

# \$3.5 million museum scrambles to open on time

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Screaming Queen Felicia Elizondo will be on hand to give her firsthand account, joined in discussion by transgender activists Tamara Ching and Veronika Fimbres.

Opening night, TL trips guru Del Seymour launches his first nighttime Tenderloin tour from the museum at 8:30 p.m.

All these plans — and the opening date — are vouched for by Shaw, but 16 days before the opening, the work was far behind schedule. The exterior was still under wraps, the interior wasn't finished and no exhibits had begun to be mounted.

The museum's first funding came in

2009, with \$35,000 from the Fifth Age of Man Foundation in the Mission District and a pledge of pro bono design from architectural firm Perkins + Will. A year later, the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development invested \$20,000.

In his MOEWD proposal, Shaw said the museum would improve the neighborhood's image, stimulate business and give the TL "what it has long lacked: a prime daytime destination that attracts tourists and others into the heart of the community."

A confident Shaw told The Extra in 2009 that he expected the museum to be a natural extension of the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District, which he had just established. It would be 6,400

square feet in the basement and ground floor of the Cadillac Hotel, include a cafe, music events and neighborhood tours, cost an estimated \$3 million and open sometime in 2012.

In the end, its square footage was halved — the basement renovation was too costly — and the cafe was nixed for the same reason, he says.

"I haven't tabulated the final cost, but it's likely closer to \$3.5 million," Shaw says today. "Most funding came from private donations — the Indian American SRO-owner community has been particularly generous — and Perkins + Will has been with us since day one." During a one-month Indiegogo campaign in December, the museum also added \$11,515 to its kitty, a little

more than half its crowdfunding goal.

The museum remains Shaw's baby, but day-to-day operations will be the bailiwick of newly named Executive Director Bill Fricker, who has worked with nonprofits serving youth, seniors and adults with disabilities in San Francisco. Uptown Tenderloin, the nonprofit Shaw established in 2008 to oversee the creation of the historic district, serves as the museum's fiscal sponsor.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, closed Monday. Adults pay \$10, seniors, students and youth 12 to 21 \$6. Kids under 12: zip. Memberships, from \$35 to \$250, include various admission and event perks. ■

## Safe Passage runs into pothole on Eddy Street

### Cadillac Hotel owner lodges complaint

By TOM CARTER

The 11 blocks of fading yellow bricks that schoolkids follow in the Tenderloin — criticized by a major property owner as a "botched" Safe Passage project lacking maintenance — were being erased by the Department of Public Works in June for repainting in July.

Kathy Looper, owner of the Cadillac Hotel that is on the route, says she wants out of the project, calling it an eyesore in a neighborhood on the rise.

"I've lost faith in it," she told The Extra. "It was never really good in the beginning, and it got worse. Maybe when they work out the kinks, I'll reconsider."

Dina Hilliard, Safe Passage executive director, says Looper is the first property owner to drop away from the four-year project that is generally seen as a symbol of safety in the rough neighborhood.

"But the repainting will just skip her property lines," Hilliard said. "We do that with certain other properties, like garages that have cars going in and out."

Hilliard said Safe Passage is committed to making a mural that is attractive to kids and will add value to properties and please the owners.

In April, Looper wrote Supervisor Jane Kim, complaining that the repainting then was substandard and that Safe Passage had not asked her permission to redo the sidewalk next to the Cadillac Hotel on Leavenworth and Eddy. (See May Extra.)

Looper, as a Community Benefit District board member, had previously supported Safe Passage. But, as a property owner, she said the mural project hadn't been properly maintained since it was first painted on Martin Luther King Day in 2012. She said it was "rapidly becom-

ing bad graffiti on a public sidewalk."

She asked Kim to consult DPW to see if Safe Passage had done proper outreach for the repainting.

Hilliard admitted there were maintenance issues with the gaudy, oversized, yellow bricks, as in road. Early on, she explained, there was no money for maintenance.

After Looper's complaint, newly funded Safe Passage decided to start over and put a total cleanup job up for bid. DPW won it for \$2,700 to \$2,900.

The permit to create and maintain Safe Passage as an "art installation" was held by Safe Passage's previous fiscal sponsor, the Tenderloin CBD.

Safe Passage had been one of the CBD's minimally funded programs until it spun off to another fiscal sponsor — Community Initiatives — last year and soon received two grants totaling \$350,000.

Hilliard said she has applied to DPW to switch the repainting permit to Safe Passage and expects to do the job in July. A permit condition DPW attached, she said, is removal of the current mural. The original mural artist and volunteers had repainted four blocks before the job was suspended and put out to bid.

The job has plenty of paint, thanks to donations from Twitter and DPW. But the pattern will have "less density," meaning fewer yellow bricks, and they'll skip the east side of Leavenworth next to the Cadillac, Hilliard said.

Looper and her late husband Leroy, who was an iconic figure in the neighborhood, bought the hotel in 1977 and turned it into the TL's first supportive housing SRO. The Cadillac is also home to the soon-to-open Tenderloin Museum on the ground floor. ■

## Legislation a boost for peer services

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shortages, "particularly in the area of rehabilitative services."

Since 2007, federal policy has qualified credentialed peer support services for at least 50% funding.

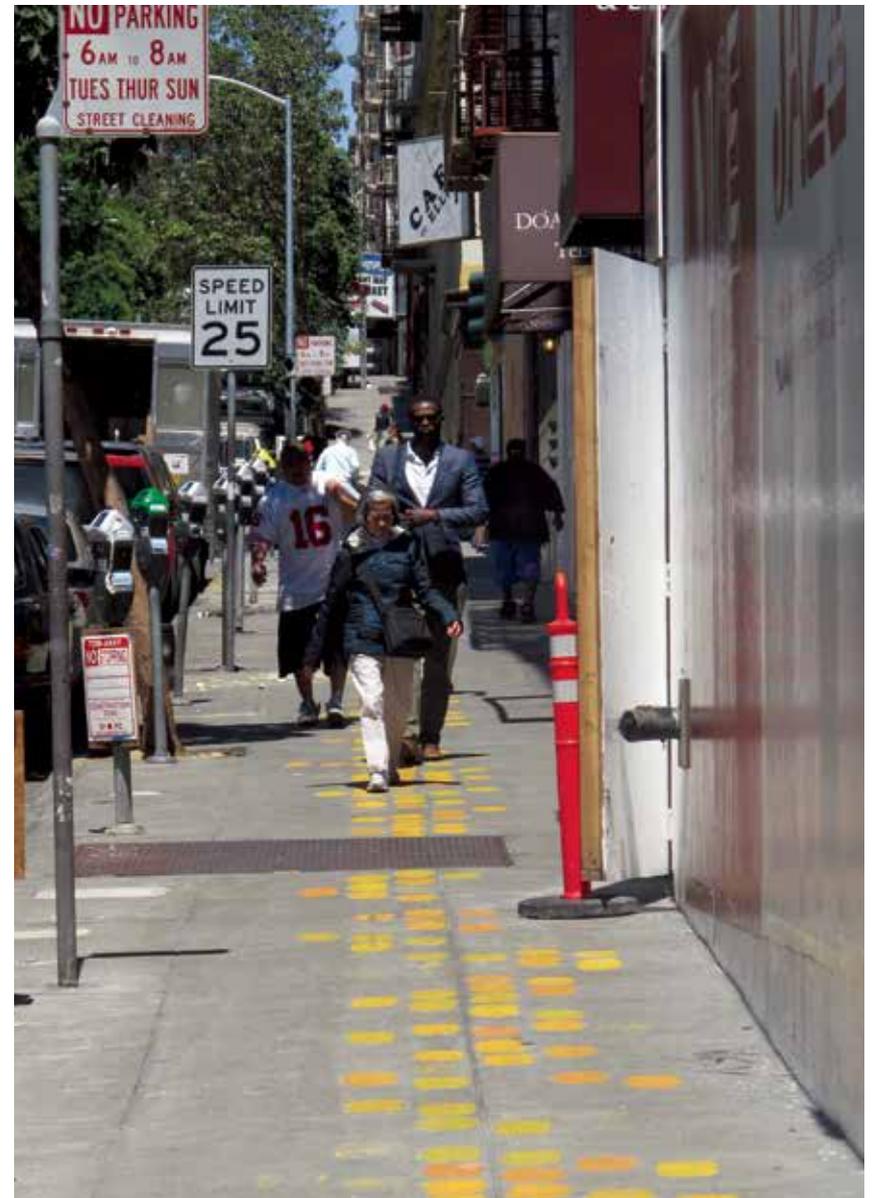
"Because of that," Zinman said, "many states have found a way for credentialing services." But California, with no state-wide credential program in place, has not been eligible for those federal funds. SB614 would fix that.

Leno's measure directs the state Department of Health Care Services, which administers Medi-Cal, to establish a state-wide peer and family support specialist certification program by next July 1 that includes three categories of peer support specialists: adult, family and parent,

"defining responsibilities, practice guidelines, determining curriculum and core competencies, specifying training and continuing education requirements and establishing a code of ethics and certification revocation processes."

A California Legislative Information analysis of SB614 explains that adding parents in certified peer support training expands services to the minors for whom the peer parents are responsible.

Funding for the development and administration of the certification program would come via the Mental Health Services Act established through 2004's Proposition 63 and the Office of State-wide Health Planning and Development. Half of those administrative costs are also eligible for federal reimbursement, Leno's office said. ■



MARK HEDIN

The Safe Passage sidewalk route is marked by a progression of colorful "bricks" from yellow to light orange. The project calls it a mural, and Public Works is repainting its 11-block length.

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