The following represent just a few of the issues and events that SFCDMA supported and participated in during October 2018.

CalAsian Chamber Policy Summit

The fifth CalAsian Chamber Policy Summit was at the Airbnb Headquarters, 888 Brannan Street. There was an excellent turnout with over two hundred attendees including some of our members and information tables which included the CDMA and the GGBA (Golden Gate Business Association).

The Policy Summit convenes California’s small business leaders and policy experts to discuss key issues that impact both the API community and economic sustainability.

The keynote speaker was Assemblymember David Chui and this year’s event featured two panels:

Diversity in Leadership: What Will It Take?

This panel consisted of Assemblymember Rob Bonta, Assemblymember Phil Ting and Fremont Mayor Lily Mei. Darlene Chiu Bryant, Executive Director of GlobalSF, was the moderator. The dialogue centered around Asian Pacific Islander representation in many sectors, including the tech industry, which is high overall but surprisingly low at the managerial and leadership levels. This is a challenge as there has been a tendency for these companies to be run mostly by white men and moving forward it will take the efforts of the API community to excel in the high-tech world to gain more senior level positions. I was really glad though that the one other topic discussed was how important small business is, with a very diverse ownership, to the community at large. To survive it needs collaboration with the tech industry.

The Sharing Economy: Big Challenges, Bigger Opportunities

This panel consisted of Vikrum Aiyer, Vice President of Public Policy at Postmates, Rena Davis, Senior Public Policy Manager at Lyft, Adam Thongsavat, Program Director at Airbnb and the moderator was Lia Nitake, CalAsian Chamber of Commerce, Manager of Public Policy. This panel discussed the impact of the “sharing economy” - ride-sharing, home-sharing, task-sharing, and more - on local communities and economic growth and how policies can play a role.

During the Q & A session of the second panel I was proud of our Executive Administrator, Vas Kiniris, taking the mic and stating how Airbnb and is an integral part of the small business community and a partner who, with its model of home sharing, is encouraging visitors to shop at local small businesses.
District 7 Summit

The summit was hosted by Squat & Gobble on West Portal with District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee and Police Captain Robert Yick from the Taraval Police Station. Participants were members of the West Portal Merchants Association and the Ingleside Merchants Association, including West Portal Merchants Association President Deidre Von Rock-Ricci and board members Maryo Mogannam, Sonya Krawczyk and Richard Donahue and Ingleside Merchants Association President Alexander Mullaney and board members Issa Sweidan, Sabine Taliaferro and Neil Ballard. The issues discussed included homelessness, vacant storefronts and security.

Captain Robert Yick said that there is a beat cop and that they will be posting signs on vacant buildings. He also noted that they have found that having police cars parked with dummies in them deters potential crime. SF Safe may contribute to installing cameras. A question was posed to Supervisor Yee about what help can the city provide for Accessible Business Entries and he responded that the Office of Small Business could help with this issue.

District 8 Summit

The summit was at City Hall with District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. His aide Tom Temprano was present and the participants were members of Castro Merchants, President Daniel Bergerac, Noe Valley Merchant and Professionals Association President Rachel Swann, Valencia Corridor Merchants Association Director Jonah Buffa, Mission Merchants Association Treasurer Chris Collins and board member Tracey Sylvester, Glen Park Merchants Associations President Aaron Esquivel and board members Marian Dalere and Janet Tarlow. The discussion was about the challenges and successes of running our small businesses and our merchant associations. Supervisor Mandelman was asked what can his office do about marketing of our businesses and the fees that we get charged for our events.

Recently the Mission Merchants Association met with SFMTA (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority) representatives regarding the scheduled installation in 2019 of protected bike and scooter lanes and discovered that the SFMTC has no funds or planning directive to address the 10+ year old unfinished Valencia Street streetscaping and widening the sidewalks between 15th & 19th Streets from 10’ to 15’. Hopefully Supervisor Mandelman will champion this project by
learning more about possible funding opportunities and will call a meeting of stakeholders. He did say his highest infrastructure project priority was the Market & Castro Harvey Milk Plaza funding.

Other issues that were raised included the lengthy approval process where the promised maximum planning approval of 90 days averages more than 9 months. Successful annual neighborhood events are at risk from high bills from SFMTC and the Police Department (SFPD) and street construction that can kill businesses with slow progress and minimal mitigation measures.

**NEMBA Meeting**

This October meeting at Gus’s Market conference room was well-attended and chaired by President Doug McNeil and Vice President Gwen Kaplan. One item discussed was Mission for All, the 8-story mixed use development at the blighted 16th and Mission Street Bart Station presented by Larry Del Carlo. There are many businesses that are struggling because customers are reluctant to patronize their establishments, because they feel unsafe and insecure. Unfortunately, there is a nonprofit developer in the Mission who is opposed to the project, labeling it as the Mission Monster even though that developer is apparently about to break ground to build a 12-story development. Hopefully in the very near future the 16th and Mission Street Bart Station project will be built.

Deanna Desedas, the Public Outreach and Engagement Manager responsible for managing community outreach staff within the Communications Division at the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Authority, spoke about the changes planned in the area. A summit is being considered where the associations can be informed and participate in the proposed transportation changes citywide.

**Small Business Security Summit**

We held our inaugural Small Business Security Summit at the Bill Graham Auditorium. In attendance were leaders of our business associations. At the GGRA Eat Drink event Vas Kiniris and I had run into Chief of Police Bill Scott and asked if he would consider a security summit with the Captains from all the police stations. He said he would be delighted to do this and Vas followed up.
We are enormously grateful and thank Marianne Mazucco-Thompson from the Office of Economic Development, Derick Brown the director of the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, Captain Joe Engler from Northern Station and Mary Conde with Another Planet Events for not only providing the venue, the pastries and coffee, but also for producing the summit within two weeks.

It truly was a fabulous and educational event with slick Powerpoint presentations from all of the stations and the police Captains. Then there was a Q & A session, with questions from the audience. The police department was very kind and generous with their time and gave us all tokens for lunch from the food trucks at Civic Center Commons.

People Of Parkside Sunset Movies at McCoppin Park

Every Friday evening in October for about the past seven years the POPS dream team with their illustrious leader, Albert Chow, POPS President, has organized movie nights, an evening under the stars, featuring free movies and popcorn! This year the movies were Hidden Figures, Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi - With Storm Troopers and R2D2!, Wonder Woman - Including Wonder Woman in person! and Coco - with Dia De Los Muertos. kids had a great time getting their faces painted!

I went there for the last night and saw Coco. I thought I was going to freeze my butt off but it turned out to be a mild and a little bit crispy evening and I just loved the movie.

Thank you, District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the San Francisco Public Library, Sunset Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK), and corporate sponsors Sonic and Sterling Bank and Trust for contributing to this event and of course Albert Chow and POPS!

Sixth Street Security Meeting

Sixth Street, particularly between Market and Mission, has been the epicenter for drunkenness, drug dealing, defecating, urinating and quality of life issues and the impact on business has become intolerable. A meeting was called with Tenderloin Station Police Captain Carl Fabbri, and attending were Police Commander Daniel Perea, Gianluca Legrottaglie, owner of Montesacro Pinseria Romana and manager Roberto Meloni on Stevenson Street at 6th Street, Andrew Sullivan, President of Eline Inc., a computer-related consulting services business also located on Stevenson Street, Suzzie Chapa, Central Market CBD Supervisor and 6th Street Corridor Manager, and Helene Sautou, Project Director for the Central Market CBD.
All the above-noted issues were raised and we asked that there be permanent beat cops on the street, that the sidewalks be frequently washed down, that the police take action against all the public drunkenness and drug dealing, and to assist those who have psychological issues.

Since the meeting, we have seen a reduction in the quality of life activities however we intend to have a merchants walk with the SFPD, DPW, Health Department, Central Market Community Benefit District (CMCBD) and the district supervisor in the very near future.

Potrero Hill Festival

The little festival with a big view! Potrero Hill - iconic neighborhood extraordinaire, hosted the 29th annual festival on 20th Street between Missouri & Wisconsin Streets. There was music, food, crafts, rides and activities for young and old alike.

Festival Performances & Activities included

- Main and Youth Stage including performances by some of the area’s most exciting performers.
- Kids Area including rides, games, treats, performer stage and more.
- Snack the Hill: A variety of food from Potrero Hill restaurateurs and more.
- Over 100 Potrero Hill and local artists, merchants & nonprofit organizations.

The Potrero Hill Festival supports the programs of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (NABE). The NABE is an invaluable community resource that provides important programs for the community, including youth and senior nutrition, employment and supplemental education programs as well as programs for developmentally disabled adults.

Of course, kudos to Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association President Keith Goldstein, who orchestrated this wonderful festival. He also made sure that it was a really lovely sunny and warm day!!

Taste Makers at Chase Center

Thank you Yoyo Chan for the invitation to this event at the Old Skool Café, a non-profit supper club creating a community and jobs for the underprivileged, and the brainchild of founder Teresa Goines.
The program began with brief remarks from Warriors President and Chief Operating Officer Rick Welts, with whom I got to chat. He was followed by Fedele Bauccio, CEO of Bon Appetit, who announced the lineup as a “living food story” representing the Bay Area. Following the speeches was food sampling from the latest additions to Taste Makers at Chase Center.

Board Of Supervisors President Malia Cohen was present and congratulated the Warriors. Among the crowd was Sharon Miller, CEO of the of the Rennaissance Center.

The following are businesses who will be the purveyors of food for the fans at the Warriors Stadium in addition to the previously announced businesses.

**Sarap Shop**
A Filipino-American food truck serving comfort food with thoughtful, healthy options. Much of the menu is vegan, with options like tofu sisig alongside more traditional pork belly adobo.

**Tony G’s**
Chef Tony Gemignani has developed a special concept for the arena. It will serve pizza, presumably, as do all of his restaurants including Tony’s Pizza Napoletana and Tony’s Slicehouse.

**Live Sushi and Dumpling Time**
The Omakase Restaurant Group will drop in two of its most popular offerings, sushi and dumplings to thousands of hungry fans. A special for the arena location will be Dumpling Time: dim sum.

**Chef BOUG**
Known for her craby cake po'boys and Lousiana-inspired dishes at her Bayview restaurant, Boug Creole Deli, chef Tiffany Carter is bringing her style of soul food to the big time.

**CC Made**
Berkeley-based CC Made is already available in local specialty shops in the area. Now arena attendees can sample owner Cassandra Chen’s spiced almond and rosemary cashew popcorn, caramels, and toasted sesame and nori brittle.

**Earl’s Brittle**
Bayview resident Earl Shaddix has previously sold his brittles at farmers markets. Now he’ll bring the sweet stuff to the Chase Center, where his high-quality snack will be found at kiosks throughout the arena.

**Yvonne’s Southern Sweets**
Another sweet Bayview vendor, Yvonne Hines makes southern sweets like pecan brittle, old school butter cookies, miniature lemon pies, and sweet potato and pecan pies.

**Sugar and Spun**
This locally made cotton candy comes in flavors like strawberry shortcake, matcha latte, and salted chocolate peanut butter, all made with organic sugar.

**Five Dot Ranch**
This family-run ranch was founded in 1959, and have been treating their cattle with care (and no antibiotics or hormones) ever since. It’s unclear what their presence at the stadium will look like, but they run a butcher shop and restaurant at Napa’s Oxbow Market with options like a beef bacon BLT.

**TNDC Celebrity Pool Toss**
This was the 26th Annual fundraising event for the TNDC (Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation) at the Phoenix Hotel, which raised $400,000 for their Tenderloin After-School Program!
The TNDC is a non-profit business that houses 3,400 extremely low-income people, seniors, children, people with disabilities, low-income wage earners, people with AIDS, families and immigrants, in 31 buildings in 6 San Francisco neighborhoods. TNDC is also a major employer with around 300 employees, who work in TNDC’s residential buildings, and provides affordable housing and services for low-income people in the Tenderloin and throughout San Francisco.

TNDC’s After School Program (TASP) serves 150 children per year, ages 5 to 17, at no cost to families. It provides mentoring, tutoring, computer training, sports, dancing, art activities, and annual college tours for older youth to places like New York City.

It was fun seeing a couple of our friends who volunteered for the pool toss: Minna Tao, General Manager at Recology and Police Commander David Lazar.

**Veterans Day Parade**

Although it was a hazy, poor air quality day, it was though warm and sunny and there was a decent crowd for the parade to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice ending the brutal and bloody First World War.

Vas Kiniris and I joined the Mayor Breed contingent and then I stopped off at the front of the reviewing stand where my friend David Heller and a couple of our buddies were watching the parade from the sidewalk. I was honored to meet Wallace Levin, a Korean War Veteran and organizer of the parade who invited me up to the review stand to join the dignitaries, including Board Of Supervisors President Malia Cohen, and for the opportunity to say a few words in support of small business.

**West Portal Merchants Association Mixer**

The meet-and-greet was hosted by the Philosophers Club. A big thank you to Richard Donohue. The finger food delights were provided courtesy of Vittorio D’Urzo from Trattoria Da Vittorio Catering. West Portal Merchants Association President Deidre Von Rock-Ricci welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence and also announced upcoming events.

Also present was West Portal Merchants Association board member Maryo Mogannam and Police Lt. Michael Morales from Taraval Police Station who spoke about the security of West Portal and assured us that they would continue with beat cops on the street.
Thank you to Vas Kiniris for organizing this successful event.

West Portal Halloween

It surely was the best Halloween event in the city with a huge crowd of kids and parents in a kaleidoscope of colorful costumes taking up both sides of West Portal Avenue. Of course, Vas Kiniris, Maryo Mogannam, Patti Mangan and even yours truly were decked out for the occasion.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered. It was really inspiring to witness the West Portal community spirit!

A special thank you to Vittorio D’Urzo from Trattoria Da Vittorio Catering for his generosity! The pasta, arancini and Nutella pizzas were amazing. Big thanks also to West Portal Bookshop, Pawber and Ballast for the gift certificates.

Finally a big thank you to Senator Scott Wiener for coming by to join in the festivities. He even put on a West Portal T Shirt!

Bits & Pieces

We are proud of our sponsor Airbnb and applaud and appreciate their generous donation of $5,000,000 over three years to help alleviate the plight of our homeless in San Francisco. This excludes any taxes that may be derived from Proposition C.

READ AIRBNB’S FULL STATEMENT
Elections
We extend our congratulations to all the following candidates who were elected or reelected at the November election.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 2
Catherine Stefani

District 4
Gordon Mar

District 6
Matt Haney

District 8
Rafael Mandelman

District 10
Shamann Walton

PUBLIC DEFENDER
Jeff Adachi

ASSESSOR RECORDER
Carmen Chu

STATE

GOVERNOR
Gavin Newsom

LT. GOVERNOR
Eleni Kounalakis

U.S. SENATOR
Dianne Feinstein

SECRETARY OF STATE
Alex Padilla

CONTROLLER
Betty Yee

TREASURER
Fiona Ma

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Xavier Becerra

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
Ricardo Lara

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
Malia Cohen

US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 12
Nancy Pelosi

US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 14
Jackie Speier

Thank you to all those who continue to promote small business in San Francisco. I will keep you - our Membership - in touch with my November schedule of meetings and events in my next monthly newsletter - “from the President’s Desk”.

Henry Karnilowicz
President
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations
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