

TNDC mulls grocery store as data roll in

Pot clubs, tech lab, community courts and much more

BY TOM CARTER

TNDC is buying the largest vacant lot left in the Tenderloin and beneath 12 stories of affordable family housing will be the full service grocery store that residents have hungered for — if plans work out.

The site is the parking lot at Eddy and Taylor streets, kitty corner from TNDC headquarters.

TNDC, nonprofit owner of 25 buildings, got \$5.9 million from the Mayor's Office of Housing to start the project that may cost \$75 million. TNDC wants to designate 5,000 to 15,000 square feet of retail ground floor space for a grocery. But that's not big enough to interest a chain grocer, which would need a store at least twice that size.

Coincidentally, on Dec. 8, City Planning announced for public review an environmental impact

document for a similar project on the southeast corner of Van Ness and Sutter, near enough to attract some Tenderloin customers. The 13-story mixed-use building would have 15,800 square feet for a ground-floor grocery store.

The Extra brings some of its '07 stories up to date

For months TNDC has researched the feasibility of a grocery store in the Tenderloin. It surveyed for food availability, distributed questionnaires to residents and conducted focus groups. Now, most results are in and TNDC is analyzing data while trying to market the idea.

Where to get fresh fruits and vegetables in the Tenderloin made front page news in *The Extra* in 2007 and coverage included TNDC's retail grocery analysis by Ventura Partners. TNDC next hired an Oakland outfit, Planning for Healthy Places, to survey the neighborhood for fresh produce. The Sept. 15-21 survey, which didn't include the farmers' market at U.N. Plaza, covered 55 retail food stores in the neighborhood.

TNDC's researchers used the map that ran with *The Extra's* "Where to get it fresh" article in July

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PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

This parking lot at Taylor and Eddy may be the site of a small supermarket.

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ART BEAT DINES OUT AT DONUT WORLD



Lot to think about when eating there

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EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO

SOUTHSIDE



PHOTO BY LENNY LIMJOCO, 1983

There were always kids at Canon Kip, in the good old days, a testament to Director Gene Coleman, who built community in the western SoMa.

Community Builder

Once upon a time, SoMa had a heart — Gene Coleman

BY JOHN ELBERLING
PRESIDENT/CEO, TODCO GROUP

I'LL never forget my first visit to Canon Kip at Eighth and Natoma streets. It looked like a drab-green concrete warehouse and I couldn't spot a front door. A plain metal double door down the alley looked like a service entrance. I gave it a try — and walked like Alice through the Looking Glass into a wonderful place and time: a genuine Community.

One room off the hall was filled with middle school kids sitting quietly at desks doing homework. In the large back room were seniors, relaxing after the lunch program, waiting for bingo. In the big gym teens were shooting baskets at one end and a team was practicing plays at the other. Filipino, black, some white — just like the neighborhood.

I found my way down the hall to Gene Coleman's office, a small side room. From behind a crowded desk surrounded by stacks of paper he greeted me with that big, warm smile that everyone who ever met him will never forget. I was the newbie, the new executive director of TODCO. Our first Yerba Buena senior project, Woolf House, had just begun construction that month, January 1978. Gene had been a charter member of TODCO's board of directors since he became Canon Kip's director six

years earlier at the end of 1971. I had met him a few weeks before at the TODCO board meeting at which my job was approved. Now he was going to show me around.

We went back to the seniors room, the general gathering place, and Gene introduced me to the group. The ladies were very polite and kindly welcomed me, asking when the new building would open and how they could apply. But one fellow immediately challenged me with a combative question: Were we going to move the people back in to Woolf House that the Redevelopment Agency had displaced 10 years earlier when it tore down the old Third and Fourth Street hotels?

I don't recall my answer, though only about a dozen finally moved back, but it was definitely a poor one because he charged forward, called me a "punk," and took a roundhouse swing at my jaw. Gene effortlessly pushed me back just enough so it missed, stepped easily in between and said, "Now Leland, he's new, give him a chance." It was Lee Meyerzove, longtime and very vocal SoMa resident and moderator of the KPOO radio broadcasts of Board of Supervisors meetings in City Hall in the decades before SFGOV TV and Webcasts. (TODCO's Leland Apartments on Howard Street near Sixth is named in his memory; he passed away in 2005.) Welcome to the 'hood!

Lee was one of the Canon Kip "regulars." Most any day you could find him there talking about the latest neighborhood news and gossip with Enrica Sabala, Isabel Ugat (TODCO's Hotel Isabel at Seventh and Mission streets is named in her memory)

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