

**Public Hearing on 2015-16 Action Plan and  
Preliminary Funding Recommendations  
March 31, 2015**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Testifier(s)</b>	<b>Comment summary</b>
Rebuilding Together San Francisco	Karen Nemsick accompanied by staff and program beneficiary	Rebuilding Together works to achieve affordable housing by addressing deferred maintenance, which puts occupants of owner-occupied homes at risk of losing their home. Beneficiary, 83 years of age, experienced many falls but, with the help of Rebuilding Together, intends to live longer with a higher quality of life.
Renaissance Enterprise Center	Sharon Miller accompanied by staff and program beneficiaries	Renaissance creates jobs and economic security. Revived Women's Initiative. Program beneficiary lost financial district job and had very difficult time finding a new job, but Renaissance helped her start-up a women's sports apparel business. Another beneficiary, a nurse practitioner, took advantage of Renaissance's business planning resources that helped her start-up her own trauma-healing practice – she learned her strengths before walking into the unknown. Another beneficiary, a pickle entrepreneur, gained knowledge and accessed mentors and an SBA loan and now sees her business' path of growth – she saved many months, if not years, in creating her growth plan.
San Francisco Safe House	Jessica Li	Safe House provides transitional housing for homeless sex workers. There are less than 15 such programs nationwide. Program provides financial literacy, job training, case management, health services, etc. While permanent housing is essential, transitional housing is still necessary and should be prioritized.
Japantown Taskforce	Alice Kawahatsu	Once 36 blocks connected to Western Addition, Japantown is now only 4 blocks. The Taskforce was created seven years ago to help businesses survive and to focus on serving seniors by bringing community together to develop a plan to achieve community and economic development, and safety for seniors. The Taskforce requested \$75,000 but only \$40,000 is being recommended for funding. Funding applicants should be provided clear information as to whether they qualify. The Taskforce is appreciative of the recommended grant award, but it needs \$300,000. The Taskforce has plans to make Peace Plaza a historical landmark and a venue for more community events.
SF Made	Ferron Salniker	Expressed thanks for continued support. SF Made works with 500 members and provides education, advising, assistance finding commercial space, access to capital, and access to market opportunities – to create and retains jobs. SF Made exceeded its contract goal of creating 200 jobs and retaining

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		400 jobs. Cited manufacturing examples that pay higher than minimum wage, including Magnolia Brewing and MacRoskey Mattress.
Renaissance Bayview	Karwana Dyson accompanied by staff and program beneficiaries	Renaissance Bayview serves the dynamic Bayview and Visitacion Valley. Entrepreneurship is hard work and Renaissance Bayview provides comprehensive business support services to thereby empower people with great ideas to create sustainable businesses. Entrepreneurship is powerful and is a path out of poverty. Program beneficiary, a graphic designer, described how she grew as a business owner since connecting with Renaissance Bayview. She stated that had it not been for these services, her business would not exist – anyone can start a business but it takes know-how to stand.
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center (FRC)	Jaime Aragón	Good Samaritan FRC helps immigrants find success. Neighborhoods served include Mission, Tenderloin, and Excelsior. A core service is English-as-a-second-language (ESL) classes – a vital service for newcomers. This program is responsive to those Good Samaritans FRC serves by providing child care services to enable parents to participate in these classes (60 participants per class – mostly persons with dependent children). Lack of child care services is a major barrier to access this program. English language proficiency benefits everyone, not only those who learn proficiency.
Community Reformer (?); Community Assistance Service Enterprise (CASE)	Ace “on the Case” Washington	Informally retired from activism: communicating, documenting, and taking pictures. In the middle of going straight to HUD Secretary Castro regarding the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. Mr. Washington stated that San Francisco is the most corrupt city in the US. Concerned with African American outmigration and support for Fillmore District businesses.
Women’s Audio Mission (WAM)	Lopa Pal	WAM is run entirely by women and girls. WAM was faced with displacement in 2014 and, with help from the City, found a needle in the haystack to purchase a facility in Mid-Market. WAM indicated that the mayor’s office had issued a press release announcing the City’s support of WAM in purchasing its new facility and referenced continued support. WAM needs \$200,000 to make their space a reality. WAM trains and connects 1,000 women and girls to lucrative opportunities so that they thrive in San Francisco. WAM asked that the City continue to support them so that San Francisco continues to be a place where artistry and technology intersect.
Community Design Center	Chuck Turner	Community Design Center is a nonprofit design firm that provides services to project owner representatives, especially smaller groups with limited capacity, to help implement projects. While building or correcting projects is still difficult as a result of lots of red tape, Community Design Center helps

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		with efficiencies by assisting with bidding for obtaining A&E/design/planning services, as well as documentation for HUD and other funders. Projects are backed up and Community Design Center could help move them forward.
Community Youth Center / Bayview Youth Advocates (CYC/BYA)	Eddy Zheng	CYC/BYA expresses thanks for four years of support. CYC/BYA is one of the few that provides culturally appropriate services to monolingual Chinese speakers, of which more than 30 percent of them live in the southeast of San Francisco. Other than public safety, housing is very important, which is why CYC/BYA helps its clients fill-out housing forms. Financial support for CYC/BYA is important for employee retention, as employees of community-based organizations often have to choose between feeding their family and doing community work.
Gum Moon	Susan Chen and Montira Warran	Gum Moon expressed thanks for the past several years of support. This funding will enable them to continue to provide transitional shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, as well as support groups for grandparents who are caregivers to their grandchildren.
LYRIC	Alan Gutierrez and Reeshae McCray	LYRIC serves transgender and gender-nonconforming youth. In 2015, there have been 10 murders of transgender women of color in the US. In the last one and a half years, LYRIC helped place 21 youth in Human Services Agency (HSA) permanent supportive housing. Reeshae shared experience as a former sex worker, former foster child, and current student. Reeshae connected with LYRIC in 2013 and has since accessed permanent supportive housing.
San Francisco Conservation Corps	Samantha Sassi	Expressed thanks for transitional age youth charter school and high school diploma program. (High school diploma programs does not have same (unfortunate) stigma that is associated with GED program, which results in greater earning potential.) San Francisco Conservation Corps also provides job training and placement; and identifies and accesses career pathways.
Friendship House Association of American Indians	Pa-Pai X. Thomas	Expressed thanks. Friendship House is a 90-day (up to six months) residential program that also provides GED and job training. Capital improvement funds are much needed and increase energy efficiency.
Homeless Advocacy Project of the Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of	Teresa Friend	Expressed thanks for funding its eviction defense work that prioritizes tenants with serious mental illnesses. This work is as critical as ever. Also capital improvement project funding for its Tenderloin site (new roof).

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Chinese Newcomers Service Center	Rita Mah	Chinese Newcomers asked that the City reconsider its recommendation to not fund its information and referral program, an essential service. Those they serve are neither youth nor seniors, but rather the middle-aged population that lacks skills and basic literacy. This population cannot fill basic forms in either English or Chinese – they do not have time to go to school because they must support their families, so they get low-skill jobs. Chinese Newcomers essentially triage the needs of people in their community and are creative in finding their clients work.
Veterans Equity Center / BiSHoP	Juslyn Manalo accompanied by staff	Organization provides case management and outreach to access affordable housing opportunities, particularly in neighborhoods that do not know of these opportunities. Project is part of a larger strategy of strengthening community in San Francisco. Housing program staff expressed thanks for enabling her to help others navigate affordable housing – more than simply providing assistance filling out forms, she provides assistance throughout the entire process (particularly with the expansion of the BMR program). Project targets teachers and eviction prevention; rooted in SOMA and Filipino community – now citywide expansion. Case management in Spanish will now be possible at BiSHoP with this funding.
Mission Economic Development Agency	Gabriel Medina	Expressed thanks and outlined programs, including homeownership (30 homeowners), business and workforce development (250 new hires) programs. Cited recent study that found 8,000 displaced Latinos and affordability crisis, including a 91 percent decline in Latino participation in the BMR program. Asked that its 24 <sup>th</sup> St. activity not be cut.
Mission Language and Vocation School (MLVS)	Rosario Anaya accompanied by staff and a beneficiary	MLVS works to address barriers to employment with its medical assistance, culinary, and other vocational academies. Expressed thanks for continued support for medical assistance and foundational competencies projects. MLVS indicated that it trusts that the City’s General Fund will fund its programs historically funded with these funds. Beneficiary expressed thanks and asked for continued support.
Filipino Community Center	Terrence Valen	Celebrating its 10-year anniversary. Filipino Community Center serves hundred and reaches thousands, especially immigrant and transitional age youth populations with culturally appropriate services; e.g., through certified Tagalog interpreters, information and referral, health care, service connection, legal services, etc.