

# BAYVIEW FOOTPRINTS

Volume 2 Issue 1

January 2009

## NEW YEAR - CHANGE EDITION

The clamor for “change” is global, and will be broadcast again this month with the dramatic inauguration in Washington DC. Here at home, in Bayview Hunters Point, change has been a constant for years.

In this issue, you will find reports on new **Bayview businesses** opening their doors despite the national trend; **informal community groups** gathering momentum with project focuses ranging from the arts, environment, health, and more; and **community institutions**, such as our library, preparing for major transformations. It’s a dynamic time in our community.

Still, the struggles families have experienced here for a very long time persist, and the global economic crisis strikes the most vulnerable hardest. As it has become harder for government and other institutions to find the resources to help, residents again fall back on our own social networks... families, friends, neighbors, community groups, churches, small businesses... which become all the more precious.

The Bayview Footprints groups, focusing on all sorts of positive community-building strategies, have invested in the real “safety net.” We celebrate them, their accomplishments this past year, and the vision they bring to new work in challenging times.

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## NEW BAYVIEW MURAL “MLK Day of Service”

Heidi Hardin, Think Round, Inc.

If you are in Bayview and standing on the hills along the Bay, look west to see something new near the familiar spire of All Hallows Church: strokes of bright colors that are part of Bayview’s newest piece of public art.

Acting on a generous grant from the Zellerbach Foundation, the Quesada Gardens Initiative solicited community artists Malik Seneferu and Heidi Hardin to create a “Bayview Is...” Community Mural on a gray retaining wall located on Newhall Avenue, just below the showpiece Bridgeview Garden.

Seneferu created a design that depicts the sun radiating across the 120’ x 14’ wall, dividing it into six areas of solid

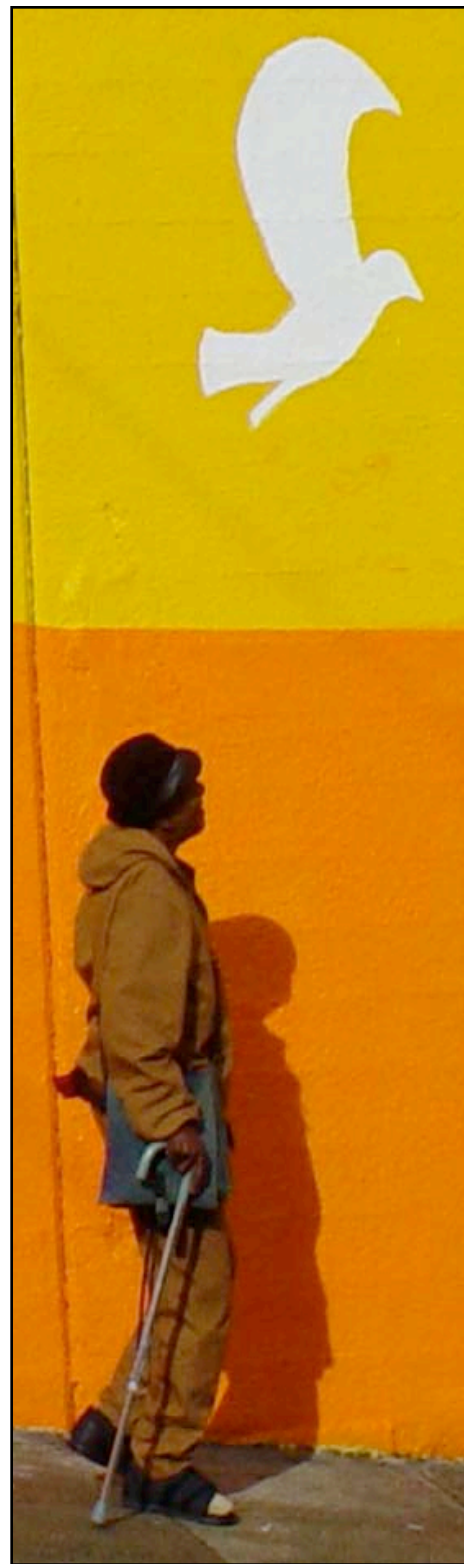
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## FOOTPRINTS REINVENTED

Bayview Footprints did something you don’t see very often: a public review of what we do and how we do it. Even a collaboration fueled by volunteers, residents, and small organization staffers should be transparent, responsive and open to change.

In October, Footprints leaders and allies asked the Haas Business School to send a team of advanced students to facilitate public meetings, interview member group representatives, and present

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## Unique MLK Day Celebration

Monday, January 19, 2009

10am to 2pm

Volunteers gather at the Quesada mural site for a day of service.

2pm to 3pm

The “Bayview Is...” mural at Newhall and Bridgeview will be dedicated.

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

## Healthy youth, families and community

Gina Fromer,  
Executive Director

The Bayview Hunters Point YMCA is always working to make a difference for you, for your family, for our partners, and for the community.

For the last ten years, we have been creating a unique story, providing a safe haven where people gather and celebrate family, and creating programs that have a direct impact on the families they touch.

With 2009 here, we are working to expand our youth services to include a community teen center, and to increase our Health and Fitness Studio programs for active adults. We see the difference that our YMCA makes every day in the lives of ordinary people.

The BVHP YMCA is an anchor organization working in collaboration with key partners to bring quality services and programs to the diverse community of Bayview Hunters Point. We are a focal point of youth development, youth leadership, and youth sports – a conduit for the forward movement of our future generation.

Note: The Bayview YMCA is a Bayview Footprints member group, and is located at the corner of Lane and Quesada. Contact them at 415.822.7728.

*Footprints Reinvented-  
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feedback and recommendations. We also administered two surveys, one for our member groups, and another for the broader community that was sent out online and published in the last Footprints News edition.

Bayview Footprints is respected and appreciated, according to the review findings, and accomplishing things that the community wants to see more of. On the other hand, most folks had trouble saying what, exactly, “Bayview Footprints” is!

Communications turned out to be the critical challenge: communicating Footprints’ mission and structure, communicating member benefits and responsibilities, and communicating what the group actually does.

*What is “Footprints” anyway?* The question came up often during the intensive public review process that Bayview Footprints just concluded. The Haas Business School volunteers said, in their final recommendations, that “Member groups interviewed were proud of their membership,” but that “Footprints’ main focus should be on networking the member groups.”

And so, Footprints is no longer a Collaboration of Community-Building Groups.” Welcome to the Bayview Footprints Network of Community-Building Groups!

### Changes at a glance

- Look for a new focus on “networking.”
- Look for the prioritizing of informal, small groups as members, with larger, more established organizations as supporters.
- Instead of monthly social gatherings, look for periodic “issue forums” on subjects of interest to member groups.
- Look for the network and its resources to be “open for adoption” for specific periods and for specific projects that member groups or other organizations need community support for.

**Beginning now**, Bayview Footprints is a network of informal BVHP Member Groups building community, supporting resident leadership, and contributing to a balanced story about our beloved neighborhood. The “walking footprints” graphic represents the strength of diversity and the recognition that our past, present and future are inseparable.

Footprints’ focus is on shared values and a belief that every conversation and handshake is shaping our community whether it occurs in a meeting room or on the street. While member groups may play advocacy roles, the network as a whole is non-governmental, non-political, and entirely supportive of established policymaking and advisory structures.

The network advances BVHP groups that typically don’t have a place elsewhere: social clubs, neighborhood associations, families, new projects, small organizations, projects without funding or sponsorship, independent businesses, and the like.

Member Groups benefit from mutual support and assistance, communications opportunities, and forums for the discussion of issues important to them. Membership is free; however groups are required to participate in the life of the network to retain membership. Member Groups each have a vote in any question affecting Footprints such as new member applications.

Supporting Organizations are larger and more established groups and institutions from within and outside the community that commit to contributions in support of the network. These organizations also receive benefits, such as being listed in materials, and

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## LOCALS BOOST THE ARTS IN BVHP

Marc Ellen Hamel,  
STAR Board Member / Shipyard Artist

2008 was a busy year for the non-profit organization Shipyard Trust for the Arts (STAR). In addition to joining Footprints last year, STAR continued its tracking of the Hunters Point Shipyard redevelopment process, and built important new relationships within the Bayview Hunters Point community.

In 2009, the organization intends to focus on building infrastructure, a process it will kick-off with a full-day Board of Directors retreat this month.

Veronica Orozco, a native San Franciscan of Nicaraguan heritage, was the 2008 Artist-in-Residence. Orozco now joins the list of former artists-in-residence, which includes Rhonel Roberts, Dolores Gray, Juan Fuentes, Mary Booker, and Santie Huckaby.

STAR members and many Shipyard Artists have been active in the exciting new Bayview community arts organization, Art 94124, and were enthusiastic participants in a number of Footprints events.

### ARTS CENTER VISION

Rebecca Haseltine,  
Shipyard Artist / ACWG Member

The Art Center Working Group, in 2008, continued manifesting the dream of a multidisciplinary Community Art Center on the Hunters Point Shipyard that emphasizes arts education. 2009 will bring more detailed development

of our plan for the Center.

This past year, we met with individuals and groups in the Bayview Hunters Point community to build a broader coalition for the work, and to find out the scope of the community's needs. We continue to work with the SF City Redevelopment Agency and the Citizen's Advisory Committee to expand our base of support and to participate in the existing planning process for the Shipyard.

We also met with several experts who have created art centers in other locations to help us develop our ideas, expanded the core group of participants, created a brochure to present our mission and vision, and began investigating funding opportunities.

This year, look for us to continue this project intensively. We welcome participation on many levels. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me at 415.641.5301 or haseltine@earthlink.net.

*MLK Day/Mural  
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hot colors. Several large white birds fly across the expanse toward the sun. The bold design was completed at the end of 2008 by the artists, and teams of volunteers from the community and San Francisco General Hospital.

The design is planned to evolve in a future phase of the project. The large, solid blocks of color within the sun's rays create areas for community artists, youth, faith-based groups and others to express in words and images

what "Bayview Is..." to them. These community-generated, community-inspired visions will be facilitated by Hardin and Seneferu who welcome your ideas.

The "Bayview Is..." Campaign is a community-generated and resident-led arts and communications campaign that has been developing a balanced story about the strengths of our neighborhood over time, like resident-contributed patches in an ever-expanding quilt. It is a project of the Bayview Footprints network and the Quesada Gardens Initiative.

Hardin and Seneferu are artists and educators with deep roots in Bayview Hunters Point. The groups they lead, Think Round, Inc. and the Safe Haven Program are both Bayview Footprints member groups.

### ART 94124 SHOW

*ART 94124 will celebrate its first show of 2009 on Friday January 16th from 6pm to 10pm at the unique gallery behind Javalencia Café at 3900 Third Street. A group exhibit of artists working in multiple media that salutes jazz and African-American heritage will feature original artwork, photography, and limited-edition prints.*

*Footprints member group ART 94124 represents an innovative mix of art, business and community, and is fueled by residents and other community-minded leaders who recognize the power of grassroots strategies to bring people together and create change.*

## Business

### BAYVIEW BUSINESS IS PICTURE PERFECT



What is in a name? In the case of A & A Photography, the answer is Arnella Williams and her son Alonzo Williams. A & A is the newest business on Third Street, next door to Upper Crust Deli at Revere, and is offering photography to meet all the community's needs.

"I was raised in the neighborhood," Alonzo said recently, "and wanted to start a business that helps the community."

Alonzo has a sincere way about him, and is easy to believe. But check the price sheet, and you know he's real. Need a quick professional photo of your new girlfriend or boyfriend for your wallet? Get one, and 55 copies for your jealous friends...all for just \$16!

A & A Photography occupies a storefront divided by one of several backdrop rolls hanging from the ceiling. There seems to be a backdrop for all occasions. Stand in front of graffiti hearts for a youthful pose, or sit on a park bench for an old style studio portrait.

A & A offers a range of services, including wedding and church event photography, and is the go-to place for anyone building a modeling portfolio. The business specializes in the family portrait, and the increasingly popular

pet portrait.

Alonzo's brother, James Williams, slid behind the counter for a quick picture of the nonprofessional kind. "I'm photogenic," he said, and then grinned to prove the point.

A & A is an inviting place that illustrates the Bayview most people have yet to discover...a place where friendly family businesses pop up to meet the needs of residents...a place where you can have a professional and artful portrait taken even though funky phone pics seem to rule...a place where the people on both sides of the business counter truly care about their community.

Walk in to A & A Photography (5112 3rd Street) Monday through Saturday from 10am to 6pm, or make an appointment (415.822.FOTO).



**According to the folks collaborating to help businesses on Third Street, eight new businesses opened up on the corridor in 2008.**



*FJ Cava, Webspot owner, is caught in a rare moment of relaxation in the entryway of his unique business, a space which has the creative attention of Traci Peace at Visions of LaModa (pictured) who works with young women in the design field. Visions of LaModa holds classes at Faith Temple Church on Oakdale, and took a group of youth last summer to New York City for a backstage experience of fashion week. The collaboration between Webspot and Visions is a remarkable example of socially-responsible business working with the community for the benefit of all.*



**# 1 LENDER TO SMALL BUSINESS**

Footprints welcomes Cliff Banayat to the manager's chair of our neighborhood Wells Fargo Branch at Bayview Plaza. Denise Woo, former manager, has moved to a new position within the bank. Footprints is grateful to Wells Fargo Bank for funding reproduction of this newsletter. 415.401.1320

## MR ALLEN AND MR. PRESIDENT

Jeffrey Betcher,  
Bayview Resident

The day after Senator Obama became President-Elect Obama, Edward Allen's thoughts went to his military days, a past president, and a time when the country was in peril beyond what we're experiencing now.

"You can't touch it," Mr. Allen said of the Great Depression, World War II, and the generation of Americans that came together to turn things around. He ought to know. He's lived through most of it.

I wanted to take a walk around my neighborhood, San Francisco's maligned and challenged Bayview Hunters Point, to soak up the community reaction to the prior day's election. I said "hello" to Mr. Allen, who was sitting about a minute's walk from my front door, next to Wendy's Bakery, looking out onto the unique urban beauty of the Quesada Garden.



**Edward Allen**

Almost daily, weather permitting, Mr. Allen walks by my house carrying a folding stool, and takes position where folks have been gathering for the ten years I can speak to, and probably since the corner emerged from a dirt

road and open space. Allen and other locals know that the corner has always been favored by the sun.

"December 7th, 1941," Allen said. "The whole country came together in about a week."

Allen blew a gust of military and national history in my direction, complete with dates, names and events. De Gaulle... Churchill...Montgomery...Roosevelt...

Allen served from 1952 to 1954, during the Korean War, spending a good bit of time in Germany where he witnessed the stunning rubble that called itself "Berlin." The Korean War was the beginning of the United States' slow left turn into conflicts that should have been avoided, Allen believes. Vietnam and Iraq are on the same list.

"It's not people like Bush who have to fight," he said. "Poor folks do that part."

Allen was drafted away from a job he had held at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard for five years, and there was nothing to do but put on a uniform. The Shipyard, a rare hub of job opportunities for working people, was no protection from the draft.

Allen, I already knew, was the son of a farmer. Usually quiet, he was walking by one of the community gardens in the area a few months ago, on his way to Quesada Avenue and Third Street. He pointed out that the corn in the Bridgeview Garden needed more water than we were giving it. It was obvious that he knew what he was talking about.

Born in 1931, Allen was raised in Louisiana. With the exception of his overseas service, Bayview Hunters Point has been his home since he arrived as a teenager in 1947. When he returned

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*Alyssa crafts a paper pot.*

## INNOVATIVE GARDENING FROM THE RESIDENTS

Rhonda Winter  
Bayview Resident

My neighbor Alyssa and I spent this afternoon making paper pots to propagate wildflower seeds for the Latona Community Garden. Anyone can create these simple recycled pots using just an empty can or jar and paper.

To make a paper pot simply cut your material to size, fold it and wrap it around your jar or can leaving a few inches over the end of the container, then fold the edges of the paper over into the open end. Next, remove the jar and push the sides down to form the bottom for your pot. Now you are ready to fill it with soil for planting your favorite vegetables or flowers.

Once your seeds have sprouted, the whole biodegradable pot can be planted directly into the ground so you do not have to disturb the seedlings' roots. The entire paper pot will eventually just decompose into the earth!

When initially making paper pots I suggest experimenting with different

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# NEW BAYVIEW LIBRARY DESIGNED



*This rendering of the new Bayview branch library is the latest from Thomas Hacker Architects, and reflects community input. Note the green roof!*

## Library Design Highlights

- Expanded materials collections
- Meeting room with after-hours access
- Fully accessible
- Flexible design for future technologies
- Increased Chinese language collection
- Prominent reading area
- Two enclosed study rooms
- Expanded children's area
- Inner courtyard
- More functional staff work areas
- A larger designated teen area
- New furniture
- Clear signage
- More computers and internet access
- Express self-checkout machines
- A variety of seating choices
- 24-hour book return
- Maximum use of natural light
- Public art

Linda Brooks-Burton,  
Managing Librarian / Footprints Co-  
Founder

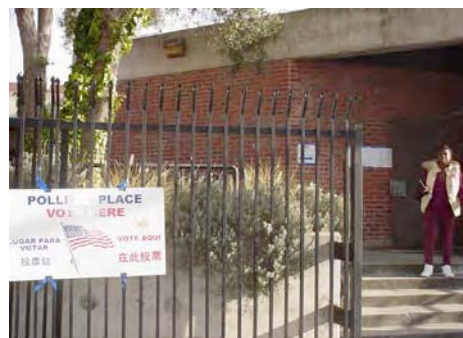
San Francisco voters passed a bond measure, in 2002, for \$106 million

to upgrade San Francisco's branch library system. In 2007, voters authorized additional funding for branch improvement.

The San Francisco Public Library decided that its Bayview branch should be rebuilt given the voting public's message and strong community support, and because increasing service needs have been difficult to meet in the current building.

In 2008, the San Francisco Public Library's Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) produced important achievements, including pre-design meetings with branch staff, administration and architects from Thomas Hacker Architects, Inc. Three community meetings, at which the architects presented design options to the community, generated community input into the process that affected the final concept.

More community meetings will be held in 2009, and construction on the new building is scheduled to begin in early 2010 and be completed in late 2011. This month, art selection for the branch will take place.



*The Bayview Branch Library is emblematic of the changing face of the neighborhood, and of the community's historic commitment to education - an important stepping stone to a better life for African Americans, immigrants, and all working class families.*

*The branch is now named for a San Francisco clerical employee, Anna E. Waden, whose bequest made possible the cooperative community project that resulted in the current building at Third and Revere where a Sinclair gas station once stood. Constructed in 1969 under the leadership of its first librarian, George Alfred, the library still traces its roots to a humble storefront facility opened in 1927.*



## 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Footprints is proud of its long list of accomplishments, all the more because it's only been eighteen months since the first groups got together and defined a focus on positive strategies that build community and tell a balanced story of our neighborhood's strengths.

- 7 social gatherings attracting hundreds of residents to the library, Upper Crust Deli, Roadhouse Café, Webspot, Javalencia Café and Gallery 94124, and the Quesada Garden.
- 6 Footprints News print editions, and dozens of e-news briefs.
- 4 issue forums, at the library and the Southeast Community Facility, on subjects including sidewalk and streets improvements, community responses to violence, history and culture, and arts funding to BVHP.
- "Bayview Is..." campaign launched so all individuals and affinity groups can share their own experience of their neighborhood through photographs, videos, public art, and more.
- Community calendar launched and paid for as a donation to collaborative work in the neighborhood.
- 1 portal website including a social networking component so that online resources for the neighborhood can be found and shared easily.

*Accomplishments are the result of pro bono contributions aside from a \$3,000 contribution from Wells Fargo Bank for the reproduction of the Footprints News, and a \$3,000 contribution from Zellerbach Family Foundation for the "Bayview Is..." mural. We are grateful to all.*

### *Beginning Now*

*Continued from page 2*

are invited to participate in events. They are non-voting allies of Footprints.

Bayview Footprint Network of Community-Building Groups encourages the spirit and energy of community cohesion so that each footprint we leave today builds on the last, and leads to a future that includes everyone.

### *Innovative Gardening*

*Continued from page 5*

sizes, methods and materials to see what works best for you; there is more than one way to make a perfect paper pot. I prefer to use old grocery bags because they are sturdy and last many months, but something else might work better for your planting needs.

### *Mr. Allen and Mr. President*

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believes, remains the best example of when the United States should fight. He remembers how, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, everything changed and ultimately got better.

Allen understood the comparisons of Obama to FDR. For him, the fact that a black man was elected president is meaningful. But what is more important is that a new president might unite everyone, and cut a path to the future that we all can find and travel together.

As we talked, passers-by -- each different than the last when it comes to race, class, and other things that usually separate us -- all smiled and shared in the excitement of the day. "From the outhouse to the White House," one said.

If a sunny corner in Bayview and a conversation between neighbors are any indication, Allen's vision for the country under an Obama presidency seems especially focused, and as close to becoming reality as the people walking by.

Whether we see sudden "change" or a long slow climb, we can find Edward Allen on most sunny days somewhere between the Quesada Garden and Wendy's Bakery, making sense of the day's events by remembering the past.

Bayview Footprints member groups are: ART 94124, Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center, Bayview Business Resource Center, Bayview History Preservation Project, Bayview Safe Haven, Bayview YMCA, Better Bayview Group, Blue Dolphin Youth Swim Team, BVHP Foundation for Community Improvement, Community Arts Center Working Group, Hunters Point Family, India Basin Neighborhood Association, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Old Skool Café, Pathlight Productions - Infinity Gospel Ministries, Public Glass, Quesada Gardens Initiative (including Bridgeview Garden and Latona Garden), Reachout for the Rainbow After School, Renaissance Parents of Success, Shipyard Trust for the Arts, Think Round, Inc./Children's Mural Program, Third Street Youth Center

For more information, call 415.822.0800 or email [info@quesadagardens.org](mailto:info@quesadagardens.org)

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