

MIRALOMA LIFE

Issue No. 5

Celebrating, Informing, and Strengthening the Miraloma Park Community

miralomapark.org

May 5

Neighborhood Clean-up

First Tuesday of the month
Meet in front of Tower Market

May 7

MPIC Board Meeting

Call 415-322-0211 to request
placement on the agenda

7pm

May 9

Clubhouse Clean-Up

Second Saturday of the month
at the MPIC Clubhouse.

10am-noon

FEATURE

Remembering Fort Mason Art Center

by Konrad Dunton



While some historians cite the 1970s as a time of lackluster style and an apathetic cultural experience (“The Me Decade”), the 1970s were a significant time for the arts. An example of this was the former military complex in San Francisco

After the post-WWII economic boom and unprecedented growth, 1970 saw factory facilities, military bases and old buildings underutilized if not vacant, providing fertile grounds for the arts to take roots.

After more than 100 years, serving in various ways during World War I and WW II, Fort Mason was an ideal location for the flourishing creativity thriving in the San Francisco area at that time.

Congressman Phil Burton was instrumental in creating the Bay Area’s renowned Golden Gate National Recreation

Area (GGNRA) in 1972. His efforts added 34,000 acres of public parkland along the San Francisco Bay and beyond. He succeeded in realizing a vision first proposed in the 1950s by the internationally acclaimed photographer Ansel Adams.

Fort Mason Art Center started operating as a lean yet vibrant hub for cultural activities and art education. “Elio Benvenuto’s leadership was crucial in establishing the San Francisco arts infrastructure we enjoyed at the Fort Mason Art Center,” said Konrad Dunton, the Board President of the current Fort Mason Artists (FMA) nonprofit art school. “Elio immigrated to the United States after WWII and saw potential in the buildings that by that time were mostly empty and neglected. He was an internationally recognized artist and a skilled teacher, a beloved mentor, cultural leader and founder of the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery.”



In February 1975, the San Francisco Community College District was issued a Special Use Permit from the GGNRA, providing a home for City College’s noncredit art classes, which until then had been scattered across various centers throughout the city.

“I remember that artists back in the early 1970s flocked to Fort Mason,” Tebby George said.

George, a current teacher at FMA, was privileged to be a part of it all, first as a student, then later as an artist and teacher. Jewelry making, weaving, pottery and the emergence of macramé among many other crafts and art objects, were among the things that artists were doing in and around San Francisco. The Ecology movement, ‘back to the land’ movement, as well as the Peace Movement all coincided with the art scene which culminated in San Francisco and around the Bay Area. “But especially, at Fort Mason,” she said. “This was a time when a lot was flourishing, she added, and the sense of community at various levels was happening.”

Sandy Frank, who initially began as a student in George’s class, in 2001 and currently teaches at FMA, agreed. “It was fun, because everyone that was there was there mostly just to do art.”

Dunton, Frank and George are unanimous when they recollect how the art scene at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture (FMCAC) was very special. For 45 years, the community college collaboration with FMCAC was a success.

exhausted, our coalition of teachers and students channeled its energy into building something new,” said Dunton, thus Fort Mason Artists, a nonprofit organization, was formed.



“In Fall 2021, FMA began offering classes in figurative arts, rekindling the sense of joy and connection that had long defined the Fort Mason art community.” “As of now, Fort Mason Artists continues to grow and thrive,” Dunton added. “We kept the name of Fort Mason Artists in honor/homage of a special place and time. It definitely helped make the community what it is. Through fundraising and community support, a new home was established at the MPIC Clubhouse in the Miraloma Park neighborhood of San Francisco.”

But as the Dot Com boom of the 1990s and early 2000s hit the San Francisco area, things began to change. With costs rising, City College of San Francisco Board Member Ivy Lee told the SF Examiner in May of 2020, “choices had to be made,” ending CCSF’s relationship with FMCAC. The decision marked the end of an era for both the college and the Bay Area arts community. “It broke my heart,” said George. “Everyone turned out to try and save it and keep the collaboration with CCSF going.”

“When efforts to save the program through CCSF were





President's Message

by Robert Gee, President

MPIC is volunteer driven! I highlight some of the recent work our volunteers have done. If I don't mention your contribution this month, I will in future months!

Thank you to Johnny and Sarah Grist and Angela Fox for leading the April 19 first-ever Miraloma "Baby & Toddlers Clothes and Toys Swap" event at the MPIC Clubhouse.

Sup. Melgar's Participatory Budgeting Program

We were fortunate to have three projects recently submitted to the MPIC seeking support. I want to thank our three project submitters: (1) "Traffic Calming on Evelyn Way" submitted by a group of Evelyn Way neighbors, (2) "Traffic Calming Along Teresita Blvd" submitted by Hatun Noguera and (3) "Protect Emergency Access on the 36 Teresita Route with Two Way Radios" submitted by Pam Dickey. All projects were great submissions, but under the program guidelines the MPIC could only choose one project to support. The MPIC chose to support the Evelyn Way project. City departments are currently reviewing all submitted projects. Then, a committee of residents from across District 7, who have subject matter expertise, will review and score the projects. Tentatively, D7 residents will be able to **vote for projects between May 18 - June 1, 2026**. We don't know yet if the Evelyn Way project will be on the ballot.

Instagram Account

Thank you to Sarah Grist for volunteering to take the lead and help post on the MPIC Instagram account. Sarah has been posting a lot of new photos. We are very grateful for her social media skills!

Safety

We continue to have a strong community presence at the monthly Ingleside police community meeting. Thank

you to Daniel Louie, Hatun Noguera and Bryan Forman for regularly attending. I also want to thank Matthew Wong (SJSU student) for preparing the monthly crime stats.

Block Champions

Guido Van Rijn, our long-time lead who helped launch our Block Champions and Emergency Radio Operators program, is stepping down. Thank you Guido for your many years of dedicated service to the Miraloma community to help make us more resilient. Guido is handing the reins over to none other than Daniel Homsey, who helped start Miraloma's Resiliency program, as well as the Resiliency programs in many other neighborhoods all across the City.

Resilient Care and Shelter Team

I must give a shout out to Randy Chang, Laura Kee Browne and Darryl Browne for helping us get our extensive cache of Care and Shelter equipment organized.

Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey. The results are in and we will be sharing with everyone the results and next steps.

It takes a lot of volunteer time and effort to secure articles of interest, write articles, edit, coordinate with advertisers and do the monthly layout in the newsletter. Thanks again to our newsletter team of Kate Clements, Jean Perata, Cary Matthews, Butler Looney for putting it all together each month and our four newsletter carriers who get the newsletter distributed to 2,200 homes. Also thank you to Kevin O'Connor, who has a wealth of experience in communications, for providing us great feedback and ideas for improving our publicity.

Speed Radar Sign on Teresita

The speed radar sign at this location hasn't been working for a long time. Hatun Noguera (former MPIC Board member) and I discussed the many challenges of traffic calming along Teresita. I want to thank Hatun for submitting the 311 repair request to fix the sign that he was instrumental in getting installed almost 18 years ago. Thank you to the DPW workers who quickly repaired the sign just a few days after the request was made.



Neighborhood Coalition Groups

For decades the MPIC, along with many other neighborhood groups from across the City, has been a member of two organizations: (1) the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN) and the West of Twin Peaks Central Council (WOTPCC). You can learn more about the CSFN and read their monthly newsletters at <https://csfn.net/news/> and the WOTPCC at <https://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/wp/>. Our MPIC delegates to both organizations are Karen Breslin and Matt Boschetto.

Zoning and Planning

Thank you to Matt Boschetto, Todd Siemers and Norm Nager for staying on top of development projects in and around Miraloma and on housing legislative updates that impact our community.

Clubhouse

Thank you to Todd Siemers and Hans Hoch for their efforts at our second Saturday workday in April. It's with deep sadness that I share with you that Tazi Coffee, a longtime volunteer at our workdays, suddenly passed in April. She will be missed.

In March, volunteers from the California Native Plant Society again came to the Clubhouse to remove weeds all along the sidewalk path to the clubhouse. Thank you Bob Hall, Susan Mullaney, Cathy Lewis, Helen Kent, Bryan Sauls and Janis Rodda for your generous time and efforts.



Attend an MPIC Board Meeting

Lastly, residents are encouraged to attend our monthly board meetings. At our April Board meeting, we had the pleasure of Kevin O'Conner, Mia Waller, Suzie McMutry, Barbara Schoefel and Jill Sweringe joining us. I'm trying to get our Zoom set up to be the envy of Silicon Valley and we will get there.

SAVE THE DATE

MPIC Election

Thursday, June 18

MPIC Clubhouse

350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd

In Person Voting

6:30 pm

MPIC Annual Member Meeting

7 pm

Meet and greet supervisor Myrna Melgar



**Other invited City officials are pending confirmation.
More details will follow in the June issue of the
Miraloma Life newsletter.**

GET INVOLVED

Miraloma Park Residents are Welcome and Encouraged To Attend the MPIC Board Meetings

We hold our board meetings on the first Thursday of each month (except for July) at the MPIC clubhouse starting at 7 pm. if you can't attend in person, we offer a Zoom option. Email us at miralomapark@gmail.com to let us know you would like to attend the next board meeting via Zoom as well as your name and contact info and we will send you the Zoom link.

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Dogs of Miraloma

by Carlos Longa

If you walk down Del Vale Avenue and see a pug by the window barking furiously, that's our 8 year-old Paco. He fancies himself guardian and protector of our home. However, if you meet him on the street, Paco is the friendliest, most lovable pug in the neighborhood.

People and especially kids can't resist petting and hugging him, and Paco will respond by kissing them on their lips. There's nothing Paco loves more than going for walks, come rain or shine, all over Miraloma and even to West Portal.

He loves smelling different plants and leaving his mark on them. Paco is very friendly with other dogs and wants to play with them even when they snap and growl at him. One evening during our walk we encountered a coyote and Paco wanted to run and greet him. Had he not been on a leash he would have been a nice meal for the coyote.

Say hello to Paco if you see him.



The New “Slim Silhouette” Garbage Can is here

by Robert Gee, MPIC

You may have noticed that the trash cans in front of the former Tri-Counties Bank, CVS and Miraloma Market were removed a while back and never replaced. The trash cans in front of the former bank and CVS were constantly overflowing. Residents recently contacted the MPIC asking about the missing trash cans. In April, one of the City's new “Slim Silhouette” trash cans was installed in front of the CVS at the 36 Teresita bus stop.

Four years ago, the Department of Public Works selected the “Slim Silhouette” design as its new standard street trash can. It was designed to have a slim side profile to increase sidewalk space, a chute-shaped opening for trash, durable, tamper-resistant and aesthetically modern to replace the 3,000 aging green “Renaissance” trash bins. The stainless steel, curved-top design aims to improve cleanliness and graffiti resistance and prevent rummaging. The City is purchasing these new trash cans from a vendor at an estimated cost of \$3,000 each. Unfortunately, the deployment of these new trash cans has faced delays due to budget constraints. We are confirming with DPW that the two missing trash cans will be replaced with the new cans.





Are you 55 or older? We invite you to join us at Community Connectors, our senior program in Miraloma Park. We have weekly programs, exciting gatherings and guest speakers and connections to many senior and disability services and activities in San Francisco.

Strength and Balance Exercise Classes

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 am at Cornerstone Church

Ukulele Class – Hang Out With the Miraloma Strummers

Tuesdays at 2 pm at the MPIC Clubhouse

Join the Weekly Walking Group

We walk at different locations in the City.

Please contact Barbara Wheeler at bawheeler46@yahoo.com

Questions?

Please contact Joyce Watson at joyce@sfcommunityliving.org or by phone at 415-821-1003 ext 137.



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR NETWORKS ARE PROGRAMS OF
Community Living Campaign, 1663 Mission St., Suite 525, San Francisco, CA 94103
415-821-1003 • ccnetworks@sfcommunityliving.org • www.sfcommunityliving.org
www.facebook.com/CommunityLivingCampaign

This program serving the community is funded by the City of San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services. We also rely on private grants and donations to fund about 30% of our Community Connector Networks.



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
Department of Disability and Aging Services

SAVE THE DATE

MPIC Board Members and Officers Election on June 18, 2026

The election of MPIC Board Members and Officers will take place on June 18, 2026. In advance of the election, here is some information:

What positions will be on the ballot?

This year, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and several Board positions are up for election. In April, the MPIC President appointed a Nominating Committee, in accordance with the MPIC By-laws. At the May Board Meeting the Committee will name a slate of Officers and Board Members to fill the seats which will be on the ballot. Any MPIC dues-paying member can attend the May Board Meeting and nominate people to these Officer and Board positions.

Who is eligible to vote in the election?

Eligible to vote in this election are those who, as of May 10, 2026, pay annual dues to MPIC and are 18+ years old. If you currently are not a dues-paying member and would like to vote in the election, become a member by May 10. You can find the Membership Application online at <https://miralomapark.org/join/> and in this issue of Miraloma Life.

How will you be able to cast a ballot?

This election is being conducted using online and in-person voting procedures. Online voting will be available from June 10 to June 17. In-person voting will take place on June 18, at the MPIC Clubhouse prior to the MPIC Annual Members' Meeting. The June issue of Miraloma Life will give additional details on how MPIC members can vote online and in-person. All votes will be tallied on June 18, and the results of the election will be announced at the MPIC June 18 Members' Meeting and posted on the MPIC website.

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BECOME AN MPIC MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

ONLINE AT:

miralomapark.org/join

OR BY MAIL:

Complete this form and mail with your dues, check payable to:

MIRALOMA PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB, 350 O'SHAUGHNESSY BLVD, SF, CA 94127. No cash, please.

The MPIC is a qualified tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization – tax ID 94-6092576. Your membership donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. MPIC does not share membership information with other parties or organizations.

NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed are my dues for the next 12 months (check one):

- \$12 Senior Member \$15 Single Member \$25 Family Membership
 \$35 Supporting Member \$50 Contributing Member \$100 Sustaining Member
 \$ _____ Other

PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL REMINDER TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP!

We're On the Gram



Join us on Instagram! Keep up with neighborhood events, news and views. Tag us, too. We can be found @miraloma park.

Miraloma Park Improvement Club

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★ Would You Like to Help a Few Hours a Month?

Miraloma Park is a very unique neighborhood! With MPIC - you can volunteer a small amount of time monthly and help make a difference!



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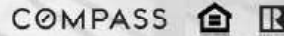
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Clubhouse Clean-Up

MPIC's Second Saturdays to clean up the Clubhouse grounds continues. This month's date is **May 9**. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to noon. Come join us! Meet your neighbors! Rain cancels.



MPIC Safety Committee Update

Crime Stats from March 1-March 31, 2026

Date	Time	Incident #	Description	Status	Intersection
3/5/2026	6:20 AM	260125262	Suspicious Person	Open or Active	MALTA DR \ VALLETTA CT
3/10/2026	1:00 PM	260136178	Assault, Aggravated, W/ Force	Open or Active	FOWLER AVE \ JUANITA WAY
3/29/2026	9:30 PM	260176970	Burglary, Hot Prowl, Unlawful Entry	Open or Active	ARROYO WAY \ MARIETTA DR

prepared by Mathew Wong, MPIC Safety Committee

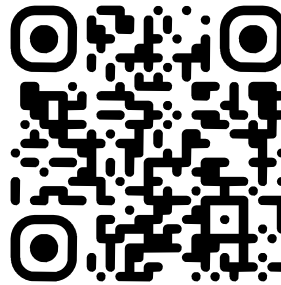
Please Become a Member or Renew Your Annual Membership!

Your annual MPIC membership donation supports our mission of Celebrating, Informing and Strengthening the Miraloma Park Community. In addition, your membership gives you the important responsibility of voting to support the annual election of our all-volunteer MPIC Officers and Board Members each year. Through their advocacy and efforts, our MPIC Officers and Board Members work tirelessly to ensure that we have a great community to live in and be safe. Moreover, having a strong and actively participating MPIC membership reflects positively with our City leaders and agencies.

You can join/renew by:

1. using the membership envelope that was included in the January newsletter, or
2. use the membership form in this newsletter, or
3. join online at <https://miralomapark.org/join/>, or
4. use the QR code

The MPIC is a qualified 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your membership donation as well as any additional donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. If you have any questions about your membership, send an email to miralomapark@gmail.com or leave us a voice message at 415-322-0211.



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Todd Siemers	Darlene Ramlose
Daniel Louie	Stephanie Boudreau Ma
Mary Fitzpatrick	Cary Matthews
Patti Moran	Matt Boschetto
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Johnny Grist	

Programs at the MPIC Clubhouse

Jazzercise

Wednesday and Saturday 9:00am
Monday 5pm
650 888 6129
sbjazzercise@comcast.net

Changs International Folk Dancing

7:00–10:00pm Friday
One hour lessons on the first and second
Fridays of each month.
changsdancers@aol.com

Fort Mason Artists

Learn to sculpt, paint and draw
Monday 6:15–10:15pm
Friday 10:00am–2:00pm,
2:30–5:30pm
Konrad Dunton; 650 868 6336
Fortmasonartists.org

Creative Dance for Adults

Wednesdays, 1pm–2:30pm
Jeanne-Marie Hughes (instructor)
jmhughes5678@gmail.com

Mary L. Harden Botanical Drawing

Monday 10:00am–1:30pm
maryharden@me.com

Figure Drawing from the Live Model with Linda Hope

Saturday 11am–2:30pm
415 334 3603
Lindahope.art@gmail.com

Grace and Truth Baptist Church

10am–2pm Sundays Pre service coffee
7pm–9pm Tuesdays (2nd, 4th)
7pm–9pm Wednesdays (1st, 3rd, 5th)
SFBaptist.church / Faithsaves.net

Guide Dogs For The Blind

2nd/4th Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:30pm
info@gdbsanfranciscopuppyraisers.com
or guidedogs.com/puppy

Ukulele Class

Tuesdays 2:00pm–3:00pm
abbymmargolis@yahoo.com

MPIC Directory

www.miralomapark.org

General Inquires for MPIC	(415) 322-0211
Clubhouse Manager + Rentals	(415) 322-0211
Webmaster: Ron Proctor	(415) 322-0211

Miraloma Life Staff

Contact: miralomapark@gmail.com
(415) 322-0211

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Advertising	Kate Clements
Graphics/ Layout	Butler Looney

Article Submission Policy:

Email submissions to: miralomapark@gmail.com
with **Miraloma Life** in the subject line.

Articles submitted must be 800 words or less in length and should not be selling or promoting a product or service. Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions are the 12th day of the month prior to publication.

Submitted articles become the property of MPIC.

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or renew your membership!

Miraloma Park Improvement Club

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