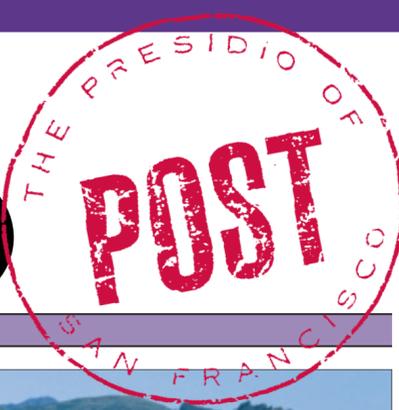




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Presidio



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Preserving the Presidio
as a Sustainable
National Park

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News Briefs

Trust Addresses EPA Conference
The Presidio Trust was recently invited to address the Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Facilities Conference on Environmental Compliance and Management. The Trust provided information on its Comprehensive Waste Management Program and the energy conservation initiatives that are making the Presidio a model for responsible resource use.

Public Participation Efforts Rewarded
Community members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) recently passed a resolution that praised the Trust's public participation process in support of Presidio environmental cleanup. The resolution was drafted by community members who participated with Trust staff in a working group to develop a clean-up strategy for a Crissy Field site, and was passed unanimously by the Board. It states that the public participation process is "a significant, positive 180 degree turnaround from previous RAB participation experiences at the Presidio."

Volunteers Wanted
The Presidio Park Stewards program is seeking volunteers to help protect and restore rare native plant habitats on the Presidio. Activities occur every Wednesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call 415.668.9765 to learn how to participate.



The Trust laid the foundation for positive, sustainable change at the Letterman Complex and throughout the Presidio.

PRESIDIO TRUST YEAR IN REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC MILESTONES REACHED IN 1999

The Presidio Trust completed its first full fiscal year of management of the Presidio of San Francisco in 1999, having made significant progress in converting the former military post into an environmentally, culturally and economically sustainable unit of the national park system.

rehabilitation projects incorporate features and practices that conserve resources and create a healthy indoor environment. The Trust enhanced existing national guidelines by addressing the needs of historic landmark buildings for the first time.

to Plowshares to the Presidio. Following the rehabilitation of two Presidio buildings, 100 formerly homeless veterans will receive employment training that will restore them to self-sufficiency.

This year the Trust developed partnerships and established the foundations that will ensure a prospering Presidio community over the coming decades. Below are some of the Trust's most significant 1999 achievements:

COMMUNITY

- Broad community participation in Presidio planning was encouraged through new forums. The Trust launched a website that has received over one million "hits" and established a monthly newsletter that now reaches 6,000 households. Dozens of planning workshops, Presidio Forums and public meetings provided an opportunity for community members to offer feedback on planning initiatives.
- The Presidio continued to be a place where the community gathers to learn and play. The Trust hosted its first-ever major community events: Earth Day and the Archaeology Open House. On October 1, 1999, the Trust assumed special events permitting responsibility from the National Park Service for the interior of the Presidio, allowing it to play a more significant role in shaping programming that enlightens and entertains.
- The Trust signed an agreement to bring a first-of-its-kind Veterans Academy run by the non-profit organization Swords

ECONOMIC

- The Trust entered into exclusive negotiations with Lucasfilm's Letterman Digital Arts, Ltd. to redevelop a 23-acre site at the Presidio's Letterman Complex. In a parallel process, the Trust identified a Digital Arts Center as its preferred alternative land use in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Letterman Area.
- Fourteen diverse organizations, several working in information technology, were identified to occupy buildings on the Presidio's Main Post. As a result, 7 historic buildings will be rehabilitated.
- Twenty percent of the park's aging infrastructure was modernized. The Presidio's telecommunications system was made Y2K compliant, and transportation, electric, sanitation and sewer systems received much-needed upgrades.
- The Trust increased the Presidio residential community to more than 700 households by preparing and leasing 463 units. Achieving a jobs/housing balance at the Presidio is one of the Trust's major sustainability goals.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARK

FEEL THE RUSH

Fresh water mingled with salt water for the first time this century at Crissy Field as the Golden Gate National Parks Association and the National Park Service opened a channel connecting the newly restored 20-acre tidal marsh with San Francisco Bay. Hundreds of community members were on hand to celebrate the occasion. Ohlone Indian representatives participated in a ceremony to bless the waters.



PRESIDIO WELCOMES UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson visited the Presidio on November 3 for a conversation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) based at the Presidio and throughout the Bay Area. Sponsored by the Resource Center for the United Nations with the support of the Presidio Trust, Ms. Robinson addressed the role of the United Nations and NGOs in responding to human rights abuses world-wide.



Legend

- The Main Post
- Crissy Field
- Fort Point and the Golden Gate Bridge
- Fort Scott
- Coastal Bluffs
- Presidio Forest
- Cavalry Stables
- San Francisco National Military Cemetery
- Letterman Complex
- Housing Areas
- Presidio Golf Course
- Public Health Complex
- Lobos Creek Valley

TRUST BOARD MEMBER HONORED

San Francisco Beautiful, a non-profit urban design and beautification organization whose mission is to improve the livability of San Francisco by creating, enhancing and protecting civic beauty, honored Presidio Trust Board of Directors member Amy Meyer and Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission member Dr. Edgar Wayburn with its Lifetime Achievement Award. They were recognized for their leadership in preserving some of San Francisco's most treasured natural resources.



TRICK OR TREAT

Ghosts and goblins galore graced the Presidio as the annual Children's Haunted House brought more than one hundred youngsters to the park for a trick and a treat. Fueled by the volunteer spirit of park residents and tenants, the Haunted House has become a memorable Presidio tradition, thanks to the efforts of the Presidio Community Activities Team.

Sustainability Spotlight

Natural Resources Awareness and Stewardship Program

Living and working in a national park is an extraordinary opportunity that carries with it unique responsibilities. The Presidio can become an environmentally sustainable community only if all users are sensitive to the park's native wildlife and plant habitat. Because every individual impacts the natural resources that exist here, the Presidio Trust, in partnership with the National Park Service, has created a program to educate residents, tenants and Trust staff about how to live in harmony with the park's environment.

Launched this year following a successful pilot program at the Baker Beach Apartments, the Natural Resources Awareness and Stewardship Program strives to minimize the human "footprint" at the Presidio by:

- cultivating awareness of the Presidio's significant natural resources and the ongoing efforts to restore and protect them
- encouraging the participation of the Presidio's residential and working community in park stewardship

Through the Program Trust staff members are becoming more knowledgeable of the Presidio's natural resources. Training sessions educate staff about species identification and demonstrate how activities can be completed in compliance with natural resource protection rules. Thus, the Program greatly reduces the need for regulative "policing" and promotes a genuine sense of stewardship that carries over into all areas of operation.



Presidio residents and tenants learn how to "heal the habitat" through the Stewardship Program.

The Program also reaches out to those who live and work at the park. A positive sense of ownership is fostered in Presidio neighborhoods by inviting residents and tenants to learn about the plants and animals that surround them through "sense of place" and hands-on habitat restoration projects. Through education and volunteerism, the sense of connection to the surrounding environment that too often is lost in urban settings is restored.

There have been many chapters of natural and cultural history layered upon the Presidio landscape. We are now evolving a new chapter, with a goal of harmonious co-existence of human and natural communities.

To learn more about the Natural Resources Awareness and Stewardship Program, contact Trust Natural Resources Specialist Damien Raffa at 415.561.4449.

Board Members

John Berry	Mary Murphy
Donald Fisher	William Reilly
Jennifer L. Hernandez	Toby Rosenblatt
Amy Meyer	

By Jim Meadows

Presidio Trust Executive Director

Did You Know...?

PRESIDIO TRUST WELCOMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER

At last month's public meeting of the Board of Directors, the Trust was pleased to welcome a new member to its Board, Jennifer L. Hernandez, and to swear in two current Board members, Amy Meyer and Bill Reilly, for their second term of service.

Hernandez was appointed to a four-year term by President Bill Clinton in October, and succeeds Dr. Edward Blakey, a founding Trust Board member who will now share his extraordinary planning expertise as Dean of the Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Management and Urban Policy at the New School University in New York City. A long-time champion of the Presidio who provided outstanding leadership in the Trust's critical formative years, Ed will be greatly missed by his

colleagues on the Board, Trust staff and the community whom he so ably served.

Jennifer Hernandez is a native San Franciscan with an extensive background in environmental and land use law. She has an impressive record of environmental advocacy as well as expertise with military base conversion projects. Jennifer is a partner in the law firm Beveridge and Diamond and is co-founder of the Environmental Law Forum. She serves on the Boards of the California League of Conservation Voters, the California Center for Land Recycling and Sustainable Conservation and is a member of the San Francisco La Raza Association. Jennifer has also served as an instructor at the University of California at Berkeley's Extension.



Jennifer L. Hernandez was sworn in as a Presidio Trust Board Member in November.

As the Trust looks ahead to another year of progress, we are fortunate to have in place a leadership team with extraordinary talent and dedication to the Presidio's future as a sustainable national park.



PRESERVING THE PRESIDIO'S CULTURAL LEGACY

TRUST HOSTS SEMINAR TO TRAIN ITS STAFF ON THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES



Facilities Department carpenters, painters, construction, compliance, permitting, and maintenance staff received instruction on how to rehabilitate the park's historic structures while preserving the characteristics that make the buildings unique.



Designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1962, the Presidio is home to 474 historic structures which represent architectural styles from every major military construction period since 1848 including Italianate, Greek Revival, Mediterranean, Mission Revival and World War II Era. These buildings are being renovated in accordance with federal and state historical preservation standards.

THE PRESIDIO TRUST IS COMMITTED TO BEING A GOOD STEWARD OF THE HISTORIC STRUCTURES THAT HELP DEFINE THE PARK'S UNIQUE CHARACTER AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDIO'S DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT.

As part of the Trust's efforts to preserve the park's irreplaceable cultural resources and comply with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in October the Trust held a 3-day seminar to train its tradespeople – carpenters, painters, and maintenance staff – on strategies for preserving park structures while maintaining their historic character.

The first in an ongoing series of workshops, approximately 25 Facilities Department staff members received instruction and hands-on training to help them identify the elements that contribute to a site's historic character. Staff focused on proper rehabilitation techniques that protect the integrity of frame, brick masonry and reinforced concrete structures.

"This training helps each staff person understand how even small actions can impact an historic structure over time," said Terry Carpenter, Trust Construction Project Manager.

The training was held at Presidio sites that will be undergoing rehabilitation over the coming months and years, including structures on the Main Post, Funston Avenue and at Fort Scott.

Jim Askins, founder of the National Park Service Preservation Training Center, facilitated the workshop. An architect and master carpenter, Askins has participated in historic preservation projects in hundreds of national parks and consulted on the rehabilitation of the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Taj Mahal.

PRESIDIO TENANT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) began nearly two decades ago as a grassroots response to budget cuts that eliminated San Francisco's tree planting program. In an echo of the planting of the first trees of the Presidio's own historic forest on Arbor Day in 1886, FUF sowed its first tree on Arbor Day in 1981. Since that time FUF has become one of the nation's best-respected non-profit citizen tree-planting groups, and has helped over 35,000 San Franciscans plant and care for more than 30,000 trees. Today, FUF plants six out of seven new street trees in San Francisco.

FUF encourages a high degree of citizen involvement. Staff and volunteers work with public, private, and non-profit organizations to expand the urban forest and create goodwill among all involved. A major FUF goal is to instill a concern for the environment, generally, and trees, specifically, in people. By organizing tree plantings in neighborhoods using its large volunteer base, FUF helps build a sense of community. This process fosters citizens



FUF's mission is to promote a larger, healthier urban forest, as part of the urban ecosystem, through community planting, maintenance, education, and advocacy.

UPCOMING "FRIENDS" SEMINARS:
 1/13 Tree Basin Treatments
 2/10 Monocots and Gymnosperms
 3/9 The Feng Shui of Street Trees
 4/13 Wildlife in Our Urban Forest
 5/11 Revamping the Embarcadero, Palms as Centerpiece
 6/8 Invaders: New and Familiar Pests of Our Urban Landscape
 7/13 The Changing San Francisco Landscape

to act as stewards of their own tree(s) and to serve as activists in promoting a larger, healthier urban forest.

In addition to tree planting and a job-training program for low-income youth, FUF coordinates maintenance for the trees it plants, sponsors a popular series of free walks throughout San Francisco and the Presidio, and offers regularly scheduled educational programs. Seminars about tree-related issues are held the second Thursday of each month at FUF's Presidio headquarters in the Thoreau Center, Building 1007. (See sidebar)

Friends of the Urban Forest welcomes participation in its regularly scheduled Saturday planting and maintenance mornings and in the monthly seminars at the Presidio. Call Luis Pardo, Volunteer Coordinator, at 415.561.6890 x 107 for more information, or check out FUF's website at www.fuf.net where participants can sign up to volunteer on-line.

LETTERMAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

TRUST INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT AT DECEMBER PLANNING WORKSHOP

On Monday, December 13, the Presidio Trust will host a public workshop to discuss the draft Architectural Design Guidelines that, once adopted, will apply to new construction within the 60-acre Letterman complex. The meeting will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club.

Trust Board of Directors Chair Toby Rosenblatt and Board member Amy Meyer will be on hand to hear the community's thoughts on this important issue.

The guidelines, which will be finalized in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, provide direction to architects and designers on issues such as site planning,

sustainability principles, landscape design, and building form, including height, massing, scale, window treatments, materials and colors.

The guidelines will be applied to the 23-acre Letterman site that was the subject of a Trust Request for Proposals earlier this year. Currently, the Trust is responding to public comment and completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the Letterman Complex.

Copies of the draft Architectural Design Guidelines may be obtained prior to the meeting in the Trust Library at 34 Graham Street in the Presidio and at www.presidiotrust.gov. Please call 415.561.5300 with questions.



The Planning Workshop, normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, has been rescheduled for Monday, December 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Club.



The 60-acre Letterman site contains 34 historic and 9 non-historic buildings that are associated with the area's former use as a medical center.

December

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission

Please note that the December meeting of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission, normally held on the third Tuesday of the month, has been cancelled due to the holiday season. Meetings will resume in January. Please call 415.561.4733 for more information.

December 10-14, 1999

The Tibetan Nuns of Kathmandu

Please join the Cultural Conservancy for five days of programming as twelve Tibetan nuns from the Khachoe Ghakyil Nunnery in Kathmandu share their ritual arts and culture with the Presidio and Bay Area community. Activities include meditations and a sacred dance performance. Dates and times vary. Call the Presidio Alliance at 415.561.6594 for a schedule of events.

Monday, December 13, 6 to 9 p.m.

Public Planning Workshop on Letterman Design Guidelines

The Presidio Trust, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, is developing draft Architectural Design Guidelines for new construction within the 60-acre Letterman Complex. Please come share your ideas. Meet at the Presidio's Golden Gate Club. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. a shuttle will operate between the Lombard Gate and the meeting site. For more information, call 415.561.5300.

Tuesday, December 14, 7 to 10 p.m.

Restoration Advisory Board

The December meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) will be held at Presidio Trust Headquarters, Building 34 on the park's Main Post. The RAB consists of members of the public, the Trust, environmental regulatory agencies, and concerned citizens coming together to promote the Presidio's environmental cleanup. For more information, please call Ina Shlez at 415.561.4255.

December 31 – January 2

72 Hours of Peacemaking

Usher in the new millennium with three days of reflection hosted by the Interfaith Center at the Presidio. Activities begin on New Year's Eve morning with a "peace walk" through the park originating at the Main Post Chapel at 9:30 a.m. Call 415.775.4635 for details on the series of events.

Ongoing

Through February 6, 2000

"Frogs" at the Exploratorium

Did you know that frogs use their eyeballs to help them swallow? Explore the amazing biology and diversity of these animals through experiential exhibits, hands-on demonstrations and innovative programs featuring live animals. Admission to "Frogs" is free with admission to the Exploratorium. For more information, call 415.561.0363.

