

FEB - MAR 2022



DUBOCE TRIANGLE NEWS

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

Monday, February 14, 2022

7:00 to 8:00 pm

PUBLIC MEETING ONLINE

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

MEETING AGENDA

- Join us at the upcoming February General Meeting where we'll discuss our neighborhood trees and Public Works tree trimming plans for 2022, and get an introduction from some of our new neighborhood businesses. We hope to see you there!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, February 9th
Online voting will begin for DTNA Board Election. Ballots will be emailed to DTNA members.

Monday, February 14th
DTNA Board Election online voting ends at 7:30 pm. Mail-in ballots need to be postmarked February 14th.

Monday, March 14, 7 pm
DTNA Land Use Committee Meeting.
If you'd like to attend, email landuse@dtna.org to receive Zoom invitation.

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

Another Baby Step towards Making "Vision Slow Triangle" a Reality



UC Berkeley students at their outreach table at the DTNA Block Party on Noe Street.

The DTNA Land Use and General Meetings in December saw record participation as Professor Lamb and three graduate student groups from UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design presented their community research findings for our Vision - Slow Triangle (see earlier newsletters for more details on that).

The teams had been instructed to use methods that broadly reflect the diverse perspectives of our community: they conducted interviews with residents, merchants, and visitors - randomly, with a survey stand at our Phoenix Day block party, and via direct outreach to ensure minority representation. Students also spent countless days in the Triangle observing behavior, such as counting people jaywalking or vehicles running stop-signs. Finally, they accessed secondary data, including traffic statistics provided by Uber and records in the city archives.

Here are a few snippets of what they found:

Parking Configurations: Students saw evidence that vehicles parked at intersections obstructing visibility cause a higher incidence of cars running stop signs and pedestrians hesitating to cross. A comparison of different parking configurations (parallel, perpendicular, angled) showed that angled parking increases perceived pedestrian safety and therefore encourages jaywalking (leaving aside aspects of desirability or legality for a moment). Their recommendations included selective removal of parking spaces at critical intersections (Duboce & Sanchez, 14th & Sanchez, 14th & Noe, 16th & Castro) to improve pedestrian safety.

Streetside Mini-Plaza Design: This group found a positive impact of vegetation, slow traffic, and wood (instead of

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A Happier and Healthier 2022



Rafael Mandelman
San Francisco District 8 Supervisor

Dear Duboce Triangle Neighbors,

It's a relief to have 2021 behind us and I'm hoping we will all have a happier and healthier 2022. With Omicron causing yet another winter COVID surge, it's more important than ever that everyone get vaccinated and boosted if you haven't already. For information about vaccines, testing and other COVID-related resources in San Francisco visit sf.gov/COVID.

Please see below for a few updates about my office's work over the past couple months.

Preserving Public School Funding

In December Mayor Breed and I introduced legislation to appropriate nearly \$12 million to the Department of Elections to pay for two unanticipated elections, including the recall of three members of the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education. This supplemental appropriation fully covers the cost that the San Francisco Unified School District would otherwise be required to pay to the Department of Elections for administering the recall election, which is estimated to be \$3.2 million. Thanks to the advocacy of SFUSD parents, the Board voted to appropriate the full amount on January 11th.

The School District is already facing a \$125 million deficit in the coming school year, with a state takeover looming due to their

fiscal woes. Losing an additional \$3.2 million would be equivalent to the loss of more than 30 teacher salaries or 8 mental health wellness centers for students. Meanwhile, the City is anticipating a \$100 million budget surplus over the next two years. Reasonable people can disagree about the merits of the school board recall, but I am glad that my colleagues and I agree that our public school students shouldn't bear the costs.

Improving Public Infrastructure Projects
During the last half of 2021, I heard numerous concerning reports from constituents about the City's sewer and water main replacement project, particularly on Castro between 19th and 26th Streets. Many neighbors found themselves enduring unreasonable noise and air impacts, and numerous residents found themselves completely cut off from their driveways, some for up to 10 days.

The notice to neighbors sent in advance of this project contained completely inaccurate information about how the project would affect street access, and nobody at Public Utilities Commission caught this mistake. It seemed to me that the issues with this project raised more systemic issues with how the Public Utilities Commission identifies and communicates the impacts of major infrastructure work.

To begin to address these issues, I held a hearing at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee on January 5th on the City's processes for notifying residents of major infrastructure projects that will restrict access to their driveways, sidewalks, and other essential public spaces. At this hearing we learned more about the mistakes that were made on the Castro Street project, and initiated the process of developing legislative and other fixes to en-

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Think Local

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Connecting to the Community



Kimyn Braithwaite
DTNA President

At a recent DTNA Land Use meeting, a long-time member of the community brought up some observations of changes to her street's activity. She wasn't talking about street behavior like homelessness or drug use. She was referring to people moving in and out of the neighborhood.

The reason she brought this up is because of her concern that long-time residents were leaving and taking with them a stronger commitment to the community. And she asked at the meeting about what we can do to stem that flow; how can we as a community

organization get more people involved? How can we encourage a sense of neighborliness, where people know one another's names, look out for each other, and work together to improve our collective experience of life in the Triangle? Can our efforts help keep long-time residents in the neighborhood, help newcomers feel connected to the place where they live, and get everyone to organize around the issues that affect our community as a whole?

This conversation got me thinking, not just because the Board of DTNA is always talking about how we can get people involved, but also because in essence her concern of a lack of community is in stark contrast to what I feel and experience within the Triangle every day.

I got involved in DTNA because I have a child. I have always had an interest in public policy and I wanted to model the behavior that I would like to see in my child, so when I

saw that DTNA needed volunteers I thought it was a great opportunity to do just that. I thought the best way to raise a person who cares about their community is to show that I care about the community myself.

The combination of having a child in the Duboce Triangle and being involved with the neighborhood association has been immensely rewarding. We attended the local and wonderful preschool, Friends of St Francis, partially because of DTNA. At preschool we became friends with many local families who we continue to go to school with, and those families have in turn helped with DTNA events: block parties, litter cleanup, tree planting, newsletter distribution, art installations, and social engagement.

During the pandemic, Duboce Park became our hub; our lifeline to our friends and to the community, as well as the place where everyone could come together for much needed, yet safe, human interaction. It was evident

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The Duboce Triangle News is published at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October and December by the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association (DTNA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

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New Mural Shows a Community that Looks Out For Each Other



By Tomas Moreno
Development Director
Maitri Compassionate Care

A new mural titled “Never Alone” by renowned San Francisco artist Serge Gay Jr. will be painted on Maitri’s two-story building at Church Street and Duboce Avenue.

The mural will go up on the Duboce Avenue side of Maitri’s residential care facility where they care for people who are living with HIV/AIDS and people recovering from gender affirmation surgery. It is slated to be a

stunning, colorful piece that depicts the vitality and history of Duboce Triangle as well as the resilience of those living with HIV/AIDS in our community. The work highlights the promise to never forget those lost to or living with HIV/AIDS.

“I want to portray this beautiful surrealist mural that showcases a community who cares for each other and looks after each other,” said Serge Gay Jr. “The embodiment that is Maitri and Duboce.”

Since 1987, Maitri has cared for people living and dying with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco and has fought to eliminate stigma around the disease and help people share their status. What started as an AIDS hospice is now a place for healing, restorative care and for people affirming their gender. “This mural is our way of recognizing the power of ‘Never being alone again,’” said Fr. Rusty Smith, Executive Director.

“Showing love, caring for, and

friendship to the ones in need of care, till their last days,” said Serge Gay Jr. “That you’re not alone. I want to make a mural that celebrates being alive and hopefulness. ‘May all be free from suffering and the causes of suffering.’”

The mural will be made in partnership with the Castro Community Benefit District and the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association. Visit MaitriSF.org to learn more.



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Historic Photograph



View of Cafe Flore in 1986 from the Metro (now the LookOut).
Photo courtesy of the Max Kirkeberg Collection, San Francisco State University.

This little corner has been through many changes over the years—and even before it was Flore, this parcel had seen a lot.

It is commonly reported that this land once held a pharmacy attached to the Finnilla bathhouse next door, though, according to the grandson of the bathhouse’s original owners, this parcel was never part of the Finnilla family holdings—he remembers it as a used car lot before it became a cafe in 1973.

Given its proximity to the Castro, Cafe Flore played a prominent role in both local and out-of-towner gay culture for decades beginning in the 70s. Its most recent iteration as Flore served a busy brunch crowd, with hopes to become a cannabis cafe with the opening of Flore Store across the street. The restaurant closed its doors in January 2020 to become an events space, before the pandemic stalled those plans.

We hope this treasured space, with its feeling of an urban greenhouse, can once again come to life as a place for neighbors to come together, raise a glass, and enjoy the sun (or, maybe, the view of the fog coming in...)



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Celebrating Kindergarten at McKinley Elementary School – Anchor of the Community

These days it seems like most of what we hear about schools is centered on controversy – whether it’s masks or vaccine mandates, when or how to re-open, or battles over “critical race theory.” So it’s worthwhile to know that just around the corner from you, at McKinley Elementary School at Castro and 14th, kids are still happily gathering to learn and play.



Lindsey, Theo and family have lived on Henry Street since 2017.

Our son Theo just started Kindergarten at McKinley this past fall. For us, the decision to send him to McKinley was easy. Growing up in a family that moved frequently because of my dad’s work, I attended many different schools: public, private, international, parochial, all girls, ‘good test score’ schools, ‘bad test score’ schools... you name it. Though they were really different on paper, my personal experiences at these different schools were surprisingly similar. The vast majority of my memories and sentiments about school were focused on the teachers and friends who were there, rather than any particular programs or pedagogies. And I found that inspiring teachers and

great friends were not exclusive to any particular type of school. So in our choice for Theo, we didn’t need to look far - we really wanted to send him to a public school in our neighborhood.

And fortunately, there’s a wonderful school right up the street. McKinley is full of great educators - from the teachers, to the principal, to the after school staff, we’ve found everyone to be extremely kind and motivated. The parent community is welcoming and active, and puts together lots of great events, from community events like Dogfest to school celebrations like Harvest Fest. Theo loves playing with his friends in the big outdoor spaces, and also exploring the excellent library. McKinley is also one of the few elementary schools we found that has guaranteed after school care for every family that needs it - which is crucial for a community where it’s very common for both parents to work.

I know San Francisco has a reputation as a ‘kidless’ city, but the statistics on this haven’t really matched our day-to-day experience. Whenever we go outside, it’s inevitable that we run into classmates and friends in the neighborhood. We love that we can count on finding play buddies whenever we’re at Duboce park or at McKinley’s Open Schoolyard on the weekends. Plus with many kid-friendly amenities within walking distance, like the Randall Museum in Co-

rona Heights, the Eureka Valley rec center, and countless playgrounds, we feel like we’re never lost for activities.

Public schools, like playgrounds (and dog runs) are an essential part of what makes a neighborhood and a city work, by providing a great education that’s accessible to everyone. Regardless of what the years ahead hold though, McKinley Elementary (and all your local public schools) will be there taking care of business, seeing that all children are brought into the fold of the community. If you’re a neighborhood



Self-portrait of Theo at Corona heights, looking at stars with a telescope.

parent, I hope you’ll check out McKinley when you’re considering elementary schools.

Until then, see you on the playground!



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- Remi, San Francisco

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Supervisor's Message, continued

Continued from page 2

sure this doesn’t happen again to any neighborhood in San Francisco.

Stopping Organized Retail Theft

The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution I authored calling on Congress to pass H.R. 5502, the INFORM Consumers Act, to require online marketplaces to collect, verify, and disclose certain information from high-volume sellers. Passing the INFORM Act is a critical part of addressing organized retail theft, as most stolen goods are sold on Amazon and other e-commerce sites. Representatives from Safeway and United

Food and Commercial Workers Local 648 supported this resolution as part of their joint efforts to mitigate the impacts this theft is having on the viability of their stores in San Francisco, especially the location at Church and Market, and the wellbeing of their employees.

Stay Connected

City Hall is open, 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.

New Website Tips for dtna.org

[Bob Bush](#), DTNA Vice President, Web Transition Manager
[Paige Rausser](#), DTNA Board Member, Membership Manager

starting with the new Household level for \$50.00, but also for all Patron, Angel and Superstar members.

You can [join](#) DTNA, pay your [Membership Dues](#) and [Advertising Fees](#) online. Dues reminders are now sent by email and not by postcard, unless a member does not have an email address.

Email from DTNA Wild Apricot website comes From: Dtna38@wildapricot.com with Reply-To: info@dtna.org.

Bundle Memberships, what are they?

Bundles allow two people in the same household to become voting DTNA members for one fee,

Auto-Recurring Dues Payments enabled at all voting membership levels. Members can stop recurring payments from their Wild Apricot member profile page when they have a pending invoice. To do so, before paying the invoice, click the **Invoices and payments** tab in member profile and then click **Stop recurring payments** button beside the membership renewal transaction.

See [Website FAQ's](#) for details on how to get started and how the new system works.

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— Drew + Cori, Broderick Street



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New in the Neighborhood

As we approach the two-year mark of the beginning of the pandemic, one thing is clear: this unprecedented public health and economic crisis has changed our neighborhood—and our City.

Of course, not all changes are bad—the Slow Street movement has shifted how we think about the dominance of cars on our public roads, and as a result we now have more safe spaces for people, pets, and families to walk and bike. We now have a veritable outdoor dining culture, and the added sense of street vibrancy that comes with it. We have seen our City leaders and our fellow citizens take the threat of COVID-19 seriously, and as a result there is a strengthened sense of collective will and civic pride.

Empty storefronts remain a challenge. Essential workers are the heroes of this time, and among them we count the many local businesses that opened during the pandemic to fill vacancies and serve our community. As many of us have been rather hunkered down during the majority of the last two years, you may have missed some of these new additions to the neighborhood. What follows is not an exhaustive list but rather a sampling of some of the new places that have caught our attention. The next time you're out and about, stop by, say hello, and support your local businesses!

Dining
Copas
Santeria
Sushi Urashima
Aquitaine Wine Bistro

Art
Art House SF
Schlomerhaus Gallery

Hair
Bangin Hair Salon
Castro Barber Lounge
BeliSf

Dispensary
Flore Store

Florist
Amperсанд

DTNA 2022 Election

Election of 2022 DTNA Officers and Board Directors will be conducted online as it was in 2021 using Election Runner. If you are a DTNA member, ballots will be emailed to you. To check your membership status or verify your email address, go to our website at dtna.org. Paper ballots will be mailed to members without email addresses.

Online voting will start on Wednesday, February 9th and close on Monday, February 14th at 07:30pm during the February DTNA General Meeting. Mail-in ballots need to be postmarked by February 14th to be counted.

All Officer positions and five Director seats are up for election, with two director seats currently unfilled. Nominations need to be submitted by Friday, February 4th to be included on the ballot. Current

Board members have expressed an interest in continuing on the Board, although the current DTNA Treasurer would like to pass the baton for that position and return to his Director's role if a new Treasurer candidate can be identified.

Any member who has an interest in joining the Board and has been a member for three months is eligible to be elected to the Board. If you want to get more involved with DTNA initiatives to enhance the neighborhood where we all live, work, and play, consider running for a Board position.

If you would like to run for a Board position or want to learn more about how the Board and DTNA function, please contact DTNA at info@dtna.org or by using the [website contact form](#) or visit our website dtna.org.



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Your Neighborhood Association

DTNA Board Meeting Report (January)

The Board of Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association now meets every month. At the January 2022 meeting, we discussed the following:

2022 DTNA Election

Plan to conduct online voting using Election Runner and mailing paper ballots to those few member for whom DTNA has no email address in February, as DTNA did in 2021. Current Board members have expressed an interest in continuing on the Board, although the current DTNA Treasurer would like to pass the baton for that position and return to his Director's role if a new Treasurer candidate can be identified. There are currently two Board seat vacancies. Two DTNA members have reached out to the Board expressing their interest in serving on the Board. See DTNA 2022 Election article for details.

Board Goals for 2022

Each Board member was asked what Goal they would be the champion for in 2022 and what Goal they would help another Board member address. Five working groups were identified: Land Use: Kevin Riley; Open/Public Space (Beautification, Trees, Slow Triangle): Frank Tizedes, Erik Honda, Hans Galland; Membership: Paige Rausser; Website: Bob Bush; Newsletter: Rose Linke.

2022 Meeting Schedule

Reaffirmed new monthly first Monday Board meetings; every odd-numbered month second Monday, Land Use; and maintaining every even-numbered month second Monday Public Community meetings shortened to one hour (7:00 PM to 8:00 PM). Meetings will remain virtual for now with expectation to add periodic in-person social meet-ups like the October 17th block party or, when feasible, the December 2019 meeting party.

Newsletter

With additional new advertisers need to review how many pages are needed to ensure space for needed content. Further discussion referred to the Newsletter Working Group.

Website Migration

Bundle membership for all membership levels above Household approved. Online ordering of newsletter advertisements has been added to website.

Land Use Updates

DTNA will address desired inclusion of 20% Affordable Housing based on recommendations from the Land Use committee on a project-by-project basis instead of a 2015 Letter of Intent that other signatories no longer adhere to.

Upcoming February General Meeting Agenda

2022 DTNA Election of Officers and Board Directors; Duboce Triangle Street Trees and [Public Works tree trimming](#) planned in 2022; and introduction of some new neighborhood businesses.

President's Message, continued

Continued from page 3

that much of the neighborhood felt the same way, as I saw many familiar faces in the park, most of which I recognize because of DTNA.

These are just some of the reasons why I feel like my connection to the community is strong and only growing stronger. Every time I write this column I try to encourage people to attend DTNA meetings and get engaged in our efforts. And, to be honest, I don't know if it is effective; I often feel as though I'm talking to an empty room.

But I do know this: If you want to be connected to your neighborhood, if you want to know your neighbors' names, if you want to not feel like a stranger on your own block, if you want to work together with others, then getting involved with your neighborhood association is a great way to do all of that. We hope to see you (or meet you!) soon.



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DTNA General Meeting: Neighbors Vet the Slow Triangle

A large and feisty crowd showed up for the DTNA December General Meeting to see the data collected by three teams from a UC Berkeley Urban Design graduate research class, who have been looking at the Triangle through the frame of our plans for a Slow Triangle. We apologize for the problems folks had getting in on Google Meet, and will work on solutions to get that fixed for future meetings. So sorry!

Board member Hans Galland, who is coordinating the project, introduced it as research-based, but also part of an iterative process that will involve the community at all stages, of which this meeting was an early part. The three teams presented, and details of their presentations can be found in the Slow Triangle updates article elsewhere in this newsletter, and also on our website at dtna.org.

Following the presentations, one neighbor took issue with most of the recommendations and proposals that came out of the data the students collected, on the basis that since they are not from here they can't fully understand what it's like to live here. Others celebrated their suggestions and hoped for even more radical transformations. All agreed that we need better enforcement of traffic laws in San Francisco, that different parts of the neighborhood and different streets need different treatments (this cannot be a "one size fits all" proposal), and that they were very appreciative of all the hard work and many hours the students spent in our neighborhood, observing traffic, conducting surveys of pedestrians and business owners, and sketching out solutions to make our neighborhood a better place.

Thanks again so much to the teams! Hopefully they will return in future years to celebrate the fruits of their labor.

Team 1: Streetside Mini-Plazas

This team found the corner bulb-outs or "mini-plazas" to be the key urban design

element of the Triangle, and made suggestions for repairing and upgrading the plazas.

Shuqi Li, Master of Urban Design – Houzhou China

Jieqiong Chang, Master of Landscape Architecture – Hebei Province, China

Byron Li, Master of Landscape Architecture – San Francisco California, U.S.A.

Team 2: Parking Configurations' Effect on Traffic Calming and the Public Realm

This team found that easy "paint-only" reconfigurations of parking orientation could make the neighborhood safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Andy Cheng, Master of Urban Design – Taipei, Taiwan

Diksha Singh, Master of Urban Design – Delhi, India

Joann Martinez, Master of City Planning – Lodi California, U.S.A.

Team 3: The Potential for a Safe and Walkable 14th Street

This team provided suggestions for widening sidewalks and other changes to allow for better pedestrian movement and business access on 14th Street.

Vedanti Agrawal, Master of Urban Design – Mumbai, India

Wenzheng Fang, Master of Urban Design – Beijing, China

Pawida Bualert, Master of City Planning – Bangkok, Thailand

Call to all neighbors: Please involve yourself in the process going forward (see links and info in the Slow Triangle article), because the more participation we have, the better the final product will be. Thanks to all who attended!

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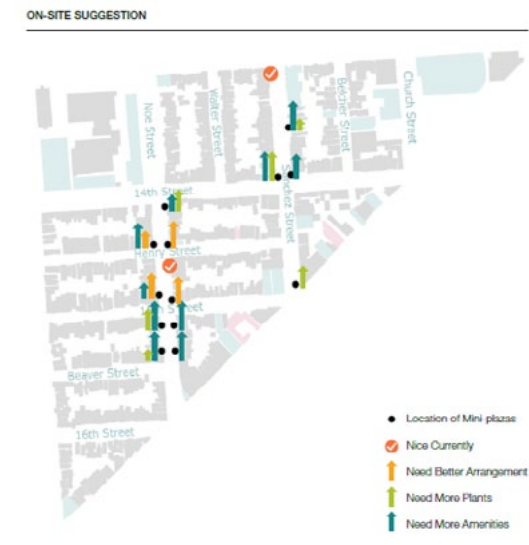
"Vision Slow Triangle", continued

Continued from page 1

stone) seating on increased resident use of our corner bulb-outs. The group suggested that gathering spaces need better upkeep and can be designed to cater to different users (e.g. visitors vs. residents) with different functions (e.g. social vs. quiet activities).

Sidewalk Activation: This group researched how sidewalk safety and walkability influence the desire of pedestrians to use certain streets. They highlighted the challenges pedestrians face on 14th Street, given unusually narrow sidewalks and a very uncomfortable intersection at Sanchez and Noe. Recommendations included sidewalk widening and traffic slowing measures, such as chicanes and center islands.

Full copies of their research reports are available upon request, and minutes of

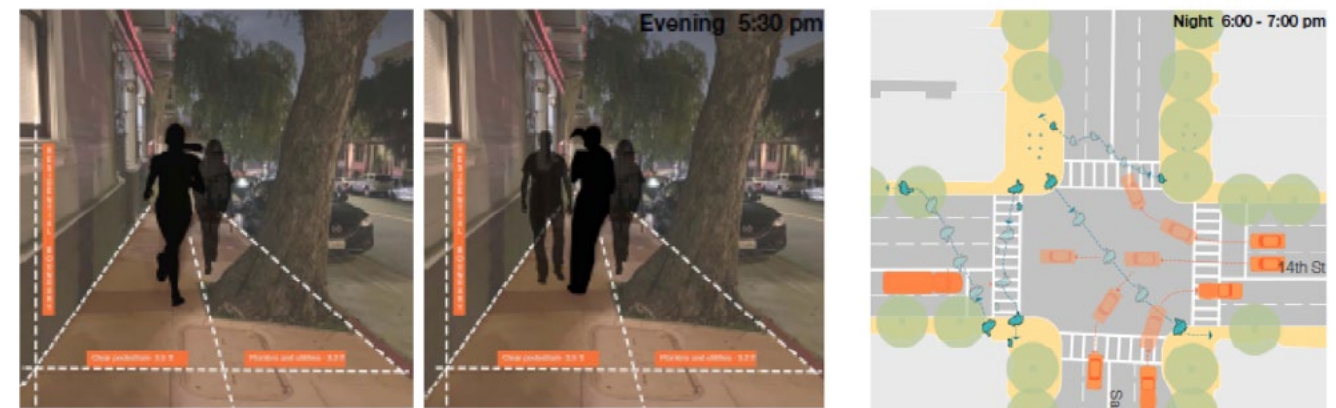


UC Berkeley Masters of Urban Planning studied the mini-plazas mapped above. Two were found to be "nice currently", the rest need various upgrades for different uses.

the meeting summarizing community feedback are available on the DTNA website.

It was clearly a privilege to have mid-career urban design professionals in one of the world's best urban design programs generously study our small corner of this planet. Their outside perspectives highlighted issues that most of us have stopped actively seeing and proposed fresh ideas to address them.

As a community, it now rests upon us to act and decide on the desirability of their recommendations. We want to hear from you and involve you in the process of making the Vision - Slow Triangle a reality, translating these findings into design guidelines and budget requests to policy makers and city departments. Please contact us at landuse@dtna.org.



Students highlighted the challenges pedestrians face, including unusually narrow sidewalks on 14th Street as well as uncomfortable intersections.

Chevron

David Sahagun

Phone (415) 567-1136

Fax (415) 567-2733

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Vice President Bob Bush / Beaver St.	Directors Hans Galland / Noe St. Paige Rausser / Beaver St. Kevin Riley / Sanchez St. Frank Tizedes / Noe St.
Treasurer Nikolai Sklaroff / Castro St.	
Secretary Erik Honda / Henry St.	
Committees, Managers	
Land Use Committee Chair Kevin Riley / Sanchez St.	Advertising Manager Bob Bush / Beaver St.
Membership Manager Paige Rausser / Beaver St.	Newsletter Layout Lynn Bayer / Carmelita St.



Free COVID-19 testing and vaccination—including boosters—are available on Saturdays from 11am to 5pm at the 18th Street parking lot behind Walgreens.

Join your neighborhood association now!

- Show your Triangle pride
- Support your neighborhood as we all live, work and look out for each other
- 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 ☐ Newsletter
☐ Transportation issues ☐ 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
☐ Household \$ 50
☐ Associate Member \$ 35