[Urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to Collaborate with Departments and Develop an Activated Public Spaces Program]

Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Recreation and Park Department, Planning Department, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Public Works, and Department of Real Estate to collaborate and identify opportunities where San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency properties may be used to provide public spaces; engage with neighboring homeowners and neighborhood organizations, and systemically implement an “Activated Public Spaces” program and provide existing community spaces such as Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza with waivers of fees and fines; encouraging long-term sustainable management plans.

WHEREAS, San Francisco has been an inviting place for imaginative ways to repurpose public spaces through programs such as Groundplay, which is a multi-agency initiative that launched parklets, play streets, and interactive plazas all over the city; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) owns certain real property that includes parking lots and bus loops that have been converted to public play spaces, gardens, and recreation areas that have benefited individuals and groups as a whole and converting these publicly owned spaces formerly used for parking into parks and activated public spaces are imperative to the increase in quality of life of residents; and

WHEREAS, The Real Estate Division (RED) with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) launched the SF Plaza Program, where the goals of the program included strengthening San Francisco’s vibrant communities by creating systemic processes making it easier for communities to activate their local plazas and craft long-term sustainable management plans; and
WHEREAS, SFMTA, as a partner with Groundplay and other initiatives, has been instrumental in offering spaces for re-imagined uses; and

WHEREAS, In reconfiguring the bus loop for City College on Frida Kahlo Way, SFMTA took the opportunity to work with various departments to create Unity Plaza, which is now a landscaped, fully-accessible public open space that is used for community events and as a pedestrian walkway that features seating, an artistic pavement, and a domed play structure; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, with a concept initiated by the District 7 Supervisor’s office, SFMTA partnered with the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, and local neighbors to repurpose a parking lot at Junipero Serra and Ocean Avenue into Lakeside Landing, an interactive play space, garden, and public plaza for children and families that revitalized a quiet commercial corridor, especially during the pandemic shutdown; and

WHEREAS, While Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza are prime examples of the positive transformation of SFMTA land, there remain opportunities to establish a more long-lasting formal program to ensure the maintenance, stewardship, and operations for future public use; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA as a multi-modal transportation agency does not have in its primary mission land management or the technical expertise in the operations or maintenance of landscaped areas of active public and open spaces and traditionally charges permit fees and rent for the usage of their properties regardless if it is for private or public entities; and

WHEREAS, SFMTA has been a collaborative partner as part of Groundplay and other initiatives but requires more support and formal arrangements for sites like Unity Plaza and Lakeside Landing and it is in the best interest of San Francisco to continue to serve families with children, people with limited mobility, seniors, and neighbors by extending the use of

Supervisor Melgar
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activated publicly accessible open spaces for them to enjoy the benefits of outdoor gathering, 
recreational activities, healthy habits, and exercise long-term; and

WHEREAS, Community members have taken proactive measures to act as stewards 
of both Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza by organizing clean-ups, which has been helpful in 
alleviating the burden on SFMTA and other city agencies for requests; now, therefore be it 
RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Municipal 
Transportation Agency’s Board of Directors to establish a program in collaboration with the 
Planning Department, Department of Real Estate, Office of Economic Workforce 
Development, Recreation and Parks Department, and Department of Public Works to 
collaborate and to identify opportunities where SFMTA properties may be used to provide 
interactive play areas, recreational spaces, and sustainable operations and maintenance 
system for their upkeep, as well as, establish other amenities to the public and engage with 
neighboring homeowners and neighborhood organizations, and systemically implement an 
“Activated Public Spaces” program to encourage long-term sustainable management plans;
and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco 
Municipal Transportation Agency to continue providing existing community spaces such as 
Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza with waivers of fees (not inclusive of permitting for large 
special events) and fines and urging the SFMTA to enter into a lease agreement or 
Memorandum of Understanding to have another Department or organization maintain the land 
in exchange for not collecting fees on parcels that are currently activated public spaces like 
Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza.
Resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Recreation and Park Department, Planning Department, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Public Works, and Department of Real Estate to collaborate and identify opportunities where San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency properties may be used to provide public spaces; engage with neighboring homeowners and neighborhood organizations, and systemically implement an "Activated Public Spaces" program and provide existing community spaces such as Lakeside Landing and Unity Plaza with waivers of fees and fines; encouraging long-term sustainable management plans.

April 12, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 10 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai and Walton
Excused: 1 - Stefani

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/12/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board