



SF Environment

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



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Director

San Francisco Carbon Fund Funding Recommendations for Grant Awards

The San Francisco Department of the Environment issued a Request for Proposals on November 15, 2017 seeking community greening projects through the San Francisco Carbon Fund. On December 21, 2017, the Department received seven proposals totaling \$382,375 in funding requests for an available \$150,000. An evaluation panel, comprising Department of the Environment and Recreation and Parks Department staff reviewed and scored proposals.

Based on project evaluation, the Department of the Environment staff recommends that the Commission on the Environment approve SF Carbon Fund grant awards to the following five organizations, for a combined total grant amount of \$150,000. Grant funding will be disbursed over a three-year period, with the bulk of funding (90%) disbursed in the first-year for project implementation and the remainder (5%/year for two years) for ongoing maintenance and reporting.

Citizen Film will lead the Bernal Cut Restoration Project in the southwest area of Bernal Heights. This community greening effort will result in a sustainable urban forest on the barren slope of the Bernal Cut, adjacent to San Jose Ave. The volunteer-based project will plant 150 California native trees and other drought resistant vegetation, to transform the empty stretches of land between Saint Mary's Ave and the base of the Richland/Miguel Bridge into a dense urban forest that will sequester carbon, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and prevent hillside erosion.

Friends of the Urban Forest will create 2000ft² of sidewalk rain gardens in Potrero Hill. The project will remove permeable pavement, plant 15 new trees, and install native plants in a part of the neighborhood burdened by high crime and freeway exhaust. The project employs participants of the Pomeroy Center's Able Gardener program (a current SFCF grantee) and engages local households, small businesses, public schools and city agencies. Co-benefits include improving neighborhood walkability and building community, as well as providing workforce development opportunities for youth and developmentally challenged adults.

Literacy for Environmental Justice will remove 9400 ft² of impermeable surface and install green infrastructure at Candlestick Point. The project will ultimately provide outdoor educational activities to school groups throughout the City and create a foundation for future community garden sites. The project includes a stormwater-capturing bioswale and climate-resilient demonstration garden. Co-benefits include youth and workforce development and increasing neighborhood resiliency.

Nature in the City will create a thriving community park area and increase neighborhood access to nature in Bayview Hunters Point at Palou and Phelps Streets. They will plant trees, shrubs, perennial bunch grasses, and native and climate-adapted plants at the Save Palou Phelps site and also at the Adah Stairs near Buena Vista Park, an area that has historically been a dumping ground for furniture and other materials. Both sites will engage neighbors while providing opportunities for large group volunteerism and local student involvement in research, habitat restoration, and native plant propagation.

Thompkins Stairway Garden will continue transforming a blighted Bernal Heights hillside into a safe and attractive street park and path. The area provides a vital connection between affordable housing in Bernal Heights and the Alemany Farmers Market and is used by youth attending Paul Revere Elementary School and residents accessing mass transit at the bottom of the hill.