



Library Hours:  
 Weekdays  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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34 Graham Street  
 P.O. Box 29052  
 San Francisco  
 California 94129-0052  
 Voice: 415.561.5300  
 Fax: 415.561.5315  
 presidio@presidiotrust.gov  
 www.presidiotrust.gov



## Presidio Profiles

### “San Francisco’s Own”

“San Francisco’s Own” – the 30th Infantry Regiment – visited the Presidio in August to help its parent organization, the Third Infantry Division, celebrate its 81st reunion. A handful of these veterans enjoyed a true homecoming, as they had served in the Presidio in the 1940s before the 30th Infantry Regiment permanently left the post.

The highly decorated Regiment was stationed at the Presidio from 1922 to 1941. Soldiers were detailed here following their service in France during World War I, where they distinguished themselves by pushing back the German drive at the River Marne.

“The Rock of the Marne,” as they became known, “was one of the showcase units of the Army...a spit and polished outfit,” said Private Jack Arndt of Company L, who was stationed at the Presidio from 1939 to 1941.

The 30th Infantry Regiment became so much a part of the City’s fabric that its members were authorized to carry San Francisco’s official flag at parades and ceremonies. The 30th Infantry also provided a color guard for the Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island in 1939.



Did you or someone you know serve in the 30th Infantry Regiment at the Presidio? We want to hear your story! Please contact Dianna Waggoner at 415.716.9055 or [dwaggoner@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:dwaggoner@presidiotrust.gov).

During World War II, the Regiment departed the post to serve in North Africa and Europe, and never returned to the Presidio.

Nearly 400 veterans came from all over America to participate in the reunion. They honored members of the 30th Infantry Regiment who gave their lives in six different military campaigns. Following a memorial prayer by Chaplain Jerry Sapiro, veterans placed a wreath by the granite memorial which sits on the Main Post in front of the brick Montgomery Street barracks the soldiers once called home.

## PRESIDIO VOICES

UPDATING THE PRESIDIO PLAN

It is important that everyone who cares about the Presidio realizes the relationship between finances and the character of the park. While we must plan for the Presidio’s long-term care and maintenance, we also want to consider if and to what extent we look beyond basic self-sufficiency to create programs and services that bring additional vitality to this national park.

Participants at our September 13 Community Scoping Workshop discussed these financial planning issues and considered how to develop a successful financial strategy that supports a shared vision for the Presidio’s future.

Because we know it is difficult for some to attend these evening planning sessions, we want to offer another way to make your voice heard. We hope you can take a few moments to consider and respond to the questions below:

- What are priority programs, projects or activities that the Presidio Trust should fund?

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- How can the Presidio Trust’s mandate for self-sufficiency best be balanced with program and public purpose goals?

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- How should available funds be spent to implement a plan for the park?

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Please visit [www.presidiotrust.gov](http://www.presidiotrust.gov) to view the Financial Planning Concepts Workshop meeting summary. From the Home page, click on the PTIP icon.

Please send your ideas to:

PTIP – c/o John Pelka, NEPA Compliance Coordinator  
 Presidio Trust • 34 Graham Street • P.O. Box 29052  
 San Francisco, CA 94129-0052 • [ptip@presidiotrust.gov](mailto:ptip@presidiotrust.gov)

### NEW DATE AND LOCATION!

THE OCTOBER 11 SCOPING WORKSHOP HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO THE FOLLOWING:

Wednesday, November 15, 6 to 9 p.m.

Log Cabin (1299 Storey Avenue at Fort Scott)

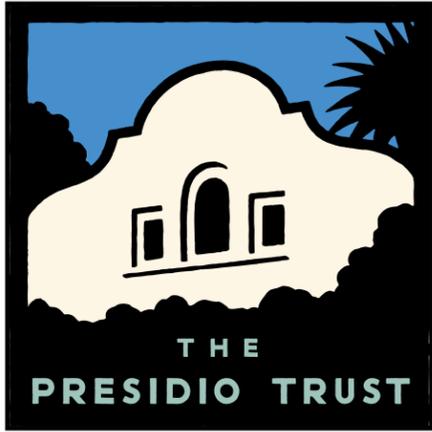
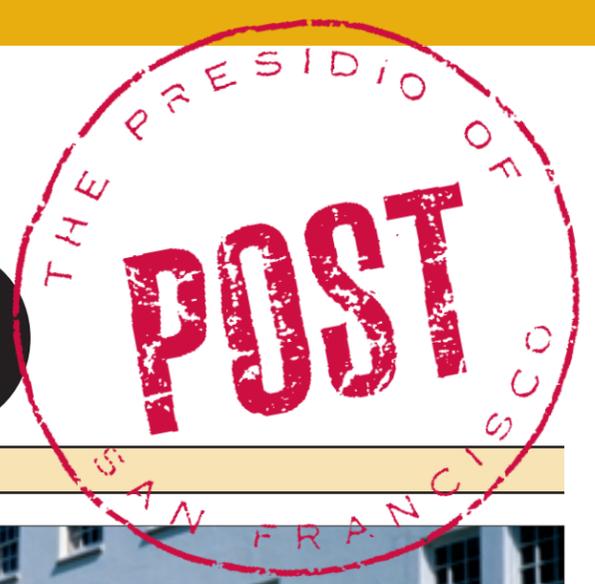
Topic: Presentation of Conceptual Alternatives and Presidio Visions

The comment period for scoping has been extended to December 8, 2000.

# Presidio

A Monthly Publication of the Presidio Trust

Volume 3 Issue 10 October 2000



The recently rehabilitated former Sixth Army Headquarters is now home to a diverse mix of organizations working in the film arts.



*Preserving the Presidio  
as a Sustainable  
National Park*

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## News Briefs

### Presidio "Energy Challenge 2000"

This month, Rebuild Presidio will host a one-day "Energy Challenge" to increase energy efficiency awareness among those who work at the park. An "energy team" made up of lighting, heating and historic preservation experts will visit select Presidio organizations to assess their building's electrical, lighting and heating devices. The team will recommend ways to save energy and provide a more comfortable working environment, while protecting historic structures. Call Leanne at 415.561.3993 for more information about Rebuild Presidio.

### NEPA Procedures Now Available

The Presidio Trust has adopted final procedures to ensure that our decisions are made in accordance with the policies and purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal government's basic national charter for protection of the environment. The Trust previously accepted comments from the public on our proposed NEPA procedures during an extended comment period. The final procedures, which have been modified in response to input from the community, can be reviewed at the Presidio Trust Library (34 Graham Street) or at [www.presidiotrust.gov](http://www.presidiotrust.gov). The procedures become effective on October 16, 2000, and replace the interim guidelines that the Trust adopted in September 1998.

## A LIVING LABORATORY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

It's said that nothing lasts forever. However, the Presidio's historic buildings seem to be improving with age thanks to a comprehensive program to safeguard the park's cultural treasures.

### PEOPLE ARE WATCHING

The uniqueness of the Presidio – and the innovative campaign to save its historic structures – is capturing national attention. In September, the Getty Conservation Institute and the California Preservation Foundation each spotlighted the Presidio Trust's efforts to preserve the park's past while meeting today's needs. This month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation examines the Presidio at its "Saving America's Treasures" conference, which will explore trends for preservation in the 21st century.

### A PLACE APART

The Presidio's status as a National Historic Landmark District, its role as protected national park land, and its sustainability mission make the site a "living laboratory" where new approaches to historic preservation can be applied.

The most basic principle of the Presidio's historic preservation program is reuse. Since the Army's 1994 departure, many of the park's 474 historic buildings have stood empty, suffering the ravages of

time and weather. Today, they need extensive care to reverse wood rot, metal corrosion, concrete and stucco deterioration and moisture intrusion before they're fit to take on a new life.

### PAYING FOR OUR PAST

This process is time consuming – and costly. An estimated \$200 million must be invested to save imperiled buildings over the coming decade. However, tremendous cultural and environmental benefits are achieved.

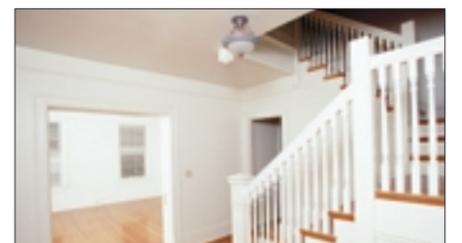
"Rehabilitating historic buildings is recycling on a grand scale," said Cheryl Widell, Presidio Trust Preservation and Compliance Officer. "It is the ultimate act of sustainability."

A combination of public and private investment, long-term leasing and federal tax credit incentives is funding the revitalization of Presidio buildings. In the past year, three historic buildings on the park's Main Post have undergone seismic strengthening, electrical and plumbing modernization and accessibility improvements. Dozens of residences have also been rehabilitated and occupied.

To date, the Presidio is home to more than 100 organizations and 850 households.

### PAST MEETS FUTURE

The park's nineteenth century



Inside and out repairs are once again making each of the Presidio's 170 historic residences a home sweet home.



A combination of public and private investment funds the rehabilitation of historic Presidio buildings.

structures are also being infused with 21st century technology.

Energy efficient appliances, low-flow plumbing and compact fluorescent lighting are just a few of the sustainable materials and features that are seamlessly being incorporated in century-old structures.

For example, sophisticated telecommunications equipment is bringing some Presidio homes from the Civil War Era to the Information Age. Four historic Presidio neighborhoods are being wired as "Smart Houses" where residents can connect high-tech appliances such as computers and cable TV in all rooms of the home via one central hook-up, thus eliminating the need to drill new holes in the walls of historic structures. Eventually, all historic homes at the park will be wired with this system.

## Sustainability Spotlight

### A Good Sign

We pass hundreds of signs every day and heed their silent commands with hardly a second thought. Yet, who makes these informative icons that keep us safe and moving in the right direction? And what do signs have to do with sustainability?

The Presidio's signs are crafted by a handful of pros who produce placards ranging from temporary parking posters to wayside panels illuminating park history. The "Sign Shop" is led by the Presidio Trust's Patrick Kaye.

In September, Pat was awarded a Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award for championing new methods of creating signs that preserve and protect our environment.

Pat and his staff have put the Sign Shop on a sustainable path by embracing new technologies, shunning sign replacement in favor of repair and reusing and recycling materials.

"Our resources are not limitless," said Pat. "I know we can only achieve our mission of making the Presidio a sustainable park if each of us actively participates in this effort every day."



**"Pat is one of those exceptional employees who really goes out of his way to find creative and sustainable solutions," said Aimee Vincent, Presidio Trust Sustainability Manager.**

One Sign Shop innovation is the use of "sintra," a new material on which letters and graphics can be repeatedly applied and removed. This allows temporary signs to be reused dozens of times. The crew also salvages outdated building placards, reclaims parts with useful life remaining, applies updated text and puts them back into circulation. For example, the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail signs were constructed using recycled sign posts.

The Shop is also making new sign posts out of plastics recycled from everyday products like milk jugs. This material is very durable and far less precious than the redwood formerly used for the task.

Additionally, the Shop is using citrus-based and other biodegradable cleaners for graffiti removal and other tasks whenever possible, thus reducing toxins in our environment.

The next time you pass a sign in the Presidio, remember that it is pointing the way to a sustainable future!

#### Board Members

Donald Fisher	Mary Murphy
Jennifer L. Hernandez	William Reilly
Ira Michael Heyman	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

#### October

Friday through Sunday, October 13 to 15

#### Tagulaylay Performances

Celebrate Filipino History Month with the Pearl Ubungen Dancers and Musicians. Performances will be held daily at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Presidio's El Polin Spring. This event is co-sponsored by La Pena Cultural Center and Filipinos for Affirmative Action. Call 415.221.7573 for details and directions.



By Jim Meadows  
Presidio Trust Executive Director

## Did You Know...?

NEW GRANTS "FUEL" PRESIDIO ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

*In our cover story this month, we told you how the Presidio is a "living laboratory" for historic preservation. Given its character as a live/work community within a national park and its mission to address the world's environmental challenges, the Presidio is also a testing ground for cutting-edge alternative transportation technologies.*

*Our transportation team is implementing new ways to get around the Presidio that respect the park's delicate environment. We are very pleased to report that our efforts received a significant boost this summer as the Presidio received two Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grants, thanks to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority.*

*These funds will help us implement*



Visitors tested out a variety of electric cars at the Earth Festival.

*two programs that will greatly enhance the mobility of residents and visitors alike – the Internal Shuttle System and the Electric Vehicle Carsharing Program.*

*Next year, the Trust will begin operating five clean fuel shuttle buses. These vehicles – which may operate on compressed natural gas or electricity – will travel on a ten mile loop throughout the Presidio serving residential neighborhoods, non-residential areas, visitor attractions and public transit*

*transfer points. Over time, we hope to expand this program with vehicles showcasing even more advanced low-emission technology.*

*We are also moving forward with a program that will allow residents, employees and visitors to use an electric car on a short-term basis.*

*This would enable people to complete errands and make "quick trips" without driving their gasoline-powered vehicle to the Presidio. The TFCA grant will "fuel" our efforts to lease 10 zero-emission vehicles like the electric cars that were featured at the April Earth Festival and to install charging stations at key locations.*

*The Presidio is a place where innovative ideas are put into action. We're delighted the park continues to be a test bed for the newest thinking in alternative transportation.*



## PRESIDIO ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

### FOUNDATION FOR SPIRITUAL DEMOCRACY

With a dream of renewing the spirit of democracy throughout the world, Diana Stone and David Fisher co-direct the Presidio's Foundation for Spiritual Democracy.

Founded in 1992, the Foundation's work is inspired by the Iroquois Great Law of Peace, a system of governance in which men and women shared equally in responsible leadership and worked together with their children in reverence for the earth. The Great Law became a model for both the U.S. Constitution and the United Nations.

Today, the Foundation, located in the park's Thoreau Center, is applying this philosophy by placing their focus on the future – the world's youth. Stone and Fisher have made the creation of Youth Leadership Councils the central mission of their work.

Through the Councils, young people from across the globe develop leadership skills over



**"My involvement with the Youth Leadership Council has allowed me to realize my full potential as an artist and as a human being, while seeing the world through a new set of eyes," said program participant Starr Muranko (second from bottom) of Vancouver, Canada.**

the course of an intense year-long program by creating and implementing service projects in their communities. Though program participants hail from as far away as Zambia, Turkey, Hungary, and Ecuador, they receive guidance from their adult mentors – and each other – twice a month via "internet classrooms."

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Thursday, October 26, 9 a.m. to Noon

#### Presidio Trust Board of Directors Meeting

Join the Presidio Trust Board of Directors for a Presidio "year in review" discussion. The meeting will be held at the Golden Gate Club (135 Fisher Loop – Main Post). We welcome your comments on the Trust's programs, projects and activities. Please call 415.561.5418 for details or directions.

Sunday, October 29, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

#### The Mysterious Presidio: Tales from the Dark Side

Take time out for this holiday "treat." Walk the Main Post by candlelight and hear tales of mystery and intrigue. Costumes are encouraged. Please call 415.561.4323 for reservations or details.



# RENEWING MOUNTAIN LAKE

ENHANCEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW LATER THIS MONTH

**FOLLOWING MONTHS OF RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND GRASSROOTS INVOLVEMENT, A PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF MOUNTAIN LAKE – A THREE-ACRE FRESHWATER OASIS WITHIN THE PRESIDIO – WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY’S REVIEW AND COMMENT LATER THIS MONTH.**



**In the summer of 1996, a 3-foot long alligator was discovered trolling Mountain Lake’s waters. The critter quickly became a cause celebre, drawing national attention before it was caught. While the gator may have been hot news, the effort to save the lake became a focus of attention as well.**

## WALK THE LAKE!

To learn more about the Mountain Lake Enhancement Plan, please join us for a walking tour of the site.

**Monday, October 23, 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, October 28, 9 a.m.**

Meet along the south shore of Mountain Lake near the central staircase. Call 415.561.3030 x2237.

Mountain Lake has been a beautiful and much-used refuge for centuries and remains today a popular visitor destination. However, human encroachment, sedimentation and non-native trees and weeds are threatening the lake’s water quality.

### PREPARING A PLAN

To address the lake’s woes, the Golden Gate National Parks Association, the Presidio Trust, and the National Park Service have jointly prepared the *Mountain Lake Enhancement Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Neighbors have also been active partners via the Friends of Mountain Lake Park. Based on analysis and public comment received to date, the Plan proposes a range of options for renewing the lake and its shoreline, and recommends a preferred approach for improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and making the site more

welcoming to the public. Much of the enhancement will be funded by \$500,000 in mitigation funds from San Francisco International Airport.

### NEXT STEPS

Suggested steps include dredging to deepen the lake, removing non-native trees and weeds to improve water quality, and replanting native trees and shrubs to increase wildlife habitat and create a natural buffer with busy Park Presidio Boulevard. New exhibits, benches and a trail would be installed to add to the enjoyment of lake visitors.

### LET’S HEAR FROM YOU

The Plan will be available for review at [www.presidiotrust.gov](http://www.presidiotrust.gov) in late October. To request a copy by mail, please call 415.561.5300. Written comments are welcomed through November.

HT

## DEMOCRACY

“I will support the youth and pass on what I can,” said Stone. “But really about youth empowering youth.”

Summer, the first-ever class of Youth Leadership Council participants aged 16 to 25 traveled to New York to take part in an international conference of business and civil leaders organized by another Presidio organization, the World Forum. In the class of 2011, DeShuna Moore, a former Jackson State University student and Presidio Trust intern who was selected by Stone to be a freshman Council class.

In August, following 12 months of “learning by doing,” program participants will come to the Presidio to celebrate their accomplishments and share what they have learned. Drawing from their experiences of the past year, they will create a youth-led training program for the establishment of other Youth Leadership Councils throughout the world.

## WHERE’S THE FIRE?

OBSOLETE LETTERMAN HOSPITAL PROVIDES A BACKDROP FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING EXERCISES

When the earth trembles or fire breaks out, we are trained to dial 9-1-1. But how do we ensure that the brave men and women who respond to the call have been trained in all the skills needed to protect and to serve?

Rarely do public safety officers have the chance to hone their abilities in a realistic environment, under true-to-life circumstances. However, at the Presidio last month, the obsolete Letterman Hospital provided a backdrop for Presidio and San Francisco Fire Fighters, Police Officers, Hazardous Materials (popularly known as HAZMAT) crews and emergency medical technicians who were participating in training exercises that simulate real-life emergencies.



**Though no longer an active hospital, the Letterman Army Medical Center is still a place where life-saving work takes place.**



During four weekends in September, crews descended upon the empty ten-story structure to practice high-rise search and rescue, forcible entry, fire suppression techniques and other life-saving skills.

“Now that larger Presidio buildings like the Swords to Plowshares Veterans Academy are occupied, this kind of training provides an additional source of security for us. It’s going a long way to help preparedness,” said Paul Martin, Presidio Trust Hazardous Materials Waste Coordinator, who helped organize the training.

The training was facilitated by the Presidio Disaster Planning Committee, a joint National Park Service/Presidio Trust effort to keep the park’s residents, tenants and visitors safe.

### November

Saturday, November 11, 10 a.m. to Noon

#### National Cemetery Walk

Honor Veterans Day by learning more about the Presidio’s National Cemetery, the final resting place of 35 Medal of Honor recipients. Meet at the entrance gate at Lincoln Boulevard near Sheridan Avenue. Call 415.561.4323.

Wednesday, November 15, 6 to 9 p.m.

#### Updating the Presidio Plan – Presentation of Conceptual Alternatives and Visions for the Presidio’s Future

At this scoping workshop, previously scheduled for October 11, we will discuss visions for the park’s future and consider the draft conceptual alternatives that may be studied in an environmental impact statement as the Presidio Trust Implementation Plan moves forward. Meet at the Log Cabin (1299 Storey Avenue at Fort Scott) from 6 to 9 p.m. Call 415.561.5418 for details or directions.



### Ongoing

Through January 1, 2011

#### The Changing Face of Women’s Health

This first major exhibition devoted exclusively to women’s health issues uses visuals and video art to make a dramatic statement about how far the field has come in the last fifty years. Call the Exploratorium at 415.563.7337 or visit [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu) for details.

