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# Presidio



A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

Volume 2 Issue 4 April 1999



Preserving the Presidio  
as a Sustainable  
National Park

### What's Inside

- Public Involvement
- About the Trust
- A History of Transit
- Transportation Workshop
- Bicycle Community Project
- Events on the Presidio
- News from Around the Park

### News Briefs

**Upcoming Dates**  
The second Letterman workshop will be held on:

**Tuesday, April 6, 6 to 9 p.m.**  
Golden Gate Club

It will be the third of three public forums during which the four finalists for the Letterman Complex site will make presentations and the Trust will solicit public input.

The Letterman Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be available on Monday, April 19. The DEIS will be presented at two public forums:

**Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.**  
GGNRA Advisory Commission Meeting, Upper Fort Mason

**Wednesday, April 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m.**  
Golden Gate Club

Those wishing to comment on the DEIS can submit comments to the Trust in writing or speak at public hearings on:

**Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.**  
GGNRA Advisory Commission Meeting, Upper Fort Mason

**Presidio Forum**  
More than 150 Presidio tenants and residents turned out in March for the first Presidio Forum meeting, sponsored by the Presidio Trust and the Presidio Alliance. The group discussed the growing community at the Presidio.



New Presidio tenant The Guardsmen funds inner-city recreational and educational programs.



A digital sculpture (above) designed by Main Post tenant Alexa Internet displays copies of the world wide web from the group's Internet Archive. A favorite place for weddings, the Post Chapel will be leased by the Interfaith Center (below).

## TENANTS SELECTED

TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION AND YOUTH, AND FOUNDATIONS REPRESENTED

The Presidio Trust has selected 14 non-profit and for-profit organizations with which to enter into negotiations to lease space in the Presidio's historic Main Post.

The groups exemplify themes that fit the park, including technology, education and youth, and foundations. Half of them are not-for-profit.

The selection marks a major step forward in bringing the historic Main Post back to life as the heart of the Presidio. The new tenants were chosen from among 100 groups that responded in December to a Request for Qualifications issued by the Trust.

Pending lease negotiations, the selected groups are slated to move into more than 108,000 square feet of space available in eight historic buildings – about one-fifth of the building space available on the Main Post. One building will accommodate six tenants, five of which are non-profits, with space needs from 650 to 2,300 square feet.

The selection process is also underway for several other historic Main Post buildings. Three respondents interested in leasing the former officers' houses on Funston Avenue for bed and breakfast use will submit detailed proposals before the Presidio Trust selects a final tenant this spring. Respondents for the Officers' Club and 35 Mesa Street are still under review.

The remaining Main Post buildings, including the historic Montgomery Street former barracks buildings, will be available for lease

later this year through a separate request for qualifications.

In 1998, the San Francisco Film Institute was the first tenant to sign a long-term lease with the Presidio Trust for Main Post space. The Institute is leasing a 67,000-square-foot building and the 800-seat Presidio Theater to be used as a center for film arts fostering multicultural and international exchanges of film, including non-profit and for-profit organizations, such as the San Francisco Film Society. The Institute will offer state-of-the-art pre- and post-production facilities, multicultural outreach and classes, and non-profit and for-profit organizations.

The Main Post buildings date from 1862 to 1941, and will be rehabilitated in accordance with national historical preservation standards. The architectural style of buildings on the Main Post include Italianate, Greek Revival, Mediterranean, Mission Revival, Colonial Revival and World War II Era. The Presidio has been a National Historic Landmark District since 1962.

Almost two-thirds of the Presidio's three million square feet of non-residential space is located in historic buildings. Leasing these buildings to tenants makes possible their rehabilitation and contributes revenue to support the Presidio as a national park. Revenue from Main Post leasing is expected to comprise about 40 percent of the Presidio's revenue for nonresidential leasing by 2013.



### New Main Post Tenants

- 36 Lincoln Boulevard**  
Aspen Group, Inc. *FP*  
Hadassah *NP*  
National Lymphedema Network *NP*  
Stone Foundation *NP*  
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation *NP*  
The Guardsmen *NP*

- 37 Graham Street**  
Alexa Internet *NP*

- 38 Mesa Street**  
Presidio Internet Center Partners *FP/NP*

- 85, 86, 87 Graham Street**  
AYUSA International *NP*

- 130 Fisher Loop**  
Interfaith Center *NP*

- 220 Halleck Street**  
Erler & Kalinowski, Inc. *FP*  
InTouch *FP*  
John Stewart Company *FP*  
Concord Group *FP*  
*NP = Non-profit; FP = For-profit*

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

### BIRD NESTING SEASON UNDERWAY

March 15 through August 15 has been identified by National Park Service wildlife specialists as the bird nesting season for this year. Trust landscaping crews will not be performing any tree trimming or hazardous tree removals during this five-month period, except in case of emergency. During this time, the Presidio Trust arborist will evaluate trees deemed to be hazardous or otherwise in need of attention and prepare a Hazardous Tree Removal Program for next season.



### PRESIDIO COMMUNITY CAMPFIRE

On March 19, the National Park Service hosted the Presidio Community Campfire. Community members arrived at the Rob Hill Campground with lawnchairs, marshmallows and sticks in hand, ready for a night of storytelling, music, marshmallow roasting, and, of course, fire.



### APPLIANCES DONATED TO CHARITY

The Presidio Trust has donated 69 refrigerators and 28 stoves to the Salvation Army. This program will continue as older appliances are replaced in residential structures. In June, the Trust will donate refrigerators to the Glide Memorial Church for a program to create homes for battered women. Scrap metal for all unserviceable appliances will be recycled.



### LEAD AND COPPER TEST RESULTS

Results from a recent study of lead and copper levels in various areas of the Presidio water system looked good, with all results below action level. Presidio tenants were asked to participate in this first round of tests and a second round will occur on April 27.

### Legend

- 1 The Main Post
- 2 Crissy Field
- 3 Fort Point and the Golden Gate Bridge
- 4 Fort Scott
- 5 Coastal Bluffs
- 6 Presidio Forest
- 7 Cavalry Stables
- 8 San Francisco National Military Cemetery
- 9 Letterman Complex
- 10 Housing Areas
- 11 Presidio Golf Course
- 12 Public Health Service Center
- 13 Lobos Creek Valley



### UNITED NATIONS GUEST

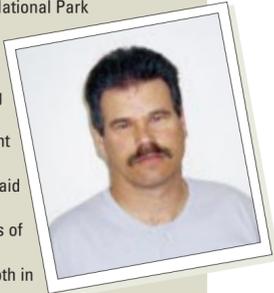
Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, met with local organizations on March 16 in the Thoreau Center. The event was hosted by the Resource Center for the United Nations which is located in the Thoreau Center. Mrs. Ogata spoke of the United Nations' efforts on behalf of refugees and answered questions from the audience which covered many topics, ranging from specific locations of refugees to general policy of the United Nations.



**Staff Spotlight**

**Don Giovannetti**, Manager of Roads and Grounds at the Presidio Trust, is out in the park every day assuring that tenants and visitors have safe roads, good directions and an enriching experience at the Presidio. Among Don's goals in the year ahead is to help establish better signage and wayfinding in the Presidio.

"I worked for the National Park Service for 24 years and my mom worked at the Presidio during World War II, so I wanted to stay right here and keep it going full circle," said Giovannetti. "The sustainability goals of the Trust are very important to me both in my personal and my professional life. Being a native San Franciscan, I care about this park's future."



**Board Honor**

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr., Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano and the Commission on the Status of Women honored the Trust Board Member Amy Meyer last week with a prestigious award. At the Women Making History Awards Ceremony held by Mayor Brown and the S.F. Board of Supervisors at City Hall, Meyer was one of 12 honorees lauded for contributing to San Francisco's quality of life and changing the face of its history.

Meyer is well known for her tireless work with People for the Presidio, People for a Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission, and now the Presidio Trust Board of Directors.

**Workshops**

Monthly Planning Workshops  
Located at the Golden Gate Club, 6 to 9 p.m.

**April 14 – Main Post Cluster Planning Workshop**  
Planning, circulation, parking and landscapes for the cluster of buildings in the Main Post. Walking tour at 5 p.m.

**May 12 – Open Areas and Natural Resources Workshop**  
Restoration of natural resources systems and vegetation management challenges.

**Board Members**

- John Berry
- Edward Blakely
- Donald Fisher
- Amy Meyer
- Mary Murphy
- William Reilly
- Toby Rosenblatt

**April**

Sunday, April 18, 9:30 a.m.  
**March for Parks**  
Help support the GGNRA by participating in this five-mile march. Start at Ft. Mason, continue through Crissy Field, cross the Golden Gate Bridge, through the Marin Headlands, and return by complimentary ferry service. Advance registration is encouraged. Call 561.3030, ext. 2422.

Monday, April 19  
**Publication of Letterman Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).**  
The DEIS is available for a 60-day public review period, with a hearing to receive public input scheduled for June 15. Call 561.5300.

Saturday, April 24  
**Earth Day Restoration Activities and Festival**  
Spend the morning volunteering at a native habitat restoration site in the Presidio or elsewhere in the GGNRA, then join us between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Presidio Earth Day 1999 Festival. Located on the Main Parade Ground, the Festival will include more than 50 Bay Area environmental groups, live music, childrens' activities, environmental art exhibits, the SFSU Insect Discovery Lab, and David Brower, Sierra Club Co-Founder, as a keynote speaker. For more information, call 561.5390 or 561.SOIL to volunteer.



**May**

Saturday, May 8, 10 a.m. to noon  
**Crissy Field Aviation Walk**  
Explore the Crissy Field area and learn about its role in early aviation history on this easy one-mile walk. Meet at the front of Stilwell Hall on Mason Street. Call 561.4323.



May 12, 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Natural Resources and Open Space Planning Workshop**  
Community members are invited to attend the fourth in a series of monthly planning workshops sponsored by the Presidio Trust. Located at the Golden Gate Club. Call 561.5300.

Tuesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.  
**Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission Meeting**  
Community members are invited to attend these monthly meetings that include a Presidio Trust update and opportunity for public comment. Location to be determined. Call 561.4633.

Sunday, May 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Walk Around the Presidio**  
Walk the six-mile boundary of the Presidio and learn about its past and future. Begins at the Lombard Gate. Call 561.4323.



*Executive Director's Column*

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**



As The Presidio Trust approaches a critical juncture in its ongoing transformation into a self-sustaining national park, community input remains an indispensable element of the process. At the March 24 meeting of the Board of Directors, Board members and the public heard presentations by the four finalists competing to redevelop the Letterman Complex.

Representatives from Letterman Digital Arts, the Letterman Complex Development Partners, LNR Presidio Partners and the Shorenstein/Interland team shared their vision of the project and participated in public workshops attended by more than 500 members of the community.

Public involvement in the Letterman development is vital because the scope and location of the project impact many community stakeholders. Meeting attendees had an opportunity to communicate with the presenters via comment cards, an "open mike" period and an unprecedented session in which participants discussed their ideas and concerns face-to-face with Board members and project presenters.

As we move forward with the key decisions that will define the future of the Presidio and the community's enjoyment of the park, receptiveness to public input will remain a guiding principal. I thank the many who have participated in the workshops and invite continued public comment via The Presidio Trust's web site ([www.presidiotrust.gov](http://www.presidiotrust.gov)). The members of the Board of Directors are listening carefully to the community's concerns, and we look forward to continued partnership in pursuing our common goal – preservation of a majestic National Park.

Yours very truly,

Jim Meadows



**A HISTORY OF TRANSIT**

*From carriage to cavalry, trolley to tramway, the Presidio has seen many modes of transportation pass through its gates. Airplanes, helicopters and boats landed at the Presidio and soldiers often made their way on foot. Lovers Lane, a pedestrian walkway, provided direct access for foot traffic to downtown, then the Mission District, and a portion of it still exists today.*

*The Presidio and Ferries Railroad, completed in 1882, carried passengers – including wounded soldiers on special hospital cars – to and from Fort Mason, an active port. In 1892, the tracks were converted to a cable car line, which entered the Presidio from Greenwich Street. After the 1906 earthquake, the line was electrified for streetcar use.*



Photo courtesy of GGNRA Archives, Presidio Army Museum, Photo Prints Collection, GOGA 1766.0021  
**Municipal Railway 'D' Streetcar on Greenwich St., ca. 1920s.**

**TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOP**

MORE THAN 100 TURN OUT FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

**THE SECOND PRESIDIO PLANNING WORKSHOP DREW MORE THAN 100 PARTICIPANTS WHO WEIGHED IN ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES RANGING FROM IMPROVING ACCESS TO ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE.**

After a presentation on the Presidio Trust's transportation goals, participants broke out into five groups to review the latest data and make suggestions. Discussion topics were:

- Decreasing Automobile Use
- Internal Shuttle
- Parking within the Presidio
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes
- Community and Visitor Experience: Transportation as Poetry

The workshop was part of a series of monthly planning workshops held on the second Wednesday of every month from 6 to 9 p.m. at

the Golden Gate Club. The Trust is sponsoring the workshops to involve the public in the detailed implementation planning to complement the General Management Plan Amendment for the Presidio.

The Presidio's transportation program is now underway in the Trust's planning division. Key goals are: preserving and enhancing the Presidio as a national park while achieving self-sufficiency, minimizing neighborhood impacts, decreasing reliance on the automobile, and encouraging alternative modes of transportation.

Strategies to reach the transportation goals fall into five general categories: organizing internal circulation, improving access to transit, transportation demand management, improving bike and pedestrian alternatives, and upgrading park access via Doyle Drive.

A summary of public input from the transportation workshop is available at [www.presidiotrust.gov](http://www.presidiotrust.gov) or by calling Tom Mills at 561.5307. Please join the Trust on April 14 for a planning workshop focusing on Main Post Cluster planning.



PRESIDIO TENANT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

**BICYCLE COMMUNITY PROJECT**

An extension of the Tides Center, the Bicycle Community Project is a local, non-profit network of bicycle repair and rental shops that offers job and training opportunities for inner-city youth while promoting the use of the bicycle as a practical, quality-of-life improving vehicle.

"The project is designed to help young people experience the Presidio's natural environment and learn skills that will help them in the future," said Charles Higgins, Director of the Bicycle Community Project. "The proximity of the Presidio to the Western Addition let us build

a bicycle corridor for kids to discover the opportunities in the new park community."

The organization's flagship site is located in the Presidio at the



Kids from Bike Traffic in the Western Addition of San Francisco take a break from urban life to ride bikes in the Presidio.

Thoreau Center for Sustainability. A team of bike mechanics teaches youth mechanical and problem-solving skills at the Presidio and at three other shops: Bike Traffic, an inner-city youth bicycle mechanics training program at 1418 Turk Street, South Beach Bike Hut, a bicycle rental and repair enterprise on Pier 40, Bike Lab located at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology.

For more information, contact the Bicycle Community Project at 561.6578.