce Gordon Gallery as part of the exhibition entitled *Yeah, We Said It, and No, We're Not Sorry*. It's distinctive, vibrant, and has a point of view. And, if you haven't seen Seneferu's work elsewhere, check out the unique "footprints" in the Bayview Footprints logo. Yup, that's his work!

Seneferu describes himself as a Black/African American painter, draughtsman, muralist, and book illustrator who employs self-taught technique and style. He has lived and worked throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and has been a mentor and curator as well. His work has traveled to Durban South Afrika ("War against Racism" in 2001), Haiti and Kenya.

Seneferu's art contains intense hues, is reminiscent of the ancient African Diaspora, and communicates confident and eloquent messages of empowerment. The artist has connected art and social justice, and has used his talent in the context of community service in Bayview Hunters Point for many years.

He currently works with at-risk youth through arts and education as Director of Hunters Point Family's Bayview Safe Haven program, a Bayview Footprints member group. The program has become a second home for participants who acquire overall healthy thinking with a goal of making every youth a safe haven unto him- or her-self.

See Malik Seneferu's work online at: myspace.com/brothamalik

BAYVIEW IS... WHAT YOU SAY IT IS

This image of Quesada Garden Co-Founder Annette Smith and her great grandson Leon is from the beautiful community mural on Quesada just west of Third that was painted last year by Deidre DeFranceaux and Santie Huckaby (who also painted the new mural at the Southeast Community Facility). Tom Kennedy, who is the graphic talent behind this newsletter, used Ms. Annette's image for an example of what a community-defined Bayview identity campaign might look like.

Imagine T-shirts with Bayview Is... that you can actually write your own experience of our neighborhood on.

Imagine a Bayview Is Art community mural that is the sum of many visual expressions of Bayview by resident artists representing a spectrum of our diverse community.

Imagine a Bayview Is Health campaign that public health organizations tailor to improve the wellness of residents, while at the same time expressing their support of resident leadership and community-defined identity.

Imagine posters at T-Third kiosks with proud residents holding Bayview Is... signs that they've written on in their own hand. Bayview Is my church... Bayview Is families... Bayview is me!

No single expression of a diverse community can ever adequately represent that community. The Bayview Is... concept is the Bayview Footprints Collaboration of Community-Building Groups' way of encouraging residents to tell our own story of the neighborhood, while at the same time expressing our unity as a community. Learn more about the Bayview Is... campaign at Third Thursday (see calendar highlights).

What is your word that best describes your experience of Bayview?

BAYVIEW COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar Highlights - for more events and more detail visit www.BayviewCalendar.org - Add Your Own Event!

Land Use Workshops

Saturday, March 15th 10am to 12pm

Bret Hart Elementary at 1035 Gillman and

Monday, March 17th 6pm to 8pm

Southeast Community Facility at 1800 Oakdale

Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point land use will be explored in workshops organized by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the SF Redevelopment Agency. Project overview by project architect. Small group discussions.

Refreshments.

Just for us - Third Thursday at the Road House Café

5191 Third Street

Thursday, March 20th at 6:30

Bayview Footprints Collaboration of Community-Building Groups invites you to experience a rare treat. Enjoy the Road House Café in the evening (it usually closes in the late afternoon), and hear from community leaders who represent the newest Footprints member groups. Come for the treats, stay to rub elbows with your neighbors. Bayview Footprints hosts the Third Thursday series of events at different sites each month so that participants can see more of our neighborhood over time. Each month features a different discussion topic or presenter. Gatherings are meant to be meaningful and fun. See www.quesadagardens.org or email info@quesadagardens.org for more.

Tips: Safety is a top priority. Walk in groups or park nearby. Meet at the Quesada Garden to join a group of residents walking together. There's safety in numbers, and we're going to pack the house!

Footprints thanks Peter Gomez and family for opening the Road House especially for Third Thursday!

Annual India Basin Spring Egg Hunt at Shoreline Park

Saturday, March 22nd 11am

Egg & treasure hunt. Prizes for children. Meet firefighters and tour the fire engine! Learn more about the vibrant India Basin neighborhood.

8th annual Asthma Walk

Saturday, March 22nd 10am to 2pm

HERC invites CBO's in the community to walk with them. Call Ann Togia, Asthma Walk Coordinator: 401-6810, ext. 307.

Bayview Footprints Collaboration of Community-Building Groups is a collection of neighborhood groups – many of them informal – working together to make Bayview stronger through positive strategies like those profiled in this newsletter. We believe in resident-leadership. We believe that our community should tell its own story. We believe in the strength of our neighborhood's past, present and future. We live here.

Bayview Footprints member groups are: **Bayview Business Resource Center, Bayview History Preservation Project, Bayview Safe Haven, Bayview YMCA, Better Bayview Group, BVHP Foundation for Community Improvement, Blue Dolphin Youth Swim Team, Community Arts Center Working Group, Hunters Point Family, India Basin Neighborhood Association, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Old Skool Cafe, Pathlight Productions – Infinity Gospel Ministries, Public Glass, Quesada Gardens Initiative (including Bridgeview Garden and Latona Garden), Shipyard Trust for the Arts, Renaissance Parents of Success, Think Round, Inc./Children's Mural Program.**

Publicize your community event, and learn more about Bayview Footprints: call 415.822.0800, email info@quesadagardens.org, or visit www.BayviewCalendar.org

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