New CLS Projects Ready to Make a Big Splash

I’m pleased to detail some brand new projects that will make Life [even] Better Here for a large number of UCSF faculty, students, staff, and visitors! These projects were not easy to accomplish and took a lot of time, effort, and cross collaboration. Many thanks to the staff in CLS working hard to make these projects happen. - Clare

Campus Store to Open on Parnassus—Some of you remember when CLS operated two University Stores at Parnassus and Mission Bay. Unfortunately, we had to close these in 2011 because we couldn’t make the finances work – mainly because of declining book sales and changes to customer book-buying habits. Looking for ways to bring back the most popular aspects of these former stores, Retail Services has contracted with Follett to operate, on our behalf, a Campus Store at Parnassus. Follett currently operates our on-line Campus Store and also operates more than 1,040 ‘brick and mortar’ campus stores around the country (plus another 1,300 on-line stores).

Our new Campus Store will sell convenience items, computers & tablets, tech gadgets (chargers, memory sticks), gifts, school/office supplies, medical accessories and much more. From here, students will also be able to pickup textbooks that they ordered on-line. The new Campus Store will also sell UCSF wear, so that’ll be a big hit! Facilities Services is busy making improvements to the location, which will be in Millberry Union on the B-1 level. Doors are expected to open late summer.

Walgreens to Open in Mission Hall – Mission Hall will get a new tenant on the ground floor in early Fall: Walgreens. For those of us ‘based’ at Mission Bay, I’m sure you’ll agree with me that having a store that sells aspirin, bubble gum, greeting cards, pens, Band-Aids, and other convenience items will be very welcome. Unlike the Walgreens at Parnassus, which is predominately a pharmacy and has only a small retail presence, the Walgreens at Mission Hall will be both a full-service retail operation and a full-service pharmacy for UCSF Health. The best of both worlds!

Retail Services sure has been busy!

Bayside Master Lease – UCSF has a housing shortage, with demand for campus housing increasing each year as the off-campus market becomes ridiculously expensive and our rates stay somewhat under control. Because it’ll take us a while to build more housing, we are looking for bridge (short-term) solutions. One of the bridge solutions that will begin next week involves a Master lease between UCSF and the Bayside Village Apartment Complex located off the Embarcadero – less than 1.5 miles from Mission Bay. UCSF students living at Bayside will pay the same rate at
Bayside that they would have paid had UCSF had sufficient campus housing in Mission Bay. We feel great about offering this!

Arts & Events Seeks Volunteers

Exit the elevator on the second floor of Laurel Heights and make your way to The View Café and you immediately notice several tables filled with information about upcoming UCSF employee activities. This is the handiwork of Desiree Yip, Aileen Tam, and Cindy Cheng, longtime Laurel Heights’ employees.

“Work should be fun,” said Desiree, pointing to the pamphlets, flyers and posters announcing everything from art exhibits to movie showings. “Our goal is to spread the word about all of the events Campus Life Services, Arts & Events makes available at UCSF.”

The three have been working with Campus Life Services’ Arts & Events staff to bring fun activities to Laurel Heights for years. They’ve organized everything from the annual Halloween party and costume contest to ice cream socials and creating Valentine’s Day cards for hospital patients.

“The volunteer team at Laurel Heights put their heart and soul into planning activities and take pride in knowing that they have contributed to these events,” said Pilar Deer, Program Coordinator for Arts & Events. “They’re the main reason we’re able to get the word out at Laurel Heights on our discount program and events. We couldn’t do it without them.”

Aileen said activities organized by Arts & Events are the primary way to provide fun activities and boost staff morale in the workplace. “These events give employees an outlet - a way to de-stress - and a way to connect with people outside of their immediate work area.”

While social events don’t generate profit or provide education, they help employees come together and have a good time, Cindy said. “Work can be stressful and we need to increase the morale within our work environment. I wanted to improve our emotional well being when I joined the Laurel Heights Volunteer Team about nine years ago. I met people outside my department. I was able to see many happy faces of fellow colleagues when they attended events at Laurel Heights.”
Research in 2014 by Gallup shows that focusing on employee engagement and well being together helps companies and organizations maximize productivity. According to the research, when companies add a well-being focus to their engagement program it helps boost their individual, team and organizational performance and can cut down on employee health costs.

Joey Convento, Volunteer and Program Producer for Arts & Events, said it wouldn’t be possible to coordinate 80+ events annually without the dedication of campus volunteers. “Volunteers are the backbone of Campus Life Services’ Arts & Events.”

While the Laurel Heights staff enjoy all of the events, Desiree said, Halloween is the biggest celebration. “We have door decorations, a costume contest, and a lunch. A lot of work goes into the costumes. The employees really enjoy spending time together and it helps build morale at Laurel Heights.”

Joey said the Arts & Events Volunteer Program is designed to provide an opportunity for staff, faculty and students to offer their time, energy and creativity to plan and produce experiences that transform a routine day into something special and fun for the UCSF Community.

To learn more or to become an Arts & Events volunteer, please visit the Arts & Events Volunteer web page:
campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/artsevents/information/volunteers

**Todd McGregor Receives Sustainability Award**

Todd McGregor is the first to admit he was humbled at receiving the UC San Francisco Advisory Committee on Sustainability Staff Award last month.

“As I was receiving the award and the Chancellor was citing the different projects that led to it, I couldn't help but think I wasn’t in charge of any of them,” he said. “There were so many people in Campus Life Services that played a major role in each of those projects. I simply helped facilitate them.”

Todd, Assistant Director of Housing Services, serves on the university’s Water Conservation Work Group; he helped promote water sustainability with residents in
student housing; he coordinated the distribution of the “The Right Bin” recycling video to more than 1,000 CLS employees; and he helped coordinate 10 new non-traditional materials recycling points in CLS departments. One example of these was Fitness & Recreation’s donation drive of used sneakers for homeless patients who are admitted to hospital emergency rooms.

And, while he may not have been the single point person on any one of those projects, Todd was instrumental in the success of all of them.

Todd was one of two staff members, a student, a faculty member, and a team to receive this year’s UCSF Sustainability Award. Each recipient receives a scholarship to the annual California Higher Education Sustainability Conference to be held July 20-24 at San Francisco State University.

“I’m looking forward to attending to learn about sustainability programs at other universities across the state,” he said. “They also have some very interesting sustainability tours.”