City awards
$1.8 million
high-rise fees
to aid SoMa

Lion’s share goes
to 18 nonprofits

BY TOM CARTER

The fees that Supervisor Daly negotiated from luxury condo developers five years ago to mitigate the impact of their buildings on the working-class SoMa neighborhood are finally being put to use this month.

But the $50 million largesse touted when the deals were signed has slipped to $6.6 million, thanks to the tanked economy that has stalled much high-rise building here and most everywhere.

Only the One Rincon Hill tower has been completed, and only the first $1.8 million paid to the SoMa Community Stabilization Fund is being distributed in the fund’s initial round of financing for projects that roll out this month.

Eighteen nonprofits split $1.25 million and three city agencies handle another $550,000 that came from a million and three city agencies.

The San Diego-based developer Urban West Associates, the Mayor’s Office of Housing liaison to the fund.

Daly’s legislation requiring fees was imprecise about when they were due. So the committee, also created in 2005, had waited anxiously month after month for the money.

But Kriozere did a quick about-face in a press release the next day, April 20. “We are not in default nor facing in a press release the next day, April 20. “We are not in default nor do we intend to be,” he said, claiming his remarks had been taken out of context. He said the payment was-

The Power House garden was resplendent with onions, carrots, cabbage, beets, three kinds of lettuce, green beans, bok choy, garlic, basil and tomatoes. Purple and white turnip tops the size of softballs peeked through the dark soil and more than 70 broccoli plants in verdant double rows from 14 inches to 24 inches high foretold a lush harvest. The emerald oasis is some-

Miscreant steals veggies that are free for asking

BY TOM CARTER

Siu Cheung shows the broccoli plant that was stripped of its beautiful florets by someone who broke the lock on the gate.

The garden was quickly reassembled and volunteers resumed work.

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Develop ment Center, 166 Eddy St.; Bessie Gate Ave.; Tenderloin Children’s Playground Eddy St.; Shi Yu Lang YMCA, 387 Golden Indochinese Housing Development Corp. 375 Boys & Girls Club, 115 Jones St.; Glide safety. The program expects to feed 200,000 healthy, soda-free snacks and meals; moni- they don’t have to be enrolled in a program served on a first-come, first-served basis — posted times to get the free food that is At most locations, kids need only show up at sites citywide, 10 of them in the central city. younger each weekday through Aug. 6 at 100 es and afternoon snacks to 18-year-olds and 1337 Mission St.; Resource Center for Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth, Carmichael School, 375 Seventh St.; Homies and United Playaz, 1038 Howard St. More 10 multimedia installations and events to the Wonderland exhibition brought 40 artists and much, much more.

HUNGRY KIDS As part of its free summer lunch program, the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families is serving free lunch- es and afternoon snacks to 19-year-olds and younger each weekday through Aug. 6 at 100 sites citywide, 10 of them in the central city. At 10 a.m. each weekday, lines have multilingual staff). info: SFkids.org; lunch service hours at 3-1-1

80 Turk St., as it was starting in 1963, left, as it is now and as proposed — “a sanctuary for the lost arts.”

OLD PORN HOUSE Gayety may be new live theater

BY Marjorie Beggs

ITs projects keep on roll- ing into the Tenderloin, raising hopes that they’ll help turn grit into cultural gold. The latest is a proposal to launch a live performance venue at 80 Turk St., currently the Doll House, showing adult movies. According to TL historian Fish Field, it was built in 1922 as a storefront with lofts, not a theater, and also had clubs as a bowling joint in the 1930s, a cafe in the 40s and a tavern, The Buccaneer, in the ’50s. It became the Gayety Theatre in 1963, and in 2001 changed its name to the Gaiety.

Sean Owens and Cameren Eng, principals of the 2-year-old Foul Play Productions, an- nounced their plans for the Gaiety Project at the June Tenderloin Futures Collaborative. “We want this be a sanctuary for the lost arts, like cabaret and circus arts,” said Eng. The 99-seat theater will present friendly performances with chic, classic, state-of-the-art technol- ogy: a holographic sound system (3-D, spatial sound), programma- ble lighting, trapdoors, puppet stages and projection for films. It will even have circus weight points — structural points in the ceiling and walls strong enough to hold performers doing aerial, strap, hanging, and ring work. Eng says few small halls have the ceiling height to accom- modate such weight. A storefront cafe, lobby art gallery, basement and second- floor offices and workshops also are part of the plan.

“We’ve been working on the Gaiety Project since January,” Eng said. “The project will be the managing nonprofit for the theater space, with Foul Play being just one of the resident compa- nies.” Their hope is to draw other companies and new writers to the venture — what their prospectus calls “untapped media like the burgeoning burlesque and vaude- ville revival that San Francisco has fostered.”

From the start, the Doll House site seemed a perfect fit for their project, Eng said, with its location just off Taylor Street along the city’s nascent arts corridor. “It will be part of the inviting gateway to the Tenderloin,” he said.

Owens and Eng also seem to be the right people to get the proj- ect off the ground. Owens, author of 35 plays ranging from musicals to noir mysteries, has worked in San Francisco theater for 20 years and is heavyweight EXIT Theatre’s playwright in residence. Eng, a performer in underground theater, has produced events and shows in the Bay Area for 12 years. He was key in turning The Dark Room theatre in the Mission into a year- round venue for live shows and film. And he has the Blessing of the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative’s second meeting after the decision to turn the space into a theater, if it’s ready.

“The Gayety Project is an opportunity to bring live theater back to the Tenderloin,” Eng said. “We want to create a place that will be part of the inviting gateway to the downtown entertainment dis- trict, and the Gaiety Project would be a great addition.”

The Gayetti’s premier is still a ways off. Owens and Eng are negotiating the lease with 80 Turk’s owner, Carlos Jimenez. He has agreed to upgrade the electri- cal and ventilation systems, Eng says. They have $50,000 commit- ted for ground-floor buildup but need another $100,000. The new nonprofit is applying for a grant from the city’s Cultural District Loan fund, which will approach pri- vate foundations, too.

Meantime, Foul Play is in pre- production for its “Left Hand Darling,” described in promos as “a theatric- al adventure.” A staged reading of the comedy at EXIT Theatre on July 16, 17, 23 and 24 will be a prep for a full performance next year, perhaps at the new Gayetti Theatre. If it’s ready. — M.B.

This was the Future Col- laborative’s second meeting after being “dark” for four months. It wasn’t quite standing room only. But 24 people came to hear about the Gayetti and four other proj- ects. “We’re going back to the central city — the new mid-Market-PAC, proposed Grant Building renova- tions, an update on housing plans for 220 Golden Gate Ave. (the old YMCA), and the new community garden at Larkin and Hyde. — M.B.
Stunned mourners filled the community room of the Coast Hotel to pay final respects to the hotel's youngest adult resident and one of its most likeable, Emile Llewellyn, found dead May 27 at 4 a.m. on the Octavia median strip near Market Street. His trusty skateboard lay nearby.

Mr. Llewellyn had turned 24 just 11 days before. A police spokeswoman said the department's hit and run unit was investigating, but cause of death wasn't known yet.

At the memorial, Mr. Llewellyn's skateboard, a battered wooden piece with its color images nicked, marred and faded beyond recognition, lay on a table in front next to a floral spray and a one-foot-square, handmade sympathy card. Scott Caswell, 23, a tall, lanky skateboard buddy, told the 28 mourners he took the loss of his friend hard and indirectly felt responsible for his death. They had skateboarded together for three months until Caswell got a job, ending their adventures.

"There wasn’t a road in the city we didn’t touch — that’s the sport. It’s also very dangerous," Caswell said, eyes red and bleary. "Then I got a job. And I just couldn’t believe her strength and energy," her case worker said. "She was one of the most kind, open and happy persons."

"She loved her children and talked about them all the time," said another woman near a table laden with six bouquets and three color photos of Ms. Cronin. The woman read aloud a poem, “Miss Me, But Let Me Go,” by an anonymous author, that was printed in the program with Ms. Cronin's likeness on it.

"Life wasn’t easy for her, but she brought so much joy to things," one man said. Another man recalled Ms. Cronin in the lobby every morning wearing a different bright outfit. Others nodded agreement. She always looked nice.

Geraldine Williams sang "Jesus Promise Me a Home Over There," and a man played a guitar and sang a song he wrote.

"She was so excited to come to my graduation," said Moore, beautiful and smart in a black suit and white blouse. "We talked all the time. And I forgave her for everything. I’m glad you guys loved her as much as I did." Moore sat down and family members held her and stroked her hair.

Ms. Cronin was born and raised in the Mission with seven brothers and sisters. She didn’t attend high school and just recently started to learn to read, her daughter said after the memorial.

A police spokeswoman said the department's hit and run unit was investigating, but cause of death wasn't known yet.

Mr. Llewellyn was born in Jamaica and came to San Francisco in 2006. Homeless, he moved into the hotel more than three years ago and became a favorite of many residents. The rail-thin, 5-foot-5 young man was unfailingly polite and congenial.

His mother, Eslyn Smith, and his older brother, Orlando Smith, 32, attended the service but left the young man was unfailingly polite and congenial.

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San Francisco in 2006. Homeless, he moved into the

of concentration and it’s physically demanding.”

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ment in Food Service) program. Sandra Marilyn,

CHEFS (Conquering Homelessness through Employ -

finished the Episcopal Community Services’ free

being called Stanley for reasons no one knew, had

— that’s the sport. It’s also very dangerous,” Caswell

They had skateboarded together for three months

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"He knocked on my door every day. He called me "Mom." We watched movies together and we ate together. He’s my loved one. I miss him every day.”

Mr. Llewellyn’s neighbor, Roman Sanchez, told how he accepted his Saturday night invitations to go out, have a beer and “meet some girls.”

“We’d take the F-car to 1 dumbo where, and he was funny. If I said, ‘You’re retarded,’ he’d say, ‘You’re retarded, you know, say it back. ‘You’re a Republican.’ ‘No, you’re a Republican.’ ”

Sanchez created the card that was on the table.

AYE HOMES was in big, slanted blue letters in one corner, and two checkered cards in the other. The checkered pattern resembled a city seen from very high in the sky. The rest of the card was filled with a blue and black drawing of a dog with red spots on a skateboard, ears flying as he soared along his façade. Sanchez gave the card to the family.

ROBERTA CRONIN
Another young woman for

Another young woman for

Robert Cronin had a date she was sure to keep this time: her daughter’s graduation from nursing school May 24 at the Hilton Hotel in San Jose.

“She wanted to buy me a present, but I said no,” said her daughter, Tern Moore, 32, "I said just her being there was enough. She had missed a lot of stuff in the past because of drugs.”

Mrs. Cronin died March 6 in her Lyric Hotel room of unknown causes, 13 days before Moore’s graduation. She was 55 and had stomach problems.

May 20, the day before the graduation, two dozen mourners including Ms. Cronin’s two children son Francisco Cronin, 31, of Corona in Southern California, and Moore of Sunnyvale — plus other family members, Lyric residents and staff, bade farewell in a memorial to a woman they said was strong, loving and helpful despite her weakness for drugs. Her nickname was Bobbi.

"I couldn’t believe her strength and energy,” her case worker said. "She was one of the most kind, open and happy persons."

"She loved her children and talked about them all the time,” said another woman near a table laden with six bouquets and three color photos of Ms. Cronin. The woman read aloud a poem, “Miss Me, But Let Me Go,” by an anonymous author, that was printed in the program with Ms. Cronin's likeness on it.

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His mother, Eslyn Smith, and his older brother, Orlando Smith, 32, attended the service but left the speaking to others.

“Was cool,” a middle-aged man told them. “I mean really cool. I’m a good judge of character and he had real nice manners and was really good. I could tell he was raised right.”

Others who spoke during the memorial seemed to feel a personal attachment to Mr. Llewellyn.

One young woman said she skateboarded with him down Mission Street and he was “like a broth-

er to me and a good friend of my husband’s.”

He was like my son,” said an older black woman who kept her head bowed as she talked. “He knocked on my door every day. He called me 'Mom.' We watched movies together and we ate together. He’s my loved one. I miss him every day.”

Mr. Llewellyn’s neighbor, Roman Sanchez, told how he accepted his Saturday night invitations to go out, have a beer and “meet some girls.”

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— TOM CARTER

— TOM CARTER

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The seven-member committee has $2.8 million left, according to the Mayor’s Office of Housing, and there’s no indication when Rincon Hill area construction will resume, which would trigger additional fees. Even so, the committee is holding off on funding more projects because it wants to revitalize the strategic plan that the supes approved in 2008.

“Right now we’re thinking to take the next two months to revisit the strategic plan, taking into account the current economic climate, before reissuing new RFPs,” del Rosario said. Collins “But we did not put a specific number in the plan — that would blow up in our face.”

**FUNDING ON HOLD**

The other nonprofits and their grants included:

- **Bar Association of San Francisco,** $10,000, to continue working with the committee on a Community Facilities District in West SoMa.
- **Northeast Community Federal Credit Union,** $75,000, to fund a new SoMa branch for financial services for low-income residents.
- **Brenaissance Entrepreneurship Center,** $75,000, to train low-income ex-offenders — men and women — in SoMa to become self-employed and self-sufficient.
- **United Playaz,** $75,000, for job skills training and employment referrals for at-risk SoMa young adults.
- **Chinatown Community Development Center,** $94,394, for outreach, to low-income SoMa families to improve access to affordable housing through its SFO Collaborative.
- **Bendistill Studio,** $35,000, for needs assessment and organizational planning, fundraising and public relations strategy.
- **GP/TODCO Inc.** $75,000, to renovate Alice Street Gardens, a community garden.
- **South of Market Child Care Inc.,** enjoy a day in the sun. The nonprofit will develop a blueprint for fundraising and board development.

**Broccoli burglar steals free food from TL garden**

**Continued from page 1**

Inglewood Community Center. As Cheung meticulously circled the square plot, bending to examine plants and picking up leaves, others began to enter through the gate for the announced harvest and cleaning day, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden, though, is open daily for an hour or two at various times. A half dozen mostly Chinese women seniors from TNDC buildings were expected. A man dressed in khaki arrived and began mowing the long grass outside the plot. A chatty woman walked in, saying she wanted her own space to grow angelica kesseki (an Asian plant also known as ashitaba) and aloe vera. Two more women entered and immediately began pulling weeds.

Lorenzo Listark, a TNDC staff member who had visited the plot Saturdays since April, walked in and went to Cheung.

“The door was wide open Friday,” he told her. Cheung frowned. “I don’t know how they are able to open it.”

Cheung resumed walking around. In the northeast corner she found another picket fence section pulled aside. Two women were weeding nearby.

“Look,” Cheung said, pointing at limp beet leaves that had been trampled. “How can they break the fence when they can easily step over it?” another gardener asked irritably.

Cheung’s fingers were crawling over the hand-some broccoli leaves they were kitchen neighbors, “said one woman. Cheung pointed to the top of a plant: the florets had been sheered off, leaving a shrunken, 4-inch-diameter stem. “Why?” Cheung asked no one, looking puzzled. “They could have just asked me. My phone number was here.”

“Must’ve been hungry,” one woman said.

There was no other damage. Within 45 minutes the fencing had been reassembled, the hoses replaced and the mowing finished. Another man had come in too, a friendly senior who gave Cheung $40 in cash for seeds, he said. He refused a receipt and left.

Twenty people showed up that day. Cheung’s new log shows. Eight were volunteers who got 3 pounds of vegetables each. The rest were neighbors who dropped by. Cheung gave them 30 more pounds, a lot more than the broccoli burglar got.

Word of mouth has spread the news about the garden largesse, but it’s certainly no secret, Cheung said. The first Wednesday of the month is work and harvest day.

It’s worth the trip.
CENTRAL City Extra received five awards from the San Francisco Peninsula Press Club for stories we published last year. The Extra was awarded two first places and three seconds out of 54 plaques, nearly 10% of the total prizes the press club parcelled out in its Non-Daily Newspaper division.

Surprisingly, our main obituary writers, Tom Carter and Marjorie Beggs, only placed second in the Columns Feature category. Perhaps because there was no category specifically for obituaries, but judges called it “an outstanding effort about a segment of our society that is often overlooked.” S.F. Business Times “Editor’s Notebook” came in first.

The obituaries we submitted were among Beggs’ and Carter’s finest, which says a lot considering that The Extra’s most popular feature, our obits, have pioneered a fresh path in journalistic storytelling.

Heidi Swillinger, currently The Extra’s advertising manager, won a blue ribbon in the News Story category for her meticulously researched piece on the city’s “Information Gap” caused by city departments’ non-compliance with the charter-mandated requirement to produce an annual report and post it on the Main Library Website.

Tom Carter, The Extra’s community reporter, snagged second place for his Business Story on TNDC’s eviction of landmark TL bookstore McDonald’s after the nonprofit developer had bent over backwards on the rent and made other costly accommodations.

Marjorie Beggs, senior writer/editor at the Study Center, the Extra’s publisher, who has been turning out high-quality work for us since 1977, took home a first-place plaque June 19 at the Press Club’s 33rd annual awards banquet.

She scored top Specialty Story honors with “S.F. vs. Tobacco” her 6,000-word account of the city’s Tobacco Free Project’s impact through its advocacy for anti-tobacco policies and legislation. The Department of Public Health’s health education program is a textbook example of citywide community organizing. Under the leadership of Director Alyond Hrushow and Mele Lau, the Tobacco Free Project is among DPH Prevention Unit’s finest achievements.

Tom Carter grabbed his third red ribbon in the Series category with his two-parter on robbery in the Tenderloin. His Page One “Robbery Roulette” was a first-person account of how he eluded a mugger on Turk Street, making the young man with the knife look like a chump unable to handle an ageless tennis player who also works out daily at Salvation Army. Tom coupled his personal account with a timely story on a spike in robberies in the neighborhood.

What we savor from winning these five awards is the independent recognition from fellow journalists of the high quality of Central City Extra’s contents. We have been preaching that “news is a community service,” and cover stories that offer insight into neighborhood improvement.

— GEOFF LINK, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

The Extra wins S.F. Peninsula Press Club honors

Heidi Swillinger, Tom Carter and Marjorie Beggs beam for the camera as they display their well-deserved awards against big-time competition. Their award-winning stories are pictured on this page.
NOTICE: SECTION 8 VOUCHER HOLDERS

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ARTS EVENTS
Music in the Park, Boeddeker Park, Wednesday, July 14, noon-1 p.m., Franco Nero, ska and rocksteady music.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District 6, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.
Community Leadership Alliance. Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Infusion Lounge, 124 Ellis St. Information: David Villa-Lobos, 599-6827, admin@communityleadershipalliance.net.
Friends of Boeddeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Boeddeker Rec Center, 240 Eddy St. Plan park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 931-1126.
Gene Friend Recreation Center Advisory Board, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5 p.m. Board works to protect SoMa resources for children, youth, families and adults. Gene Friend Recreation Center, 270 Sixth St. Information: 538-1126.
Mid-Market Project Area Committee, next meeting June 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Art Institute of California, 10 United Nations Plaza (1130 Market St.), Room 410. Info: Lisa Zayas-Chien, 749-2504, Lisa.Zayas-Chien@sfgov.org. Planning to improve mid-Market.
North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, full board meets 3rd Monday of every other month, 5:30 p.m., 134 Golden Gate Ave., 292-4812.
SOMA Community Stabilization Fund Community Advisory Committee meets 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m., 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor atrium. Info: Claudeine del Rosario 749-2519.
SoMa Leadership Council, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., The Arc, 1500 Howard St. at 11th. Emphasizes good planning and good government to maintain a diverse, vibrant, complete neighborhood. Contact: Jim Meko, 824-4309 or jim.meko@comcast.net.
South of Market Project Area Committee, 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Folsom St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday, 1035 Folsom St., noon. Information: 487-2166 or www.sompac.com.
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 339-8327.

SENIOR COFFEE CHATS
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I am a graduate student interviewing older residents about what it’s like living and aging in San Francisco.
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— San Francisco Examiner, September 2009

“Dishes are interesting and unique… the number of ingredients and the amount of prep work that goes into these dishes are awe-inspiring.”
— SF Weekly, September 2009

“Whoever has the wherewithal to hunt it down will be rewarded with food not easily found in San Francisco.”
— 7 x 7, April 2010

“For the most flavors on a plate, order a lunch special ($5.95-$8.95).”
— San Francisco Chronicle, May 2010

20/20

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tenderloin Futures Collaborative, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 11 a.m. noon, Tenderloin Police community room, 301 Eddy. Presentations on issues of interest to neighborhood residents, nonprofits and businesses. Information: tfutures.org, 820-3989.
Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month beginning in June, 631 O’Farrell St., 4:30 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote neighborly interactions. Info: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.
Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-7300. Neighborhood safety.
For space considerations, the calendar is shorter than usual this month. We hope to restore it to its regular size in August.
The San Francisco Board of Supervisors will be voting this month on a new city budget. While there are many important priorities that must be balanced, one of the most important should be our neighborhood firehouses.

As San Francisco firefighters, our priority is to protect our community. That’s why we are working so hard to keep open our first line of defense during fires, medical emergencies or any major disaster. We know money is tight, so we are improving efficiency and even taking less pay so there is enough to keep our neighborhood firehouses open.

As the budget vote nears, we need your support to let the San Francisco Board of Supervisors know:

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