[Urging Support of Community-Initiated Beautification Projects on Public Property and for the Public Good]

Resolution supporting and urging Departments to facilitate an easier process for community-initiated beautification projects on public property, including, but not limited to, the improvement projects for the Kensington Bridge, Havelock Bridge, Low Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio, and the Richardson Triangle in Cow Hollow.

WHEREAS, San Francisco is strengthened by robust civic engagement, especially with volunteers who help to maintain public open spaces and help to enhance neighborhood assets for the public good; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the City and County of San Francisco grants rights to community groups to create illustrious projects that have become neighborhood attractions such as the Hidden Steps projects on 16th and Moraga and 16th and Kirkham; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department helps to facilitate dozens of projects across San Francisco to meet the City’s Better Streets and Complete Streets Plans, which include community-sponsored landscaping of street medians and streetscapes; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Arts Commission oversees hundreds of proposals for art placed on City-owned property or City-financed projects on private property; and

WHEREAS, While there are programs that support community-sponsored projects on City land; the process for some can be confusing, expensive, and complicated, such as with the Kensington Bridge on Portola Drive and Kensington Way in the West Portal neighborhood; the Havelock Bridge on Havelock Street and Circular Avenue in the Sunnyside neighborhood; the Low Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio; and the Richardson Triangle on Lombard Street in Cow Hollow; and
WHEREAS, For the past few years, West Portal volunteers successfully partnered with Public Works to clear up debris and litter at the foot of the Kensington pedestrian bridge and establish new plantings, but are facing a long, arduous process to approve a proposal from the neighborhood to add a mid-century modern mural on the pillars of the bridge to prevent chronic vandalism; and

WHEREAS, Sunnyside neighbors have volunteered and successfully partnered with Public Works to clear up debris surrounding the Havelock bridge, trim overgrown ivy blocking proper safety lighting, establishing new plantings, and partnered with the Municipal Transportation Agency to establish a much-needed crosswalk at the landing that continues to be a concern for pedestrian safety, but are facing long, arduous process to approve a proposal from neighbors to add a mural that will add to traffic safety and prevent chronic vandalism, and

WHEREAS, Thirteen artists donated 97 murals for the Low Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio, which was built during the COVID-19 pandemic for medical overflow, but was never activated; and after the closure of the site, the murals spent months in limbo despite a great deal of public interest in these works because no City department was willing or able to act as a steward for the works; thankfully a non-profit partner saved them by volunteering to act as a custodian until the murals could be redisplayed around the City; and

WHEREAS, The Cow Hollow neighborhood has been working on a Lombard Street beautification plan for years and have been met with high administrative barriers in execution; and

WHEREAS, Despite several attempts to convene with staff from various departments, there has not been a clear determination on how best to proceed with these projects due to jurisdictional matters; and
WHEREAS, San Francisco’s public spaces benefit from the vibrancy of public art projects, especially when initiated by residents and neighbors as it cultivates placemaking and community-building; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco greatly benefit from private community-public partnerships that help with beautification projects that not only enhance the quality-of-life for residents, but invites visitors and acts as a deterrent to vandalism and blight; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes and applauds the efforts of community members and residents who volunteer their time and crowdsource funds to improve public land that serves the greater good; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Street Use and Mapping, and the Department of Real Estate, to facilitate and to expedite the issuance of the required permits and permission for the public art installation on the Kensington Bridge and the Havelock Bridge; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the City Administrator’s office, Arts Commission, the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Street Use and Mapping, the Department of Real Estate, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority, Recreation and Parks, and the Public Utilities Commission to collaborate and to facilitate a streamlined, clear, and accessible process so that neighborhood groups and community members are able to propose and to fundraise for beautification projects on public land with support and ease.
Resolution supporting and urging Departments to facilitate an easier process for community-initiated beautification projects on public property, including, but not limited to, the improvement projects for the Kensington Bridge, Havelock Bridge, Low Acuity Continuing Care facility in the Presidio, and the Richardson Triangle in Cow Hollow.

July 27, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/27/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

08/06/2021

London N. Breed
Mayor

Date Approved

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

08/06/2021

Date