



Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?
Henry David Thoreau

Creativity, Compassion and Community in the Tenderloin with "A Slice of Life"



Upper Photo: Windows within a window. Rooftop families peer at 1st grade art in the gallery window. Photo by Julia Smith.
Lower Photo: The wonder of night, sleep and dreams are captured in youth artistic expressions. Photo by Young Wong

On Saturday, November 9th, a block of Ellis Street in the Tenderloin was transformed by the creativity and caring of our children and extended community. With the street closed to traffic, Rooftop and our neighborhood partners danced and played in the streets as we celebrated the opening of "A Slice of Life." We were granted use of the Luggage Store Annex gallery space thanks to our relationship with artist Flo Oy Wong. The Luggage Store Main Gallery is currently hosting Flo's 75th birthday gallery show, "The Whole Pie" (featuring works by Flo herself and many community artists, including Rooftop community members). Gallery owners Darryl Smith and Laurie Lazar offered the Annex Gallery to Rooftop to create a companion show to coincide with the opening of "The Whole Pie." The Luggage Store Annex is situated adjacent to the Tenderloin National Forest, a formerly abandoned alleyway that has been converted to an art-filled garden sanctuary in the middle of the Tenderloin.

Throughout October, Rooftop students traveled to the Tenderloin on field trips, where they explored the Forest and engaged in creating site-specific murals and sculptures in the gallery space. Their artmaking was inspired by a large-scale mural in the Forest, "The Guardians" by Johanna Poethig. Students discussed the meaning of "guardian" as someone who cares for something that needs protected. They they created sculptural collage guardians who symbolically protect the life of the oceans, land, and sky, as well as a guardian of the night, sleep and dreams. Large canvas murals accompany the guardians, depicting the things that they protect. Along with working in the gallery, many classes walked to the nearby Parc 55 hotel to see a baker's clay mural by artist Ruth Asawa titled *San Francisco Yesterday and Today*. Other classes used photography and poetry to reflect on the magic of the Forest. Students created a Blue Marble Wishing Well to capture their hopes and wishes.



Photo: 3rd grade students create the Guardian of the Oceans

Tenderloin

Yellow sidewalk,
corner stores,
sleeping people,
lines for food,
this is Tenderloin
but in the middle,
hearts will soar,
in the Forest,
where the ponds
are calm,
where the plants
take your dreams,
and the wind
tells secrets,
this is the
REAL Tenderloin.

By Emmy, 4th Grade

In the gallery, the site-specific art was curated with works created by our K-8 students at school. Pieces included work created during Flo Oy Wong's residency at Rooftop last year and a collaborative piece, "Pi Pie" where kindergarten and sixth graders built the digits of the pi sequence in baker's clay. Our community of families were represented artistically through the baker's clay family pies created at Family Art Night, and family works created at home via the 2012 Family Art Homework project. *Continued on page 4*

Exploring Perspectives at the Disney Family Museum



In October, Rooftop middle school students traveled to the Walt Disney Family Museum to experience two exhibits: "Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong," and "Camille Rose Garcia: Down the Rabbit Hole." In the Wong exhibit, students saw the perspective of the 102 year-old's life, starting from immigrating to Angel Island, through his influence on revolutionizing animation in classics like Bambi, to his contemporary work as a dynamic artist, animator and kite maker. In Camille Rose Garcia exhibit, students experienced her illustrative re-interpretation of of Lewis Carroll's classic "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

Back at school, the field trip has inspired the students' art-making in the classroom. Students experimented with watercolor painting in the style of Tyrus Wong. The 6th grade students created their own reinterpretations of Alice in Wonderland. The 7th and 8th graders are working on a "Video Remix Story: My Perspective." Students are using iMovie to creatively tell a story about their own lives or point of view using visual metaphors and challenging assumptions. Using the video effect of green screens, students integrate their own storyline and video with clips from movies such as Bambi and Alice in Wonderland. One group of students describe the angst of their high school application experience through using the clip of Alice falling down the rabbit hole, reinterpreting and giving new meaning to the animation. Storytelling and narrative remain the focus of the project, with video effects used as a tool to tell the story.



Student artwork by Bianca, Photos on this page by Cyndy Sugawara

"Shake-ing" It Up with Cinderella

This November, the Mayeda campus welcomes a residency with the African American Shakespeare Company. Producer, director, actor and Rooftop alumni: Ms. Sherri Young, along with teaching artist Chico, are working with students to develop performing arts techniques, listening, public speaking, collaboration and teamwork. Using this performing art strand, we explore the arts as communication and encourage the creative practice of imagination. This residency strengthens our students' abilities to evaluate a speaker's point of view, employ reasoning, and use evidence & rhetoric to examine written and spoken language. Through improv, students are encouraged to take risks and get of their comfort zone. Through conversation and collaboration, students build on others' ideas and express their own thoughts clearly and persuasively.



A Performance of Learning for the Residency will be held on Monday, Nov. 25th at noon. The students will present their version of Cinderella for their peers, and will be joined by the 2nd graders as the audience. Parents are encouraged to attend the POL.

Mayeda Student Artwork on Display in the National Japanese American Historical Society

On Veteran's Day, the National Japanese American Historical Society opened in the new Building 640 in the Presidio. As part of a special opening art exhibit which honors the sacrifices and heroism of Japanese Americans during World War II, Rooftop student art has been selected for display. Congratulations to Imogen Budetti, Sean Huang, Connie Pena, Tatiana Torrence, Queenie Li, and alumni Omar Aleman and Corrina Chan whose art is part of this special exhibit. The student work includes tributes to Martin Luther King and Fred Korematsu, Asian art printmaking, poetry, and art that addresses issues such as Trayvon Martin and stereotypes. The students were honored at a special exhibit opening reception on November 17th which included performances by the All Nations Singers, Medicine Warriors Dancers and Genyukai, Olinawan music and shiisa. The display will be open weekends through April 2014. For more information, go to: <http://njahs.org/640/>

"Masterpieces in Sand" at the Sandcastle Classic



The October government shutdown couldn't shut down this year's LEAP Sandcastle Classic. After a month's delay due to the closure of Ocean Beach, the LEAP event sprung back to life on November 9th.

This year was Rooftop's 5th year of participating with our 5th grade class. After several in-class design sessions with a team of sponsoring architects, Team Rooftop landed on their interpretation of this year's theme, "Masterpieces in Sand." Inspired by the Herman Melville classic, "Moby Dick," our team of students, architects and builders crafted their vision of the whale as a large-scale sand sculpture.

While the event is a ton of fun, it also comes with the benefit of the lessons in design and engineering for our students. We are grateful to our team sponsors and collaborators Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (with a special thank you to Rooftop dad, Greg Mottola!), ARUP, and Ryan Associates for supporting this Rooftop tradition!



Photos by Sebastian Dregnea

Rooftop Halloween Celebration Shines

Beautiful October skies covered the Burnett yard on the 31st as Rooftop celebrated our annual tradition of the Halloween Parade and Carnival. Our community's creativity was apparent in the amazing costumes shared at the event. Along with the creepy monsters, pop culture icons and fairy princesses, we also saw a family of Smurfs, the San Francisco fog (way to go, Ms. Whitcomb!) and even a Luxo Anglepoise lamp (a' la Pixar!)



The Carnival embodies the best of Rooftop Spirit, with our older students creating carnival booths to entertain their younger counterparts, passing on a long-standing Rooftop tradition. While the Carnival may look like "all fun and games"

there is also some very serious learning happening. Working in small teams to create the booths, students develop their abilities in Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Communication. Today's educators call these the 4 C's of 21st Century learning and recognize the development of these skills as crucial to our children's success in the workplaces of the future.

Rooftop's Dia de los Muertos Altar

From the new relationship established with Mission Science Workshop via October's Family Science Night, Rooftop was given a unique opportunity for our students to



create an altar for the Dia de los Muertos event at Garfield Park. Sam Haynor, an artist and educator at the workshop, provided Rooftop with an awesome kinetic sculptural base; a free-standing post with a rotating bicycle wheel on top. Working at recess yard art, Burnett students created embossed aluminum calaveras to honor those who have passed, along with dozens of paper marigolds. Displayed at the park, our children's earnest tributes gently spun in the wind, celebrating the lives of those we have lost.

ROOFTOP ART CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 23 - 12-3 pm
"A Slice of Life" Open Gallery Hours
Come see the student artwork and explore the Tenderloin National Forest
509 Ellis Street @ Leavenworth

Monday, November 25 - 12-1 pm
Performance of Learning for African American Shakespeare Residency
Student performance of Cinderella in Mayeda Gym. Parents welcome!

Monday, December 2 - 6 pm
Rooftop Family Trim-A-Tree Decorating Party at Davies Symphony Hall
Please RSVP to Art@RooftopK8.org

December 3, 4 & 5 - 12:30-1:50 pm
BURNETT Winter Workshop (Grades 1-5)
Parent helpers still needed! Join us!

December 10, 11 & 12 - 2-3 pm
MAYEDA Winter Workshop (Grades 6-8)
Parent helpers still needed! Join us!



"A Slice of Life" Continued... The opening celebration on Ellis Street brought together Rooftop families with Tenderloin neighbors and the Ellis Street stage came alive with a number of performers. The Community Music Center Teen Orchestra started the show, followed by "Blade," Rooftop's Blue Bear School of Music band led by Mike Rao. Rooftop's new musical theatre teacher, David Greenbaum (a.k.a. Mr. G.) led a group 3rd & 4th grade singers who inspired the crowd to sing along with musical favorites. The final act was a performance of "Gwah Gai: Crossing the Street" by the Marcus Shelby Orchestra. This musical piece was a collaboration between Marcus and Flo, which grew out of the two artists working in residency at Rooftop last year.

Hands-on art activities added to the fun of the day, provided by a variety of community art partners. Amara Tabor-Smith's "Fresh from the Oven" provided fresh pizza from the Forest's wood-fired oven. Shannon Day & Elizabeth Rosas of Juana's Voice presented "Tender Pics" a photo booth that encouraged strangers to connect and pose together for photo portraits. Judy Toupin led a plant seedling project where families could take home a potted windowsill plant. Laura Blumenfeld, director of Interior Design and Architecture at the Academy of Art University arranged student volunteers who staffed an art-making station in the gallery and a hands-on cardboard architecture station in the middle of Ellis Street.



Rooftop's participation in the Blue Marble project continued at the event with ocean advocates contributing their efforts. Claudio Garzon, an artist who up-cycles waste into amazing sculptures of sea turtles to raise awareness for their protection, was in the gallery space on Saturday, sharing his sculpture and working with children on a new piece on-site. Donations of blue marbles came from Maggie Frias and Deb Castellana donated ocean-themed children's books from Dr. Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue Foundation. Dr. Chris Pinetech visited the gallery during a field trip to talk with the kids about sea turtle conservation and Wallace J. Nichols consulted on the Blue Marble Wishing Well.



We dedicated the addition of a "Little Free Library" (a no-cost lending library) that will be a permanent part of the Tenderloin National Forest. We are grateful to our librarians Tamra Marshall and Rittinell Banks for initiating the project and to Mary Cicalese and Dan Shipman for working with Rooftop's Susty Girls to build a beautiful little wooden library.

There were many community partners who helped to make this a transforming experience. The collaboration of Flo Oy Wong and Marcus Shelby, along with The Luggage Store's Darryl Smith and Laurie Lazar and Vinay Patel of the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) were at the heart of this endeavor. Mayor Ed Lee and Supervisor Jane Kim were instrumental in closing Ellis Street. Andi Wong was the soul of this project, with countless hours dedicated to the event. Judy Toupin served as neighborhood outreach, establishing relationships with local merchants, social services and individual neighbors. Mary Ann Cruz envisioned the site-specific artmaking and lead the children in creating the art. Tamra Marshall, Rittinell Banks, Cheryl Ball and Amy Balsbaugh assisted with the field trips, gallery installation and event production. We must also thank parents Ivy Lee, Lorraine Valdespino and Lisa Sims and alumni dads Victor Yan and Pat Lem for their dedication to this project.

To our principals and teachers who supported the vision for the project, and for those who brought their students on field trips and attended the Saturday event, we thank you for being part of this endeavor. We thank the Rooftop parents who participated with open hearts. Lastly, we must thank our students, who faced the challenging reality of the Tenderloin with compassion and empathy and responded with art, music and poetry that makes our community and our city proud.



Photos on this page by Young Wong