

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**September 27, 2021, 5:00 pm**

(Meeting is being held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic)

**Meeting Minutes**

**FINAL/APPROVED 11/29**

**Present:**

Mike Vuong, Business Owner Seat, Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco – President  
Soha Abdou, Property Owner Seat, CCDC  
Gary Besser, Resident Seat  
Adama Bryant, Resident Seat  
Leigh Chang, Property Owner Seat, L37 Partners  
Regina Guggenheim, Property Owner Seat, BroadwaySF  
Aashish Karkhanis, At-Large Seat – Secretary  
Jennifer Kiss, At-Large Seat  
Naomi Maisel, Business Owner Seat, La Cocina Municipal Marketplace  
Susie McKinnon, Property Owner Seat, Cova Hotel  
Eric Rodenbeck, Property Owner Seat  
Adam Tetenbaum, Property Owner Seat, Olympic Residential Group – Treasurer  
Jaime Vilorio, Resident Seat

Simon Bertrang, TLCBD Staff  
Elise Gorberg, TLCBD Staff  
Lorraine Lewis, TLCBD Staff  
Esan Looper, TLCBD Staff  
Greg Moore, TLCBD Staff  
Eric Rozell, TLCBD Staff  
Alicia Seleska, TLCBD Staff  
Christy Shirilla, TLCBD Staff

**Absent:**

Rhiannon Bailard, Property Owner Seat, UC Hastings Law – Vice President  
Rene Colorado, Jr., Business Owner Seat, Lers Ros/Esan Classic  
Cindy Ramesh, Property Owner Seat, Hilton

### 1. Call to Order. Welcome and Introductions

M. Vuong called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

### 2. Discussion: Communications & Executive Director Updates

S. Bertrang introduced the “new” Communications updates system and asked for feedback.

S. McKinnon replied that it’s easy to read through, but wondered about the item on Clean Team staffing shortages. S. Bertrang clarified that the Clean Team is currently staffed at about ⅔ of the ideal rate. We are having trouble recruiting; the former Block By Block area recruiter moved on, but there are 2 new recruiters for the entire Bay Area. They’ve also increased the starting wage so that we are the CBD with the 2nd highest starting wage behind Union Square. The pressure washing team is also now fully staffed once again. M. Vuong recommended utilizing a job fair or something similar to help recruitment. N. Maisel also agreed with the job fair idea and offered to lend her time and experience. E. Rodenbeck advised trying to overstaff the Clean Team if possible.

Other members of the Board showed support for the new updates format with suggestions to help those who may not have read the updates ahead of time: sending a second email the morning of the Board meeting with the updates, making the sections shorter and presenting the updates onscreen as people join the meeting, and adding a summary for each section to get major points across quickly.

A. Tetenbaum asked for an update on the new office space. S. Bertrang responded that they’re still working on it and will be using an extra office in one of the spaces next door as a quiet working area (or a place for noisier staff to attend online meetings).

M. Vuong asked how the storefront vandalism grant was going. L. Lewis responded that there are 2 grants: one the EO Program is currently working on (SF Shines) and a new one for a much larger amount that has not yet begun.

### 3. Update: Tenderloin & Mid-Market Vibrancy & Safety Plan

S. Bertrang shared an Urban Alchemy deployment map for August through October. He explained that most of the areas marked for deployment in September-October have not in fact been staffed yet. (Sometimes Urban Alchemy cannot move into areas; there are a whole host of reasons, with the primary one being the safety of practitioners.) HSOC worked over multiple days to place 32 people from the area of the 100 Jones encampment, and it is now much cleaner. The goal was to give that block - and the people who worship, work and live there - a break.

R. Guggenheim recognized that the practitioners have made a huge difference in front of the Orpheum, but that has only moved the drug dealers to other areas. She asked if funding will dry up in October. S. Bertrang clarified that although the extra police staffing has only been funded through October there is still funding for Urban Alchemy. R. Guggenheim followed up by asking if there’s anything that can be done to help keep the plan permanent. S. Bertrang responded that there’s hope. The Mayor recently attended the TL Museum event and seemed upset about the conditions in the TL, and commented during another event that addressing the drug dealing in the Tenderloin would be one of her priorities this year.

M. Vuong shared that, along with S. Bertrang, he has been talking with City departments explaining that the crisis is *now*. They are aiming to help create an emergency response to the conditions. S. Bertrang added that they’re trying to put all the pieces together to create something whole. J. Kiss advised keeping everyone’s feet to the fire as we’ve seen this all before; we need to find a *permanent* solution.

N. Maisel agreed with J. Kiss that there's a huge misconception about Golden Gate and Hyde. When the practitioners are there, it's great, but once they leave for the evening, it is as bad as ever. It does not feel like there is an ending strategy. She advocated going "all in" on one solution.

E. Rodenbeck voiced support for the idea of giving the Tenderloin a break.

S. Bertrang added that he has heard specifically from bars that the 7PM-7AM hours need practitioners as well. Their staff and patrons are being harassed.

G. Besser asked if there's a way to encourage or incentivize residents to safely participate in community involvement. Is there a way to decentivize or penalize people who do not live in the Tenderloin and come in to buy drugs? M. Vuong agreed that incentivizing has helped other programs and penalizing outside buyers was ultimately left out of the Drug Task Force recommendations due to a lack of consensus.

**4. Update: Strategic Planning & Reorganization**

S. Bertrang shared that TLCBD hired a new Senior Director of Finance and Administration with decades of experience. He starts Friday and will be able to take over financial oversight and grant tracking full-time. Former intern Aseel Fara will also begin Friday as Youth Voice Outreach Coordinator. Staff is thinking about next steps across teams. He has a meeting with a potential funder this week and a few matching grants have been identified. L. Lewis added that the Camera Program is also hiring a part-time support person. J. Kiss gave a shout out to Abigail Blue for her tremendous support of the organization and guiding it through the planning and reorganization.

**5. Action: Approve July Minutes**

**MOTION: Review and approve the draft minutes of the July Meeting of the Board of Directors.**

Moved by: A. Karkhanis

Seconded by: A. Tetenbaum

Abstained: none

**Passed: yes**

**6. Action: Approve Remote Meetings in October**

**MOTION: Approve Zoom Board and Committee Meetings for the month of October as authorized by AB 361, which allows continued virtual meetings in view of the ongoing active State-proclaimed state of emergency and local recommendations for social distancing.**

Moved by: M. Vuong

Seconded by: A. Karkhanis

Abstained: none

**Passed: yes**

**7. Information Sharing: Announcements & Future Agenda Items**

S. Bertrang shared that Phoenix Day (the return of Sunday Streets) is October 17th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

**Next Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Monday, November 22, 5:00 pm | Online - Zoom**