



# OUR BUCHANAN MALL

By Jazmine, Sala, Sasha & Widya





# WHAT IS THE BUCHANAN MALL?

The Buchanan Mall is a 5-block park that stretches all the way from Eddy to Grove on Buchanan Street. It used to be a place that people avoided. People in this community didn't trust each other and never really came out and greeted one another.

But it wasn't always this way, and for the past few years, we have been trying to make a change. Working with Citizen Film, the Trust for Public Land, Green Streets, the Exploratorium, and the SF Recreation & Parks Department, we've been making our community safer and bringing the history of the Buchanan Mall to light through storytelling and art. We've installed new lights, seating, gardens and and documentary stories people can enjoy as they sit in the park or on their phones. And we're hosting community film screenings and events where we all come together to eat, play and celebrate our home.



We hope that when people come out of their homes and see the new Buchanan Mall take shape, whether they are youth, adults or elders, they will be proud of what we've all built together.

# WHO WE ARE

We are the **Buchanan Mall Youth Leadership Team**, and we've been working hard to restore the Mall and make it a safe community environment for everyone to enjoy.



**JAZMINE**



**SALA**



**SASHA**



**WIDYA**

Living in the Fillmore today is totally different from what it was back in the day. There wasn't as much violence, people still acted as a community, and there were local black-owned businesses all throughout the Fillmore. These days, the neighborhood feels filled with negativity and violence. We joined the Youth Leadership Team to change that.

Working on the Buchanan Mall Visioning has not only helped our community regain a sense of unity, but it has also helped us realize what matters to us and what we are capable of. We want to encourage other youth to find their voices and speak up about the change they want to see, because change starts with us.

In this booklet, you'll get to see our visions, plans, hear about the way we do our community outreach, and get to know some of our community role models who have shared their memories and wisdom. We hope you enjoy and stay with us for the next phase of the Buchanan Mall!

*Jazmine*

*Salanawit*

*Sasha*

*Widya B.*

Our neighborhood wasn't always so divided. Through interviewing my neighbors, I've had the opportunity to hear personal stories of those who lived here when Fillmo' was the place to be – little details like where the best barbershops were, or where kids got their favorite candies after school, and also stories about the sense of community that the Buchanan Mall once had. Back in the day, everyone would meet up outside in their Sunday best, and all the neighbors knew your parents so you'd easily get caught when acting bad. That history is no longer visible to the naked eye.

I learned that my community is home to many important leaders, such as **Norma Robinson** and **Mattie Scott**. Both are African American women who made sure their voices were heard when things weren't right, whether they were founding co-ops to prevent displacement or serving breakfast to neighborhood kids with the Black Panthers. I believe that we need to start being more vocal like the leaders before us were.

WIDEA B.





Throughout this process, we have met so many neighbors who we never would have talked to before. Now, we feel honored to wave to each other when we walk by. Here are just a few of the leaders whose impact on the community we admire.



## TYRONE

Tyrone Mullins is one of the leaders of Green Streets, a black business in the community. He represents the people who

have lived through some bad times in the neighborhood and want to bring back the good times. His passion for change helps inspire us all to keep working towards a better and safer Mall, a place where his kids might play one day and feel at home.



## NORMA

Norma Robinson Brown has lived in this neighborhood since 1962. A resident of Loren Miller Homes, Ms. Norma is a leader in

her housing cooperative, having learned about housing from the late activist LeRoy King. She also works hard to uplift youth leaders, and is an active member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Golden Gate Section.



## MATTIE

Mattie Scott has devoted her life to faith, violence prevention and positive change. Ever since she lost her youngest son

to gun violence in the Ammel Park housing complex, she has been the Executive Director for a non-profit organization called Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation. In the 1960s, she was a member of the Black Panther Party, and used to hold meetings in the Fillmore to feed breakfast to local kids.



## RAYMOND

Raymond Wade, a long-term Banneker Homes resident, remembers when the Buchanan Mall was first remodeled in 1975, and the way

Fillmore was before redevelopment. "San Francisco became a melting pot...everything started meshing together, black and white and gay and straight. That's what made it so special." Raymond shares his stories in the hopes of passing some wisdom on to the youth of the neighborhood.

EDDY ST

YERBA BUENA PLAZA EAST



FLEXIBLE PLAZA

THOMAS PAINE SQUARE APARTMENTS



COMMUNITY GARDEN AND PLAY

GOLDEN GATE AVE

FREDERICK DOUGLAS HAYNES



PLAY AND RECREATION

LOREN MILLER CO-OP



CULTURE AND GATHER

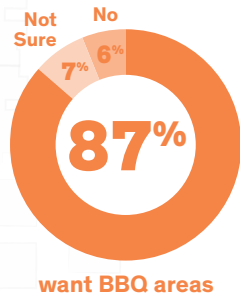
FULTON ST

AMMEL PARK CO-OP



DOG AND GARDEN

HISTORY WALK →



want BBQ areas

BUCHANAN PARK APARTMENTS

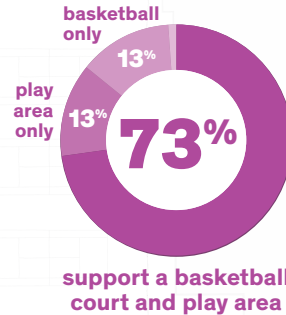
WILLIE B. KENNEDY APARTMENTS



ROSA PARKS SENIOR CENTER

TURK ST

ELLA HILL HUTCH COMMUNITY CENTER



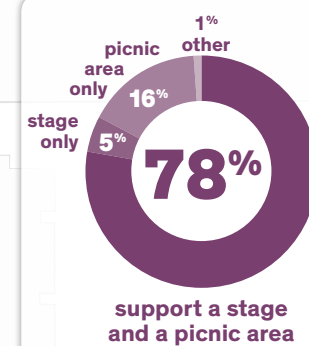
support a basketball court and play area

MCALLISTER ST

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE HOMES



AFRICAN AMERICAN ART & CULTURE COMPLEX



support a stage and a picnic area

BANNEKER HOMES

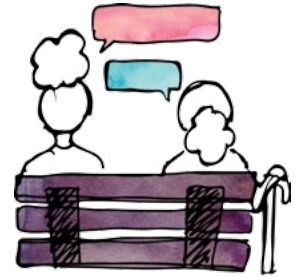
GROVE ST

OUR VISION FOR THE BUCHANAN MALL



## ELDER INTERVIEWS

My experience interviewing the elders of my neighborhood was eye opening and rewarding. I got to know a more personal history of this place I had taken for granted. The elders I interviewed are people I could have easily passed by on the sidewalk; just regular people I never would have thought about talking to. But each person had so much hidden knowledge that I never would have known. For example, Stella Baker talked about the dances, barbecues and roller-skating parties the community used to have. My generation seems to have forgotten how to come together as one and have that type of fun. I believe it's important to preserve the stories of our elders so that we can bring back what we have lost in this community, and take pride in our home again.



*WIDEA B.*



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

During this process I have been involved in many community events. Some events that I attended are First Fridays, the Holiday Fair, Kwanzaa, BBQ at the Fillmore Mini-Park where we did surveys, and the Cultural Corridor, which brought all kinds of unique performances to the Buchanan Mall. All the events are filled with people of the community and their kids enjoying food, games, movies, music and live performances. I never would have thought to attend events like these before, but now they make me feel like I am a part of something bigger.

*Jaymine*



## SURVEYS

We spent months going door to door on the Buchanan Mall and asking everyone what changes they want to see. Ever since I started doing the surveys, I have been able to easily communicate with elders who usually would not speak to me, and my peers now think of me as a leader and ask me questions about what the Mall will look like in the future. Even though I enjoyed the process, there were many difficult times and I wasn't able to get everyone to fill out a survey. But overall, the experience has helped me learn to communicate and bring back some trust between the youth and our elder and middle-aged neighbors. Doing the Buchanan Mall surveys has helped me really connect with my neighbors and appreciate their visions.

*Salanawit*

## YOUTH MEDIA LABS

Over the summer, we connected with other community organizations like Mo'Magic, T.V. Hype and Project Level to help manage the youth documentary media labs. My friends and I all interviewed each other about life on the Buchanan Mall. Not only that, but we made videos about peoples' experiences on the Mall before and after the new installations. We also talked about food, community health, and how to grow our own gardens and help people who can't afford healthy foods in grocery stores.

*Sasha*



WHAT WE DID



# OUR VISIONS

What will happen on the Buchanan Mall is that more people from their complexes will come out to interact with the rest of us, and we will plant beautiful gardens with vegetables and flowers. I want to make it safe for us to walk through to work and school. I want to see neighbors communicate with each other more. And I want to see our neighborhood glow at night with different colored lights.

*Sasha*

On the Mall I would like to see more activities that will bring my community together. I want everybody from young to old to feel like they can communicate with one another without feeling scared or unsafe. Also, I would like everyone to learn about the history of this neighborhood, because if they learn that history, they will take pride in where we live.

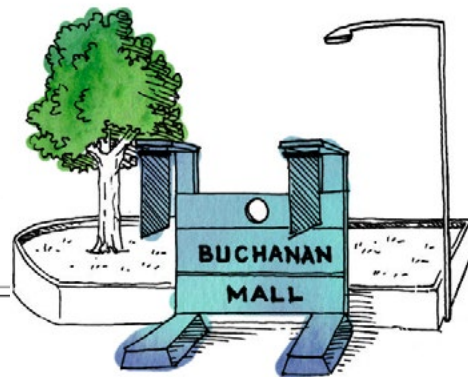
*Salanawit*

My vision for the Buchanan Mall is to have it be the rebirth of the community in the Western Addition and the Fillmore. I want the generations that come after us to always have Buchanan Mall as the rock, the foundation. To say, "This is our home." And if they were ever lost, they would look back on the Buchanan Mall and say, "This is how they did it. This is how we're gonna keep our home."

*Wanda B.*

My vision for the Buchanan Mall is to make it a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. I would like to see parties and events at least every other week or every month. I want to be able to chill outside without any negativity – positive vibes only.

*Jaymine*



# PARTNERS





