

# THE YERBA BUENA GARDENS CONSERVANCY

## Community Update and Call to Action

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**December 2016**

**November 30<sup>th</sup> Community Meeting:** A special thanks to YBCA for hosting the November 30, 2016 community meeting. Although the turnout was small, we had good discussions on the composition of the board of directors for The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy. We shared our thoughts regarding the board's composition (document attached) and heard feedback from the neighborhood, with a special request to consider including a resident/tenant on the board.

**Meetings of the Interim Board:** At its December meeting, the interim board changed its meeting schedule to once a month. Starting in January 2017, the board will meet the second Wednesday of the month from noon to 1:00pm at YBCA. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. All board meetings are open to the public. If you'd like to receive agendas prior to meetings please contact Cathy Maupin at [cmaupin@ybcabd.org](mailto:cmaupin@ybcabd.org) or 415-644-0728 x 2.

### **How Can You Help? A Call to Action:**

1. We encourage you to keep your board and staff members informed about our process and progress. Please let us know if you'd like us to speak to your board or staff about the neighborhood's plans for the future of Yerba Buena Gardens.
2. In order to enter into negotiations with the City on a lease agreement, we will require the expertise of experienced and reputable attorneys. Estimated costs for legal services are predicted to be in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range. Please consider adding to your budget a financial contribution to help pay legal fees associated with forming the organization and negotiating an agreement with the City. When the anticipated costs are more defined we will send you an official letter requesting your support.

**Status of The Conservancy Concept:** Attached is the Resolution that was unanimously approved November 1, 2016 by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. This was a critical step in gathering support and confirming the path forward for the Conservancy. We want to specifically thank Supervisor Jane Kim for her support of the Resolution and our efforts to ensure the long-term success of the Yerba Buena Gardens and to the Yerba Buena Community for submitting 90 letters of support and attending meetings at City Hall.

**The Lease with the City:** About a year ago the community reached an agreement with the City in concept on the basic terms of a lease agreement. With the passage of the resolution by the Board of Supervisors, we expect to receive a draft lease in early 2017. The interim board plans to secure legal

expertise to help us in these complex negotiations for the best possible lease for the neighborhood. Additionally, we have been assured that the transfer of the property assets to the City will coincide with the lease negotiation so that we can avoid the temporary and potentially confusing allocation of the management of the gardens to City agencies.

**Background:** Since the dissolution of the California Redevelopment Agency in late 2011, the Yerba Buena Gardens community has been working together and with the City and the Successor Agency to Redevelopment (OCII) to ensure the continued success of this treasured, thriving, and connected collection of civic assets. This work has included funding a survey of exemplary local and national projects which informed the submission of a property management plan to the State. Out of this, we determined that the Yerba Buena Gardens properties would be transferred to the City's Department of Real Estate and that we would incorporate a new nonprofit - The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy - to provide the coordinated and cohesive governance and management that OCII has provided in the interim, and to negotiate on behalf of Yerba Buena. Our goal is to ensure the continued vitality of one of San Francisco's most beloved assets while addressing structural sustainability issues.

Stay tuned for future updates. To check out information about The Conservancy Board meetings and other developments, visit [www.yerbabuenagardensconservancy.org](http://www.yerbabuenagardensconservancy.org). This is a placeholder website while we work to develop a robust site. We hope to see you at future meetings.

Thank you for your support.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy Interim Board of Directors  
December 19, 2016

Interim Board Members

Cathy Maupin, YBCBD – Board Chair  
Sean Jeffries, Millennium Partners – Board Vice Chair  
Karen Carr, One Hawthorne – Secretary/Treasurer  
Deborah Cullinan, YBCA  
John Elberling, TODCO  
Linda Lucero, Yerba Buena Gardens Festival  
Noushin Mofakham, South of Market Child Care, Inc.  
Helen Sause, Yerba Buena Alliance

Attachments: Composition of The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy Board of Directors – *Initial Thoughts*  
The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy Resolution