

Application for Appointment to the Alemany Farm Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC's nine members will represent the diversity of Alemany Farm's key stakeholder groups, as described by the Alemany Farm Management Plan, adopted by the Recreation and Park Commission on August 16, 2012.

These members include eight members appointed by the Recreation and Park Commission. Appointment terms are for 2 years and have holdover rights.* Membership may be terminated early for lack of adherence to the CAC bylaws.

The time commitment will be determined through CAC decisions, including the regularity of CAC meetings and committee formation(s). All Commission appointments are voluntary and uncompensated.

Please check the box in front of seat(s) you are applying for below:

Seat 1: Neighborhood resident. The Alemany Farm site is part of a contiguously fenced area, which includes Housing Authority property. This membership seat is reserved for a registered resident on Housing Authority property.

Seat 2: Neighborhood resident. This seat is open to all Bernal Heights residents, including residents on Housing Authority property. Bernal Heights is defined as the area bound by Mission Street to the west, Cesar Chavez Street to the north, Highway 101 to the east, and I-280 to the south.

Seat 3: Dedicated site volunteer. This seat is reserved for a volunteer who demonstrates a leadership role in site management and programming at the Alemany Farm site.

Seat 4: Dedicated site volunteer. This seat is reserved for a volunteer who demonstrates a leadership role in site management and programming at the Alemany Farm site.

Seat 5: Naturalized Open Space Representative member. This seat is reserved for a member who is knowledgeable in and experienced with native plant species and communities as well as animal habitats.

Seat 6: Farming Practitioner member. This seat is reserved for a member who is knowledgeable and experienced in farming. An emphasis in urban food production is preferred.

Seat 7: Youth Advocate member. This seat is reserved for a member who has demonstrated experience working with at-risk youth advocacy and/or education. A youth advocate has experience in working with at-risk youth, including direct service youth services programming, education, jobs skills training, and/or advocacy.

Members assigned to Seats 1-7 must reside within the City and County of San Francisco for the duration of the appointment.

Seat 8: At Large member. This individual is not required to possess certain qualifications other than having past involvement in Alemany Farm. This member may live outside City and County of San Francisco Borders.

Seat 9: Recreation and Park Department. This seat is reserved for an assigned staff member of the Recreation and Park Department. The application requirement for appointment to this seat is not applicable.

* Those individuals filling odd-numbered seats will occupy those seats for only 1 year at the initial formation of the CAC. Thereafter, these seats will be for 2-year terms that will result in staggered appointments.

Please provide the following information. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Supervisorial District of Residence: 9

federal agencies, and private corporations and foundations in community development projects. Managed paid staff and volunteers. Oversaw operation of programs including capital improvements and open space acquisition. Designed, wrote, and presented winning visual proposals; developed and administered budgets and grants; negotiated contracts. Initiated and led successful campaign for city to acquire and develop multi-million dollar park (Potrero del Sol). Developed mechanisms for projects to produce revenue. Designed and implemented innovative and ongoing public educational programs and exhibitions for all ages in environmental education, agriculture, and all the arts. Developed The Raw Egg Animal Theater (TREAT), which was pioneering indoor/outdoor home for the farm animals; integrated TREAT with multiple learning, eco/arts, urban agriculture school and community programs. Created community programs that promoted ecological sensitivity and multi-ethnic, international diversity for intergenerational and multi-economic public including teens, young children, senior citizens, and at-risk students. Involved participation of individuals and classes from over 75 schools (K-College) with programs linking ecology, agriculture, and the arts with math, language arts, civics, history, science; worked with teachers in curriculum development. Generated extensive media coverage for events and projects.

March 1981 - Present

Founder & Executive Director/Chief Designer

A LIVING LIBRARY

New York, New York

San Francisco, California

Responsible for over-all concept, integrated environmental and program design for creation of A LIVING LIBRARY. A.L.L., for short, integrates systems: biological, cultural, technological – and results in an indoor/outdoor culture-ecology-technology parks, lifelong learning magnets, each integrated with programs, curricula, and products that bring local cultural & ecological diversity of area to life through plants and other living forms, the built and ecological environment(s), all the arts, state-of-the-art communications technologies, and diverse educational, ecological, and entertaining activities. Formed Board Advisors, non-profit corporation called Life Frames, Inc., led negotiations with government, corporate, and community leaders in New York City, San Francisco, and other cities in the country and abroad. Developed innovative uses for new communications technologies for an international interactive network and unique educational strategies for a multigenerational and multicultural public. Developed new maintenance techniques for urban public open spaces that utilize existing resources promoting community stewardship, education, job creation, and economic development.

May 1992 – 2001 – Founder & President

2001 – Present – Founder & Executive Director

Life Frames, Inc.

New York, New York & San Francisco, California

Established non-profit, 501 C3 Corporation to develop content-rich, site and culturally sensitive, indoor/outdoor culture-ecology-technology Think Parks, Living Libraries, and Life Frames in diverse communities, locally and globally, each with integrated programs, curricula, and products, to be linked electronically. Each Branch Living Library

integrates local resources: human, ecological, historic, technological, and aesthetic – seen through the lens of time – past, present, future - and creates a social weaving of all sectors of community, involved in the research, planning, design, implementation, use, maintenance, management, and communications of all elements.

1998 - Present

Project Director & Chief Designer

OMI / Excelsior Living Library & Think Park

with James Denman Middle School, Balboa High School, San Miguel Child Development Center, SF Department of the Environment, SF Recreation & Park Department, SF PUC, Neighbors, Other City/State Agencies, Community Groups San Francisco, California

Environmental & educational transformation of three typical "factory model" public schools which sit on a contiguous piece of land of nine acres in what used to be a fertile creek valley and is now a mostly concrete, asphalt environment surrounded by chain-linked fences. Developed Master Plan for three school site and led transformation of portions of site through creation of indoor / outdoor Learning Zones based on ecological, built, and cultural resources of area - past, present, future. Includes work with currently culverted, flooding Islais Creek, part of Islais Creek Watershed, rehabilitating riparian habitat, and creation of agricultural and multicultural gardens. Student, teacher, parent, and community involvement in all aspects of creation, use, maintenance, management, and communications through interdisciplinary, hands-on, standards-based learning linked to the curricula of the schools. Includes arts and communications technologies integrated into landscape. Ongoing, year-round, school day, after school, and summers, hands-on, standards-based Branch Living Library Garden/Ecology/Arts Programs for PreK- High School with San Miguel CDC, James Denman MS, and community. Developed Green Skills Job Training Program for multicultural older youth and adults.

2002 - Present

Project Director & Chief Designer

Bernal Heights Living Library & Think Park Nature Walk

with Junipero Serra Child Development Center, Junipero Serra Elementary School, SF Recreation & Park Department, SFPUC, SFDPW, Housing Authority, SFUSD, Neighbors, & others San Francisco, California

Secured public (MOCD) and private funds (SF Foundation) for development of Community Conceptual Master Plan for environmental and educational transformation. Engaged local community and its resources into unique, place-based, Bernal Heights Living Library & Think Park Nature Walk interconnecting diverse parts of this low income, multicultural community. Secured Cal Fire funds and multiple city agency approvals for planting 700 California Native Trees with community, as part of Living Library Nature Walk linking parks, schools, streets, and other open spaces leading to Islais Creek at south side of St. Mary's Park and Alemany Dwellings. Area is part of Islais Creek Watershed. Next phase, to be funded by California Strategic Growth Council, will support more trees, understory, additional signage, and beginning of green skills stewardship program for youth. This Living Library Nature Walk is the first

portion of larger opportunity to eventually frame whole Islais Creek Watershed, linking 11 communities in Southeast and Southwest San Francisco. Will be linked electronically with multiple Branch Living Libraries.

2002 - Present

Project Director & Chief Designer

Bernal Heights Living Library & Think Park

At Junipero Serra Child Development Center, Junipero Serra Elementary School

Development of interdisciplinary, hands-on Living Library, year-round, school day and after-school program for PreK-5 students. Designed and implemented plans for ecological transformation of school-yards and development of integrated gardens and landscapes based on local resources of community – past, present, future. Is also part of Living Library Nature Walk. Will be linked electronically with multiple Branch Living Libraries. Ongoing hands-on, standards-based Living Library Garden/ Ecology/Arts Programs PreK-5th grade with local schools.

2007 - Present

Project Director & Chief Designer

Chinatown Living Library & Think Park

With Commodore Stockton Child Development Center, Gordon Lau Elementary School, and larger Chinatown community

Development of Interdisciplinary, hands-on Living Library, year-round, school day and after-school program for PreK-School Age students. Developed and implemented plans for ecological transformation of school-yards and development of integrated gardens, rain water harvesting systems, and landscapes based on local resources of community – past, present, future. Will be linked electronically with multiple Branch Living Libraries. Ongoing hands-on, standards-based Living Library Garden/ Ecology/Arts Programs PreK-5th grade with local schools.

2001-Present

Director & Chief Designer

Roosevelt Island Living Library & Think Park

**With PS/IS 217, Roosevelt Island Youth Center, Child School, RI Seniors Association, RI Disabled Association, RI Residents Association, Coler-Goldwater Hospital, RI Operating Corporation
Roosevelt Island, New York City**

Organizing the community and development of Conceptual Master Plan for environmental and educational transformation to aid in community and economic development of the area at South Point. Engaging the community and its resources – ecological, built, and multicultural - to develop unique Roosevelt Island Living Library & Think Park in diverse parts of this low income, multicultural community. Will be linked with multiple Branch Living Libraries. Ongoing, year-round, hands-on, standards-based Living Library Garden/Ecology/Arts Programs K-8th grade with PS/IS 217, RI Youth Center, Child School, Coler-Goldwater Hospital, RIOC, others.

Civic Activities:

Member, Urban Forestry Council: 2006-2011 - Appointed by SF Board of Supervisors

Appointed Member, California State School Garden Council
Board Member, Youth Arts New York
Laureate, Smithsonian Institution
Advisory Board Member, National Learning Foundation, Washington, D.C.
Advisory Board Member, Solutions: Town Hall, San Francisco, California
Member, San Francisco Green Schoolyards Alliance
Member, SPUR/AIA Civic Center Task Force, San Francisco, California

Describe the contributions you have made to Alemany Farm. Include volunteer hours spent and work scope:

The Bernal Heights Living Library Nature Walk has been underway for over a decade linking diverse resources in the neighborhood: JS Elementary and JS CDC; Holly Courts and Alemany Dwellings, Holly and St. Mary's Parks (including Alemany Farm area), streets and other open spaces leading to the currently hidden, Islais Creek at the south side of St Mary's Park, aka Alemany Farm, and Alemany Dwellings. When we started this project the SLUG Garden was dormant. The original community-driven Master Plan for this Living Library Nature Walk was developed in 2002-03 and funded by MOCD and twice by SF Foundation. To date, with the community and great city agency participation (especially RPD), we have planted 700 trees in the Nature Walk funded by Cal Fire. Hundreds have been planted surrounding, and in, the Alemany Farm area over the past few years. We have developed drought tolerant and riparian learning zones closer to the Creek and are looking forward to adding understory and more trees as needed. The next phase of development, to include more trees, understory, additional signage, and beginning of green skills stewardship youth program, will be funded by California Strategic Growth Council. We are also actively in discussions with the PUC regarding the opportunity to continue this Nature Walk to eventually frame the whole Islais Creek Watershed and day-light the Creek where possible, including the possibility of the Creek at the south side of St. Mary's Park.

It is hard to calculate the exact number of volunteer hours expended in these interrelated efforts, but, it has certainly been in multiples of a thousand.

Describe skills that you have that may be an asset to Alemany Farm:

- **Over 30 years experience with urban agriculture**
- **Knowledge and experience with raising farm animals in a public, urban farm environment**
- **Professional designer and developer of place-based, urban agriculture environments, farms, native drought tolerant and riparian landscapes, multi-cultural gardens, nature walks, rainwater harvesting systems, and others**
- **Experienced educator of urban agriculture, organic gardening, urban forestry, health, nutrition for ages PreK-18 and beyond, working with schools, community groups, individuals**
- **Developer of internationally recognized, leading edge, hands-on, educational programs integrated into the transformed landscape**
- **Developer of pioneering Green Skills Job Training Program funded by MOCD several years ago**
- **Facilitator for community projects including master planning and design of**

public places

- **Successful in gaining government/private support and approvals**

Any additional information that supports your application:

Please see attached articles

Date: August 23, 2012

Applicant's Signature: (required)

Bonnie Ora Sherk

**APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND SCHEDULE FOR
INITIAL APPOINTMENTS:**

Application submissions due August 31, 2012 (Friday), 5:00 PM

**Attention: Marvin Yee, Manager,
Community Gardens Program, RPD**

30 Van Ness, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

CAC candidates notified via email September 21, 2012 (Friday)

**Recommendations to the Capital Committee of the October 3, 2012 (Wed) at 2:00
PM**

Recreation and Park Commission. (Attendance by in City Hall, Room 460

Recommended CAC candidates is required for appointment.)

Recommendations to the Recreation and Park October 18, 2012 (Thu) at 10:00 AM

**Commission. (If item is on consent calendar, then in City Hall, Room 460
candidate attendance is not required. Otherwise candidate attendance required.)**

CAC members notified by email to schedule

By October 31, 2012 (Friday) first Alemany Farm CAC meeting

**(Please Note: Once completed, this form, including all attachments, becomes public
record.)**

Please Note: Your application will be retained for one year.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Appointed to Seat #: _____ Term

Expires: _____

Date Seat was vacated: _____