



KATY TANG
湯凱蒂

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 7, 2016

Contact: Ashley Summers
(415) 554-7460

**** PRESS RELEASE ****

**SUPERVISOR KATY TANG JOINS COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF
PLAYLAND AT 43RD AVENUE**

Playland at 43rd Avenue is a community recreation area built with the help of residents and volunteers as part of the Pavement to Parks Program

Supervisor Katy Tang today joined the San Francisco Planning Department Pavement to Parks team, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), Board of Education members, the San Francisco Parks Alliance, and community members to celebrate the opening of Playland at 43rd Avenue, located at 1360 43rd Avenue in the Outer Sunset neighborhood.

Playland at 43rd Avenue is the transformation of an underutilized yard and parking lot at the Francis Scott Key Annex, which is owned by the SFUSD. The renovations started earlier this year, but the project began as part of Supervisor Tang's Sunset District Blueprint process in 2013, when residents, as part of a district-wide planning process, continued to ask about the future of the site.

"I received countless inquiries about the deteriorating building and the surrounding lot, so we began a conversation with School District staff and the Planning Department," said Supervisor Tang. "Our goal was to create a space open to all members of the community where a variety of activities could be enjoyed."

Initial community meetings were attended by dozens of residents brainstorming ideas for the short and long-term use of the site. Given that the SFUSD anticipates it may need the lot in the future for other uses, the community pursued a temporary use that would benefit the neighborhood while future plans were still being developed.

"We have had kids involved in planning and building this park from the first meeting and it is so exciting to watch them see the space come to life," said Dawn Steuckle, Executive Director of Sunset Youth Services (SYS). "They have had the opportunity to give their ideas and now they will be invested in keeping the park safe and clean. This has been a valuable youth development opportunity for them."

Subsequent meetings were led by Planning's Pavement to Parks Program, which focuses on activating sites with flexible programming for temporary use. At those meetings, residents agreed that a space for a community garden and places for family recreation would be appropriate for the site. Planning staff collaborated with design firm, Perkins + Will, to develop a plan for the space incorporating the ideas shared by residents.

"So many talented people and organizations have come together to create this amazing park, which truly has something for everyone," said John Funke, neighbor and father of two boys who also volunteered to



KATY TANG
湯凱蒂

build Playland. "The process of creating this great space has already done for me what I hope it will do for everyone that visits: it has connected me to neighbors and community members whom I would not have otherwise met, and has further rooted me in this foggy, funky, and fantastic neighborhood we all share."

Over the past three months, community members have volunteered their time to help build the site. **Markos Major** of Climate Action Now led the building of the community garden, which also replaced concrete with permeable surface over a portion of the lot. **Leah Tumerman** designed a mural for the ground that was implemented by volunteers. **Justin Marks**, an architect, builder, and Outer Sunset resident led the creation of the skateboard area. And **Moksha Osgood** designed and built a wooden pavilion.

"Two primary ingredients made this park: the collective passion of community minded people, and countless individual movements of hands, feet, and strong backs," said Doug Jacuzzi, neighbor and volunteer at Playland.

Ongoing programming and maintenance of the site will be coordinated by a group of stewards, in partnership with the San Francisco Parks Alliance. Residents will be able to use the site daily for gardening, exercise, games, and more. There are also plans to offer free classes by local artists or fitness instructors. All elements of the project are temporary and can be adjusted to meet the needs of the residents or the SFUSD. The skateboard portion of the site is under a two month trial, due to concerns over noise.

"I am honored to be a part of this project and ever so grateful to the City, school district, local organizations and community members who have come together to give the Outer Sunset this amazing gift," said Angie Petit-Taylor, co-founder of Sunset Mercantile, a pop-up festival featuring local artists. "Through cooperation, collaboration, creative thinking and hard work, what once was a neighborhood 'eye sore' is now a warm and welcoming space for all community members to gather, play, create, cultivate and just be."

Supervisor Tang attended every community volunteer day on site and shoveled soil and mulch, prepped planting beds, and painted the ground mural alongside residents. "I am overwhelmed by the support and dedication of the people who have brought this place to fruition, and it has been such a rewarding experience for me to be able to work so closely with our residents on such a tremendous and transformative project," said Supervisor Tang.

For more information, please contact Supervisor Tang's office at 415-554-7460 or Katy.Tang@sfgov.org. You can also visit: <http://pavementtoparks.org/plazas/plaza-projects/playland-at-43rd-avenue/>

###