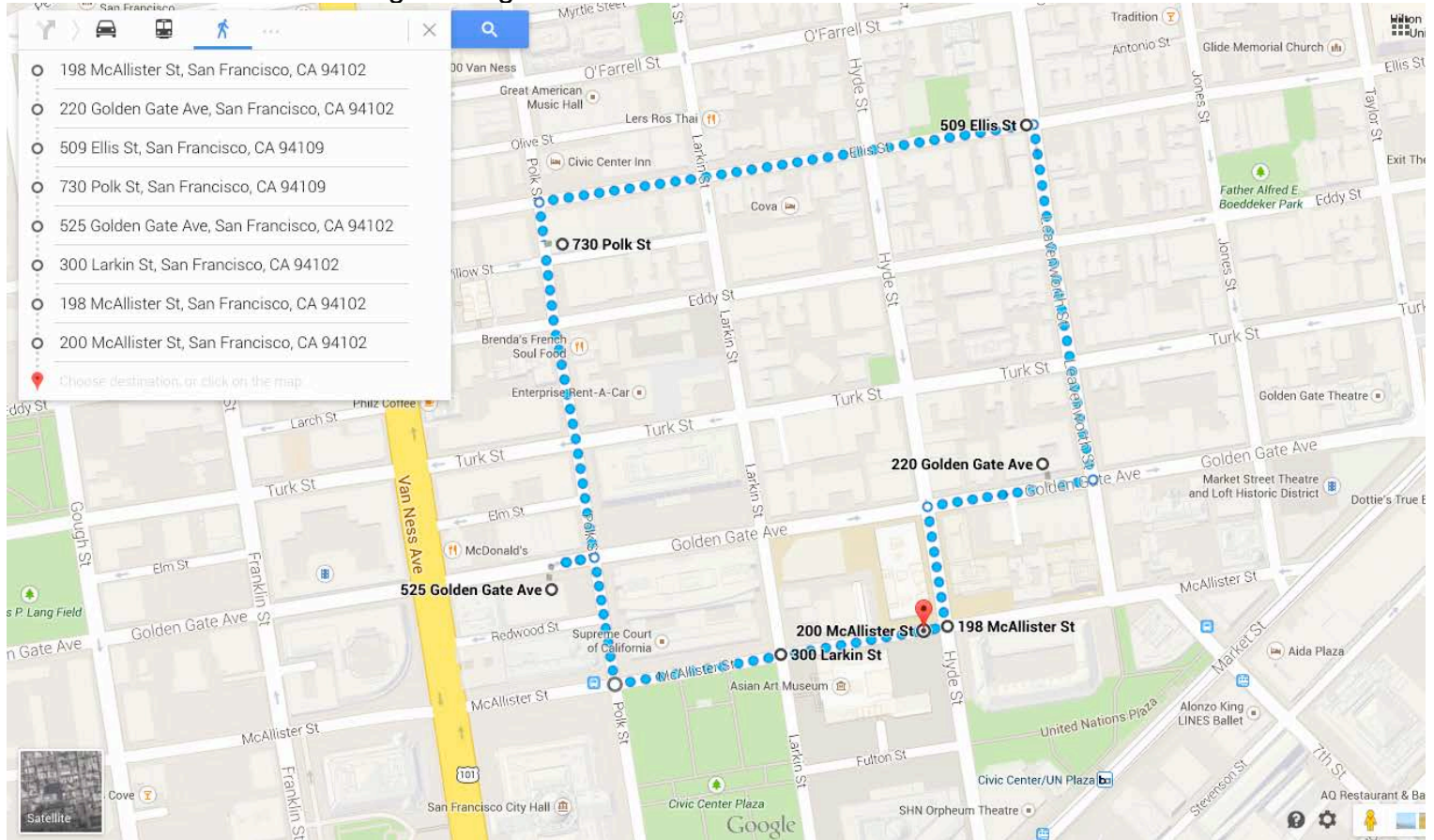


## Docent Guide

### SM & SF Master Gardeners “Heart of the City Walking Tour” Saturday September 13, 2014

The Tour starts at UC Hastings Snodgrass Hall and ends at the same location. The route is as follows:



### TIME (minutes)

- **0:00** Start at Snodgrass Hall (198 McAllister)
- Walk N up Hyde to Golden Gate Ave. Cross GG & turn Right to Kelly Cullen (220 Golden G)
- **0:05** Enter Kelly Cullen
- **0:25** Exit Left out of Kelly Cullen. Cross Leavenworth & walk N up Leavenworth.
- Continue up Leavenworth to Ellis St. At Ellis – cross the street to the TNF (509 Ellis St.)
- **0:30** Enter TNF
- **0:45** Exit to the Right out of the TNF. Cross Ellis to the opposite side, turn left to walk down Ellis
- Continue down Ellis Street to Polk Street.
- **0:55** Turn Left at the corner of Polk St and cross Ellis St. Enter Project Open Hand (730 Polk)
- **1:10** Exit Left out of POH & continue down Polk Street to Golden Gate Ave. Turn right to cross Polk to the SF PUC building. (525 Golden Gate). *NOTE: Due to lots of people standing in front of Brenda's Café you might need to cross over to the other side of Polk street at the corner of Polk & Eddy to get to the SF PUC building.*
- **1:15** Visit the SF PUC Gardens
- **1:30** Exit the SFPUC gardens/building and Continue down Polk St. & turn Left onto McAllister. Continue down McAllister to the corner of Larkin St. to the Tenderloin Peoples Garden.
- **1:33** Enter the Tenderloin Peoples Garden
- **1:43** Exit Left out of the Tenderloin Peoples Garden & continue down McAllister St. to the corner of Hyde – Snodgrass Hall. Walk up stairs at Snodgrass Plaza **1:48 End Time**

**Start Time 00:00**

## **Snodgrass Hall & UC Hastings**

*The tour begins at UC Hastings Snodgrass Hall*



Notice the mural on the patio wall. Painted by famed Australian muralist James Reka in October 2013, it is titled 'Peace. Man.' It was painted for free by the artist with the permission of the building owner at 146 McAllister.

*Walk down the stairs and turn RIGHT. Walk north up Hyde St. to Golden Gate Ave.*

Note the colorful mural "Humming with Life" painted in 2011 by Joanna Poethig on the Civic Center Post Office.



It highlights the greening of the neighborhood with hummingbirds pollinating this city corner with creative energy. It contains music symbols representing the history of music studios & jazz clubs of the neighborhood (Black Hawk Jazz Club at Turk & Hyde) from 1946 to 1963.

*Cross Golden Gate Ave and turn right down the street towards the first garden stop – the rooftop garden at the Kelly Cullen Community at 220 Golden Gate Ave.*

The Kelly Cullen Community building is the historic YMCA built in 1910. Restored in 2013, it provides 172 efficiency studio units & includes the Tom Waddell Urban Health clinic on the ground floor providing health care to homeless and formerly homeless clients. The building is named in honor of Franciscan monk Kelly Cullen an influential Tenderloin activist. Kelly came to the Tenderloin in 1981 and as head of the TNDC

(Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation) from 1990 – 2005 helped transform the organization into a thriving neighborhood institution focused on community development and affordable housing.

**Enter Time 00:05**

**Arrive at Kelly Cullen Community:**

*The rooftop garden is on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor. When you enter the building you will go to the reception desk at the right of the entrance- to get a card key for elevator access. The elevator is on the second floor. You may need 2 keys if you have a large group. When you exit – you exit back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.*

**NOTE: NO photos can be taken at the Kelly Cullen Community. Photos can be taken at all other gardens.**

As you walk up the stairs on the way to the elevator & rooftop garden, note the beautifully restored atrium.

**Tour the Kelly Cullen Community Rooftop Garden (20 minutes)**

**Exit Time 00:25**

*Exit to your LEFT out of the Kelly Cullen building & at the corner, cross Leavenworth to the opposite side of the street. While standing at the corner, before turning LEFT to walk up Leavenworth – point out that ...*

in the next block of Golden Gate Ave there are two institutions that have been serving the homeless for many years. At 133 Golden Gate is St. Boniface Church.



Originally built in 1860, St. Boniface moved to this location after the 1868 earthquake. The Franciscans arrived in 1887 and since that time have devoted their lives to serving immigrants and the poor. St. Boniface Church is the location of the “Sacred Sleep and Sanctuary” Gubbio Project. Launched in 2004 it provides a safe, welcoming, space for homeless to rest on the pews in the sanctuary each weekday from 6am to 3pm and access to clean safe restrooms & toiletries.

Further down the street -- at 150 Golden Gate is St. Anthony’s Dining Room. Opened by former St. Boniface pastor Father Alfred Boeddeker, in 1950. For 64 years it continues to serve 3,000 hot, nutritious meals 365 days a year.

*Turn Left and walk north up Leavenworth Street.*



In the middle of the block, at 144 Leavenworth Street is the Compass Children’s Center. This is an award winning enriched early childhood education center. The curriculum is focused on art, music, science & nature, pre-reading and pre-math. It is tailored to meet the specific needs of children living in extreme poverty and homelessness providing 2 nutritious meals, support

services, annual vision, hearing and dental screening for children over 2 years old.

Next door at 146 Leavenworth is Central City Hospitality House Community Arts Program. It is an open door art studio providing free art materials, studio space and instruction from 12 noon to 4:30pm to people who are low-income, homeless or at risk. It offers more than 250 artists the materials and space to create, house, exhibit and sell their artwork. Studio assistants are available for artistic instruction and additionally assist with other needs associated with homelessness & poverty such as referrals for shelter, counseling and crisis intervention.

Continue walking up Leavenworth. Across the street, at 317 Leavenworth is the Mary Elizabeth Inn – located in the Verona Hotel.



It is a non-profit organization providing safe and supportive housing to women in the community. Their mission is to end the cycle of poverty & homelessness. In 2014 it celebrates 100 years of providing service in San Francisco. The Mary Elizabeth Inn was founded in 1914 by Mrs. Lizzie Snyder Glide. As a woman of vision, Lizzie also built Glide Memorial United Methodist Church. There are 2 facilities – 1040 Bush Street (btw Jones & Leavenworth) and this facility.

*As you are walking up Leavenworth ...*

notice the “Yellow Brick Road” painted on the sidewalk (see below). This designates a ‘safe zone’ for kids and is patrolled by adults during the school year.

*At Ellis Street turn LEFT and cross Leavenworth. Two buildings in, at 509 Ellis Street is the Tenderloin National Forest.*

**Enter Time 00:30**



**Tour the Tenderloin National Forest Garden (15 minutes)**

The Tenderloin National Forest is a foot-traffic only haven with murals, trees and community events. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month is the “Free Mending Library” where UC Berkeley professors, grandmothers and

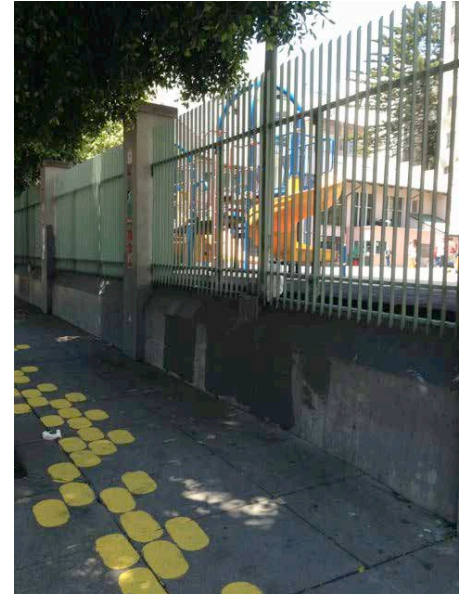
people from the neighborhood gather from noon to sundown to hem pants, sew and mend. It’s about neighbors helping neighbors.

## Exit Time 00:45

Exit to your RIGHT out of the TNF garden, cross the street to the opposite side (yellow brick road) and continue down Ellis Street.



You will walk by the 'Tenderloin Children's Playground' the largest kids playground in San Francisco. 7 Days a week it provides a full menu of activities and programs in a safe environment. Tiny Tots, Latchkey, arts & crafts, dance, sewing, cooking, gardening, year – round sports and a teen club. Notice the sidewalks across the street are painted with a "yellow brick road". This designates a 'safe zone' for kids and is patrolled by adults during the school year.



Continue walking down Ellis Street. ...

Notice the apartment buildings in these blocks. You are in the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District. These buildings were constructed between the 1910's and 1920's each with an interesting style – many of which are on the National Historic Register – a total of 408 buildings!



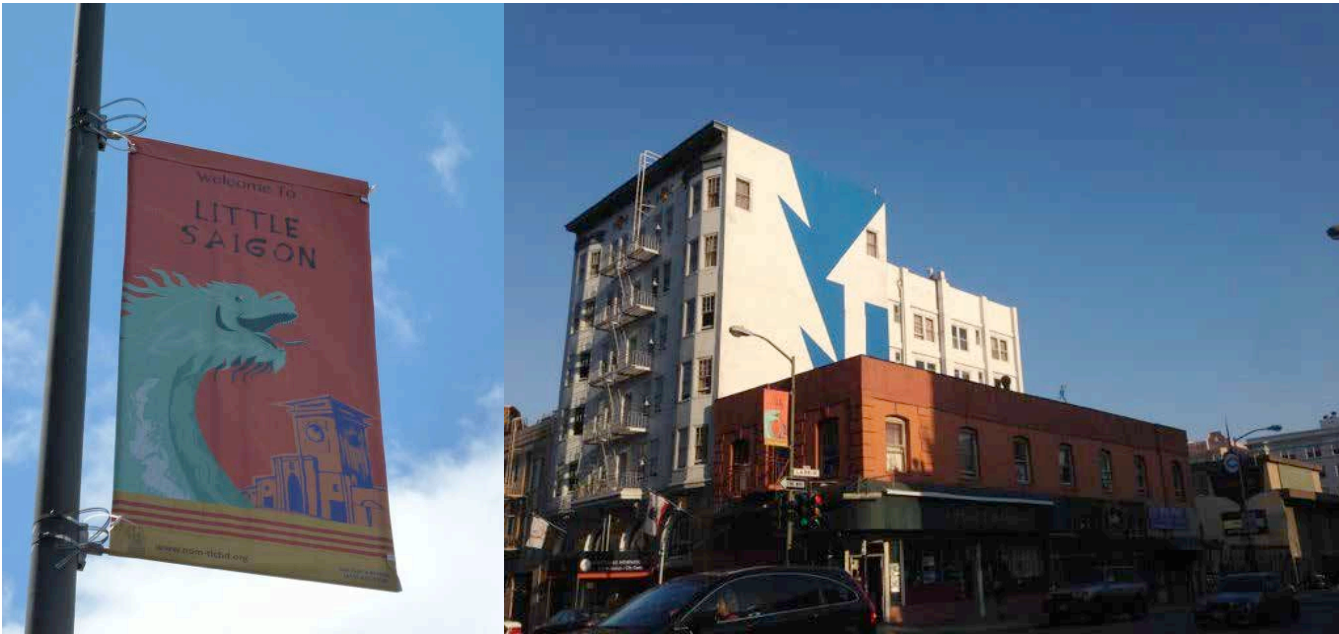
At the corner of Ellis and Larkin.....

Look up at the building on the corner and notice the chariots painted on the building – in between the windows – this is the "Ben Hur Apartment" building:



*Cross Hyde Street and continue up Ellis St. At the corner of Ellis and Larkin.....*

look up the street –notice that you are now in Little Saigon – the 2 block corridor of Larkin Street between O’Farrell & Eddy street is know for its’ active Vietnamese American community and 250 Vietnamese-American owned businesses. As you look up the street you can see the wonderful Thai restaurant Lers Ros.



*As you continue down Ellis.....*

you might be lucky enough to see a beautiful classic car being worked on at Allied Engine & Auto Repair as you approach Polk Street. As you come up to the corner of Polk Street you will notice that the Project Open Hand building occupies the entire corner block of Polk & Ellis Streets. Look through the windows into the kitchen. This is where volunteers help prepare 2,500 nutritious *meals with love* every day for seniors at local senior centers in SF & Alameda counties and neighbors living with life-threatening illnesses.

Turn left at the corner of Polk Street and enter into the Project Open Hand alcove at 730 Polk. The greenhouse entrance is to your right.

**Enter Time 00:55**

**Tour the POH Greenhouse (15 minutes)**

**Exit Time 01:10**

Exit to your LEFT out of the POH greenhouse and continue down Polk Street. At the corner of Polk and Eddy, ...

look up to your left at the mural 'Farm Girl' by Ayz. This five-story farm girl – and her bushel of apples, looks over the corner of Eddy & Polk. Painted in 2013 it was made possible with the help of Wallspace SF, a local group focused on transforming the city's walls with Murals.



Ayz, a Spaniard was born in Palo Alto. He is now living near Barcelona and is one of the world's top street artists. This is his first street work in California. Much of his art is slyly humorous – his farm girl has a small top hat flying off her head. This project was accomplished with donated paint from Recology, permission from KFC to work from their roof and agreement with the building owners at 665 Eddy Street- truly a neighborhood working together.

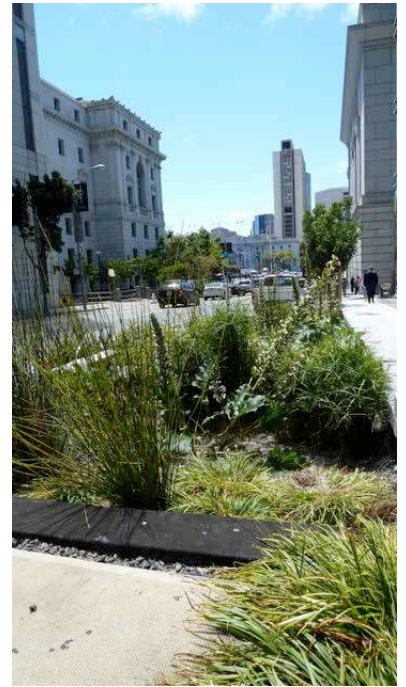
*Cross Eddy and continue down Polk. (OR You may have to cross over to the opposite side of the street due to the large amount of folks waiting for tables outside of Brenda's).*

Note "Brenda's French Soul Food" – if you step into Chef Brenda's restaurant, you will be transported to New Orleans.

As you walk down Polk street, look at 625 Polk Street- the Academy of Art Fashion School. California Landmark 174, 'California Hall' was designed by Frederick Meyer in the German Renaissance architectural style.

During the beginning of WWII, when the German consulate in SF was closed, this building became a "Go Between Consulate" -- where "unofficial communication" occurred between San Francisco and Germany.

It was constructed in 1912 from funds raised by the city's German community and served as a social community center (Famous German immigrants 1835 -1930 were Johann August Sutter – Sutter's Mill & discovery of gold, Adolph Sutro – 'Sutro Baths' & Claus Spreckles – 'Spreckles Mansion'). The design is reminiscent of the Heidelberg Castle in Germany. DHG above the door is "Deutsche Harmonie Gesellschaft" which means German Harmony Society.



Hotel.”

The “Embassy Hotel” across the street is where people who used to work at the consulate stayed, thus the name “Embassy

*Time 01:13*

*Continue down Polk St. At the corner of Golden Gate cross over to the SF PUC building at 525 Golden Gate.*



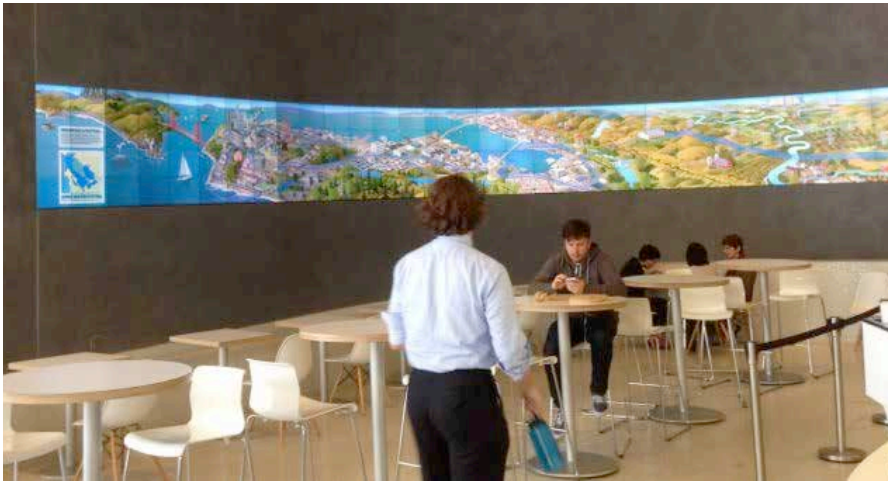
Notice the wind turbines & the fluttering kinetic sculpture 'Firefly' by artist Ned Kahn of Sebastopol, CA. It covers the tower housing the wind turbines and is made up of 4 X 4 inch squares of polycarbonate and LED's. The LEDs illuminate the surface at night – blinking like fireflies.

*Enter Time 01:15*

**Look at the SF PUC Sidewalk Gardens** outside Staff from SFPUC will be on hand to explain the 'Living Building & sidewalk gardens. **(15 minutes).**

“The PUC building utilizes both gray and black water in its onsite 'Living Machine' system, making it an ultimate recycler. This “Living Machine” reclaims and treats all of the building's wastewater to satisfy 100%

of the water demand for the building. Planters filled with Bear's Breech, ferns, callas and carex frame the sidewalk and continue inside for several feet, blurring the line between inside and out. They're designed to filter the building's wastewater as would a tidal wetland. The building's 25,000 gallon rainwater harvesting system provides water for irrigation uses around the building – both inside and out.”



During the week, this building is teeming with activity. On the back wall of the cafe there is a Digital Arts Wall. One of the programs is titled 'Snowfall to Outfall', illustrating San Francisco's entire water system from the Sierra Nevada mountains to the SF Bay. *Encourage folks to* go and visit Monday through Friday & interact with the wall. By waving your hand in front of the wall it will activate individual blocks explaining key points of our water system along the path from the Hetch Hetchy

Reservoir to San Francisco.

### *Exit Time 01:30*

*After the explanation of the sidewalk gardens, exit and continue down Polk Street and turn LEFT onto McAllister.*

You will be walking in front of SF state office buildings with the Civic Center Plaza, SF City Hall (1915), the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium (built in 1915 as part of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition) and the Asian Art Museum (1917), surrounding the plaza. In 1850 the Yerba Buena Cemetery existed on the present day site of the Civic Center.



*Continue down McAllister* in front of the Earl Warren Building (1922), the headquarters of the Supreme Court of California, at the corner cross Larkin Street. You have arrived at the Tenderloin Peoples Community Garden at the corner of Larkin & McAllister.

### *Enter Time 01:33*

*Tour the Tenderloin Peoples Community Garden (10 minutes)*

The Tenderloin People's Garden was created as part of TNDC's campaign for Food Justice, which promotes a more equitable food system that prioritizes all people's access to the basic human right of healthy food. The People's Garden is a volunteer-led urban farm that brings people of all ages and ethnicities together to grow and harvest free fruits and vegetables for the community. Food crops are grown throughout the year in the ground as well as in the vertical garden wool pockets.

This effort began in 2010 with the transformation of a once vacant lot near City Hall into a vibrant and vital community garden. Over 380 resident volunteers help produce hundreds of pounds of produce – from January 2014 to September 11th over 2,000 pounds have been harvested. 131 pounds just this Thursday!



### *Exit Time 01:43*

*Exit to your LEFT out of the garden and continue down McAllister Street to the corner of Hyde & Snodgrass Hall.*

As you approach Snodgrass Hall – look at the tall building behind the Reka mural with the American flag on top.

This UC Hastings building –at the corner of McAllister & Leavenworth was built in 1910 by the Methodist Church. It was housing for 600 Christian women working in the garment & financial district. There is a cathedral inside - “The Hidden Cathedral of the Tenderloin” & a cocktail bar on the roof with 360

degree views. It was the tallest cocktail lounge west of the Mississippi before the Bank of America Building in 1969. The building is now a dormitory for UC Hastings.

*Walk up the stairs at Snodgrass Hall.*

*End of tour.*

*End Time 01:48*



## TENDERLOIN 'TIDBITS'!

*FYI, and just in case you are asked questions about the neighborhood during the day of the tour, here are some bits of information:*

- The Tenderloin encompasses approximately **50 square blocks** and the borders 'roughly' are **Geary to Market**, and **Van Ness to Market Street**.
- The population is **~30,000 people - 3,500 of whom are children**. This is the densest neighborhood in San Fran, with the **most culturally diverse** residents.
- The **origin of the name 'Tenderloin'** is not known. It is thought that the 'soft underbelly' name given to New York's Tenderloin was used here as well. Another version is that the police covering these rough areas were paid an extra bonus so could afford a better cut of beef for dinner, not the cheaper chuck, but a tenderloin!
- It overlaps part of the **Theater District** (near Union Square), and a 3 block stretch of it (along Larkin St) is known as '**Little Saigon**' - with over 300 Vietnamese/American owned businesses.
- The SRO (**Single Residency Occupancy**) **hotels** were built after the 1906 earthquake destroyed the previous buildings. These affordable rooms immediately attracted young singles and couples moving to the city, and after the Vietnam War, many southeastern Asian refugees sought shelter here. Social groups work with these SRO hotels to arrange homeless to live in these rooms, as well.
- Among other artists, musicians and writers, **Dashiell Hammett** lived here while writing 'The Maltese Falcon'. He gave Sam Spade his many experiences in the streets, restaurants (John's Grill), and offices of The Tenderloin.