

The HAYES VALLEY *Voice*

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The Gateway to Hayes Valley

By Gail Baugh, president, HVNA

*Gateway to Hayes Valley and the City:
Octavia Boulevard*

It's hard to believe that it's been 11 years since Octavia Boulevard, the first new boulevard created in the US in a generation, opened to traffic. The entry to central San Francisco was nationally recognized through landscape design awards from the start and is still the vision of a new way to see our city. Octavia Blvd. merges tree-lined local lanes for neighborhood access with faster-flowing center lanes that move 90,000 cars to and from the 101 freeway every day.

When the Boulevard opened - trailblazers, who founded the Freeway Revolt in the 1960's, were on board. Sue Bierman and Patricia Walkup (HVNA co-founder and namesake of Patricia's Green) were unrelenting in making sure that the broad coalition of local, state, and federal agencies as well as city-wide residents' support, actually fulfilled the promise to build this beautiful boulevard.

The design of the boulevard, ending at Patricia's Green, gave the voting public a way to understand what was possible after the elevated freeway from Market Street to Golden Gate Ave, was removed. It is difficult to imagine that much of Hayes Valley was once dedicated to a 4-story tall elevated freeway that sliced through an underserved community who had no say in its construction.

We can see the results today; Patricia's Green is one of the most heavily used parks in the City (as reported by SFMTA) as well as a shared road with pedestrians, cars, and



bikes. It really is a balancing act to share access to main boulevard, local lanes, and Patricia's Green.

Over recent years - the combination of financial constraints and drought has really taken its toll on the beauty Octavia Boulevard.

To address this, the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association has organized volunteer work days in partnership with Public Works to clean and weed the side medians. I want to thank Mark Stephenson, a member of HVNA, who has organized this and recruited neighbors to help. Some neighbors have created and joined crews that adopt specific blocks of the boulevard as a first step on the path to restore the plantings and maintain the boulevard. We're now in the process of adding Friends of the Urban Forest as another partner to help take on the restoration of plantings and maintenance of the medians and tree wells on both sides of the local lanes along Octavia Boulevard.

Octavia Boulevard is a beacon to our community that reminds us how grassroots activism does lead to alternative options that build community and improve where we live. We have seen the revitalization of Hayes Valley and the central neighborhoods well beyond the vision Sue Bierman and Patricia Walkup shared when the prevailing thought at the time was that the freeways must always remain. For me, Octavia Boulevard shows us the promise of living a life connected to our neighbors, getting out to walk and bike our streets, caring for each other, and enjoying the wonderful green spaces both existing and to be restored (keep an eye out for new Living Alleys grant projects coming soon!).

Next time you're along Octavia Boulevard, I hope you do take a moment to think of the former freeway, the vision our neighbors shared, and the positive benefits the boulevard has brought to our neighborhood. We're so glad you're able to enjoy the open spaces here!

4 Great Murals to See in HV

DANCING IN THE CURVE OF THE WORLD



WORKERS' RIGHTS



BEE MURAL



GREAT ADVENTURE



Submitted by Earl Speas & Daniel Farnan, Site managers of Hayes Valley Art Works

Creative experimentation is embraced in the work of many artists. Art, in all its many forms, is not permanent. So, temporary artwork (whether a mural, sculpture, film, or concert) lends a true sense of excitement allowing the viewer to experience something new.

Next time you're out and about in Hayes Valley - make sure to check out some of our favorite pieces of public art:

Dancing in the Curve of the World by Josef Norris

Located at the Performing Arts Garage at Gough St. and Grove St.

Bee mural by Shawn Bullen

Located near 265 Ivy St.

Workers' Rights by Shepard Fairey
Located at Octavia Blvd. & Linden Alley

Great Adventure by Ben Eine
Located at Octavia Blvd. and Page St.

Want to see even more art come to Hayes Valley? Engaging people in creative endeavors and new experiences has been the focus of Hayes Valley Art Works (HVAW) for the past few years. Formerly located at Parcel O (located on Fell St. at Laguna St.), it has now moved to a new vacant space at Parcel R (located at the Southeast corner of Octavia Blvd. and Oak St.). Parcel R is much smaller than the previous site - but HVAW still has a mobile structure built from a shipping container. This structure has been previously to be

adapted for both gallery showings and classes. HVAW also maintains open outdoor space for continuing ideas like murals and sculpture.

Join us - we need a few good volunteer that love art to make our new home beautiful. We are currently open Friday through Monday from 12 to 5pm. Drop in for a two-hour volunteer slot and be a part of helping create culture in our neighborhood.

Come be creative with us!

Contact us at art@hayesvalley.org



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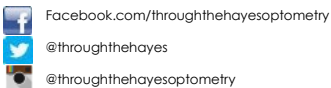
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The Alleyways: Hickory

Highlighting the alleys throughout Hayes Valley



By Bob Anderson, treasurer, HVNA

I have several friends that won't visit me at home anymore. They don't like to come to me on Hickory Street because they say it is too dirty and feels dangerous.

Hickory Alley (between Van Ness avenue and Franklin) has been my home for the past 8 years. It has saddened and upset me that people would not feel safe on my street. I have long envisioned a cleaner and safer place where my friends and folks from the local community could actually spend time. Personally, I have a lot of motivation for getting involved and helping to organize the Hickory Street Living Alleys project.

It could be understandable why folks may see Hickory Street the way they do. First, Hickory Street has been a major dumping ground for unwanted items. I've seen televisions, old computers, sofas, chairs, bags of garbage - you name it - it seems that people near and far have used Hickory Street as a place to discard unwanted items. The street is also frequented for unsavory dealings - drugs, prostitution and sexual activity, and crime (graffiti, vehicle damage, and more). If all of this isn't enough to scare someone off, the aroma from the lack of upkeep along Hickory just might be thing to do it.

Over the years the neighbors on my street have tried to seek improvements by

requesting increased police patrols and making frequent calls to 311.

When I first heard about the Living Alleys project, it definitely seemed like a good idea to try on Hickory Street. I could immediately see how this project could create change so that Hickory Street could be a better place for the community.

We began with smaller meetings with neighbors and quickly saw that despite the seemingly negative stuff happening in our backyard, we shared the same desire to make Hickory Street a place people could visit. We have gained partnership and encouragement from HVNA as well as HVNA business member, Build Public. After much discussion and planning, we requested a grant from the city to help accomplish our goal of designing, cleaning, and activating this long-neglected alley. We are happy to announce that we have succeeded and received a grant to proceed with our vision.

It's exciting to talk about and share the possibilities along Hickory and the area at large. Stay tuned as we make Hickory Street safer, cleaner, and more inviting for the neighborhood and the whole city (and I'm definitely looking forward to folks feeling excited to visit this corner of Hayes Valley).