

The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy
Board of Directors Covid-19 / Coronavirus Special Meeting - March 11, 2020
Meeting Summary

Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy Board held a meeting to discuss the tremendous impact that the coronavirus is having on the community, and talk about current planning.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As of the meeting date, all constituents are following the City's DPH recommendations that were presented on March 6th, creating social distancing guidelines for all events of 50 or more for a two-week period through March 20th. It is anticipated that this health order may be extended and include more mandatory venue closures in the near future. There is high potential that a number of our community organizations and businesses may close to the public due to their choice or future health orders.

The cancellations of events at the Convention Center and other venues has direct and indirect impact on everyone in the Yerba Buena community. Many, if not all, of our community have already lost business and revenue. One tenant, the Marriott, provides nearly 70% of the Conservancy budget. Two weeks ago we were projecting 10% drop in the Marriott's income/occupancy rates, but expect this has already changed. This downturn will have a major impact on the Conservancy's budget.

Andrico Penick from the Department of Real Estate explained that DPH recommendations will continue to change as we work through this outbreak.

Directives are broken into two groups:

- Essential gathering / government, medical, food delivery --These essential events can continue, but require hand sanitizer, social distancing / spacing, and thorough cleaning of venue.
- Non-essential gathering – DPH has provided strong counsel to cancel or postpone these meetings and events. There are some exceptions to the non-essential gathering edict which currently include open air events, museum and some cultural events. These events can continue if they can provide the necessary social distancing.

Ken Bukowski from the City Administrator's Office explained that hotel occupancy dropped from 85% to 20-30%. Many venues in the neighborhood – including restaurants – are, and will be, impacted.

The City is looking at packages to support local business and non-profit work during this period.

Deborah Cullinan reported that YBCA has taken proactive measures from managing sanitation to reducing the number of gatherings, even gatherings for fewer than 50 people. All large events have been cancelled for the coming weeks.

Deborah explained that the SF Arts Alliance is in contact with Congresswoman Pelosi's office to ensure that arts organizations are represented in upcoming federal relief packages. These conversations are also happening at the city level with Grants for the Arts and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Carol Tang explained that one major CCM concern is staff pay and cash flow. 80% of CCM staff is paid less than \$50k/year. To support payroll if there's a cash shortage, the museum is looking at CA's [Employment Development Department](#) to supplement wages that can't be paid by the museum. Carol's understanding is that this might be 60% paid by the museum/organization, and the rest supported, in part, by funding from EDD.

Carol stated that CCM would close its doors under the following circumstances: if DPH provides this direction; if there's exposure by staff, volunteer, or visitor; If SFUSD closes or if a nearby school like Bessie Carmichael Elementary School closes. Carol explained that in her capacity as a leader with the Association of Children's Museums, she has been sharing resources including literature for parents on how to talk to children and toddlers about coronavirus. CCM is also sending out design challenges, suggestions for creative screen time for parents, and curated apps. CCM wants to welcome visitors to the museum, but being at home will be the reality for most people.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to follow CDC and City recommendations.
- The Yerba Buena Gardens management office has a full calendar of all events in the Gardens and hosted by tenants. If events are added or cancelled, please send updates to the team at the Gardens management office.
- As developments arise, we will provide updates via email.