SF PARKS ALLIANCE INSTALLS FIVE MURALS ON SF SLOW STREETS IN 2024

The community-led initiative brought neighbors together through public art and civic pride.



SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 14, 2025) – In fall 2024, San Francisco Parks Alliance completed the **Slow Streets, Fast Friends** initiative. The initiative was a community-focused project that proposed to install street murals on up to nine San Francisco Slow Streets in 2024, and successfully installed street murals on five Slow Streets. Although geographically separate, the murals are united by a common mission to connect public spaces and their surrounding communities through public art and neighborhood participation.

SF Parks Alliance Capital Program manager Stephanie Troyan stated that "the Slow Streets, Fast Friends initiative encourages participatory public art on Slow Streets in San Francisco to underscore their value as community spaces. This pilot program engages community members, living on or near Slow Streets by <u>involving them in the installation of mural art</u> on their streets." In doing so, SF Parks Alliance partnered with approximately 30 neighborhood leaders (<u>Slow Streets Stewards</u>) across 11 communities in 7 districts.

Local artists Matley Hurd and Josué Rojas created the murals for the program. The two artists were selected by community members via a <u>public survey</u> where over 500 respondents shared their thoughts and hopes for the Slow Streets Fast Friends initiative. Community members also joined the artists at several community paint days to help install the murals.

"A woman who has lived in the neighborhood for eight years came down and met her neighbors for the first time. It's really great to see the organic friendships and the camaraderie that are happening because of this mural," said Molly Hayden, Page Slow Street Steward.

"This was an awesome opportunity to bond with family and meet new neighborhood friends. The mural represents diversity in the most beautiful form, which is art," said Angela Davis-Hall, local resident and mural volunteer.

While five street murals were installed on five SF Slow Streets, an additional four murals designs were created in partnership with Hurd, Rojas, and Slow Streets community groups and are being tabled for potential future projects.

"Slow Streets, Fast Friends" is funded by the Community Challenge Grant, a program that provides financial assistance for community-led, neighborhood improvement projects.

Community Challenge Grants support improvements to public space, promote local creatives, provide opportunities for neighbors to form bonds, build skills, give voice to diverse community members, and encourage investment in the well-being of the neighborhood.

Slow Streets, Fast Friends Murals

- Lyon Street between McAllister & Fulton Streets
- Page Street between Masonic & Central Avenues
- Hearst Avenue between Detroit and Congo Streets
- Minnesota Street between 22nd and 20th Streets
- 20th Street between Alabama & Florida Streets

<u>Find details about all of the Slow Streets, Fast Friends murals here!</u>

About San Francisco Parks Alliance

SF Parks Alliance is San Francisco's only citywide parks nonprofit. For over 50 years, we've been partnering closely with communities and public agencies to create, sustain, and advocate for parks and public spaces across the city. We believe that everyone deserves access to safe and welcoming community spaces, regardless of where they live in San Francisco.

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SF Parks Alliance Media Kit

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