Support grows for safe site to inject drugs

Backers include D.A. Gascon, former TI police captain, health care alliance

BY TOM CARTER

If the city creates safe injection sites, most health experts agree, it could save lives from overdosing, decrease the risk of HIV and hep C infections, two diseases that kill numbers of San Franciscans every year.

A room where addicts can inject their dope without fear of arrest and under medical supervision, using clean needles and maintaining hygiene is supported by District Attorney George Gascon, former Tenderloin police Capt. Gary Jimenez, and a coalition of major groups. The Department of Public Health has been supportive in the past, but isn’t interested now because it can’t fund current services — let alone a new endeavor.

A lot of people don’t understand that we can’t solve this problem through law enforcement,” Capt. Gary Jimenez

“A NEW TENDERLOIN STAR

Poetess works the Arts Market

PAGE 4

The New York City 7

Big Apple groups see EXIT’s theatre fete as major gig on Fringe circuit

BY MARK HEDIN

Just like New York City’s legendary seedy Times Square, San Francisco’s Eddy Street has its share of the dirtier, has her voicing 10 different characters plus sound effects.

From New York, Tanya O’Debra’s “Radio Star,” a 1940s-style radio detective spoof, “only something for everybody.”

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PHOTO BY MOLLY PECK

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PHOTO BY MOLLY PECK
behavior that impacts the community and the user," Gascón wrote in an email to The Extra. "I support the identification of appropriate sites for the safety of the user and the community in which they reside."

Safe, or supervised, injection sites are rooms where users inject their illegal drugs under medical supervision with counseling and rehabilitation services available. Results have been good, but the approach remains controversial with most critics against having the sites and user traffic in their backyards.

Establishing injection sites was recommended in February by the San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force in a report citing studies that show the sites help curtail the spread of Hep C, HIV and death from overdosing. Also in support are the groups in the Alliance to Save Lives Drug Policy Alliance, Harm Reduction Coalition, Hospitality House, AIDS Foundation, San Francisco Drug Users Union and the Harvey Milk Memorial.

The idea got a boost when District 6 supervisoral candidate Glendon Hyde made the cause a major point of his campaign. "The sites were extremely well received by the District 6 community," Hyde said in an interview. "It was a solution offering dignity, not a punishing solution."

There were 221 overdose interventions with no fatalities. Counselors made 598 admissions into Onsite, the adjacent detox treatment facility, and 43% completed the program. Overdose deaths within a third of a mile radius were reduced more than a third after Insite was established, the rest of Vancouver saw a 9% drop.

The supervision reduced HIV infections, increased the use of services and reduced "public disorder caused by injection use in public spaces." Moreover, Insite, with a $3 million budget for 2010, has been "cost effective," according to a study by a panel of experts in the field.

In a similar vein, state Sen. Leland Yee's SB41 would allow adults to buy syringes in pharmacies without a prescription. Research in support of Yee's legislation brought out that the World Health Organization concluded in 2008: "Overwhelming scientific consensus showed improved syringe access reduced rates of HIV and hepatitis C without promoting drug use, crime or unsafe discard of syringes."

Research also showed the average cost of treating hepatitis C is about $100,000, or $300,000 if a liver transplant is required. The estimated lifetime cost of treating an HIV/AIDS patient is $600,000.

Based on a robust body of research, it is clear that Sen. Yee's bill will save thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars by preventing HIV and hepatitis C.

Thomas said of the bill that has passed both houses but needs a second Senate vote before going to the governor: "A public conversation about safe-injection sites arose in San Francisco in 2007. The Department of Public Health sponsored a symposium at the Women's Building, featuring speakers from Insite. That October, at a Friends of Boeddeker Park meeting, Tenderloin police Capt. Jimenez stunned everyone by suggesting the northeast corner of the park might be converted into a supervised, safe-injection site. But it didn't resonate, so he dropped it."

The next year, a team pushing safe-injection sites made the rounds of community organizations to air the topic, hoping for support. Conard House Supportive Housing Director Seth Katzman and a Dope Project spokesman touted the need for a site, suggesting locating it in the Tenderloin or the Mission, because that's where most IV addicts are. Katzman said the Tenderloin Futures Collaborative that it would reduce needles and pass-outs on the street and cut the spread of disease and overdose deaths while offering addicts services. He got no support. The prevailing sentiment was: Not in my backyard.

One man said it would be like a billboard advertising addicts to come to the Tenderloin. Another suggested a safe haven would be like "World War III." But Katzman said the war was already raging and that a measure of safety could be introduced to benefit the community.

The city wasn't responding then, either. Mayor Newsom, after first supporting the idea, backed off from leading the charge.

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“...”

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FAITHFUL FOOLS STREET ZENDO WEEKLY MEDITATION

All forms of meditation are welcome and encouraged. This is a place where people come together to practice meditation in an atmosphere of quiet support.

Meditation Schedule

Zen Lineage

Monday 9:00am - 10:00am
Tuesday 9:00am - 10:00am & 6:15pm 6:35pm
Thursday 9:00am - 10:00am
Friday 9:00am - 10:30am

Nichiren Shu Lineage

Sunday 3:00pm - 5:00pm

For other weekly and monthly events such as Street Retreats, Bible Study, Creative Writing and Movie Nights check out our website!

www.faithfulfools.org  231 Hyde Street  (415) 474-0508

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

CENTRAL CITY EXTRAS is published monthly by San Francisco Study Center Inc., a private nonprofit serving the community since 1972. The Extra was initiated through grants from the S.F. Board Tax Fund and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The contents are copyrighted by the San Francisco Study Center, 3155 Market Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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CENTRAL CITY EXTRA is a member of the SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AND SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA PRESS CLUB.

MARK HEDIN, ANNE MARIE JORDAN
it was a “terrific” idea, he said, but not for the Tenderloin, already swamped with drug services. Later, he said, he couldn’t imagine any other neighborhood going for it. “So maybe this is the only place it makes sense.”

He said many citizens want a tough cop, one who won’t look the other way. “A lot of people don’t understand that we can’t solve this problem through law enforcement — it’s medical.”

Jimenez also believes drugs should be legal, available in pharmacies to card-carrying addicts and sold for a fraction of the street cost. “I don’t think that’s the only way to deal with it. We treat addicts like alcoholics — it’s a medical problem.”

Thomas said the alliance will continue meeting with supervisors and community groups to inch the topic forward. “The supervisors asked good questions and we have some research to do on the street cost. The quality, too, would be pure, not harmful like ‘dirty’ heroin.”

And if people can’t afford it, it should be free. We give away methadone. And we don’t want bad stuff that can eat away a shoulder, either. We should treat addicts like alcoholics — it’s a medical problem.”

He said in 2009, when he drove then-Police Chief Gascon around the neighborhood, the chief was appalled at the rampant dealing and immediately wanted to do something about it. He did crack down on pant dealing and immediately wanted to arrest them all — there’s no room for them, he said.

There’s still drugs — as long as there’s a demand, we’ll have them,” Jimenez said. “That problem won’t go away. And you can arrest them all — there’s no room for them anyway, the system is so taxed. And the system can no longer address the petty stuff.”

When he first heard about safe injections in community meetings, he thought it was a “terrific” idea, he said, but not for the Tenderloin, already swamped with drug services. Later, he said, he couldn’t imagine any other neighborhood going for it. “So maybe this is the only place it makes sense.”

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Thomas said the alliance will continue meeting with supervisors and community groups to inch the topic forward. “The supervisors asked good questions and so we have some research to do on costs and results,” said she. “More people need to be educated about it and we need a couple of public servants in support. We’re in the process of finding them. The next election may help.”

Hyde says a safe injection site is “three to four years from getting passed.”
20-year milestone: S.F. Fringe features a variety of performers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ed. Audiences outside of the city are so enthui-
sastic,” said “Sousepaw” performer Pam Benja-
im. “As much of a socialist as I’d like to be, I’m
Downtown, who’s doing a one-man show called
‘Spitting in the Face of the Devil,’ deemed Best Show of the London
Fringe by Beat Magazine, is an autobiogra-
phical story of his coming to terms with finding
out about his father’s pedophilia.

Brader is concluding a five-festival swing
that wound through Regina, Winnipeg, Calgary
and Victoria, B.C., on his way here. “You
always want to find out or go to the best festi-
vals you possibly can. That’s probably why San
Francisco is getting a lot of New Yorkers. It’s a
poetry major Fringe,” Brader said.

P.J. Walsh also has a personal story to tell.
‘Over There’ looks back on his career since the
first Gulf War, when he was a Marine fi-

mec, followed by a job in the White House
as Bill Clinton’s dental technician, and then a
standup comic in the Blue Collar Comedy Tour
alongside Ron White and Larry the Cable Guy,
to the present, which finds him engaged in
more serious theater. “It’s my story,” he said, “from when I’m a kid to the present day ... the choices I made, a lot of coming of age, a bit of an education.” He still tours as a comic-
dian to make ends meet, but put in two years

BY ED BOWERS

TENDING through U.N. Plaza, I happened to
speak with Pam Benjamin, a poet friend for
years, sitting at a small table upon which
was a classic Olivetti-Underwood typewriter.
A sign in front of her read, ‘Poems. Starting At
$1.00.’

“What do you think you’re doing?” I asked.

“Is this legal?” I asked. I’d often thought of
selling my poems on the street, but I am all too
aware of the police presence. Not everyone
likes poetry.

“Yes, it’s legal,” she said. “All you have
to do to work here is register on the Internet at
www.sffringe.org. You can get a spot to sell
your art here.” It’s the Arts Market, Thursday’s answer to the Wednesday farmers’ market.

“How much does it cost?” I asked.

“Nothing,” she said. “It’s free. I rent a chair
from the library for $2 and that’s it. I sell
poems every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3:30
p.m. I love my job! It’s good for my writing and
people love to get a poem. One day I made
$82.”

She used to be a housewife in suburbia. Her
husband made $175,000 a year, and she
was a high school teacher. But she gave it all
up to be a writer in San Francisco when she
fell in love with fiction and got her M.A. in lit-

eature from S.F. State. Then, rather promiscu-
ously, she fell in love with poetry, and will get
another master’s in that subject in December.
There are lots of starving unemployed poets
in this city, not all with more degrees than a ther-

mometer, so her dedication to the cause is
both brave and admirable. She still has, how-
ever, the cheerful, harmless, wholesome
demeanor of a suburban housewife, despite
the tattoos on her neck.

“I try to look scary sometimes, but in spite
of all my tattoos, it doesn’t work. Besides, by
my smiling a lot, I attract people who might
ordinarily be wary of a street poet,” Benjamin
explained.

I guess people buy the package as much as
the poem. “What’s the most unusual thing that has
ever happened to you out here while selling
poetry?” I asked.

“I’ve received a couple of marriage propos-
als. Back in the day (this project started Aug.
8, 2000) there were a lot of older people at
me getting into fights. One of them came up to
me once and said, ‘Girl, I respect your hustle,’
and I took that as a high compliment.”

A curious young man approaches Benjamin and says, “I think I have exactly one dollar.” He asks her to write him a poem and
she does, and he gives her his last dollar, then
walks away smiling.

“You were totally concentrated while writ-
ing that poem,” I said. “Is this job good prac-
tice for you?”

“Oh yes,” she said, “I get to hone my com-
munication skills through my writing. That’s
why I wrote poems. In San Francisco at poetry
readings, people don’t have the attention span
to listen to stories, so I learned to write poetry.

“My writing is meant to communicate with peo-
ple.”

A nice-looking, middle-aged couple stop at her
table. The man asks her to compose a
poem about the negative and positive aspects
of lawyers. Quite a challenge, especially the
positive part, but she runs off a poem in five
minutes, hands it to the couple, who then take
it home with when their vacation is done. They
give her $5.

“Monkey see, monkey do” is like a market-
ing mantra for the poet on the make.

“I’ve observed,” she said, “that when people
notice that I’m writing a poem for some-
thing, they too become interested in buying a
poem.”

Do you feel like you’re commercializing
yourself by selling poems?”

“As much of a socialist as I’d like to be, I’m
not a capitalist. We can’t live in this socie-
ty without cash. I can also use this venue to
sell the two books I’ve written. I sell about one
week. Why sell them in stores when you can
sell them yourself and keep all the money?”

The 20th San Francisco Fringe
Festival runs from Wednesday,
Sept. 7 through Sunday, Sept. 18.
Shows begin at 7 p.m. on week-

ights and at 1 p.m. on Saturdays
and Sundays. (415) 673-3847.
www.sffringe.org.
Then there’s Rupert Wates, ploughing from his Hyundai Santa Fe in a parking lot somewhere west of Indianapolis, where he’d been appearing at the Fringe Festival there. “I was quite lucky to get in,” said Wates, an Englishman now based in New York, who unashamedly admits he’s “hijacking the theater audience” for his music review. “Joe’s Café” — 15 story songs he wrote based on true-life experiences people have shared with him in San Francisco. “A listening audience is rare,” he said of the lot of a musician playing modestly in bars. But, by turning a concert playlist into a play, voila, he gets an attentive audience. A former journalist in Europe, Wates explains that “most of the stories people remember or want to tell are painful. Those are the ones we remember.” Being an outsider in America and a journalist, he said, “seems to give me the necessary perspective.” Some themes include homocide, child abuse and incest, although the show includes lighter material, too.

Wates has 25 songwriting awards and four CDs on his resume since coming to the States in ’06. On his way here from Indianapolis, he’s got gigs at house concerts, coffee houses, wine bars, in Reno, at Salinas’ National Steinbeck Center on Sept. 3 and in the Alternative Café in Seaside (Monterey County).

His troupe varies in number depending on the venue, but in San Francisco it’ll be four. Besides himself, Wates will present three other singers, with a minimal guitar and keyboard backing, performing a total of six times. If it was simply a quality-of-life matter, he said, he’d live in San Francisco, but for him, showbiz requires a young liquor at hand. Osato of “JapJAP” says the S.F. Fringe is a great place to accumulate press clippings, as most shows are reviewed. Exit’s publicist for the past eight years, Gary Carr, elaborated, citing the many bloggers and online reviewers, besides the “usual suspects” of the region’s newspapers who follow the goings-on.

Carr, formerly on the board of Theater Bay Area, says that, among the shows he’s intrigued by this year, besides the New Yorkers’ offerings, is “The Madogs of Diego.” That’s a freebie, and the group putting it on, Trup Sapsway, is coming to the Exit Stage Left all the way from Mauritius, an island east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

Who needs Broadway?

 кредит

PHOTO BY SCOTT WYN

Bob Brader’s solo show, “Spitting in the Face of the Devil,” is an autobiographical story of coming to terms with his father’s pedophilia.

Pam Benjamin knocks out poems for anyone anytime about any topic at $1 a crack. Sometimes a pleased patron pays her more.

credit

PHOTO BY Lenny Simicco

SEPTEMBER 2011 / CENTRAL CITY EXTRA

5
OBITUARIES

DARWIN DIAS
Fought for his peers

Darwin Dean Dias, a Latino who became an activist against many causes but was noted for fighting for the rights of the mentally ill, died July 24 of lung cancer.

He died at Coming Home Hospice a week after relocating there from the Alexander Residence, where he had lived for two decades.

Sister Andrea Turbak of St. Anthony’s Foundation welcomed four dozen people to the Alexander on Eddy Street Aug. 12 for a memorial service.

Among those in attendance were Bobby Cruz-DeCastro, Mr. Dias’ partner of 36 years, and many friends and colleagues from their battles on behalf of the disaffected mentally ill.

The service opened with “Amazing Grace,” sung by a 12-member group from St. Boniface that also played clarinet and guitar. Speaker after speaker reminisced about Mr. Dias’ efforts on their behalf.

“He was just one of those wonderful spirits,” Fancher Bennett Larson recalled. “Darwin had a true vision of what self-help was about. He was involved in what he was doing in a serious and serious and right and beautiful. He was able to project this, giving hope and dignity. He was a light to the community, striving for what is good.”

Betty Duran, a social worker at the Salvation Army, said that, in his pow
er wheelchair, Mr. Dias earned the nickname “Speedy.” “He was always going so fast, with his hair flying,” Duran said. “I used to tell him, the careful, you might get a ticket for speeding! His dream was being in a city with no homeless people.

Mr. Dias had lived in San Francisco, the city of his birth, since the mid-1960s, after growing up in Fresno. He was out as a gay man and living in the Castro ‘long before it became the gay Mecca,’ Cruz-DeCastro quoted him as saying. Mr. Dias worked for Bank of America and then at the Salvation Army, serving on Castro Street, and during the Summer of Love lived in the Haight-Ashbury and worked light shows at rock concerts and for the Angels of Light.

He continued to wear his hair long and pride himself on being a nota
ional long-haired hippie, Cruz-DeCastro wrote in a biography he submitted to Spiritmenders, with Mr. Dias on its staff and board, served the health system. Spiritmenders, with Mr. Dias's front teeth, but never charged him with any crimes. The protest was against police entrapment of gay men at Macy’s and the newspaper's publication of their names and addresses.

Cruz-DeCastro wrote that he and Mr. Dias were in the crowd outside the International Hotel in the early hours of Aug. 4, 1977, when police and anti-wielding sheriff; Richard Hongisto evicted its elderly, mostly Filipino and Chinese tenants, after almost a decade of controversy.

Otto Duffy, another speaker, recalled how Mr. Dias, who in the early 80s had taken to living on the sidewalk behind the Aarti Hotel on Leavenworth Street, was eventually invited in by the frust and then participated in the trans
formation into the first Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corp. building in 1984. Mr. Dias went on to serve on TNDC’s Board of Directors in the 1980s and 90s.

Dance photograph courtesy Johann Kugelberg.

Cruz-DeCastro recalled the day Mr. Dias entered the hospice.

“He didn’t want to go, I didn’t want him to go. It was hard for me to see him leave the Alexander,” Cruz-DeCastro said. “On that day he was in so much pain. The pain was enormous, I wanted to tell him, ‘Let go, let go, it’s time to move on, there’s only so much we can do!’

‘Of all the people I’ve met, he was the one I was closest to. It was like watching my own life pass me before watching him die. I made him prom
ise me to come back and give me a signal. Whether he ever will, I don’t know.’

After the attendees sang the final verse of “Amazing Grace,” Sister Turbak ended the service to celebrate a great man among us” with a few comments on how Mr. Dias had been “a huge blessing to us. We fight for justice, inclusion, dignity and respect. In the end, what do we have? Our relationships.”

— MARK HEDIN
THANK YOU
for making it easy for San Francisco residents to drop off their toxic products.

Use the EcoFinder at SFEnvironment.org to find more ways to recycle just about everything.

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Batteries Plus 1450 Bush (@ Van Ness) (415) 885-5500
Brownies Hardware 1563 Polk (@ Sacramento) (415) 673-8900
Charity Cultural Services Center 827 Stockton (@ Sacramento) (415) 989-8224
City Lights 1585 Folsom (@ 12th St.) (415) 863-2020
Cole Hardware 2254 Polk (@ Green) (415) 674-8913
Cole Hardware 70 4th St. (@ Mission) (415) 777-4400
Financial District Ace Hardware 140 Pine (@ Battery) (415) 362-7744
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Universal Electric Supply Co. 438 8th St. (@ Bryant) (415) 621-1888
Whole Foods 399 4th St. (@ Harrison) (415) 618-0066

*Limit 5 lights and/or 5 gallons per visit  **Lithium batteries must be taped on the ends.
SPECIAL EVENTS
Tenderloin Children’s Mid-Autumn Moon Festival: Tet Trung Thu, Sept. 9-8 p.m., 5701 Ellis St. Vietnamese Youth Development Center presents Tet Mid-Autumn Festival and parade, 7-8 p.m. Art, crafts, games, food and entertainment.

Heart of the City’s Farmers’ Market, Sept. 10, Tenderloin Children’s Playground, 570 Ellis St., noon-6 p.m. Food, art and entertainment celebrating the TC’s Burmese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese communities.

First Harvest Festival, Sept. 10, Tenderloin Children’s Playground, 570 Ellis St., noon-6 p.m. Food, art and entertainment celebrating the TC’s Burmese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai and Vietnamese communities.

COMMUNITY: REGULAR SCHEDULE
Housing
Supportive Housing Network, 3rd Thursday of the month, 3-5 p.m., Dorothy Day Community, 54 McAllister, Call: 415-229-3034.
Tenant Associations Coalition of San Francisco, 1st Wednesday of the month, noon, 201 Turk St., Community Room. Contact Michael Nulty, 330-8227. Resident unity, tenant leadership training.

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH
CBHS Consumer Council, 3rd Monday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Howard St., room 537, 255-3695. Consumer advisors from self-help groups and mental health consumer advocates. Public forum.

Health & Wellness Action Advocates, 1st Tuesday of the month, 5-7 p.m., Mental Health Association, 870 Market St., Suite 829, 415-228-8396.
Healthcare Action Team, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1010 Mission St., Bayanihan Community Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Focus on increasing supportive home services, expanded eligibility for home care, improved discharge planning. Light lunch. Call, James Choiniere, 708-0188 x304.

Mental Health Board, 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., City Hall, room 278. CBHS advisory committee, open to the public. Call: 250-3747.

Mental Health Awareness Alliance for the Mentally Ill-R.S., 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Family Service Agency, 1010 Gough St., 5th Fl. Call: 906-6246. Family member group, open to the public.

SAFETY
Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training (NERT). City and county residents can take the S.F. Fire Department’s free disaster preparedness and response training at neighborhood locations, www.stgs.org/neighborhoods, or Lt. Arteseros, 970-2202.

SFPD Police Community Relations Forum. 4th Monday of the month, 6-7:30 p.m. Location varies. To receive monthly meetings info: 538-8100 x202.

Tenderloin Police Station Community Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., police station Community Room, 301 Eddy St. Call Susa Black, 345-1720. Neighborhood safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT
Alliance for a Better District. 6, 1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 230 Eddy St. Contact Michael Nulty, 820-1560 or sf_district6@yahoo.com, a districtwide improvement association.

City and County of San Francisco
For Papers September, 2011
Public Art for the New North Beach Library
Come see the three proposals for the new public artwork! Three artists - Bill Fontana, Paul Hayden King, Secret Cinema - were selected by the North Beach Community Artist Selection Panel to create proposals for the new artwork to be placed at the new library. Come see the proposals and provide us with feedback on the comment forms located in the library. On view from September 1-15, 2011 at the North Beach Branch Library, 2000 Mission Street. Visit www.sflibrarymission.org/publicartcall for more details.

Port of San Francisco
Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Public Relations and Media Services (As-Needed)
In preparation for the Port of San Francisco’s 150th Anniversary in 2013 and the proposed 34th America’s Cup Event on San Francisco’s waterfront in 2013, the Port seeks a pool of qualified contractors for as-needed contract services to support the Port’s Public Relations Manager in developing strategic media relations and marketing initiatives. Pre-proposal meeting Thursday, September 8, 2011, 2:00 p.m. The RFQ is due Monday, September 12, 2011. For more information please visit http://missiondistrict.sfport.com, or email Linda Battaglia at linda.battaglia@sfport.com.

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI)
DBI is now offering a Voice Inspection Scheduling System – when customers may telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to schedule an inspection, reschedule or cancel an inspection, obtain inspection results, or obtain an inspection history.
To use this new customer convenience – available in English, Cantonese and Spanish – you just need a Touch-Tone telephone, a web-specific Permit Number, and the appropriate Inspection Code. These Inspection Codes are listed by Electrical, Plumbing and Building – inspect, obtain inspection results, or obtain an inspection history.

San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC)
SFAC Gallery presents Passport 2011 in the Castro
SFAC Gallery hosts Passport 2011 in the Castro on Sunday, October 23, 2011. Passport invites the public to create an artist’s book by collecting stamps designed by 12 emerging and established Bay Area artists in a customized notebook. From Noon to 4 p.m., you can take to the streets, following a three-square-block route to collect stamps from the artists themselves. Buy passports online for $25. Proceeds from Passport support SFAC Gallery’s exhibition and public programming, dedicated to supporting San Francisco artists and bringing challenging contemporary art to the City.

For more information: www.sfartscommission.org/gallery or call 415-554-6608.

Learn more about the SFAC Board of Directors Meetings and Committees, and how you can get involved.

Friends of Bodeker Park, 2nd Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Bodeker Rec. Center, 240 Eddy St. Plans park events, activities and improvements. Contact Betty Traynor, 581-1138.
North of Market/Tenderloin Community Benefit District, full board meets 3rd Monday at noon. Call 298-4921 for location or check nonprofit site.
SoMa Community Stabilization Fund Advisory Committee, 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30 p.m. 1 South Van Ness, 2nd floor. Call: Claudia de la Roca 749-2192.
SoMa Community Benefit District,1st Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., 1035 Fulton St. Health, Safety and Human Services Committee 1st Tuesday the 1st Monday biomarily, 1035 Fulton, 6 p.m. 487-2166 or www.somacsd.com.
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: 928-6209.
Tenderloin Neighborhood Association, 2nd Friday of the month, 842 Geary St., 3 p.m. Nonprofit focuses on health and wellness activities to promote positive neighbor interactions. Call: tenderloinneighborhood@yahoo.com.

SENIORS AND DISABLED
Mayor’s Disability Council, 3rd Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m., City Hall, room 278. Open to the public.
Senior Action Network, general meeting, 2nd Thursday of the month, 9-11 a.m., Universal Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Monthly program meetings. 906-7170. Senior Housing Action Committee, 3rd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Call for health program and Senior University: 546-1333 and www.sfhan.org.

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR
Jane Kim
Chair of Rules Committee, member of Budget & Finance Committee and Transportation Authority. Legislative Aides: Matthew Morrisino and Viva Mogi. Jane.Kim@sf.gov, 545-7970.