Grant Application
Submitted to:

Community Opportunity Fund

September 24, 2010

Help McLaren Park
Phone (415) 334-3525
Fax (415) 334-3525
E-Mail: helpmlpark@gmail.com
Web: www.helpmlpark.weebly.com
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND
A Program of the 2008 Clean and Safe Parks General Obligation Bond
Application Checklist

☐ Project Overview Form

☐ Menu Form (if applicable)

☐ Budget / Match Commitment Form

☐ Project Narrative (Menu: 1 page max / Custom: 3 page max)

☐ Map / Site Design

☐ Park Service Area Manager Review Form

Name (please print)  Trilce Farrugia - Help McLaren Park  Signature
Telephone  (415) 334-3525 & (415) 819-5250  Date  September 24, 2010
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND
A Program of the 2008 Clean and Safe Parks General Obligation Bond

Project Overview

Please submit 10 (ten) hard copies of your application and attachments (as described in the Application Checklist) to: ATTN: Community Opportunity Fund San Francisco Recreation and Parks 501 Stanyan St. San Francisco, CA 94117. E-mail and fax will not be accepted. Applications and all copies must be received by **4pm September 24, 2010**. Late applications will not be accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Project Description (1-3 Sentences):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The goal of our project is to restore this play area for our children and future generations. With a smart design, this area can provide kids with a place to problem solve, exercise, and build social skills. Parents will benefit greatly too through increased interaction with other adults in an outdoor setting which reduces stress and builds interpersonal connections.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Applicant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Person</td>
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<td>E-mail</td>
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<td>Cell Phone</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Funding Request from Community Opportunity Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Funding Commitment (in-kind and cash) from Applicant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The signatory certifies that s/he is authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant group and the information in this application accurately and fairly represents the goal, scope, and details of the project, and commits to honoring the applicant match.

- **Name (please print)**: Trilce Farrugia
- **Signature**: [Signature]
- **Address**: 283 Gambier Street
  - San Francisco, CA 94134
- **Phone**: (415) 819-5250
- **Date**: September 24, 2010
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND
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Park Service Area Manager Review Form

Park Service Area (PSA) Managers are responsible for the maintenance and operation of regional and neighborhood parks as well as trails and open space. Applicants must review their project with their PSA Manager prior to submitting an application. A map of Park Service Areas and contact information is available at parks.sfgov.org/cof.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSA Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PSA Manager comments/questions for applicant:

WE ARE EXCITED AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS/ADDITIONS BEING DISCUSSED FOR CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA LOCATED AT BURROWS STREET AND PERU AVENUE. WE WOULD REQUEST THAT ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR PLANS BE PROVIDED TO THE PARKS SECTION SUPERVISOR.

NONE

PSA Manager Checklist

- [x] Proposed project complements or is consistent with the existing use of the park or open space
- [x] Proposed project contributes and/or enhances the visitors experience
- [x] Proposed project complements existing plantings and does not contradict, infringe, or otherwise negatively impact existing ecological system

By signing this form, I acknowledge my awareness of this project application at the above stated park. The applicant has provided me with an overview of the project and I understand that this project may be selected for funding. My comments and signature are advisory and should not be interpreted as my endorsement or rejection of the application.

Name (please print) ROBERT B. WATKINS Signature

Date 9-1-10
Community Opportunity Fund  
Project Narrative

Our Project: Creating a Family-Friendly Space at McLaren Park

McLaren Park is one of the largest and most treasured parks in San Francisco. It was named after John McLaren, the Superintendent of Golden Gate Park from 1887-1943. McLaren Park’s 317 acres include natural areas rich in native plants and animals, an amazing network of trails, incredible vistas, man-made lakes and natural marshes. We feel that our neighborhood is greatly enhanced by our proximity to this historic space. However, parts of the park are in desperate need of beautification and renovation, especially the former play areas in the northwestern corner of the park.

The Burrows and Peru Play Area is one of the most glaring examples of McLaren Park’s deterioration. Instead of an inviting park entrance, the area is a sad reminder that the neighborhood lacks a high quality playground. Where there was once a playground now sits an old crooked baby swing and a 50-year-old contaminated sand pit surrounded by rotting pressure-treated logs.

The goal of our project is to restore this dilapidated play area so that our children and future generations to come will have direct access to the safe and engaging outdoor play space they need and deserve. With a smart design, this area can provide kids with a place to problem solve, exercise, and build social skills. Parents will benefit greatly too through increased interaction with other adults in an outdoor setting which reduces stress and builds interpersonal connections. Our playground project will draw San Franciscans to McLaren Park by creating an inviting, safe, and well-designed community space.

Our Playground: Designed by the Community and Accessible to All

This playground project will foster community building by including local residents in every step of the process, from design to maintenance. Our playground concept design was created through a community design process led by architect Leslie Golden. The design workshops were held at the proposed site and were attended by nearly 100 community members. Many families with children, who would normally go to other parks to socialize, came to McLaren Park these days to engage with their fellow neighbors and connect with their community. The workshops created a family atmosphere at the site that will be sure to continue once the new playground is built. These meetings demonstrate that revitalizing this site will attract greater park usage which will be sure to lead to increased park stewardship and funding.

A major benefit of the new playground is that the beautified and upgraded space will be entirely accessible to all. While it will be a neighborhood playground and heavily used by the nearby community, families from other districts that lack adequate play spaces are welcome to come to McLaren Park, something that rarely happens now. Additionally, while the play equipment installed will have specific age guidelines, we hope to create a true community space that will welcome park users of all ages. The inclusion of benches around the structure will make the playground particularly attractive to caregivers who wish to safely supervise their children and socialize with each other. Moreover, fencing around the toddler play space will give dogs and kids the separation they need to enjoy the same park together.

The Portola neighborhood is a densely built working class community surrounded on three sides by low income housing (Alemany Projects to the North, Visitacion Valley Projects to the South and the Hunters Point Projects to the East). Residents who have chosen to live here often struggle to make ends meet working two jobs or more. Because of this spare moments shared with their little ones are especially valuable, bringing the need for a localized community playground to the forefront. In addition to the neighborhood’s density, the topography of the area and the nearby freeways both present issues of playground access. These freeways, deep valleys and dangerous roadways make it very difficult for a child to walk or ride a bike from his/her home to another park. Residents who live just north of the Burrows and Peru entrance to McLaren Park are essentially cut off from some of the newest and nearest playgrounds by these geographic and man-made barriers. Hopefully, once the Burrows and Peru Play Area is restored, residents will once again come to visit John McLaren Park knowing it is a safe and rich environment for children to learn and explore, the way it was designed to be many years ago.
Our Group: Help McLaren Park

Help McLaren Park is a volunteer organization that began as a group of neighbors and activists trying to improve the condition of our community. Simply discussing the possibilities of a future playground in our park has already linked strangers together. Even before the creation of Help McLaren Park, neighborhood residents were sharing with one another their desire for a quality playground in the area. Parent email groups and online forums for the Portola were full of posts regarding the lack of quality playground space. Help McLaren Park was created in response to this community feedback.

Since our group was founded, we have been soliciting involvement and support from all who are interested in joining our efforts. Members of our core group consistently attend local community association meetings and special events to spread the word about our mission. Help McLaren Park has hosted clean up days, in conjunction with RPD and One Brick, garage sales, pizza dinners, flower sales, an annual chili cook-off and recently a pancake breakfast to both raise funds and conduct outreach. We also have reached out to park users through signage and communication online via our park group website, a well used Facebook page, and our very own listserv that is checked daily. This listserv is extremely helpful in facilitating communication among neighbors on park issues. In addition to these efforts, Help McLaren Park worked with RPD to install an informational kiosk near the playground site so all users, even those without computer access, can be notified of news and events.

Currently, Help McLaren Park has a mailing list of close to 250 people and 450+ individuals have signed our petition for a play structure at John McLaren Park, which highlights the enormous local support for our project. We also have commitments to improve the conditions of the park from all three supervisors whose districts surround McLaren (Districts 9, 10, and 11). Moreover, our group has obtained funds from San Francisco Parks Trust ($2,000), BOS ($12,000), San Francisco Beautiful ($3,500) and the Community Challenge Grant ($65,000) for our proposed project. RPD staff is fully behind the project and have been supporting our group through the planning process. Lastly, our fiscal sponsor, Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) has successfully completed numerous renovation projects, demonstrating their ability to complete a large-scale physical improvement job, involving a more complex budget, timeline and community outreach.

Now that the design process for the play site has been completed, our efforts to help the park will not stop. Our next goal will be to get neighbors and park users to continue to work together side by side to restore other areas of the park. Working as a community, rich and diverse, will hopefully foster the strength this neighborhood needs to continue to grow and flourish, all thanks to the incredible beauty and serenity provided by the green space we all love and call our own, John McLaren Park.

Proposed Playground Revitalization Plan

**New play equipment:** The tree house structure (for kids 6-12 years) will be the focal point of the play area. Help McLaren Park has worked hand-in-hand with the community and will continue to work with RPD to select an inviting and long lasting structure that will truly engage young users both mentally and physically, giving them the ability to exercise and better develop social and motor skills. The community felt that it was very important that the structure fit in with its surroundings in terms of color and design. We want the playground to be a logical continuation of the natural beauty of McLaren Park and not an isolated play space. In addition, to the tree house equipment, there will be two toddler swings, a bobble rider, a spring rider and a rotating climbing net for our younger visitors to enjoy.

**Seating:** Adequate seating for caregivers continues to be one of the most-requested elements and is reflected in the design the community has chosen which includes a variety of seating options from mushroom seats and seat walls to a decorative seating boulder. These seating options will allow caregivers to more easily supervise their children as well as socialize with other adults.
Rubber surface: A soft fall surface under play equipment is essential for children’s safety, but can also add an artistic element by creating a colorful design to the playground floor. We envision the surface of our playground to be natural colors like tan and brown.

Fencing: A fence enclosing the toddler area will help make parents feel that their smallest children are safe. It will prevent users from wandering into nearby streets as well as keep local pets/pet feces out. The latter is imperative at this location as the nearby trail is a popular dog thoroughfare. We have budgeted for a basic metal fence; however should enough funding be secured, our group would like to intersperse panels of interactive toys throughout the fence so that it can become a continuation of the play space.

Landscaping: If landscaping is needed around the construction site, Help McLaren Park will pay for and install native plants that are drought tolerant and require little maintenance by RPD staff.

We feel that all of the above elements will combine effectively to create a wonderful new public space that will both unite our community through usage and volunteerism and meet the recreational needs of the neighborhood’s children. Moreover, this revitalized space will require less frequent maintenance than the existing sand and dilapidated equipment.

Project Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible Person/Group</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Outreach &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>Park Group</td>
<td>2008-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Design Workshops</td>
<td>Community &amp; Architect</td>
<td>Summer 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Concept Design</td>
<td>Architect</td>
<td>September 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Construction Documents</td>
<td>RPD Staff</td>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalize timeline and logistics</td>
<td>RPD Staff, Park Group, &amp; NPC Staff</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare Job Order Contract/Bid</td>
<td>RPD Staff</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Prep &amp; Construction</td>
<td>RPD Staff &amp; Contractors</td>
<td>Summer 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan Playground Opening Event</td>
<td>Park Group</td>
<td>Fall 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Playground Opening/Community Celebration</td>
<td>Park Group</td>
<td>Late fall 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Stewardship of New Space</td>
<td>Park Group</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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(Safety Patrols, Events, Workdays, Etc.)

Maintenance Plan

Although McLaren Park is maintained by the Recreation and Park Department (RPD), we intend this project to be a true community effort. Once built, we will work with the RPD volunteer office to schedule quarterly workdays. Volunteers can complete a variety of tasks that will both preserve the current level of the playground as well as improve the function and beauty of the site. For example, we can maintain the existing facilities by sweeping the rubber surface, picking up trash, weeding landscaped areas and edging paths. We can also work with RPD staff to identify cost-effective improvement projects such as additional plantings or graffiti removal. In addition, Help McLaren Park will continue to encourage park users to use ParkScan and 311 to report safety and maintenance issues to city agencies. With the benefit of a new playground and increased usage by kids and their families we hope vandalism will be deterred and lastly, with the aid of the kiosks throughout the park, informational postings can show park users the proper guidelines for litter disposal and other problems that may occur while using a public place.

Help McLaren Park will of course continue its efforts to fundraise in the community in order to maintain and improve the play area as needed. With continued park stewardship combined with the quarterly park workdays throughout the years following the installation of the playground, Help McLaren Park will ensure that the beauty we create with this Opportunity Fund Grant is sustained and that the new playground will remain clean and safe for many years to come.
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND

Budget and Match Commitment Form

- Volunteer hours are calculated at $12/hr. Professional Services donation of time is calculated at $70/hr.
- All work accomplished with power tools or heavy machinery to be accomplished by RPD Staff or RPD contractor. RPD Policy prohibits volunteers from using power.
- Attach letters of commitment for donation of materials, labor, and funding to this form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Item / Improvement</th>
<th>Funding Request</th>
<th>Donated Materials</th>
<th>Funds for materials purchase</th>
<th>Volunteer Labor</th>
<th>Total Item Cost</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topographic Site Survey</td>
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<td>$2,200</td>
<td>40 hrs/ $2,800</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
<td>$ 5,000</td>
<td>Pro bono field topographic survey of site</td>
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<td>Project Concept Design</td>
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<td>240 hrs/ $2,880</td>
<td>153.5 hrs/ $10,745</td>
<td>$ 13,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demolition, Earthwork &amp; Drainage</td>
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<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$ 30,000</td>
<td>Park group to contribute $12,000 secured for the project by Supervisor John Avalos</td>
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<td>ADA Path w/Cheek Wall &amp; Handrails</td>
<td>$27,625</td>
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<td>$ 27,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asphalt Paving</td>
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<td>$ 2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retaining Wall 18&quot; &amp; Fence</td>
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<td>Rubber Surface</td>
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<td>$6,500</td>
<td>236 hrs $2,832</td>
<td>$ 9,332</td>
<td>$ 86,582</td>
<td>Park group to contribute $9,332. Volunteer hours listed represent the work spent securing this money. Total cost for surface is $83,750.</td>
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<td>Play equipment (6-12 structure, rotated net, swing set, mushroom seats, bobble rider, whimsey rider, seating stone)</td>
<td>$26,775</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$ 91,775</td>
<td>Park group to contribute $65,000 secured from Community Challenge Grant Program.</td>
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**TOTAL**                     | $239,182       | $2,200          | $83,500                   | $5,712         | $13,545        | $27,957   | $344,139 |
# Preliminary Statement of Approximate Cost

**Mclaren Park Improvements at Peru**

San Francisco, California

**September 16, 2010**

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Item Cost</th>
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<td>$322,682</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Page 1 of 1*
September 20, 2010

Ms. Sunya Ojure,
Program Coordinator
451 Hayes St. Floor 2,
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Ms. Ojure,
Golden Associates has been pleased to volunteer our time to Help McLaren Park apply for a grant from the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. We have invested more than 100 hours. Our effort included two community meetings, preparation of all material boards, design of the playground alternatives, and coordination with playground specialists.

We hope you are successful in your achieving the grant and look forward to a ribbon cutting!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Leslie Golden, RLA, LEED AP
president
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND
A Program of the 2008 Clean and Safe Parks General Obligation Bond

Budget and Match Commitment Form

- Volunteer hours are calculated at $12/hr. Professional Services donation of time is calculated at $70/hr.

- All work accomplished with power tools or heavy machinery to be accomplished by RPD Staff or RPD contractor. RPD Policy prohibits volunteers from using power tools.

- Attach letters of commitment for donation of materials, labor, and funding to this form.

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Donated Materials</td>
<td>Funds for materials purchase</td>
<td>Volunteer Labor</td>
<td>Total Labor Cost</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours @ $12/hr</td>
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<tr>
<td>McLaren Park</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>$10,745</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
September 21, 2010

San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council
Ms. Sunya Ojure
Program Coordinator
451 Hayes St. Floor 2,
San Francisco, CA  94102

Email: scjure@sfnpc.org
Phone: (415) 621-3260

Dear Ms. Ojure,

Urban Design Consulting Engineers has been pleased to volunteer our time to assist the Help McLaren Park Project to apply for a grant from the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. We have volunteered over 40 hours and expenses, or market value of about $5,000. Our effort included coordinating the field survey, renting / picking up / returning equipment, field topographic survey, and office survey to prepare background information in AutoCAD for the use of developing conceptual sketches.

We hope you are successful in achieving the grant and look forward working with you in the future!

Sincerely,

Urban Design Consulting Engineers

Jason J. Ling, PE, PMP, Principal
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GARAGE SALE – OCTOBER 2008</strong></td>
<td>Chuck Farrugia</td>
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<td>Trilce Farrugia</td>
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<td>Rebecca Zevallos</td>
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<td>Sue Zimmer</td>
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<td>Samantha Zimmer</td>
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<td>Jay Skylor</td>
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<td>Trilce Farrugia</td>
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<td>Monica Sullivan</td>
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<td>Cindy Wong</td>
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<td>Birgit Cory</td>
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<td>Adriana Iglesias</td>
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<td>Laura Joe</td>
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<td>Constance Ganong</td>
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<td>Anna Cobb</td>
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<td>Monica Sullivan</td>
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<td>Linda Harte</td>
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<td>Joe Litehisier</td>
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<td>Mike Guajardo</td>
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<td>Barbara Fugate</td>
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<td>Patrick Buddington</td>
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<td>Trilce Farrugia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Amy Cohen</td>
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<td><strong>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY GRANT</strong></td>
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TOTAL HOURS VOLUNTEERED TOWARDS PLAYGROUND PROJECT

= 236 hours
Help McLaren Park

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS/WORK

PLAYGROUND DESIGN MEETINGS
LETTERS OF SUPPORT
August 17, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

I am writing this letter to support “Help McLaren Park” obtain a Community Opportunity Fund grant.

The Cayuga Improvement Association and Friends of Cayuga Park are vitally interested in supporting “Help McLaren Park” succeed in their mission of refurbishing and upgrading the Peru Street site in McLaren Park. We are engaged in this process for two reasons:

1). We have experienced the revitalization of our community via our community park. We know that our community was strengthened by our shared pride in Cayuga Park. Our once neglected and dangerous park was initially transformed by a visionary gardener. As the surrounding neighborhood became involved in this process, crime decreased and positive interaction among park users became the norm.

Our focus on our park not only contributed to the decrease of crime in surrounding areas, but allowed our neighborhood to redefine itself through shared use which lead to an evolving recognition of shared values within our community. Our community’s enhanced health is strengthened by our focus upon, & commitment to, our park.

2). Our involvement in the enhancement & maintenance of our park has allowed our community experience the affirming effects of collaboration. At a time when economic challenges routinely contribute to a sense of shrinking horizons, our community has been successful in creating a family friendly “village green”.

Our community knows, firsthand, that the presence of a viable & family friendly playground area stabilizes and strengthens the surrounding neighborhood.

Summary:
Communities which collaborate in defining and pursuing the common good become stronger. The presence of shared community use areas allows interactions which strengthen the community, enhance understanding of diversity, and dispel destructive myths. In this case, the Peru Street playground site has already proven that it will function as a “village green”, allowing strong bonds to strengthen within the community through the collaborative focus on the improvement of this site. Strong, family friendly communities will ensure a bright future for San Francisco!

Please give positive consideration to the Community Opportunity Fund Grant application filed by Help McLaren Park.

Respectfully,

Chris Dillon, President
Cayuga Improvement Association

Josie Porter, President
Friends of Cayuga Park

The Board of the Cayuga Improvement Association
August 12, 2010
331 Gambier Street
San Francisco, CA 94134

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to state what a positive force Help McLaren Park has been to our neighborhood. Chuck and Trilce, my neighbors on the next block, have been the guiding force and energy behind this. What is so refreshing is that instead of focusing on the things wrong with the park or what we don't want to happen to the park, Help McLaren Park focuses on making positive improvements and on bringing us together as a community.

McLaren Park has suffered from many years from neglect. Children's play areas have gradually gone into complete disrepair and now only skeleton reminders remain of the days when we had play areas for our children. This side of McLaren Park, the Portola neighborhood side, has only one play area left and that is East of here down by McNab Lake.

The former play area by Peru and Burrows is a perfect sheltered area to re-establish a children's play area that once was there. Help McLaren Park has had many fun events in the park to help raise money for this project. We have also met in the park to share our ideas and visions for what sort of play area we all want. All of their meetings, emails and fund-raising events are on a very positive note and build more connections among neighbors.

I know that Help McLaren Park has put many years, love and time into this project and your grant money will help make this become a reality. Be assured you are funding a neighborhood organization that is full of positive energy and determination. They love this park and their enthusiasm is an inspiration to us all.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Crawford
Tara Dorabji  
61 Ina Ct  
San Francisco, CA 94112  

Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  

Subject: Community support for Burrows and Peru St. Playground  

Dear Community Opportunity Fund:  

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. It is time to dedicate resources to a park surrounding some of San Francisco’s lowest income communities.  

The park at Peru St. will be an amazing community convening area. The local residents have shown their commitment to the playground by raising over $80,000. This summer dozens of residents donated hundreds of hours of labor beautifying the space and building community by creating a mural as a backdrop for the playground. With your support we can make our dream a reality.  

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:  

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,  
- Installing a new play structure,  
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and  
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.  

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.  

Thanks for your help and action.  

Sincerely,  

Tara Dorabji
September 21st, 2010

Community Opportunity Grant
San Francisco Recreation & Parks
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows & Peru Street Playground

Dear Community Grant:

I am writing to fully support the Help McLaren Park’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant.

Although McLaren Park is the second biggest park in our great city, many parts in and around it are very much neglected. There are few areas that are safe and fun for children and their families to use. Therefore a new playground with safer play structures would provide children and their families a place to gather and play.

Please consider granting this hardworking group, Help McLaren Park, the funds they need to bring life to this often neglected part of San Francisco.

Our children and youth need your help to grant the much needed play area at Burrows & Peru on the north side of McLaren.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marlene Tran
Spokesperson
To:
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

September 23, 2010

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant.

As an employee in the City & County Juvenile Justice System, I have seen throughout the years the negative impact that comes from the lack of quality recreational outlets in communities. There is nothing more important in the fundamental building of children and youth’s core, than a clean and safe place outside of the immediate home where they can play, make new friends and build a sense of engaging in pro-social activities with other kids/youth.

I agree that this project will bring a much needed light to this neglected area in San Francisco and with that - the community as a whole will greatly flourish (especially children and youth) which will in turn benefit the City & County of San Francisco.

I believe that this group of individuals “Help McLaren Park” has been working very hard to bring their project to fruition with a great sense of family and community values; thus, they will put these funds to great use in enhancing the park and community.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Iniguez
(415) 753-7712
August 22, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Youth Tennis Advantage (YTA) supports the Help McLaren Park group's proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant to restore the Peru & Burrows Street playground in McLaren Park.

As YTA works to build community around the tennis facility at Mansell and Visitation in McLaren Park by renovating the courts, clubhouse and surrounding area, we feel all playgrounds within McLaren Park are extremely valuable to families and especially the younger children that live near the park.

Help McLaren Park is a true community group that has worked tirelessly to enhance McLaren Park and bring it back to life. Much of the park has been neglected over the years. It is a true hidden gem and it will take groups of caring residents to partner with the city to retain and improve the San Francisco Parks.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money brings families and community together in a healthy and social atmosphere for many years to come. YTA and Help McLaren Park has already been in discussion as to how we might work together for the benefit of all communities around John McLaren Park.

Sincerely,

Loretta Conway

www.youthtennis.org
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th
Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

To Whom It May Concern:

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant.

I have been living in the Excelsior, “near the blue tower,” almost my entire life. I have walked through McLaren Park with my parents and brother numerous times. I always enjoyed taking hikes through the paved trails and following the, “not so beaten path,” to find new adventures. Currently, I am a single mother of a ten year boy who is very active and very curious. I’m so grateful we still live near the park so that he and I can now enjoy the environment as a mother and a son could. We love to take Sunday walks and discover new trails and talk to the others who are also finding their way around the park. I think McLaren Park is beautiful, but unfortunately it is also much neglected.

There are no play areas that are safe or for that matter fun. Swing sets are rusted, play structures are broken and to be perfectly honest very dissolute. The play areas in McLaren Park are not family friendly at all and honestly I’m a little nervous to let my son play in some of the facilities, as I’m not too sure about what is in the sand.

Please consider granting Help McLaren Park the funds for a new play structure. We are working class neighbors who are just trying to make the environment for our children better than it was for us. I would be so happy to walk the trails of McLaren Park with my grandkids and tell them how I walked those same trails with their dad and great grandparents and create fond memories like the ones I am so grateful for to this day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]

Adriana V. Iglesias
51 Prague Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 573-5623
August 29, 2010

Re: Community Opportunity Fund Grant Application 2010

Dear Selection Committee:

F.A.C.E. would like to wholeheartedly endorse the grant application of Help McLaren Park, in their quest to refurbish the playground at Peru and Burrows. For over 8 years our organization has worked on issues and promotion of the green space gem that is McLaren Park. We helped bring attention to the lack of facilities in the city's 2nd largest park and constantly promote the natural beauty of this park. It is a hidden gem but loved by thousands of people...many who has newly discovered it.

The lack of playgrounds in McLaren Park is unacceptable. It is something that we have pointed out year after year. Our community for decades has been without many basic facilities that other neighborhoods take for granted. Yet Districts 10 and 11, where this park is located, have the highest number of young children in the city.

Help McLaren Park, has proven themselves as a highly successful park advocacy group. They have demonstrated an ability to "get things done". Our organization has assisted HMLP in publicizing fundraising events and calls for volunteers for many beautification projects in the park. The results have been stunning. People have come together in amazing ways to support the playground project. Other smaller grants have been obtained in the past few years to begin the process and now we need to make sure that the work can be finished.

We applauded the work of Help McLaren Park. The Clean and Safe Parks bond was passed exactly for this reason. We need to make sure our children in the southeastern neighborhoods and their families can have some basic recreational facilities.

Best regards,

Linda Stark Litchiser
Steering Committee Chair
Letter approved by the FACE Steering Committee, August 2010
Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park

Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

Dear Community Opportunity Fund,

We are writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. We are new parents in the area and live just 3 blocks from the proposed playground. We currently go to this site nearly every day so our daughter can use on the baby swings (only remaining play structure at the site) but we have always wished for more play equipment.

This project is hugely important for this neighborhood! We have no other “community hub” and this playground can function as a place for neighbors to meet and get to know each other. McLaren Park is a wonderful resource for our community, but is neglected and underutilized. This play area will help to turn things around!

We had a wonderfully attended planning meet a few weeks ago and the community is definitely behind this project!

Thanks for your time and support,
Erin and Tom Becker (and Elsie, age 1)

37 Madison Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94134

[Signature]

[Signature]
September 2, 2010

To: San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department  
Re: Community Opportunity Fund; A program of the 2008 Clean and Safe General Obligation Bond.

Attention: Jake Gilchrist

Dear Selection Committee;

Re: Burrows and Peru St. Playground Project

We wish to add our support to the grant application for the Help McLaren Park on this very worthy playground project.

We are both park volunteers as well as active grandparents. We know how badly playgrounds are needed in McLaren Park. Over the years three playground or “tot lot” areas have been removed and never replaced. This is a travesty for a park of this size; especially since the surrounding communities have the largest number of children in the city.

In the past decade, many young families have decided to make the neighborhoods around McLaren Park their homes. These are people who feel a commitment to the city and want to raise their children here. Parks and playgrounds are one of the most important things we can do to avoid the mass exodus of families to the suburbs. This happened in the 1960’s and 70’s and it could be repeated again, if we don’t take action.

Please consider granting this application. The community has rallied behind all the fundraising efforts of Help McLaren Park or the past few years. They know how to get things done. This playground project is very worthy and has tremendous support, it only needs some additional funds to see results.

Thank you,

Linda and Joe Litchiser
78 Havelock St.
San Francisco, CA 94112
August 12, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

To Whom It May Concern:

We live only three blocks from John McLaren Park in San Francisco (Portola District), and we use the park almost daily. John McLaren Park has long been neglected by the city and has fallen into disrepair. It is a shame that this park, with so much potential to serve the neighborhood, has been allowed to fall into its current state. The park could serve the community in so many ways. In particular, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance, which the park could provide.

We are writing to voice our support for the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use the neglected John McLaren Park.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on the following in John McLaren Park:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

We appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Mikow  
Herbert F. Stackhouse, III  
295 Oxford Street     295 Oxford Street  
San Francisco, CA 94134    San Francisco, CA 94134
August 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. As a neighborhood resident and mother, I want safe and easy access to play structures for my child. As a public school teacher for the past nine years, I think revitalization is absolutely necessary for all parks, for all children.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they propose to wisely spend it on:

• Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
• Installing a new play structure,
• Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
• Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

If any park in San Francisco needs grant money, McLaren Park, with its location adjoining one of the poorest neighborhoods in the City, is in need of help. I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hahn-Taylor

1361 Brussels Street, San Francisco, CA 94134
Sept. 19, 2010

To: Community Opportunity Fund
S.F. Recreation & Parks
501 Sansan St.
S.F. Co. 94117

cc: The Burrows & Peru St. Playground Project

I am writing to convey my support of the Help McLaren Park group's proposal for the COF grant. I’m so impressed with the development of family-oriented recreational space in the Portola District, that a further creation of picnic & play areas with structures would be a way to ensure that local residents continue to build up a community spirit.

I understand that the HMP group would remove contaminated sand from the playground site, build benches & picnic tables & build a new play structure w/ rubber surface all around it.

I believe that this group, Help McLaren Park, has a realistic vision of a project that they could manage and complete.

Yours truly,
Marcus A. Abram
Jeffrey & Walburga Roberts  
201 Gambier Street  
San Francisco, CA 94134  

August 25, 2010  

Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Dept  
501 Stanyan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park  
Project: Burrows and Peru Playground  

To whom it may concern:  

Please consider funding the Help McLaren Park group’s playground project at the Burrows and Peru entrance to McLaren Park. This area is not currently served by playground facilities and it is a logical continuation of the progress made in cutting back some of the overgrown vegetation. I thank the Parks Department for the work done to date, but encourage them to mow and prune as much as possible.  

Particularly beneficial would be the benches, playgrounds and picnic areas that encourage local people to get to know each other outside the common dog walking interactions.  

Sincerely yours:  

Jeffrey & Walburga Roberts
Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  

Re:  
Group Applying: Help McLaren Park  
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground  

September, 2010  

To whom it may concern,  

We are writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group's proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected. There are no play areas that are fun or safe for children. Swing sets are rusted and play structures are broken. I have nowhere to bring my daughter to play.  

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:  

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,  
- Installing a new play structure,  
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and  
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.  

We appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. We are working class neighbors who are just trying to make the environment for our children better than it was for us by working hard to bring a sense of community back to the Excelsior and Portola districts. Improvements to the park will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.  

Please help us to bring new life to this often overlooked part of the city.  

Thank you.  

Sincerely,  

Timothy Murch, Melpomene Katakalos, and our daughter, Eleni Murch
From: Daniel Brady  
138 University St.  
San Francisco CA 94134

To: Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117

To whom this may concern,

The neighborhoods around John McLaren Park have many children. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance. So there is a need for more and or improved playgrounds there. Specifically, the one located at Burrows at Peru Streets, has gotten my attention.

There is considerable community support for improving this playground. Help McLaren Park has sponsored community meetings in August and September to get ideas or opinions as to what they want to see in that playground or how they want it to look. There were BBQs at those meetings and all together almost 100 people attended.

Through Help McLaren Park neighbors have gotten architectural designs drawn up, donated by Golden Associates of Oakland, worth some 10,000 dollars. They also have a grant of some 65 thousand dollars awarded from the Community Challenge Grant of last year.

I feel that a community this committed and who have organized and secured funding should be given the opportunity to improve the quality of life for their children with a recreational opportunity that is within walking distance of many, many children. This project will enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park and its playgrounds.

Please help us to bring new life to this often-overlooked part of the city. Thank you for your time,

Daniel Brady
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

To whom it may concern at the Community Opportunity Fund SF Recreation & Parks Department

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the communities surrounding McLaren Park, by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, as a major public recreational space that has been extremely neglected. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack age-specific, safe, maintained, and clean new play structures and picnic areas within walking distance of many of the neighborhood homes.

I have followed the issues related to the McLaren Park efforts by the community groups online, and have been acutely aware of the loss of open-space throughout the city, but especially in low-mid income neighborhoods. Such funding is critical to assist community groups such as Help McLaren Park achieve the efforts the community wants to see in terms of public benefits. If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they have stated that they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the communities surrounding the park just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, participate in the efforts to build the Park and maintain it, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas. I moved into the Excelsior recently in March of 2010, and strongly support the efforts to improve McLaren Park and the surrounding public spaces.

Sincerely

Aaron Goodman
To:
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Sept. 20th, 2010

Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

As a member and parent in this community, you can see how much we, as a community love our area, (take a look at all the volunteer efforts we constantly put into making this park more fun and safe for our children-check out the First Five grants we have been awarded in the last three years and the tangible assets that now remain in the park - our FF grant application is called Bringing color and Life to McLaren Park).

Parents and neighbors have come out and input so much of their personal time and labor, but it is obvious that we need a grant / cash for this area. We need play structures for the young children, benches to sit at and and have picnics. The list is endless but at least if we could start with some of the basics.

Please consider our application earnestly.

We desperately need your help to make this work.

In anticipation,

Dr. Monica Sullivan
September 19, 2010

To: AlMay Concerns

Re: Help McLaren Park
     Buried Pery St. Playground

I have lived in the Potrero District since birth.
It is with great sadness and anger that I note all the
playground structures on the
northside of McLaren Park
have been removed.
It is even more upsetting
that none of them have
been replaced!

With that in mind, I'm
writing to you in support of
the Help McLaren Park group's
proposal for the Community
Opportunities Fund grant.
This project will greatly
enhance the Potrero District
a district with a great many
tomatoes.

I would appreciate your
consideration of the Help
McLaren Park application.
This grant money will
not only beautify a long
neglected area of the park
but will give the community
just what it needs to
strengthen itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regard,

Georg Moree

Janet W. Moree

322 Hile St.
SF, CA 94134
Opportunity Fund Grant

To:
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

I am a senior living in the Excelsior District 11. The closest park to my home is McLaren Park which is about 7 blocks from my home. I'm there almost every day with my dogs for exercise and socialization.

I've always sensed that our district and neighborhoods were ignored while others flourished. The playground areas in the park are really an embarrassment to adults and a danger to small children. Many of our neighbors have joined together is an effort to improve the recreational areas closest to our homes. That alone is a true morale booster.

Please invest in our efforts to provide some serious, safe and lasting play facilities for children, and sturdy and clean benches for parents and seniors to enjoy.

Nicholas Watson
530 Avalon Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
August 24, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello. I am a San Francisco native who grew up a block away from McLaren Park. I now own a home a block away from McLaren Park where I live with my wife and two children.

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Daniel A. Flores
August 10, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

I’m writing in support of Help McLaren Park’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. The proposed project will greatly increase families’ access to McLaren Park, a recreational space that’s historically been neglected. Currently, there’s a significant deficit of play structures and picnic areas in the area.

Community Opportunity Fund monies will be used to:

- Remove contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Install a new play structure and rubber surface, and
- Build benches and picnic tables near the play area.

Thanks for considering Help McLaren Park’s application. The grant would not only serve to beautify a long blighted area of the park, but would help bolster the community’s effort to organize itself further. It would encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Sincerely,

Steven Moss
Executive Director
Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  

Application due date: Sept. 24th  

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park  
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground  

Dear Sirs:  

We are writing to support the Help McLaren Park group's proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly help and enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected and abandoned. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco do not have any play structures for kids to enjoy.  

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, the money will wisely be spent on:  

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,  
- Installing a new play structure,  
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and  
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.  

We will appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.  

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.  

Sincerely,  

[Signature]

Angela and Norman Porter  
435 Oxford St  
SF, Ca. 94134  

August 16, 2010
August 11, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department  
501 Stanyan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117

Re: Help McLaren Park Application  
   Project: Burrows and Peru Playground  
   Application Deadline: September 24, 2010

Gentlepersons:

As a City resident living next to McLaren Park, I support the Help McLaren Park organization's proposal seeking approval of a Community Opportunity Fund grant. The proposed playground will provide a recreational area where none exists currently. It will greatly increase the quality of life for families in the Portola and Excelsior communities, allowing for healthy play and outdoor enjoyment near their homes.

The proposal will enable the following:
   •  Removal of contaminated sand and debris at the site;  
   •  Installation of a new play structure;  
   •  Installation of a rubber surface for playground safety; and  
   •  Construction of benches and picnic tables near the play area.

The grant will serve to turn a long-neglected blighted area into an attractive facility for the community, and will provide a visible achievement for families to further work on organizing and developing the community, improve safety and contribute to maintaining McLaren as a significant asset for the City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia A. Higa
August 11, 2010

Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Re: Project - Burrows and Peru Streets Playground
Group Applying - Help McLaren Park
Application Due Date – September 24th

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Very truly yours,

Ray and Nan Quesada
206 Gambier Street
San Francisco, CA 94134
To:

Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

I am writing to express my support for Help McLaren Park in its endeavor to secure the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This group is working very hard to bring a sense of community back to the Excelsior and Portola districts. If awarded, this grant would allow for the creation of a much-needed play area at Burrows and Peru Street on the north side of McLaren Park.

I have lived in the Excelsior, next to McLaren park, for the last 7 years and observed with great sadness the removal of play structures on the north side of the park. Even worse though, is that none of them have been replaced in all this time. As a result, I pack my daughter up in the car and drive to neighboring playgrounds. In so doing, I not only waste gas and contribute to the carbon footprint, but I also miss out on the community building that goes on in a local playground. As of now, the families living next to McLaren park do not have a central place to meet, but a new playground would provide everyone with a place to meet and make new friends, share stories and advice, play together, and help strengthen our community. Please help us to bring new life to this often overlooked part of the city.

Thank you for your time,

Carolyn Kincaid
1 Prague Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
Hi,

I'm sending this letter so that you may attach it to the application. Thanks so much,

Hallie

Dear Sir or Ma'am of the Community Opportunity Fund,

McLaren Park needs usable playgrounds that San Francisco families can use to help promote community and growing families. Therefore I am writing to support Help McLaren Park group's proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

Thank you for considering the Help McLaren Park application, and thereby helping our surrounding community thrive.

Sincerely,

Hallie Sinor
431 Naples Street
San Francisco, CA 94112
415.548.3317
To:  
Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park  
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

I’m writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. This project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families together to use McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood, and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Thank you,
Renee Tung
To:
Community Opportunity Fund
San Francisco Recreation and Parks
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

I have lived in the Excelsior/Portola/Visitacion and observed with great sadness the removal of all the play structures on the north side of the park. Even worse though, is that none of them have been replaced in all this time. As a result, I must pack my kids up in the car and drive to neighboring playgrounds. In so doing, I not only waste gas and contribute to the carbon footprint, but I also miss out on the community building that goes on in a local playground. As of now, the families living on the north side of McLaren Park do not have a central place to meet. A new playground would provide locals with a place to gather and make new friends, share stories and advice, play together, and help strengthen our community. Please help us to bring new life to this often overlooked part of the city.

Thank you for your time,
Charles, Susan and daughter Samantha (aged 9 and still waiting for a playground!) Zimmer.
Community Opportunity Fund  
San Francisco Recreation and Parks  
501 Stanyan St.  
San Francisco, CA 94117  

Application due date: Sept. 24th

Group Applying: Help McLaren Park  
Project: Burrows and Peru St. Playground

Dear Community Opportunity Fund:

I'm writing in support of the Help McLaren Park group’s proposal for the Community Opportunity Fund grant. Funding of the project will greatly enhance the Portola District community by bringing families and neighbors together by encouraging the community utilization of McLaren Park, a recreational space that has been extremely neglected. Currently, homes in this part of San Francisco lack play structures and picnic areas within walking distance.

The neighborhoods surrounding McLaren Park have been traditionally working class with many families receiving supplemental aide. Local families are in need of recreational space so they can enjoy activities with their families without stressing their already challenged family budgets.

If the Community Opportunity Fund grant is awarded to Help McLaren Park group, they will wisely spend it on:

- Removing contaminated sand at the playground site,
- Installing a new play structure,
- Installing a rubber surface at the playground site, and
- Building benches and picnic tables near the play area.

I appreciate your consideration of the Help McLaren Park application. This grant money will not only beautify a long blighted area of the park, but it will give the community just what it needs to strengthen and organize itself further. It will encourage families to remain long-term residents of the neighborhood---as well as City---and improve the overall safety of the park and adjoining areas.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wong  
Portola Resident, Born & Raised in Bayview District  
Mom of an Energetic 8 Year Old Boy
Sept 15, 2010  
To whom it may concern,

I have two children ages 7 and 10. McLaren park needs a playground up on the hill here. There are so many children that live close to this part of McLaren park and have no access to a nearby playground. (Which means more TV time for them as their grandparents can't drive them around the city for play dates this fact can lead to obesity).
Please put the playground where it needs to be. It is my understanding that many years ago there was a playground there, and as it broke down it was taken away and never replaced.

I feel that Mr. John McLaren would want to feel proud of the park that bares his name and would want it to serve the local S.F. families. Please hear our need and do what is right for the families. Bring back the playground.

Thank you,
Deborah Taylor  
85 ina Ct  
S.F. 94112