



STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

STREET

SKYWATCHERS PREVIEW



Photo by Robert Gumpert
Two children stand between adults
whose faces are out of the shot.
Each is holding a sign and the signs
read "Where's our change!!", "END
HOMELESSNESS", and "Mothers &
Babies need Housing Now"

HOMELESS MOTHERS DEMAND HOUSING, SERVICES FOR MOTHER'S DAY

We hope San Francisco will make our proposals a top priority. Our supervisors' investments in the HESPA proposals in the past have been successful and we hope this year, they fund the entire proposal.

continued page 4...

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of May 1st there are 1,201 people on the waitlist for shelter in SF.

NEWSFLASH

HOMELESSNESS HEADLINES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

TECH BILLIONAIRE MARC BENIOFF DONATES \$30 MILLION, LAUNCHES RESEARCH INTIATIVE AT UCSF TO STUDY HOMELESSNESS

Community advocates question the decision to fund research, arguing that money could be used to create real solutions for homeless people instead.

OAKLAND CONSIDERS OPENING A SAFE INJECTION SITE

The Mayor and a City Councilwoman have introduced a resolution supporting the state bill that would legalize safe injection sites in certain cities, and asking to be added to the list of cities where this would take effect.

FROM CURBED: NEW HUD RULE WOULD RENDER 55,000 CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANTS HOMELESS

The proposed rule would change the public housing eligibility requirements of undocumented immigrants. Currently, an immigrant family can sign a lease on a public housing unit as long as one family member is in the United States legally, which for undocumented immigrants is usually the child. The proposed rule would require all family members to be in the U.S. legally. This would evict more than 55,000 children of immigrant parents from federally subsidized or public housing units, according to the department’s own analysis of the rule. read the full article at www.CURBED.com

A MOTHER’S LOVE

Rodney McClain, the Starving Writer

A Mother’s Love is so pure it must come from above. The gates of heaven sits at the Foot of a Woman. That means the best attribute that comes from GOD thats placed in the soul of a Woman (is undoubtable Love). Thank you Mom for showing me how to love. Thanks for showing me the meaning of unconditional Love. I’ll do this to spread this Love to make our World a better place. If we all join in we can make our World a better place. ■

CALL TO CLOSE JUVENILE HALL

Anisha Tammana

Last month, supervisors Haney, Ronen, and Walton introduced legislation that outlined the plan to close San Francisco’s juvenile hall by 2021. Led by several nonprofits and community groups, the effort to end youth incarceration has been a passionately led cause. With a focus on community alternatives and compassion, advocates have pushed for a progressive agenda that emphasizes the futures of incarcerated youth.

According to the Young Women’s Freedom Center, being incarcerated as a youth greatly increases the likelihood of adult incarceration. A curriculum published by the organization summarizes the reasons to protest youth incarceration as well as the plan going forward regarding San Francisco’s juvenile hall. It aims to center youth voices who are the most connected to the issue.

All data suggests that the city is spending unnecessarily on imprisoning youth, a largely ineffective and inhumane solution to crime. Most youth that end up incarcerated are there for nonviolent offenses. Says the Young Women’s Freedom Center: “You should not need to be locked in juvenile hall to receive healing.”

By halting youth incarceration and drawing awareness to its connection to youth poverty, future incarceration, and the host of other issues that can result from it, San Francisco community groups hope to push a legislative agenda that supports marginalized youth.

Come out at 1pm on May 22nd to a budget hearing in which No New SF Jail Coalition will present on policing and jailing (City Hall, room 250). ■

ASK US ANYTHING

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO ANSWER ABOUT HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA? ASK US AT STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG OR (415) 346-3740 AND IT COULD BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agenda to us.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 468 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Every Tuesday at noon
The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS. Unfortunately our space is not wheelchair accessible, but we will move our meeting location to accomodate people who cannot make it up the stairs. For access needs contact development@cohsf.org

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

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CONTACT:

STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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SUBMIT YOUR WRITING

STREET SHEET publishes news and perspective stories about poverty and homelessness. We prioritize submissions from currently or formerly homeless writers but gratefully accept all submissions.

send submission to qwatts@cohsf.org

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD NAVIGATION CENTER?

TJ Johnston

Unhoused youth checking in at a navigation center in the Haight. North Beach homeless residents accessing lodging within walking distance of the piers.

That could happen under Supervisor Matt Haney’s proposal to open the low-threshold shelters in each supervisorial district. If approved, the ordinance would require a navigation center to open within six months in each of two districts where none have previously existed. It would also mandate that each of the 11 districts open a center within a 30-month timeframe.

Haney introduced the legislation last month partly in response to the heated debate surrounding the establishment of an Embarcadero navigation center, which the City’s Port Commission unanimously approved of last month.

Also a factor is the concentration of such centers in the eastern side of the city.

The Embarcadero center would be the third inside Haney’s District 6. One at the Civic Center Hotel on 12th Street has been operating since 2016. The other is at 680 Bryant St., across the street from the city’s largest emergency shelter at MSC South.

The other four active centers are spread throughout the districts of Haney’s co-sponsors: Hillary Ronen’s District 9 and Shamann Walton’s District 10.

In crafting the legislation, Haney said that it’s time for each district in the City to have at least one place accommodating unsheltered people.

“Navigation Centers have been opened in only three out the 11 supervisorial districts, even though (1) the Board of Supervisors has declared there to be a ‘shelter crisis’ in the City and County of San Francisco, (2) the Navigation Center model has proven to be successful, and (3) there is a significant number of people experiencing homelessness in every

supervisorial district,” the ordinance reads.

The City’s latest tally of the homeless population in 2017 shows that almost 7,500 San Franciscans live without stable housing, with the largest clusters in Haney, Walton and Ronen’s districts, respectively.

So, a requirement of each district hosting a center could serve unhoused people in other neighborhoods. Vallie Brown, whose district includes the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood, could finally get a youth-serving center. District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin might be able to secure a waterfront-adjacent site in the City’s northeastern corner after previous attempts fell through. Also, a vehicular “triage center” — such as one Ronen and Ahsha Safai suggested in separate proposals — could come to fruition.

In March, the Board of Supervisors already passed a separate measure that streamlines the permit process and speeds hiring of contractors who build such facilities. But even if the board passes Haney’s bill and Mayor London Breed signs it, there’s still the task of identifying locations and meeting appropriate conditions.

Those conditions, Homelessness Department director Jeff Kositsky told City officials and the media, include the site’s connection to public utilities, ability to house several people and proximity to public transportation. He also noted financial considerations: landowners must be willing to lease or sell the property, and building costs would ideally be kept under \$3 million.

Should the board pass the legislation and the City get its ducks in a row with finding sites, it’s possible that the rejected lots by the waterfront could come back into play. Other locations that the City passed on might be reconsidered, such as the old KRON4 building on Van Ness Avenue and a former Pottery Barn outlet in the Castro District. ■

RIGHTS AT STAKE WITH HOMELESS CONSERVATORSHIP VOTE

Meghan “Roadkill” Johnson

When someone describes what America means to them, somewhere in their words echoes the word Freedom. We can all rest assured, being born American, we have our civil liberties intact. But now none of that matters as a chilling bill rises to strip our freedoms away. Back in the November 2018 elections, as propositions and new state legislative bills were being voted in or out, a very scary bill came out onto the horizon and it became apparent that the majority public was in favor of it.

From its name alone, not much would set you off. Going further into it, its text has come alive, a haunting cornucopia of oppression, concocted by state senator Scott Wiener. What it entails is San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles would be launching a five-year pilot program to expand conservatorship on the most vulnerable people.

The bill labeled SB1045 was originally named “Homeless Conservatorship,” written to target homeless people and active drug users. It is disguised as wanting to create “solutions” for chronic mental illness and chronic homelessness but leaves out any mention of housing options or mental and behavioral health management.

To make matters more complicated, SB40 was thrown into the mix to further criminalize and target anyone seen as a “threat”. The public would be able to misuse this and call in homeless neighbors for any reason, giving police a justification to snatch people off the street on a 24- to 48-hour psychiatric hold, known as a 5150. Anyone who has had between eight to 12 consecutive 5150s during 12- to 18-month periods would be automatically detained and taken to a conservatorship facility.

Conservatorship is also nothing new in California. San Francisco has a dark past circling around it and was one of the first cities to pass the “ugly laws” back in the 1800s. The law then said no one with a visible disability could be seen in public. Due to this harsh and radical law, people were forced into hiding or mental institutions and could not earn income for themselves, taking a step deeper into the dark and creating a bigger homeless problem.

Today bringing light to the subject and challenging this law are various nonprofits, like that of the Senior & Disability Action (SDA) and the Coalition on Homelessness (COH).

The SDA came up with a public forum to address opposition to SB1045, rallying the community and hosting community brainstorms on alternatives to this bill. I even joined in on several occasions to be a part of the discussion and hear concerns that were voiced, if this bill was to be implemented.

Amongst the concerned voices were those of chronically disabled, homeless and people with mental health issues — the people who would be hit hardest by the bill.

“The bill would be dehumanizing and demoralizing homeless people in our community because I think for every time that someone loses their rights and is forced into treatment and gets housing that they couldn’t get before, I think that’s gonna show a failure of the system.” said Jessica Lehman, the executive director of Seniors and Disability Action. “Either the number of 5150s will go up, which will be incredibly traumatizing or the police will get called and harass people more often, even if that number doesn’t go up.”

Broad opposition was voiced at a Rules Committee hearing on SB1045 on May 13th, where dozens of community advocates came together to express their concerns. The committee delayed the vote for one week to gather more information about the impact of conservatorship and what resources are available (spoiler alert: there are none).

Says Lehman, “I’m hopeful that it will not be implemented. There’s a clear case about why it’s the wrong approach. Even if not, very few people get conserved, the idea of moving in that direction rather than providing the services that are not being provided, is very scary. I think Supervisors are starting to see that, and I’m hopeful that they will not support this just because people are saying, ‘Here’s a tool and it’s in front of you.’”

Hopefully the coalition that has arisen to challenge this bill will be able to advance a real conversation in the city about the need for better mental health care so that people are able to access help voluntarily, rather than being involuntarily held and increasing trauma within an already traumatized community. ■

INTERROGATING SAN FRANCISCO'S APPROACH TO STREET HOMELESSNESS

By Chris Herring
Summarized by Armando Garcia

The Bay Area is expecting a lot of rain mid May. For those of us which are housed, the rain might mean more evenings with Netflix under a warm blanket, or remembering to carry an umbrella when we go out. We might notice the deep green color of the hills across the Bay Area, or the flourishing flowers tucked into the edges of sidewalks, or blanketing the grass on open areas. Millions of us living here might muse at the interesting changes brought by the rain without ever needing to think of the rain as a major disruption or even an existential threat.

As it happens, for thousands of people in San Francisco, the cold wind and rain passing through the city brings grim news, even while they might want to enjoy it. The last few biennial counts of homeless persons in San Francisco have consistently found just over 4,300 unsheltered homeless persons. This number may sound high, but the actual number of unsheltered homeless on the street at any given time is widely thought by experts to be higher.

There are already not enough shelter beds for those who need them on any typical day in San Francisco. The city keeps a waitlist for shelter beds which often has over 1,000 people on it. Those on the list wait several weeks for access to a 90-day stay in a shelter. If an alternative arrangement has not been worked out by then, they end up back on the streets. Many get back on the waitlist to do it again.

One might expect there to be special measures taken in case of bad weather. San Francisco's "cold snap" policy opens up just 75 more beds when certain weather conditions are met. As cold and wet as it has been throughout the recent storms, conditions have actually not escalated enough to trigger that policy. KQED reported that the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing made arrangements voluntarily to expand their capacity for the rains.

The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's acknowledgment of the need for

action is certainly welcome, but this hardly seems to be an adequate solution. Kelly Cutler, human rights organizer for the Coalition on Homelessness, has said that people can be seen taking shelter in doorways along city streets. Her colleagues, Brian Edwards and Chris Herring, have both shared firsthand and anecdotal accounts of a spike in police enforcement just before and during inclement weather. Given that this type of enforcement can often mean confiscation of tents and other property, one must wonder if this is an approach that makes much sense for anyone.

Based on the language used by some city officials, it's easy to assume that more city outreach in bad weather is actually a good thing. Commander David Lazar has often stated that no one is subject to citations or disciplinary action unless they refuse shelter beds. The Healthy Streets Operation Center (HSOC) from which he operates brings the Police, Public Works, Public Health and Homelessness departments under the same roof with the promise of creating more transparency and cooperation between agencies interacting with homelessness. Yet many witnesses on the streets agree that SFPD and DPW sanitation crews are likely to do sweeps on encampments without accompanying health or homelessness workers.

Laying these facts out on the table, it becomes possible to see an underlying pattern in city policy. The city has a policy allegedly to increase outreach and support for homeless people during inclement weather, but the beds offered aren't enough to meet demand, and the outreach itself is often not done by the departments providing support. SFPD officers most often offer folks on the streets an ultimatum: either they take a seven-day stay in a shelter or they could get their tent taken, which often happens either way.

Just like those of us who are housed, people living on the streets have a variety of life situations. Having to move their belongings is often trouble enough, but taking up

officers on their offer can also mean leaving a neighborhood that feels safe, leaving a group of people you know for a bed around strangers you don't, or even figuring out a new work commute for those struggling to hold onto their jobs. A majority of folks on the street showed interest in the promise of beds in navigation centers, which were initially announced as being available for as long as it takes to get housing. But now that such stays are for merely seven days, it often doesn't seem worth the risk of anything else going wrong.

San Francisco is a city that expends heavily into the homelessness crisis, and yet it doesn't seem to be a city with serious solutions. The City isn't clear on what its objectives of homelessness policy should be, nor does it acknowledge which approaches work. But what's definitely clear is that the city doesn't have its values straight. How can homelessness and housing goals be met when the agency representing those goals is not leading efforts and at the forefront of outreach?

Underlying the lack of clarity in the city's vision, there are even more uncomfortable questions. Why do we mediate all our troubles through police? Is it a sensible tool for meeting experts' recommendations on handling homelessness? Are they the appropriate messengers of outreach for "services?" Perhaps there is room to question even the refrain that people need "services." While many people do need special kinds of care and are on the streets because self-care has become challenging, the refrain of providing "services" seems to detract from focusing on the essence of what those experiencing homelessness most often need: housing. And that leads to safety, stability and dignity. Watching how the city handles homelessness in bad weather these past few weeks has really raised questions about whether those responding to homelessness in San Francisco agree on what they are supposed to be doing. ■

HOME MOMS FIGHT JUST

TRACEY MIXON

Homeless mothers united on the steps of City Hall on May 9, three days ahead of Mother's Day, calling on city leaders to prioritize homeless families and others experiencing homelessness in the budget process. On any given day in San Francisco, there are over 2,500 children experiencing homelessness in the San Francisco public school system. The Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA) has put forward a two-year budget request to prioritize funding for homeless solutions. Included is expansion of needs-based housing subsidies, family shelter funding, housing navigation services, homeless prevention, workplace development services and behavioral health services.

"It is vital that families are included in the city budget. To help families of color stay in San Francisco, even more so. The HESPA budget is asking for the things that our families desperately need," says Sophia Thibodeaux, a homeless mother and member of the Coalition on Homelessness.



HOMELESS STREETS FOR ICE

Homeless families in San Francisco are a hidden population. Often they are in shelters, cars, doubled up, or in single-room occupancies. There are only two emergency shelters for families in San Francisco. It is imperative that an additional emergency family shelter is created. Additional needs-based subsidies are needed to ensure families are able to remain in San Francisco without having to disrupt their lives. Housing navigation services will help families in shelter navigate what is often times a difficult system to understand. Homeless families are in dire need of mental health services to ensure that they achieve success.

“We as mothers deserve more from our elected officials. We need help to navigate the avenues that are accessible to us as homeless mothers. Having additional tools to help us exit homelessness are needed for us to succeed and maintain stable housing for our families,” according to Danielle Kinnard, a homeless mother.

JESSICA BOYKINS

My name is Jessica Boykins and I’m

a 28-year-old mother of three and survivor of domestic violence. I come from a family that has a history of homelessness and drug abuse and my life’s mission is to break the cycle for my children. I’m currently homeless and have been since 2010 when I became pregnant with my first child. I’ve lived in constant fear for years of Child Protective Services taking my children due to the domestic violence and the lack of permanent housing. So, I’m here to support the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association budget wholeheartedly because no one should have to bounce around from motel to motel and state to state seeking assistance.

It wasn’t until January of 2015 that I was able to start receiving assistance and creating some type of stability for myself and children thanks to the emergency shelters, First Friendship and Providence. And on May 20 of this year, my family and I will finally have permanent housing thanks to Compass Family Services. But it should never have to take nine years, a history of domestic violence, and mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder for someone

to receive the help they so desperately need. So please stand with me in support of the HESPA Budget and remember that we are all humans and deserves to be treating as such.

MEGHAN “ROADKILL” JOHNSON

My name is Meghan Johnson, mother of two beautiful rainbow

children. Behind me are strong, courageous, powerful, voiceful woman, mothers, sisters, aunts and children. Coming together for one cause — housing now!

I am a born and raised San Franciscan, and there is a real crisis here myself and so many other women are being faced with being rejected and forced to leave the only city we have known as home. With more high-rises going up, not accommodating low income. Housing becomes scarcer and scarcer. We have been faced with homelessness and we are homeless with our children now.

Another Mother’s Day is coming up, and some mothers will be in between finding a new home, wondering if their going to have to sleep out on the street tonight with their children. Some mothers will be living in their cars, getting little to no sleep, afraid that their car is going to be impounded and their children taken away, and others, including myself, will be in a shelter tonight, having jumped through so many hoops to get that room or bed for even a night.

We are struggling, but our blood is pumping, and we are working hard to get ahead in life for our children. Everything leading up to this moment has been for them. Supporting this HESPA budget, investing in keeping these families together, that is the fundamental to keeping San Francisco, staying San Francisco.

SOPHIA THIBODEAUX

I’m Sophia Thibodeaux a homeless PROUD mother of three beautiful, smart kids. We’ve lived in tents, cars and couch-surfed for years. Currently, we’re doubled up with another family and it’s one of the most uncomfortable feelings ever for myself and children.

Doubled up, is a term that refers to a situation where individuals are unable to maintain their housing situa-

Photo by Robert Gumpert
Nathaly Frias tears up at the micorphone on the steps of City Hall. Tracey Mixon, Sophie Thibodeaux, and Jessica Boykins comfort her.

tion and are forced to stay with a series of friends and or extended family members. And as a human being, we all deserve the basic right to be able to turn the key to our own homes. Yet for myself and so many other homeless mothers, this is a dream deferred due to the lack of resources and support we receive right here in the city.

I stand here in full support of the HESPA Budget which request \$14 million to provide the basic resources and necessities that my children and I so desperately need, not want! I live for my children and I’m the face of their silent voices. Homelessness is a state of emergency that deserves local, national, and worldwide attention! The United States isn’t a third world country, yet us homeless mothers here are living that nightmare every day and every night.

- We need more funding for housing vouchers!
- We need housing vouchers to be more of a permanent fix and not a temporary one!
- We need more housing options in San Francisco, I shouldn’t have to once again uproot my kids and move to the East Bay because its cheaper.

So please, Supervisors and Mayor Breed, look at all the women who stand here today and understand we represent millions of other mothers who are homeless and forgotten by the very people who we call neighbor, brother and sister. Remember homelessness IS NOT A CRIME! Homelessness doesn’t have a color or creed! And remember that when you look at me you see a mother fighting to make the lives of her children better. So, like NIKE says “JUST DO IT” and support the HESPA budget! ■



Photo by Robert Gumpert
Meghan “Roadkill” Johnson advocating at City Hall surrounded by homeless families.



SKYWATCHERS - AT THE TABLE: VISIONS

Jay Rice

Jay Rice This weekend
hundreds of people will
gather at Kelly Cullen Community
Center on Golden Gate Avenue to
enjoy the incomparable work of the
Skywatchers Ensemble and imagine
together a vibrant future for the
Tenderloin.

You may recognize the name Skywatchers from any number of the unique performances and installations generated by the group in their storied history. Founded in 2011, Skywatchers “brings residents of San Francisco’s Tenderloin District into partnership with professional artists to create multi-disciplinary, site-specific performance installations that amplify the rich and complex stories, life experiences, and talents of community members.”

This past December, Skywatchers gained a lot of media traction for their procession at the annual Interfaith Vigil for our Homeless Dead. The group embroidered banners with the names of our neighbors who died on the streets in 2018 and carried these from Golden Gate Avenue via City Hall to UN Plaza. In March of this year, Skywatchers presented “Inside Hotel Iroquois,” which invited housed SF residents on a guided tour of the Iroquois, a Single Room Occupancy hotel run by Community Housing Partnership. Residents of the Iroquois told their stories, invited visitors into their rooms, and advocated for improvements to the building and its management.

At The Table: VISIONS is a free, three-day arts and performance festival that highlights challenges facing the neighborhood, inviting the community to discuss community-centered resolutions. This is the eighth successive At the Table festival and the first to take place entirely at one site rather than multiple venues across the neighborhood. The festival runs from Friday May 17 to Sunday May 19 and everyone is welcome to attend.

Highlights include a new performance work by the Skywatchers Ensemble, as well as a multi-media art installation, a community dinner, and a dialogue about the changing neighborhood. The festival will also feature presentations from community organizations that work with low-income and homeless Tenderloin residents. According to the press release: "The festival will convene hundreds of community members along with emerging and established artists and advocates from inside and outside the community for cutting edge and powerful performances that illuminate the beauty, diversity and challenges of the Tenderloin."

The central performance, *Came Here to Live* “offers a vision of what it means to have a seat at the table, to dismantle the table, and to create inclusion through creative resistance to systemic disenfranchisement.” Another presentation, the *Opulence Project*,

Melanie DeMore, musical director for
artist collaborative Skywatchers,
Photo reprinted from: Kevin N. Hume/
S.F. Examiner

features large-scale photo portraits of community members rendered as the god/goddess of their imagination. Skywatchers will also present a short documentary about Inside Hotel Iroquois, as well as all 200 of the hand-embroidered memorial banners.

Saturday's community meal will be hosted by a variety of local SRO tenant leaders and people who are currently experiencing homelessness. Food is provided by Glide, Imperfect Produce, and Farming Hope. Like the rest of the festival, the community meal will be completely free and open to all. Glide Daily Free Meals Program Director, George Gundry comments: "Here at Glide we understand how important the communal act of eating can be for the soul and to unify and connect socially."

As part of the program, Coalition on Homelessness will be showcasing some of our recent work regarding property confiscation, our budget ask for homeless families, and our efforts to stop the sweeps. You can come and see us on Friday evening between 5:30pm and 7pm. Tenderloin Peoples' Congress, TL Votes, Healthy Corner Store Coalition and many other neighborhood groups will also be presenting on Friday.

At the Table: VISIONS will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 17 – 19 at the Kelly Cullen Community Center at 220 Golden Gate Ave. in San Francisco. ■

My Adventure As A Homeless Person

Darnell Boyd

It was one of those hot, sunny afternoons in a wonderful city that I dare not name. The name of the city is not important, but what happened to me was. A church bus pulled up and asked us homeless folks if we were hungry, and we said "yes." So they set up tables in the parking lot and started passing out food. On the menu was pork and beans and a hot dog. I don't eat hot dogs because I'm a vegetarian, but I accepted it just to give it to a friend of mine. So, I strapped on my backpack and went looking for him, but I decided to eat the beans before they got cold. As soon as I sat down by the capitol, the police bulled up with their hands on their Glocks.

"What's the problem officer?" I said.

"You are not supposed to be here," he said.

So, I asked why.

"You just aren't."

“What am I doing wrong sitting in front of the capitol eating?”

"Let me see some I.D."

So he ran my name, and it came back clean, but he told me to keep it moving and that if he drove back past that he was going to give me a trespassing ticket. I was targeted because of my backpack. ■

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

<div>MAY 16</div> <div>HEARING TO SHUT DOWN JUVENILE HALL BY 2021</div> <div>WHERE: CITY HALL @10-12PM Come out to the Government Audit and Oversight Committee and let Supervisors Gordon Mar, Vallie Brown, and Aaron Peskin know that you support the shut down of juvenile hall by 2021 because reimagining how to support youth in their communities is the most morally and fiscally responsible thing to do for San Francisco youth and their families. Please come share your testimony at public comment. ACCESS: City Hall is ADA accessible</div>	<div>MAY 18</div> <div>COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS: BOCCE BALL FUNDRAISER</div> <div>WHERE: AQUATIC PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT 890 BEACH ST @11AM-3PM Food, drink, raffle, prizes, and a kid-friendly environment! ACCESS: For info call (415)571-1696</div>	<div>MAY 21</div> <div>QUEER & TRANS ICONS/ SELFIES & STORIES WORKSHOP</div> <div>WHERE: TBA @12-1:30 PM Learn more about queer and trans icons, snap a selfie, and tell your story at a special workshop for the Pride Issue of Street Sheet! This workshop will focus on storytelling and supporting queer and trans people in getting their stories out to a broad audience. PLUS! Become an icon: Get your selfie turned into an illustrated icon by artist Jason Wyman. ACCESS: TBA but the space will be ADA accessible</div>	<div>MAY 21</div> <div>40 YEARS,NO APOLOGIES: WHITE NIGHT MARCH AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE</div> <div>WHERE: CASTRO AND MARKET @5-8PM Police violence is a common denominator within our communities: queers, incarcerated people, immigrants, the homeless, and people of color, with our black brothers and sisters being the most imperiled. The loss of our lives at the hands of law enforcement will not be tolerated, and perpetrators will be brought to justice. So, we will march on San Francisco City Hall just as San Franciscans did that night in 1979 and speak this truth..</div>
<div>MAY 27</div> <div>DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR STREET SHEET SEX WORKER ISSUE</div> <div>Street Sheet welcomes submissions of poetry, art, photography, articles, narratives, short stories, comics, etc from current and former sex workers for our second annual Sex Worker Issue. Submissions can be emailed to streetsheetsf@gmail.com or brought in person or mailed to 468 Turk Street. Our office is up a flight of stairs.</div>	<div>JUNE 2</div> <div>ST JAMES INFIRMARY 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA</div> <div>WHERE: TERRA GALLERY, 511 HARRISSON STREET @ 6-11PM Hooker's Masquerade Ball Celebrating lives saved and improved health for thousands of sex workers and their families in our community. We aim to raise \$100,000 in support of our mission and programs. St. James has always been needed, but let's be honest, 20 years is a long time to be achieving for our mission. We can't do it without you! ACCESS:</div>	<div>JUNE 3</div> <div>ANTI OPPRESSION TRAINING</div> <div>WHERE: HOSPITALITY HOUSE SF 290 TURK ST @2-5PM The broader movement for social justice is struggling to end the ways oppression dictates survival, access, resource distribution, and quality of life. Participants will build and deepen their own embodiment of and thinking around anti-oppression frames as well as leave with questions and answers to continue discussion. ACCESS: ADA Accessible, gender neutral bathrooms available</div>	<div>JUNE 5</div> <div>SB50: WHO GETS TO LIVE IN THE NEW CALIFORNIA?</div> <div>WHERE: IMPACT HUB SAN FRANCISCO 1885 MISSION ST, @6-7:30PM Lawmakers have returned with SB50, a supposedly revised bill that claims to have taken into consideration concerns of justice and equity. At this panel discussion, we will take a critical look at this bill and the ideology behind it, what impacts it will have in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area, and whether it truly will live up to its new promises. ACCESS: The space is wheelchair accessible, has gender neutral restrooms, and there is no scent policy.</div>

Bay Area Sex Worker Film & Arts Festival

The San Francisco Bay Area Sex Worker Film & Arts Festival provides a forum for the accomplishments of sex worker performers, artists, activists and video makers from San Francisco and around the world. The Sex Worker Fest focuses on the lives, art, and the struggle for workers' and human rights by people engaged in sex work. The Festival strives to maintain a forum for diverse voices, including youth, sex workers of color, migrant sex workers; sex workers' rights organizations around the world, queer and trans sex workers, sex worker artists, and sex workers both within and outside the borders of the United States. All events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

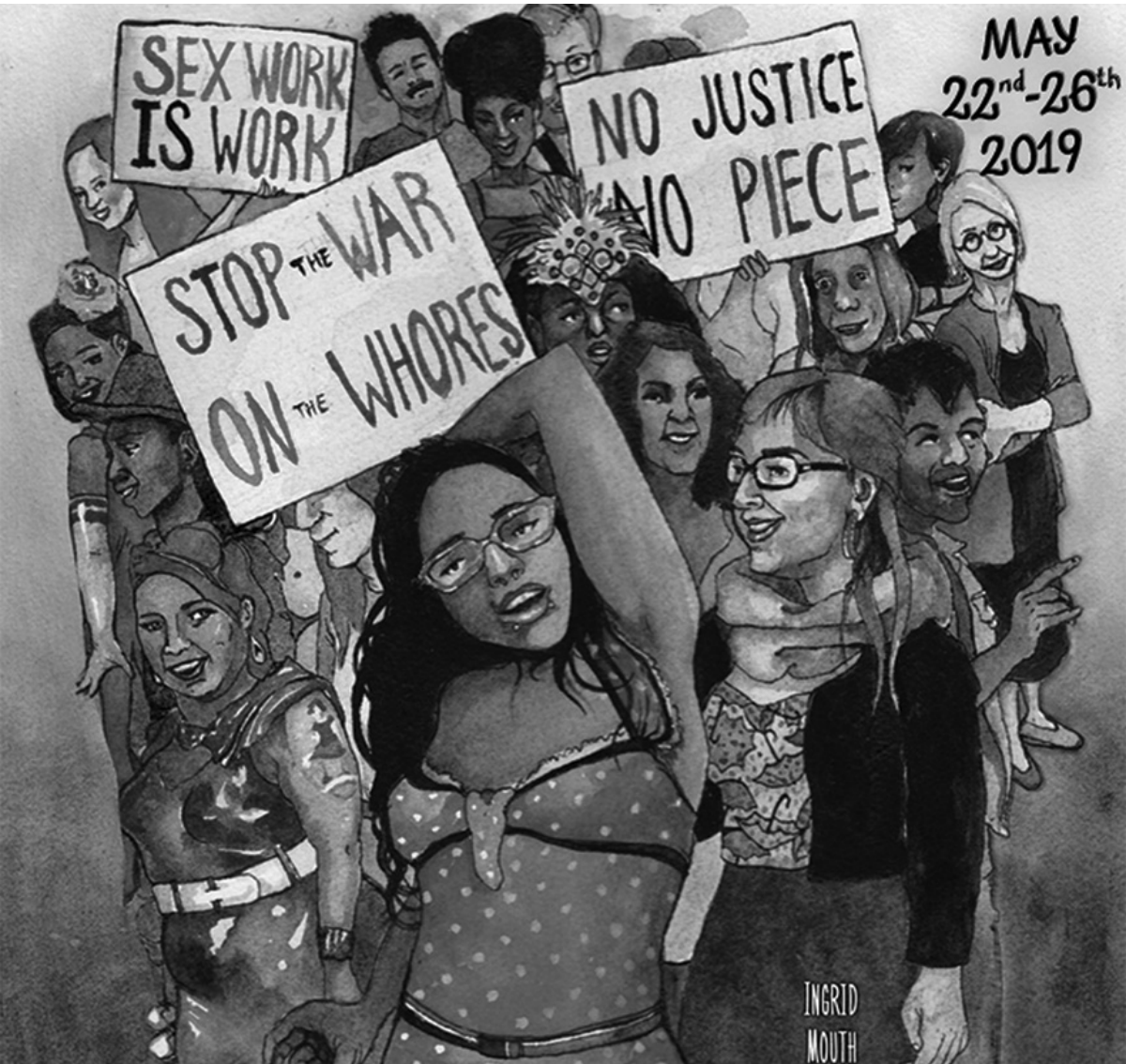
Movies play at various venues including an introductory webinar May 19th. Artists Television Access (SF), BAWs (Bay Area Worker Support benefit with "Failed Films" at Dungeon Art Gallery, Oakland, Oakland SOL, and a Sex Worker Movie Marathon at the Roxie Theate.

Events culminate at Whores Bath, a magical healing event for sex workers only.

Visit our schedule and our website for all the details : <http://sexworkerfest.com/>

Festival Producers: Carol Leigh, Erica Elena and Sangria Red

Movie Curators: Ari Gatak, Miki Mossman, Bambi Katsura ■



STREET SHEET

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

PRIDE

ISSUE

send your poetry, art, narratives,
articles, events, and photos to
streetsheetsf@gmail.com
by June 10th to be considered for publication

STREET SHEET IS ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
FROM CURRENT AND FORMER
SEX WORKERS

anonymous submissions okay



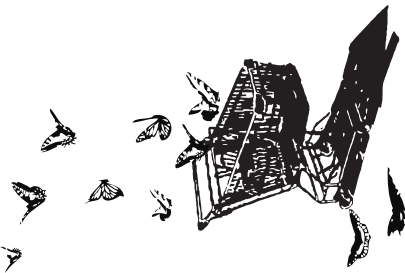
**POETRY
ARTICLES**
SHORT STORIES
ARTWORK
COMICS
etc

DEADLINE: MAY 27TH
SUBMIT TO STREETSHEETSF@GMAIL.COM

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

Our 20th Anniversary Gala!

At Terra Gallery
Sunday, June 2, 2019
6:00 pm - 11:00 pm
511 Harrison Street, San Francisco



**Celebrating lives saved and improved health for thousands
of sex workers and their families in our community for 20 years.**