



# in the works

April 2019



Our steamfitter, Richard Armstrong, attaches the freshly groomed Doggie Diner head to its perch on the Sloat Boulevard median. See story inside.



# EVENTS



5/5

### [How Weird Street Faire](#)

The 20th-annual street fair features entertainment, dancing, street vendors and more.

Noon – 8 p.m.  
Second and Howard streets



5/19

### [Alaska Airlines Bay to Breakers](#)

The popular 12-kilometer scenic footrace begins downtown and ends at the Great Highway.

8 a.m.  
Main and Howard streets



5/25 - 5/26

### [Carnaval San Francisco](#)

The 40th-annual festival features international food, music, dance, crafts and more.

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Harrison Street between 16th and 24th streets.



5/5

### [Sunday Streets Bayview/Dogpatch](#)

Sunday Streets provides free exhibits and activities on a car-free route.

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Third Street  
from 22nd Street to Carroll Avenue



5/25

### [Community Clean Team in District 3](#)

Community Clean Team is San Francisco Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program that keeps San Francisco beautiful through landscaping and gardening projects, graffiti removal and litter cleanup in our neighborhoods.

8:30 a.m. – registration  
9 a.m. to noon – community work projects  
Portsmouth Square, 733 Kearny St.

[SFPUBLICWORKS.ORG](http://SFPUBLICWORKS.ORG)





## THANK YOU

I live next door to the Garden for the Environment on Seventh Avenue.

I just wanted to thank the garden staff and Public Works for responding to the leaning and deteriorating fence. It was becoming somewhat of a safety liability. One of your supervisors, Jeffrey Soria, came by with some of the garden staff to inspect the fence and deemed it in disrepair and in need of replacement. He took measurements and consulted with my wife and me on the design. He was very professional and kept us informed of the timelines. Due to the extremely wet winter/spring he could not nail down a definite time for the work. When it was time to schedule, he called and let us know the timetable. I just want to thank Kenny Calkins, Tom Gallagher, Dave Hernandez and Michael Brennan for their excellent work and professionalism. Because the top end of the fence is on a rather steep slope they had to come onto my property. They were very cautious and respectful of our property. They worked very hard and did wonderful work. You should be very proud of these workers and they should be recognized. As a property owner and taxpayer in this wonderful city, I was extremely happy to know we have such diligent and true craft persons working as civil servants.

Ronald and Patrice W.



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On behalf of the Guardians of the City and PR impresario Lee Houskeeper, please extend our most heartfelt gratitude to your team for getting Lotta's Fountain ready for the April 18 event to commemorate the 1906 earthquake, as you always do.

Again, my thanks to you and the team for always making it right!

David E.

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I was very pleased with the tree-removal work the Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry crew did. They were professional and hard working. The supervisor was good about communicating what they were doing and letting

us know their schedule. It was especially good to see how careful and respectful they were of existing landscaping – shrubs, lighting and fences. Please forward my thanks for a job well done!

John H.

# Hot Diggity

San Franciscans long have had a soft spot for the towering Doggie Diner head on Sloat Boulevard at 45th Avenue and so, when it was looking a bit weather-beaten recently, ►



# Dog!



The iconic Doggie Diner Head, City Landmark No. 254, is back watching over the Outer Sunset after a 6-day makeover.

The dashing dachshund originally stood sentinel over the Doggie Diner eatery at 46th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard, a block west of its current location.





Benson & Hedges  
Lights,  
I like your style.

Coca-Cola

Coca-Cola

Doggie DINER

Coca-Cola

DRIVE

DOGIE OWNER LAND







The Public Works crew that made sure the whimsical hound head was delivered back home safe and sound.





- ▶ Public Works stepped in to oversee some much-needed grooming.

On April 24, the 10-foot-tall cartoonish fiberglass dachshund head – resplendent in a chef’s hat and polka-dot bow tie – was removed from its perch in the Outer Sunset by crews from the Bureau of Building Repair and Bureau of Street Environmental Services, then transported across town to Central Shops, the facility that maintains the City’s vehicle fleet. Once there, the decades-old dog was given a good scrubbing to remove residual mildew, then repainted a deep candy apple red, sealed with a clear coat and polished – much like a prized automobile.

A mere six days later – and gleaming like a show dog – the 400-pound Doggie Diner head made a homecoming and was lifted by crane, placed carefully atop its pole and secured with stainless steel bolts by a Public Works crew that included a number of San Francisco natives who grew nostalgic when recalling childhood visits to the

Doggie Diner. The now-defunct Bay Area fast-food chain served up tasty hot dogs and featured an iconic mascot that could be spotted blocks away.

When Doggie Diner folded in the 1980s, locals weren’t ready to part with the chain’s litter of massive, 1960s-era pooches. A number were sold to private collectors, and the one near the San Francisco Zoo that had become a beloved symbol of the Outer Sunset ultimately found a new home in the Sloat Boulevard median at 45th Avenue – one block east of its original location. Public Works assumed preservation and maintenance responsibility of the civic treasure and, in 2006, the Doggie Diner head was designated San Francisco Landmark 254.

Thanks to the salty sea air that rolls in from Ocean Beach, just a few blocks away, paired with wind and winter rains, the San Francisco icon needs occasional TLC – something Public Works takes seriously, no bones about it. ■

# POLK STREET



# RENAISSANCE



Rendering of  
a reenvisioned  
Polk Street, a  
project that has  
now come to life.



TOW-AWAY  
NO PARKING  
ANY TIME

ALL I WANTED TO  
DO WAS LAUGH  
CLAP  
SLAP &  
SING

@jandrasant

MUSIC CITY  
SAN FRANCISCO



SIGN UP



The Unauthorized Rolling Stones performed at the Polk Streetscape Project ribbon-cutting celebration on Fern Alley.



## EPISODE 0051

### A Safer Polk Street from Sea to City Hall

Polk Street is a thriving mixed-use neighborhood and commercial corridor that also has had some of the highest pedestrian and bicycle collision rates in the City. San Francisco's Vision Zero policy calls for eliminating traffic-related fatalities by 2024. The recently completed Polk Streetscape Project aims to increase safety for people walking and biking on Polk Street in response to that goal. Join our Polk Street project manager, David Froehlich, as he takes us down the corridor and through its colorful alleys.





As part of the Polk Street redo, crews repaved the entire corridor.





A little rain wasn't enough to keep celebrants away from the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



## Managed by San Francisco Public Works, the Polk Street Improvement Project features numerous safety and beautification upgrades.

This month, we celebrated completion of the transformative Polk Streetscape Project, which bolsters safety for everyone traveling along the corridor. The project stretches for 1.8-miles, from Beach Street to McAllister Street.

Polk Street, a thriving neighborhood and commercial corridor, also had some of the highest pedestrian and bicycle collision rates in the City. On average, one person walking and one person cycling was hit by a vehicle each month on Polk Street – 122 over a five-year period – and the corridor was prioritized for safety improvements under San Francisco’s [Vision Zero](#) initiative, which calls for eliminating traffic-related fatalities by 2024.

Managed by San Francisco Public Works, the [Polk Street Improvement Project](#) features numerous safety and beautification upgrades, including 30 blocks of better-quality bike lanes, raised crosswalks, new bus stops, 136 new street trees, more than 3,800 linear feet of upgraded sewer main and more than 5,700 linear feet of upgraded water main. The project also improved 160 curb ramps to bolster ADA accessibility; upgraded traffic signals at nine intersections; installed 81 new

street lights and refurbished 31 existing lights; and resurfaced the entire roadway.

Lower Polk neighborhood alleyways also were reimagined to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. And it was on Fern Street, now a designated art alley, where the Polk Streetscape Project ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on April 2.

We were joined by Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Matt Haney, advocates for bike and pedestrian safety, the Lower Polk Community Benefit District and neighborhood merchants and residents. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency served as a key partner on the project and also involved the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the Planning Department. M Squared Construction, Inc. was the prime contractor.

Construction on the two-year, \$26.8 million project began in October 2016 and was largely completed in December 2018, with final work wrapped up this month. Planning began in August 2012 and involved a two-year public engagement process that consisted of more than 60 meetings with residents, merchants, community groups and advocacy organizations.



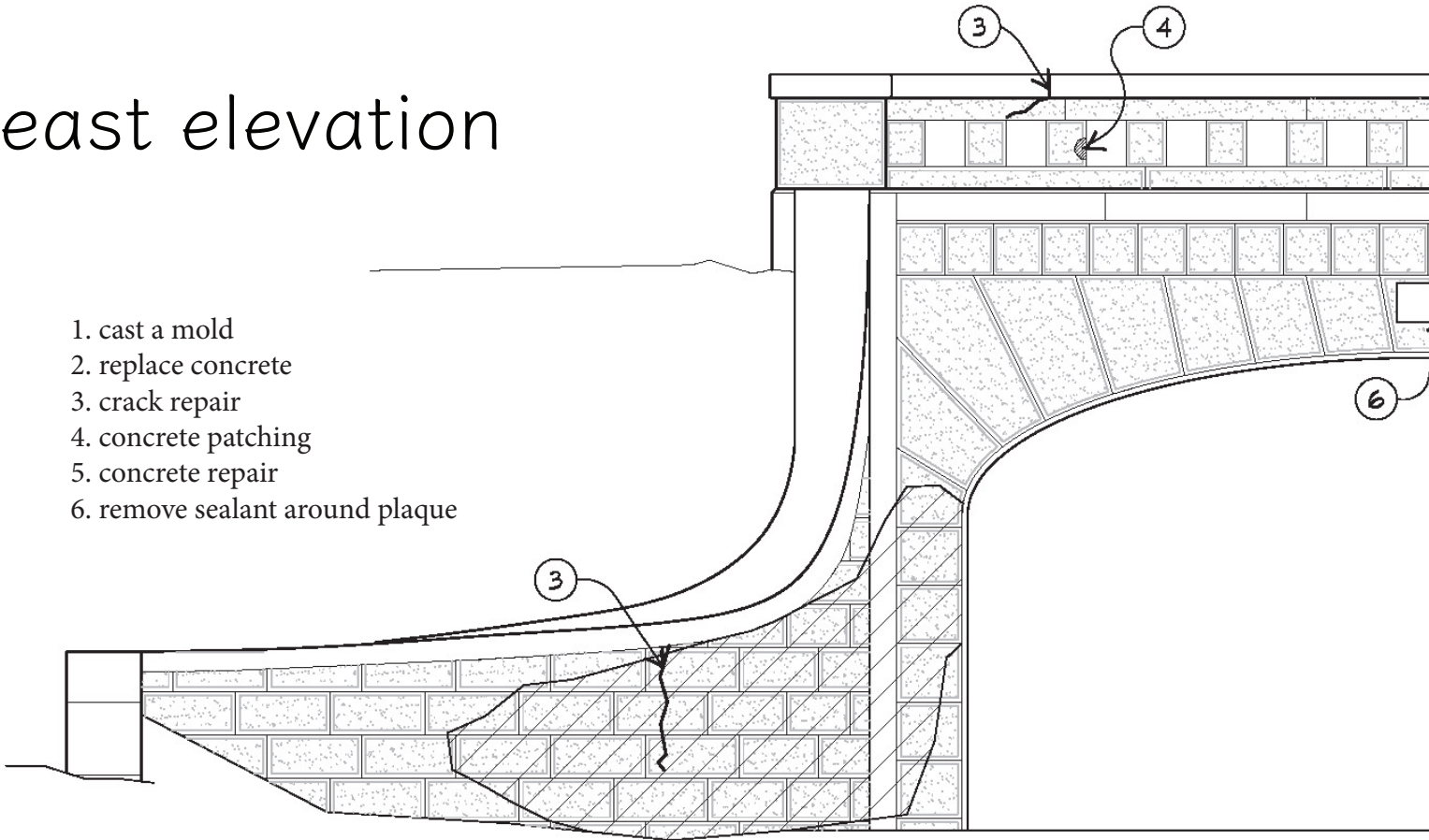
The Alvord Lake Bridge in 1890, the year after it was built.

# BRIDGING HISTORY

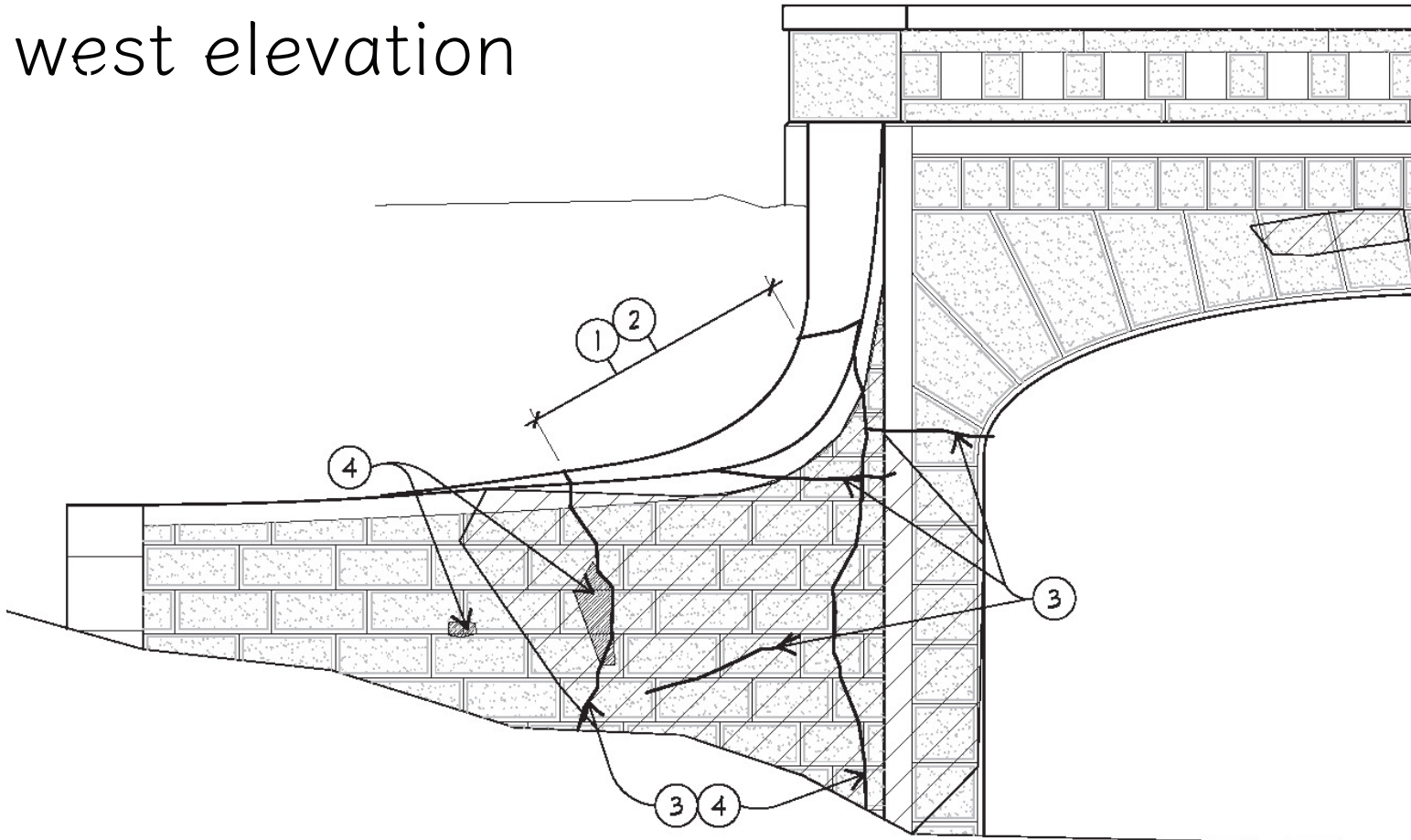
Constructed in 1889 and designed by the pioneering British engineer Ernest L. Ransome, the Alvord Lake Bridge on the eastern edge of Golden Gate Park is considered to be the first reinforced concrete bridge built in America. ►

# east elevation

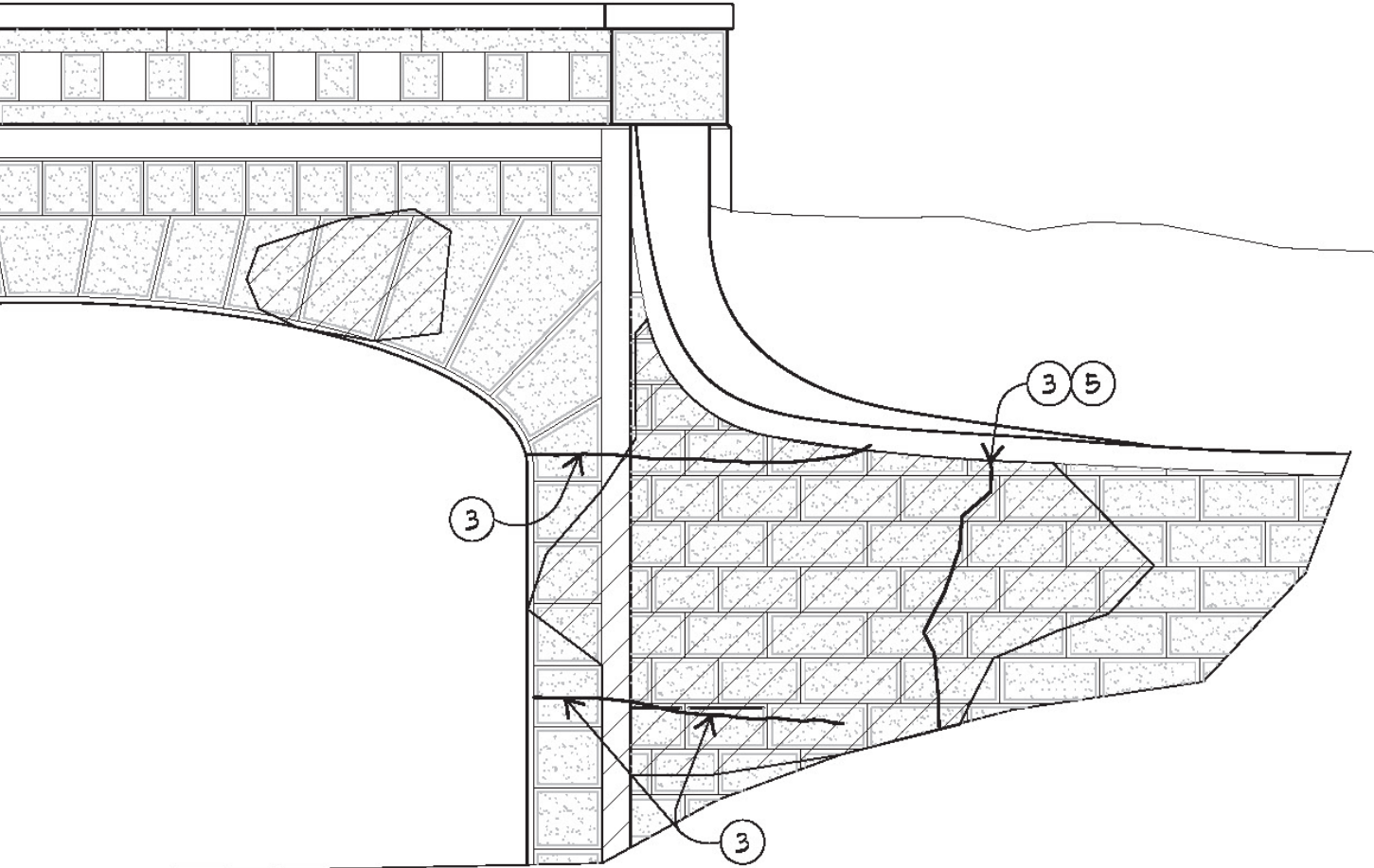
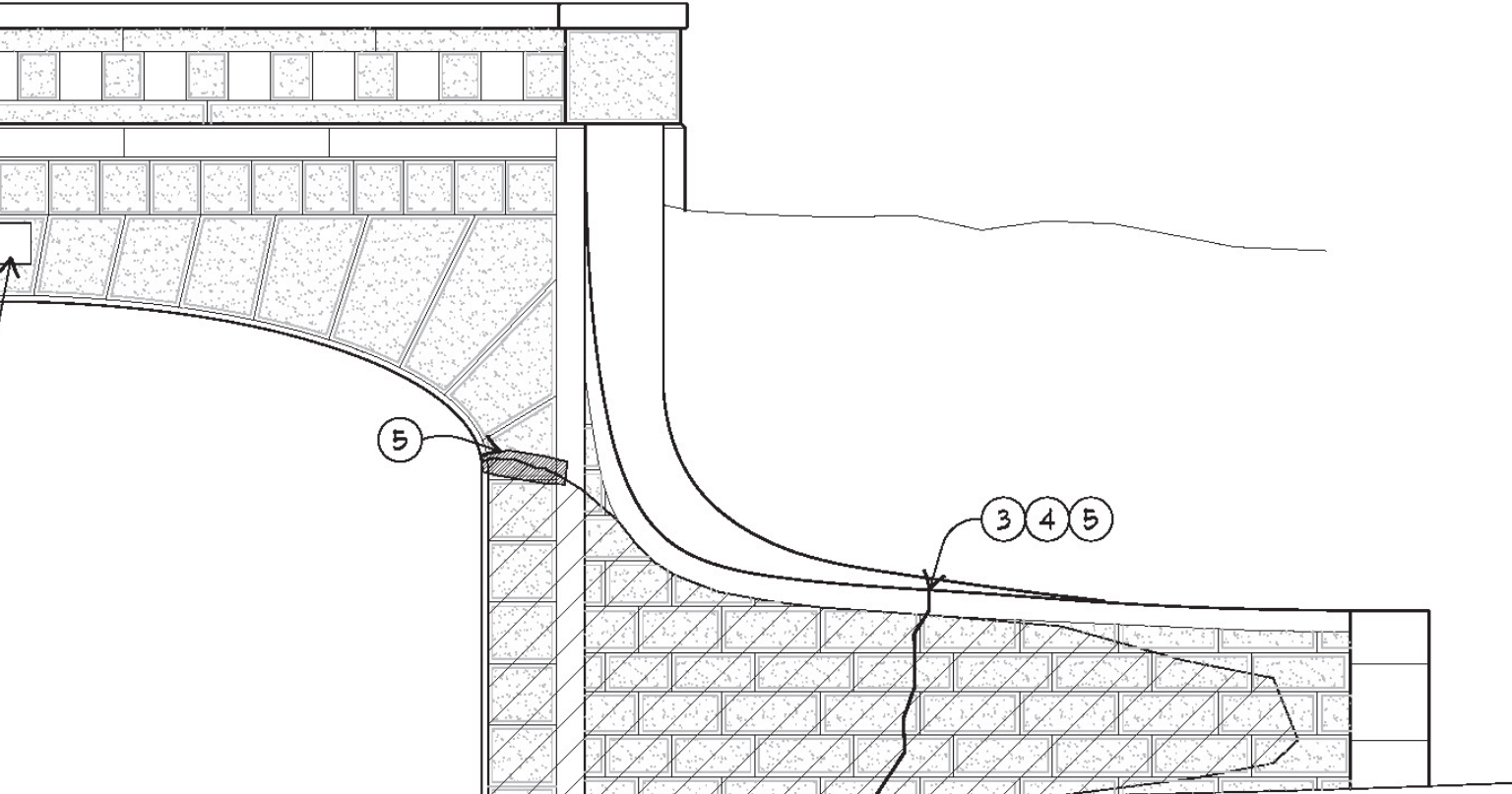
1. cast a mold
2. replace concrete
3. crack repair
4. concrete patching
5. concrete repair
6. remove sealant around plaque



# west elevation



Engineers drew up these plans prior to the rehabilitation project.



before





after







The bridge survived the 1906 earthquake and fire in remarkable shape, but like most things, time has taken a toll.

- ▶ Ransome utilized his patented cold-twisted square steel bar to reinforce the concrete arch that comprises the bridge superstructure. The bridge survived the 1906 earthquake and fire in remarkable shape.

The single-arch bridge, which is 64 feet wide and 29 feet long, is now topped by Kezar Drive, with a pedestrian walkway running through it. The structure was designated a [Civil Engineering Landmark](#) by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1969.

But like most things, time has taken a toll on the bridge. In late 2018, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department awarded a construction contract to Giampolini Courtney, a firm known for its masonry restoration expertise. The job: rehabilitate the Alvord Lake Bridge, including the repair and restoration of the curved abutment wing walls, which had cracked and shifted due to lateral pressure exerted by saturated soils and tree roots.

Based on a San Francisco Public Works engineering design, [Giampolini Courtney](#) carefully sectioned and removed the damaged portion of the wing wall. A new reinforced concrete foundation was constructed in

the opening, and the existing wall sections were carefully stacked and aligned atop this foundation. Steel dowels were attached to the back face of the existing wall sections, and a new reinforced concrete retaining wall was constructed to support the existing wall sections while resisting pressure from soil and water.

In partnership with [Architectural Resources Group](#), a San Francisco-based preservation architectural firm, Giampolini Courtney proceeded to painstakingly patch and restore the existing wall pieces, taking care to match the color and finish of the original structure. ■

# PUBLIC WORKS TV



## EPISODE 0050

### From Pencils to Pixels: Preserving SF's Architectural History

For more than a century, our architects at Public Works have been designing some of San Francisco's most iconic civic buildings and public spaces – and we still have many of the original drawings. A large number of them remain in excellent condition, but to ensure they're around for future generations, we're preserving them now in a different way: digitally. Join our digital archivists as they take you into "the vault" and share some San Francisco history through these beautiful blueprints.





44  
SCANNED

46  
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64  
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66  
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78  
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80-A



# Spring Cleaning Underway in Di

More than 200 pumped-up volunteers showed what it takes to clean and beautify the Haight, Western Addition, Alamo Square and other District 5 neighborhoods: a lot of elbow grease, plenty of determination and a love for our City. ►

Volunteers spruce the landscaping around the Ella Hill Hutch Center.

istrict 5







Volunteers are all smiles as they get ready to leave the Community Clean Team kickoff and head to their worksite.



Graffiti-busting was on tap at this month's Community Clean Team.



## Community Clean Team, now in its 19th year, is Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program.

► Before the work began at the April 27 Community Clean Team volunteer workday, District 5 Supervisor Vallie Brown stressed the importance of civic pride and community partnerships at a rally held at Ella Hill Hutch Center, located in the Fillmore District.

Volunteers from all over the City, consisting of groups of friends, families and community organizations, worked alongside Public Works staffers on numerous neighborhood improvements, including weeding and pruning along Webster and Divisadero streets, picking up litter and sweeping tree basins on McAllister Street and Golden Gate Avenue, refreshing City furniture on

Haight Street and planting trees at various locations throughout the Western Addition neighborhood.

Community Clean Team, now in its 19th year, is Public Works' longest-running and largest volunteer program.

We will be visiting North Beach, Chinatown, Lower Polk and other District 3 neighborhoods at the next Community Clean Team workday on Saturday, May 25. Volunteers will gather at 8:30 a.m. at Portsmouth Square, 733 Kearny St. before getting to their work sites.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Community Clean Team and to register for the event. ■

A group of volunteers is participating in a community cleanup activity. They are using long-handled tools to pick up debris and placing it into large orange plastic bags. The bags feature a logo that says "Join the team. Keep SF clean. GIANT SWEEP" and "50 YEARS OF SERVICE". The volunteers are wearing various clothing, including t-shirts with "IMPERFECT produce" and "GIANT SWEEP" logos, and blue gloves. The background shows a long, light-colored building with a corrugated metal roof.

# Volunteers Give Some

Employees from Imperfect Fruit grabbed pickers, bags and brooms and got to work cleaning up the neighborhood around their Bayview business.



# TLC to Mother Earth

At the end of their shift, volunteers showed off their haul of 25 bags of litter.





An enthusiastic group of 20 employees participated, flexing their civic pride and helping keep their neighborhood clean and beautiful.

Employees from [Imperfect Fruit](#) got into the spirit of [Earth Day](#) this month by picking up litter around their Donner Avenue offices in the Bayview. Their haul: 25 bags full of litter. That's 25 bags packed with candy wrappers, pieces of paper, old bandages, plastic bags, cigarette butts and other detritus that no longer will sully our parks, sidewalks and tree basins.

This was the company's first organized cleanup with the Public Works community programs team. An enthusiastic group of 20 employees participated, flexing their civic pride and helping keep their neighborhood clean and beautiful.

Public Works partners with many businesses, nonprofits and schools across San Francisco on neighborhood-improvement projects. We supply bags, brooms and pickers to gather litter, and paint and brushes to wipe out graffiti. We also provide safety tips to the volunteers before they get to work. We also haul away the garbage they pick up. The workdays are great team-building exercises and a meaningful way to give back to the community.

We're always looking to add to our roster of partners. You can get in touch with us at [volunteer@sfdpw.org](mailto:volunteer@sfdpw.org) or visit our [website](#).



# Wa

District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney (center, in tie) joins a Public Works contingent on Market Street during Walk to Work Day.





# Walk the Walk

Running out of goody bags is a good thing when it comes to Walk to Work Day: It symbolizes the growing popularity of the pedestrian-friendly event, which celebrated its seventh anniversary on April 10, ▶



City officials and safe-street advocates gathered at City Hall for a Walk to Work Day rally.



#walk2work

# WALK TO WORK DAY

**Walking 15 Minutes Counts!**



Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru spoke at the Walk to Work Day rally about our organization's commitment to making the streets safer for pedestrians.



The annual tradition encourages San Francisco residents and commuters to walk to their workplace – or at least spend 15 minutes of their commute on foot.

- ▶ attracting thousands of San Franciscans to downtown and neighborhood hubs.

Founded by the nonprofit Walk San Francisco, the annual tradition encourages San Francisco residents and commuters to walk to their workplace – or at least spend 15 minutes of their commute on foot.

Public Works crews set up tables for the Financial District hub at Market and Battery streets, and staff joined volunteers to offer coffee and goody bags to swarms of proud walkers on a particularly sunny and picturesque spring morning. And staff from all of our bureaus, led by Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru, participated in the event.

Walk to Work Day is one of our favorite San Francisco traditions because it promotes the goals our City cares so much about: safety, sustainability, and making this a more livable, walkable city by reclaiming streets as safe, shared public space for everyone to enjoy.

Though the health and environmental benefits of walking were lauded by Walk to Work Day organizers, the overwhelming theme was the need for safer streets – especially in light of recent pedestrian fatalities – and an unwavering commitment to San Francisco’s Vision Zero goal, which aims to reduce all traffic-related fatalities by 2024. ■

This year, Public Works Week starts in April and ends in May. Next month's newsletter will have full coverage but we wanted to give readers a sneak preview. Here, students who attended an open house with our engineers and designers show off the model city they built.



**PUBLIC WORKS**  
*week*

