



MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

VENDORS RECEIVE UP TO 75 PAPERS PER DAY FOR FREE.

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

STREET

ART AND 2023



COH ET AL V. SAN FRANCISCO: CITY BALKS ON SETTLEMENT OFFER

TJ JOHNSTON

The Coalition on Homelessness offered to settle its lawsuit against San Francisco for its illegal practices of sweeping unhoused people off sidewalks. The City rejected the offer.

In a Thursday letter to City Attorney David Chiu, Mayor London Breed and others, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area and the American Civil Liberties Union Northern California said that both sides could work together toward a shared goal of tackling the dual problems of street homelessness and a lack of affordable housing.

“[The city attorney’s] office supports making housing affordable and getting serious about a holistic approach to addressing street homelessness,” the Lawyers’ Committee and ACLU wrote to Chiu earlier on August 10. “We believe we have a lot of common ground to work from.”

Instead, the legal battle continues.

The Coalition, along with seven individual plaintiffs, filed suit against the City last year for destruction of homeless people’s property in sweeps. A trial is scheduled next year.

But Chiu decried the offer as political theater in a statement released later Thursday. “Legal parties do not engage in settlement negotiations via the press, particularly when confidential settlement discussions are required,” he said, ironically in a news release.

The plaintiffs’ olive branch came two weeks before an August 24 hearing that will focus on a preliminary injunction a federal judge imposed on the City last year. Citing a 2018 federal court decision, *Martin v. Boise*, Judge Donna Ryu ruled that the City must refrain from dismantling encampments while there is no shelter available. According to that case, penalizing unsheltered

people for camping outside is cruel and unusual punishment.

At a press conference, Zal Shroff, acting legal director of the Lawyers’ Committee, noted that the City offers only 3,000 shelter beds for a population of 7,000 unhoused people. As of publication time, just fewer than 400 single adults are on the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing’s recently reactivated shelter reservation waitlist.

The Coalition, which also publishes Street Sheet, alleges that City workers have been violating the injunction, especially during an exceptionally rainy winter. It says it has evidence of workers continuing sweeps, especially with police at the scene.

At the same time, city officials and neighborhood merchants have been turning to the court of public opinion through local media, charging unhoused San Franciscans on the streets—and by extension, the Coalition—for a host of problems ranging from a drop in retail sales to a major fire.

Mayor Breed suggested on social media that the presence of encampments puts the safety of housed residents at risk after a fire consumed a construction site in the Hayes Valley neighborhood, though the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Without substantiating the claims, she said that the injunction has impeded the removal of tents in the area.

Also, a recent San Francisco Chronicle story about Toro Costaño, a co-plaintiff living in a tent on a Castro District sidewalk, quoted Savio D’Souza, a UPS store owner in the neighborhood: “I don’t blame the City. I blame the person. I blame the homeless coalition. They are the ones making things worse.” District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman also censured the Coalition and

HELP KEEP STREET SHEET IN PRINT!



coalition.networkforgood.com

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

PHOTOGRAPHERS
VIDEOGRAPHERS
TRANSLATORS
COMIC ARTISTS
NEWSPAPER LAYOUT
WEBSITE
MAINTENANCE
GRAPHIC
DESIGNERS
INTERNS
WRITERS
COPYEDITORS

DONATE EQUIPMENT!

LAPTOPS
DIGITAL CAMERAS
AUDIO RECORDERS
SOUND EQUIPMENT

CONTACT:
TJJOHNSTON@COHSF.ORG

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 agendas to us.

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.

Editor: TJ Johnston
Vendor Coordinator: Emmett House
Artistic Spellcaster: Quiver Watts

Cover Art: Ella Noe
<https://www.ellanoart.com>

Ehren Tool, Joseph Johnston, Charles Blackwell, John Bottomly, Jamil Nasim, Kseniya Makarova, Brett Amory, Jan Wurm, Helena Tiainen, Mel Prest, Jack Bragen, Vilnius Walker, Andrew Hay, Art Hazelwood, Priscilla Rodriguez

Street Sheet is published and distributed on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone peoples. We recognize and honor the ongoing presence and stewardship of the original people of this land. We recognize that homelessness can not truly be ended until this land is returned to its original stewards.

Costaño for Costaño’s continued existence in public space. But without sufficient information about available services, Costaño told the Chronicle, he’s been unable to move off the street.

Meanwhile, with an ABC7 News crew filming, D’Souza staged a protest with other merchants outside that same encampment where Costaño lives.

At the August 10 press conference, the Coalition offered alternatives to a police-centered approach on homelessness. Among the suggestions was that the City deploy outreach workers instead of police officers.

It also recommended that when sweeps are unavoidable that City workers follow its own “bag and tag” protocols instead of throwing away camp residents’ survival gear and other possessions.

On the housing front, the Coalition asked the City to refurbish over 800 vacant permanent supportive housing units and use Proposition C funds to increase the number of housing units, subsidies and shelter beds, as well as expanding homelessness prevention efforts and treatment. ■

IN THE EAST BAY:

FOUR DECADES OF POLICE ENCOUNTERS

JACK BRAGEN

Content warning: This article describes police harassment perpetrated toward me. I acknowledge that this article could reopen old wounds of some past acquaintances and could step on some toes: You know who you are. I am sorry about that. However, this is a story that I need to tell.

As a teen, I was arrested in an incident where I was clueless, and didn't have any "criminal intent," as law enforcement would call it. I was released shortly after being detained. At the time, the incident was terrifying. But a few years later, as an 18-year-old, I was arrested again. This was partly a consequence of the onset of a severe psychiatric disorder. I was very delusional at the time, and psychiatric conditions run in my family. Yet the arrest was also a consequence of my failure to consider the rights of others.

This happened 40 years ago, and I've had time to ponder the episode. Since then, I've been harassed a great number of times by police officers. I need this to stop. I'm not a criminal. They haven't arrested me since the time of the one incident, but they've taken me in on psychiatric holds (called a "5150" in California) and they have otherwise made their presence known.

I am certain that if I were Black or brown, by now I would be behind bars, because of how unequal things are. Racism continues and it is widespread in the criminal justice system. I remember with great sadness Al Sharpton's eulogy at the George Floyd memorial, in which he said, "Get your knee off our necks!"

I am grateful not to be treated with horrifying unfairness and murderous cruelty due to skin color. Yet having white skin doesn't get me fully off the hook. As a white mentally ill man who is not at the top of the socioeconomic ladder, I am targeted by police who seem to believe it is acceptable to keep after me.

At the same time, I am also grateful to police who have helped me when I actually needed their help. When I've called, so long as I'm able to communicate adequately, the help exists, for me at least. I'm careful not to accuse anyone of anything. The only thing I'm going to do is to report facts. This is respected by dispatchers and officers.

I have residual trauma due to my past interactions with cops. Because of that, my perceptions of events involving cops will always be skewed. Recently, police departments across the country had their "National Night Out" event. The organization that manages my housing had its own participatory event, and at the last minute, I decided not to go, because I had a panic attack. It is an annual event intended to improve relations with police and communities, and I couldn't do this.

To my apartment manager's credit, he brought a plate of food to my unit. This is commendable—I'm not used to being helped when I dodge out of something.

Now, let me tell you what happened to me not too long ago. I jotted down some parts of it in a notebook just afterward, and it was retraumatizing...

At about noon, I had a lot of difficulty finding a parking place reserved for residents of my building, so I parked in a metered spot in front of the building. The meter accepted my payment, so I was legally parked. My car registration is up to date, my car is insured, and I have a valid license.

I have a habit of smoking cigarettes in my car because smoking is not permitted inside the building. So, after feeding the parking meter, I sat in the car and lit up, with my door slightly opened for fresh air.

I was then subject to a very ambiguous possible police encounter. This is one of many police encounters I've had, and as far as I'm aware I wasn't doing anything wrong. Police arrived and had a way of creating much fear and upset, and when it was clear they couldn't come after me, I finished smoking, locked my car, walked past the officers, went into my building, and I went up to my studio apartment. I wanted to cry.

This followed a trip to Walgreens, where I'd needed to buy cigarettes and bread so that I would be able to smoke and eat. When I returned to my building, parking wasn't possible because the spaces were all taken. I was unhappy about paying two dollars to the parking meter,

and about needing to move my car elsewhere within four hours.

To give the reader an advance hint, this incident ends very anticlimactically. And where police encounters are concerned, anticlimactic is good.

Now, I will describe the scariest parts of this incident: I was in my car smoking, and a giant black police cruiser pulled up in front of my car, and then backed up slowly to the point where it was just a few feet away from the front of my car. But the cop who drove the vehicle managed to do this in a way to maximize the threat element. I'm not certain as to how this was done; maybe it was how slowly and deliberately he backed up.

Finally, the cruiser was parked. Then, a huge, frightening-looking officer emerged from the vehicle, and looked at me while not appearing to look at me. And a second officer arrived on the scene in another police cruiser. There was some to-do with putting on gloves and taking them off. This was done very deliberately, probably to maximize the effect.

The cop looked at me, I looked back. My back-look wasn't scary, but it was sufficient for the situation.

After a while, things seemed to settle down. Someone else—maybe the person who might have called them—spoke to them, and there was some type of apology audible. The whole thing likely had nothing to do with me. It was likely to have been someone else they were after. However, I happened to be present in front of the building, and maybe I was just at the wrong place at the wrong time.

With my past as it existed, with being mentally ill, and having low income, these are factors that make me more vulnerable and an easier target.

All told, I would guess that people who live on the streets or in homeless encampments could be convenient targets because they may not even have so much as a cellphone with which to record incidents of bad conduct by officers or have an opportunity to upload a video to a television station.

Officers, some of whom are putting their lives on the line, and who are following orders, aren't solely to blame—it is the policymakers we should go after.

Police have been known to do a poor job in dealing with mentally ill people. Some of the better trained, younger, nicer officers, many of them people of color, many of them female, come across as relatively nonthreatening. However, the huge, formidable firearm they wear is enough to let me know the cop is to be treated cooperatively and with respect.

I don't believe in defunding police; I believe in better training and in better corrective measures for officers who do harm. Realistically, we need police, and we will always have them. The question is that of keeping them accountable, well trained, and taken care of. When a cop is overly stressed out, they, too, can make a regrettable mistake. ■

Jack Bragen lives and writes in Martinez, California. Opinions expressed are those of the writer, and not necessarily of the publisher.

BECOME A VENDOR

MAKE MONEY AND HELP END HOMELESSNESS!

STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco.

Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money you make from sales! Sign up to earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10AM-4PM ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10AM-NOON ON FRIDAY



CUPS FOR COHSF
EHREN TOOL



RONNIE GOODMAN
JOSEPH JOHNSTON



TURK STREET
CHARLES BLACKWELL

ART AUCTION 2023

housing is harm reduction

Our annual Art Auction sustains our tireless work of ensuring homeless folks are centered in policy decisions in our city. ArtAuction23 is the place to buy amazing local art, and see one of a kind performances from Orchestra Gold and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. All proceeds from ArtAuction23 benefit the organizing work of the Coalition on Homelessness, including our Human Rights and Housing Justice Working groups and Street Sheet newspaper. Get your tickets today, and join us on September 7th for a night you won't forget!



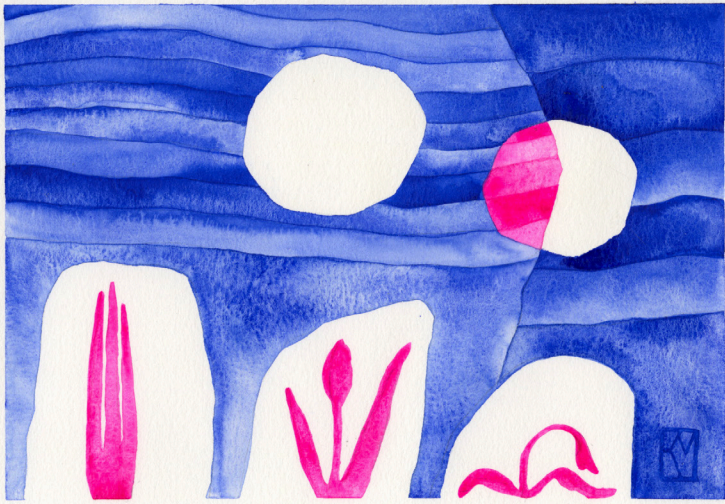
<https://one.bidpal.net/cohartauction23/>



HAVANA
JOHN BOTTOMLY



JAMIL NASIM



EVEN THE FLOWERS
KSENIYA MAKAROVA



OCEAN FLOOR SOUND
MEL PREST



CAMPER
JAN WURM



**MAY NATURE
SUPPORT YOU**
HELENA TIAINEN

OPPENHEIMER AND THE STORY BEHIND THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LAND TO THE LAB

ANDREW HAY

In Christopher Nolan's bleak and sweeping biopic of the man who led the development of the first atomic bomb, characters make cursory reference to the residents of the land the US government's secret division for the bomb's creation took over to build its Los Alamos facility. But who were the people forced to leave and what happened to them?

In the movie *Oppenheimer* the eponymous character played by Cillian Murphy says the proposed site for a secret atomic weapons lab in northern New Mexico has only a boys' school and Indians performing burial rites.

But there were homesteaders living on that land.

In 1942, the US Army gave 32 Hispano families on the Pajarito Plateau 48 hours to leave their homes and land, in some cases at gunpoint, to build the lab that would create the world's first atomic bombs, according to relatives of those removed and a former lab employee.

Homes were bulldozed, livestock shot or let loose, and families given little or no compensation, according to Loyda Martinez, 67, who worked as a computer scientist for 32 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and cited accounts from

evicted ranching and farming families who are her neighbors in the Espanola Valley.

A National Nuclear Security Administration spokesperson said Hispanic farmers were compensated at a significantly lower rate than white property owners but the agency was not aware of homes being destroyed and animals killed or abandoned. The agency did not address whether homesteaders were forcefully removed.

Martinez has spent decades campaigning for the evicted homesteaders and the rights of Hispano, Native, women and other lab employees and has won two class action suits relating to equal pay and treatment for them.

"These were Hispanic American homesteaders which perhaps explains why this dark episode in American history is so ignored," she said.

Christopher Nolan's blockbuster *Oppenheimer* has stirred up northern New Mexico's conflicted relationship with "the lab," which today has over 14,000 workers and is the region's largest employer.

For many local Hispanos - descendants of Spanish colonial settlers - its high wages have paid for homes, higher education, and a chance to hang onto

multigenerational lands in this land-rich, cash-poor area.

Marcel Torres, whose family has lived in the Penasco area since the 1700s, worked in the lab's most secret sectors for 35 years as a machinist helping build nuclear weapons - to, he said, "try and prevent a world war."

"We were so valuable to them that they didn't care who we were in race," said Torres, 78, who said he earned around three times as much at the lab as he would have elsewhere in the area.

For others, the lab carries a legacy of death and dispossession.

Martinez lobbied the U.S. Congress for compensation for employees like her father, a lab worker who died after working with toxic chemical element beryllium.

In 2000 Congress acknowledged that radiation and other toxins had contributed to the deaths or illnesses of thousands of nuclear weapons workers.

The Department of Labor set up a compensation fund for those affected but it took years for families to be paid, said Martinez, who served on New Mexico's state human rights commission in the early 2000s.

Myrriah Gomez, an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico, said her great-grandparents were evicted from their 63-acre ranch to build the lab and her grandfather died of colon cancer after working on the Manhattan Project.

"Oppenheimer had no qualms about displacing people from their homelands," said Gomez, who wrote "Nuclear Nuevo Mexico" about the setting up of the

lab.

Author Alisa Valdes, who has written a screenplay on Loyda Martinez, said scenes in *Oppenheimer* shot near Abiquiu, New Mexico, depicting the lab in an empty landscape echoed the US government's line that the area was uninhabited.

Publicists for the movie did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lab was built on lands sacred to local Tewa people that were granted to Hispano settlers under Spanish colonial rule then allotted to both Hispano and white homesteaders after the United States occupied the area following the 1846-1848 Mexican-American War.

"Taking land for Los Alamos was not an aberration, it's what the United States had been doing since 1848," said State Historian of New Mexico Rob Martinez, whose great uncle worked at the lab.

In 2004, homesteader families won a \$10 million compensation fund from the U.S. government.

Today Los Alamos County, where the lab is based, is one of the richest and best-educated in the United States. Neighboring Rio Arriba County, which is 91 per cent Hispanic and Native American, is among the country's poorest, with the lowest academic scores.

"There's no economic development in our areas because it's all focused in Los Alamos," said Cristian Madrid-Estrada, director of the regional homeless shelter in Espanola, Rio Arriba's largest town.

The lab said over 61 per cent of employees hired since 2018 were from New Mexico, with most of its workforce living outside Los Alamos County.

"We are dedicated to the success of this region we all call home," a spokesperson said in a statement. ■

Courtesy of Reuters / International Network of Street Papers



RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH ART

VILNIUS WALKER

AN INTERVIEW WITH ART HAZELWOOD

The growth of awareness-driven social justice campaigns, especially in social media, makes one thing clear: Tapping into communities' understanding and involvement in local and global issues can be just as powerful as fundraising.

In California and elsewhere in the U.S., government underfunding and inaction has failed to address the core issues that drive homelessness: low wages, unaffordable housing and a lack of poverty services.

Of course, the state sees no short-term return on investment on addressing the homelessness crisis, so it balks at the idea even though alleviating homelessness would economically propel California in the long term.

Art Hazelwood recognizes the importance of involving individuals and communities in the struggle against homelessness and has vastly expanded the involvement of artists in leading the struggle against homelessness, demonstrating the genuine impact of awareness and community involvement. On his website, he bills himself as an "artist, impresario and instigator." In 2017, he received the Artwork as Revolution Award from the Coalition on Homelessness.

Street Sheet sat down with Hazelwood to discuss his career,

connection to the newspaper and its work, as well as the upcoming Coalition on Homelessness' art auction. This conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Can you say why you have been drawn towards political and social expression in your work?

Yeah, it's kind of a long history, but I would say that Street Sheet actually played a big role in that because I had a kind of stylistic relation to political art but not a lot of focus in my work. I moved to San Francisco in the early nineties, connected with Street Sheet and their editor Lydia [Blumberg], and just started making political work that is connected to a specific action. Lydia used to have assignments like, okay, the next issue is about addiction and that gave me the focus and the purpose of making political art. That idea of an artist connecting with an organization that is really doing the activist work, I think, is at the center of being a political artist.

One issue which your work comments on is homelessness. What would you say about the state of homelessness in California?

The state of homelessness is under constant threat. The COVID pandemic, I think, for a moment, made everybody aware that

homeless people are particularly vulnerable not only to COVID but to exposure to the elements. And people started to have an understanding, but then very quickly after the first few months maybe, there was this idea of, well, we have to

sweep them away again. So after the perceived end of the pandemic, the brutality of political ideas and the police against homelessness has just increased. I think that the state of homelessness now is a state of really being on defense against brutality.

You have consistently participated in the Coalition on Homelessness's art auction. Could you say a few words about why this event is important to you?

The auction has been going on for quite a long time and I've participated pretty much since the beginning of it. Of course, it raises money for those organizing around homelessness, which is vital to keeping the organization going, but I think the most important part is

connecting the community to the Coalition and to the work of the Coalition. So for me, it's always important that, yes, people have a great time, and there's a lot of art that people are interested in, but the most important thing is just to connect to the message of the Coalition and to connect people that might not otherwise connect to the Coalition. And, it should be a fun event for bringing people together. ■

Photo of Hazelwood
by Priscilla Rodriguez



CONTRIBUTE TO STREET SHEET

WRITING: We are always looking for new writers to help us spread the word on the street! Write about your experience of homelessness in San Francisco, about policies you think the City should put in place or change, your opinion on local issues, or about something newsworthy happening in your neighborhood!

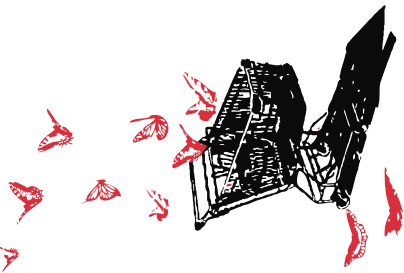
ARTWORK: Help transform ART into ACTION by designing artwork for STREET SHEET! We especially love art that uplifts homeless people, celebrates the power of community organizing, or calls out abuses of power! Cover dimensions are generally 10x13 but artwork of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!

PHOTOGRAPHY: Have a keen eye for beauty? Love capturing powerful moments at events? Have a photo of a Street Sheet vendor you'd like to share? We would love to run your photos in Street Sheet! Note that subjects must have consented to being photographed to be included in this paper.

**VISIT WWW.STREETSHEET.ORG/SUBMIT-YOUR-WRITING/
OR BRING SUBMISSIONS TO 280 TURK STREET TO BE CONSIDERED
PIECES ASSIGNED BY THE EDITOR MAY OFFER PAYMENT, ASK FOR DETAILS!**

Coalition On Homelessness
280 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3481
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188

ORGANIZE WITH US

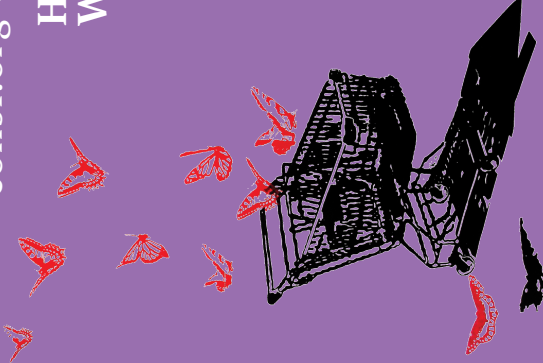
HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TUESDAYS @ NOON

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! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WEDNESDAYS @12:30

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! Email lpierce@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS!



Art Auction 23
Housing is Harm Reduction

Music by
Orchestra
Gold



Transforming Art Into Action

THURSDAY SEPT 07 ✨ 5:30 - 10pm

✨ SOMArts Gallery

