

OCT - NOV 2021



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

Hand-delivered to **3000** households and businesses bi-monthly

Monday, October 11, 2021

7:00 to 8:30 pm

PUBLIC MEETING ONLINE

Join the meeting by
visiting dtna.org for
meeting details.

MEETING AGENDA

- Join us for legislative updates by Senator Scott Wiener, Assemblyman David Chiu, and Supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Oct 4 and Nov 1, 7 pm.
DTNA Land Use Committee Meeting.
If you'd like to attend, email landuse@dtna.org to receive Zoom invitation.

Saturday, Oct 17, 12 pm to 5 pm.
DTNA Block Party on Noe Street between Henry and 14th.

Saturday, Oct 30, 4 pm.
Halloween Costume Stroll on Noe Slow Street.

Monday, Nov 1, 7 pm.
DTNA Land Use Committee Meeting.
If you'd like to attend, email landuse@dtna.org to receive Zoom invitation.

Every Saturday, 11am to 5pm.
Upper Market COVID Vaccinations & Testing at the 18th Street Parking Lot behind Walgreens.

Wednesday, December 1st.
DTNA goes live with new Website and online membership management.

Mayor of Noe Street Recalls Triangle's Vibrant Black Culture



Dez Miles mugs for the camera with DTNA President Kimyn Braithwaite following a stroll down Memory Lane.

Dezebee (Dez) Miles Jr. was born in San Francisco's South of Market district in 1958, and has lived on Noe Street since 1962. His father, Dez Sr., was a Korean War veteran and postal worker who, with the help of a friendly white realtor, was able to be one of the first Black families to buy a house on Noe Street when the neighborhood was in transition from a formerly mostly Swedish enclave to a more multiethnic space. Dez Jr. recalls his kindergarten class at McKinley Elementary School (1964-65) had three Black kids, two Filipino kids, two White kids, and at least one Latinx,

Arab, and Indian child as well. By the 1970s when Dez had reached his teenage years Noe Street was predominately Black and Waller Street and the streets that end at Duboce Park (Carmelita, Pierce, and Potomac) were also mostly Black families. The Triangle was considered an extension of the Fillmore District, then the "Harlem of the West" with a vibrant jazz and nightlife scene that attracted international stars and busloads of tourists from around the Bay Area.

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A Push for More Greening and Affordable Housing in the Triangle



San Francisco District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman

Dear Duboce Triangle Neighbors,

It wasn't exactly the post-pandemic roaring 20s summer many of us had hoped for, but even with our mid-summer surge in cases, hospitalization rates in San Francisco have remained low, our vaccination rates are among the highest in the nation, and it appears the worst of COVID-19 is behind us (fingers crossed). With that, I do have some updates on what my office has been working on over the past few months.

Expanding Neighborhood Housing

The way much of San Francisco is zoned today makes it easier to flip existing housing into luxury monster homes than to build small apartment buildings for working people. This is why I introduced legislation earlier this year to begin to loosen the density controls that currently restrict housing production in many of our city's neighborhoods and most of its land area, as well as legislation to slow the conversion of smaller single-family homes to large luxury residences.

On the density de-control front, I have introduced two pieces of legislation. The first would allow development of up to four units on all corner lots for projects that comply with existing height and bulk requirements. The corner lots legislation will be heard at the City's Planning Commission in October. The second piece of legislation would allow up to four units citywide, but because that proposal would require significant environmental review, it cannot be considered

by the Board until next year at the earliest.

Regarding the phenomenon of smaller, relatively affordable homes being converted into 5,000 square foot mega mansions that flip for \$6 or \$7 million, I introduced legislation that will combat the proliferation of these mega-mansions by requiring additional approvals for large-home construction or renovation if additional units of housing aren't being added. This proposal has been considered once by the Planning Commission and will be coming back to them in October, and I hope we can get it approved by the Board of Supervisors shortly thereafter.

Shared Spaces Are Here To Stay

I have been a cheerleader for the Shared Spaces program since the early days of the pandemic. Over the past year and a half, my office has helped many businesses in Duboce Triangle and throughout District 8 complete the application process, and we got funding into the City budget to support the weekly street openings on Noe. In July, the Board unanimously approved legislation I co-sponsored with Mayor Breed to create a permanent version of the program, which has been a lifeline for small businesses during the pandemic

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Fall is Here



Kimyn Braithwaite
DTNA President

Hello neighbors! Fall is here, and with it come so many exciting things; children back to school, the crisp autumn air, the upcoming holidays. To add to that, DTNA is excited to announce that we are hosting a neighborhood block party on Sunday, October 17th, along Noe Street between 14th and Henry. As part of the first ever Sunday Streets Phoenix Day — a citywide program celebrating community, health, and resilience — our block party will be one of over a hundred around the City, along with a cross-city bike route, and streets opened to people and pop-ups.

Not only is this a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, it is also a much needed time to come together as a City and look toward our future, while also celebrating the efforts that we made this last year as a com-

munity for our collective benefit. On the anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, we are reminded of the many times our City has, like a phoenix, risen again.

But above all, this block party is a chance to have some fun within our community — something we could all use a lot more of these days. Similar to all Sunday Streets events, there will be no selling of goods or services, which includes food, and alcohol is not allowed. Live music, juggling, and having a good time are encouraged, so mark your calendar and come by any time between 12-5pm. We'll have activities for all ages and hopefully some glorious San Francisco "summer" weather!

If you have any ideas of fun things to do (ever dreamed of building an obstacle course in the street?) or are interested in volunteering, please contact us at duboce-triangleblockparty@gmail.com.

Speaking of participation, after the last issue we had several neighbors reach out with interest in helping to deliver the News. We are always looking for ways to help you connect to your neighborhood, and getting submissions to Duboce Triangle News from our neighbors is one of the best avenues to do so. Is your child a budding Picasso? Perhaps

they've taken an interest in photography? We love seeing your kids' drawings and photographs, and we love hearing your stories about life in the Triangle. We want to showcase your memories and highlight your favorite local businesses (past and present). But most of all, we want to hear what's important to you as we work toward a better tomorrow for our neighborhood. Contact us through dtna.org or write to editor@dtna.org.

Some of you may remember that last year we tried our best to make Halloween en-

joyable for the neighborhood kids and friends by hosting a costume stroll along Noe St. It was so much fun and such a pleasure to see people of all ages decked out in their best costumes. Because it was so much fun, we're doing it again! Join us on Saturday, October 30th for a costume stroll along Slowly Noe. Come out to Noe Street anytime after 4pm to check out all the fun. If you would like to learn more, or would like to help organize some fun for the spookiest time of year, reach out to us at dtna.org.

Castro

FARMERS' MARKET

YOUR FAVORITE FARMERS' MARKET IS BACK!

The Castro Farmers' Market is back for the 2021 season with the new hours of 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm with the first hour dedicated to seniors and those most at risk. Throughout the season, your favorite farmers will be offering a constantly changing variety of California-certified produce. All the farmers grow what they sell so you know where your food is coming from!

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All Welcome: 3:30 to 7 pm

New Source of Inspiration in the Neighborhood

By Rose Linke

After working in technology for 20 years, Max Khusid was ready for a change. He wanted to be challenged, to feel the sense of new possibilities that comes from being a beginner again. There are times in life when you need a shift in perspective—what better way than through the eyes of artists?

In 2019, Khusid took a leap into the world of art, setting up a gallery website after traveling the world meeting artists whose work resonated with him. He began selling online and at art fairs, and found the work resonated with others too. With the changes in the city’s commercial real estate brought about by the pandemic, Khusid started thinking about opening a brick and mortar space.

Art House SF is not your typical gallery. For one, it’s rare for a gallery owner to be on hand to talk at length about the artists and their work. It’s not just the fact that it’s a one-man operation, it’s more that Khusid’s passion for art and enthusiasm for engaging with others is infectious.

When I visited on a recent afternoon, Khusid and I sat near the window chatting about art and philosophy, neighborhood engagement, and what it means to open a small business in a new field.

Khusid, an active citizen of the South-eastern corner of San Francisco, has found our neighborhood incredibly warm and welcoming. He notices how passersby pause to look up into the windows of his space. When he first opened, he was unsure whether or not to leave the lights on at night. Ultimately, he decided that any opportunity for people to see art, even after

hours, is a good thing. Art should be for everyone.

The stretch of Market St. between Noe St. and Castro St. still has a number of empty storefronts—on last count, I spotted nine. 2324 Market is the perfect size for Khusid’s rotating exhibits of both international and local artists, and adds some much needed color and warmth to this stretch of our neighborhood. Khusid hopes the space can be an integral part of the neighborhood, and plans to offer the space to those looking to host cultural events.

Art is a universal language: from the earliest pigments on cave walls, to vast canvasses, to the ways art can permeate and challenge the many facets of everyday life. I left feeling inspired.

Art House is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11-8pm; Sunday from 11-5pm.

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September Land Use Update

Hi neighbors! Below are some updates for the most recent items discussed at our monthly Land Use meetings. We cover a whole range of topics from housing development, to transit patterns, and public art. If you are interested in these topics and wish to participate in our meetings (first Monday of every month at 7pm), please email landuse@dtna.org.

Housing Developments

2135 & 2140 Market Street are two proposed multi-family housing buildings by the same developer and architect at the Lucky 13 site and Open Bible Church site. These are nine-story multi-family buildings that will have ground-floor retail space and a rooftop deck for the residents. In our conversations with the developer, the committee requested that both buildings be of equal quality to achieve a harmonious street presence. DTNA is awaiting updates on the exterior design as well as confirmation about the unit layouts



The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza presented their latest Plaza and Concourse design at August’s Land Use and General meetings.

and the number of on-site subsidized affordable units before taking a stance on these developments.

240 Church Street is a proposed 7-story multi-family housing development at the lot currently occupied by Thorough Bread and Pastry.

The proposed design aims to maintain Thorough Bread as the retail tenant of the new ground floor, increases the courtyard area for Thorough Bread’s use, and includes a rooftop deck for the residents. DTNA has reached out to Thorough Bread and Pastry regarding their stance towards the development and will consider taking a stance after we hear their thoughts.

Transportation & Public Space

The Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza (FHMP) presented their latest Plaza and Concourse design at August’s Land Use and General meetings. A variety of neighbors had an opportunity to share their opinions and ask questions. The overall tone was supportive of the new plaza/station and appreciative of the

efforts to include the community in the design process. The importance of accessibility was a common topic in both meetings, and FHMP has updated the design to be more accessible. The DTNA Board has issued a letter of support for the goals and intent of the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza. We will continue to work with FHMP as their design is finalized to ensure the new Plaza will be an accessible and enjoyable space for our community.

The 14th Street Traffic Calming and Road Diet is a concept DTNA has been working on to make the 14th & Sanchez and 14th & Noe intersections safer for pedestrians. After two years of coordinating with neighbors, SFMTA, and Supervisor Mandelman we

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ART HOUSE / SF



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It's Winter Squash Season!

During the cooler winter months, there are many varieties of squash available at your local farmers' market. Winter squash has a thicker, harder skin compared to the soft-skinned summer squash. These flavorful members of the gourd family are extremely versatile and can be enjoyed in soups, pastas, salads, and even desserts!

Acorn squash: As the name suggests, this squash has a shape resembling that of an acorn, typically weighs one to two pounds, and is between four and seven inches long. Good for stuffing and roasting as with most winter squash.

Butternut squash: It has a long neck with a bulbous end that contains the seeds inside. The exterior is a pale orange color while the sweet flesh inside is a bright orange. Good for roasting, soups, and stuffing. You can also use it in "pumpkin" breads and pies.

Delicata squash: Delicata squash is also known as potato squash or bohemian squash. It is oblong-shaped with yellow skin, striped with dark green edible skin. Great for roasting and stuffing. You can even eat the skins!

Kabocha squash: A thick green-skinned (or red-orange) squat pumpkin-shaped squash. Inside is a semi-firm, dense golden flesh that has a rich, sweet flavor. Great for stuffing, roasting, and soups.

Spaghetti squash: Hard rind and with a unique interior flesh which separates into pasta-like strings when cooked. Can be steamed, baked, roasted or microwaved. Good for a low-carb pasta replacement.

At your Castro Farmers' Market, you'll find a variety of just-picked organic winter squash from Fifth Crow Farms (organic) out of Pescadero.



You'll find a variety of just-picked organic winter squash at your Castro Farmers' Market.

Your Castro Farmers' Market Manager, Mia Simmons, will be available for a Zoom discussion at the next Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association meeting on Monday, October 4th, 2021. She is reaching out to the community to let them know how grateful we are to be in the neighborhood, as well as to field any questions and/or suggestions you may have for next season. Be sure to listen in!



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Supervisor, continued

Continued from page 2

and brought a desperately-needed sense of community to our neighborhoods in a challenging time. There will surely be further fine-tuning of the program in the months and years ahead, but this ordinance establishes a solid foundation for the program coming out of the emergency.

Climate Action Updates

The climate crisis is upon us, as made painfully clear by the extreme drought and wildfires currently ravaging California. In July, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted new climate action goals that commit San Francisco to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040. I was proud to co-sponsor this ordinance with the Mayor, building on my ordinance last year to require all-electric construction in new buildings, the Climate Emergency Resolution I authored in 2019, and funding to create a Climate Equity Hub and long-term climate action financing plan in this year's budget. The Board of Supervisors is also poised to approve my legislation that would double the amount of water that new large buildings are required to collect and re-use by the end of September. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues, and all San Franciscans, to make our shared vision for a carbon neutral future a reality as soon as possible.

Stay Connected

City Hall is open again so stop by and say hello! We are also accessible by email and voicemail every day at mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org and (415) 554-6968. Please send us an email if you are interested in scheduling time to meet with me during one of our virtual or in-person office hours.

Land Use, continued

Continued from page 5

landed on a proposal to reduce the number of lanes on the eastbound/downhill side of 14th Street from two lanes to one. DTNA has issued a letter in support of SFMTA's proposal and the Road Diet is expected to be implemented in early 2022.

The Noe Slow Street continues to be a valued amenity for our neighborhood. SFMTA has issued a shortlist of Slow Streets to remain permanent and Noe Street is not on it. DTNA was instrumental in advocating for the implementation of the Slow Street and we will continue to advocate for it to remain a permanent fixture of our neighborhood.

A Slow Triangle has been a popular topic at recent Land Use meetings. DTNA has

partnered with UC Berkeley to conduct a study of what this could mean for our neighborhood. The students will be researching our neighborhood, studying our streets, and speaking with community stakeholders. They will be generating guidelines for how our neighborhood could become more pedestrian-friendly, sustainable, and economically vibrant. The students will present their findings at a Land Use meeting at the end of this year - stay tuned!

Maitri Compassionate Care has proposed a mural for their blank facade at the corner of Duboce Avenue and Church Street. Maitri presented their design to the Land Use committee and DTNA has enthusiastically issued a letter of support for what will be a beautiful new public art amenity for our neighborhood.



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A Nuanced Stance on Homelessness

By Rose Linke

I've lived in California my whole life, a bit more than half in Los Angeles and the rest in the Bay Area. In both places housing is desirable, limited, and expensive, and in both places the unhoused population seems to have only grown during my lifetime.

I've seen how desperately people want someone or something to blame: Reagan, zoning, local government, addiction, developers, mental illness, the weather, corruption, tech, subsidies, NGOs, immigration, the list goes on.

When you fixate on any one facet of this problem, the enormity and complexity is reduced. If only the reason were simple, then perhaps the fix would be simple as well. But housing is really just one symptom of an entire social and economic system that has disproportionately benefited the most wealthy while punishing those who live in poverty.

San Francisco has a long history of displacement in the name of redevelopment, and of protecting the wealth generated by the scarcity of single family homes. Although racially biased zoning was declared unconstitutional

by the Supreme Court more than a hundred years ago, private developers and homeowners in San Francisco still created racist ownership requirements for their buildings' deeds. In the mid century, large swaths of the city's poor neighborhoods were razed, in an ill-fated attempt to erase poverty. Wealth inequality, housing scarcity, and racism are inextricable.

The bottom line: we have an extreme deficit of affordable housing.

The four most common reasons for people in San Francisco to be without a home:

domestic violence, health-related events, loss of a job, and eviction. A majority of the unhoused population previously had a place to live in our City. There are other reasons, too, such as LGBTQ+ youth who for decades have come to San Francisco as a haven, youth who have been disowned by their families or are otherwise seeking better lives.

I've never experienced homelessness or housing scarcity myself, though there are people close to me who have. Everyone without a place to sleep tonight is someone's son or daughter, maybe

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Lily-White DTNA Board Seeks POC Members

With the recent resignation of our one Asian American Board member, the DTNA Board is currently 100% white for the first time in memory. According to recently released census data, over the last ten years the Triangle has grown in population by about 4,000 people, and has become less white, since the white population stayed about the same numbers-wise, but declined percentage-wise from 71% of the Triangle's total population to 64%. The Black population of the Triangle grew by 3% during that time, the Latinx population by 11%, and the Asian population by 14%.

So...we need YOU! If you are one of those new arrivals to the neighborhood, or (just as good) someone who has been around awhile but has never served, and you identify as Native American, Black, Latinx or Asian, we'd love to have you on the Board. It's not possible for an organization to fully serve the diverse needs of its

diverse constituency if the voices of that community aren't represented.

While we are at it, we are also underrepresented in terms of women, trans and nonbinary folks, and renters. We are currently embarking on a long-term project to re-envision the Triangle along the lines of mobility, sustainability, and equity. Under the equity focus we have made a commitment to explore the history of displacement in the community, in order to both memorialize and rectify its results. But again, those efforts will be severely hobbled if we can't hear the voices of folks from those communities. So...JOIN US!

Please contact DTNA President Kimyn Braithwaite via the Contact button on the DTNA website, or email her directly at president@dtna.org.

We are looking forward to hearing from you, hope to see you at the next Board meeting!



Sullivan Funeral Home opened its doors in 1924 and operated on Market Street for more than 90 years. Its historic facade is a reminder of the Spanish revival architecture style that was popular in the Bay Area and elsewhere in California throughout the 1920s. But its history is more than just architectural—in the early days of the AIDS epidemic, Sullivan's was one of the few businesses that served the community's incalculable loss and grief. When it closed in 2016 to relocate to Daly City, it was one of the few funeral homes left in San Francisco.



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DTNA General Meeting Vets Next Century Plans

A diverse group of neighbors gathered virtually at the August DTNA General Meeting, to hear plans and proposals for a revamped Harvey Milk Plaza, the celebratory memorial gathering space outside the Castro MUNI station, and about the ongoing Waterfront Resilience Program, a City-funded program to protect the San Francisco waterfront from the dangers of earthquakes and sea level rise.

To begin we heard from Alita Sweat of SFMTA, which is responsible for running the Castro MUNI station, and Jane Chan, the Department of Public Works project architect for the MTA's soon to begin upgrade of the station elevator. Brian Springfield presented for Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, a community organization that has done extensive outreach and surveys to find out what neighbors want to see in a revamped plaza and memorial, and commissioned designs to meet those desires. We also heard from Howard Grant, the plaza's original architect when it was designed in the 1970s, and the founder of Advocates for Harvey Milk Plaza, which wants to keep the plaza as it is.

DTNA Vice President Bob Bush reminded us that the transit station opened in 1980, and that the plaza was dedicated to Harvey Milk in 1985. He outlined the problems with the current station – accessibility, weather protection, and lack of a fulsome dedication to Harvey Milk. The City has set aside funds to improve accessibility, including a new elevator on the south side of Market, which provide an opportunity to re-envision the plaza. Jane Chan reported that the project was initiated in 2016, that it has been moving along

very slowly, but that it is now ready for bid, and will hopefully start construction in early 2022. She presented her plans for the new elevator and other streetscape improvements.

Following a series of questions from the audience, Brian Springfield and Daniel Cunningham of SWA consulting presented their plans, which include digital and artistic programming to enhance the memorialization of Harvey Milk, and raising the sunken plaza to allow for more gathering space. Howard Grant then pre-

sented his objections, arguing that the station is a busy transit hub and is functioning well.

We finished with a presentation by Matt Dell from the Port of San Francisco, who explained that seismic resilience and sea level rise are being addressed by funds from bonds that city voters have approved over the last several years, and that hopefully more will be available from the infrastructure bills now working their way through Congress. The City marches on!

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Mayor of Noe Street, continued

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Dez has fond memories of playing multi-ethnic pick-up basketball in the basement of the Trinity Methodist church that once occupied the south corner of Noe and Market (it burned down in the 1980s and is now a condo building with Bank of the West and Giddy Candy on the bottom floor). He remembers the favored local hangout as being the Noe Valley Market at Noe and 15th, then run by the Chinese-American entrepreneur Mary, and now owned by Jake (Yacoub) Shatara. Leslie and Miles were teenagers together in the 'hood, and Miles and Les (Leslie) Justice, who now greets afternoon and evening customers at Jake's store, were in the same English class at McAteer High School. Mary used to ask Dez to go down the street to 15th and Church to buy her a 26¢ cup of coffee at Happy Boys diner or Burke's Restaurant on Market and 15th (the waitresses at Happy Boys diner wore crisp white uniforms, and delivered the food orders to customers in the parking lot on roller skates), and as a reward he got to pick out one or two 5¢ candy bars. There was also a candy store in the space now occupied by the French bistro L'Ardoise, and Dez says there are lovely mahogany floors under today's wall-to-wall carpet.

Most of Dez's family ultimately moved out and moved on as the neighborhood changed – his cousins who lived in the top flat at 245 Noe relocated to the East Bay. Dez has one grand-niece who still lives in the Fillmore, with her grandson who, currently in first grade, is a fourth generation McKinley student. In his retirement years Dez Sr. downsized to an apartment at Noe and Henry, and Dez moved in to care for him until he died at the age of 94 in

2017. Noe Street had changed so much in his lifetime, becoming wealthier and whiter, and with fewer neighborhood businesses and families with children. But with the Noe Street Slow Street opening up Dez Jr. feels some of the same old energy he felt when he was a kid, with families and community members freely sharing the space together. We'll share more of Dez's recollections in future issues, but it's best to hear them from the man himself. So if you happen upon Noe and Henry and see Dez out front polishing his lovely gold Mercedes, stop by and ask a question, he will happily supply you with stories to spare. See you on the Slow Street!

Homeless, continued

Continued from page 8

someone's brother or sister, former colleague, or friend. Unless someone is wealthy, if they've lived in San Francisco for a long time and are about to lose their home, it will be nearly impossible for them to afford a new place to live in their same neighborhood.

I've observed how some people respond to this crisis from a place of anger or fear, rather than empathy. I'm just a neighbor who wants to live in a more equitable future, where my unhoused neighbors receive the care and options they need. Where we can all take the long and wide view, to consider our present through the lens of the past and our hopes for the future.

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Join your neighborhood association now!

- Show your Triangle pride
- Support your neighborhood as we all live, work and shelter at home together
- Support our wonderful Duboce Park
- Support the newsletter

Join online at www.dtna.org/join and become a member today!

"Touchless" is our preferred mode of receiving your payment, but we will still gladly take a check, see below:



☒ **Yes! I want to join DTNA.**

☐ I want to get involved/volunteer, too!

Please contact me. I'm interested in:

- ☐ Land use/development
- ☐ Transportation issues
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Social events
- ☐ Other _____

Mail to:

Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association
Attention: Treasurer
2261 Market Street, PMB# 301
San Francisco, CA 94114

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

Annual Membership dues:

- ☐ Regular \$ 35
- ☐ Patron \$ 75
- ☐ Angel \$ 100
- ☐ Superstar \$ 250
- ☐ Business \$ 50