



District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim to Honor Academy of Art University Students for New Mural Painting at Tenderloin’s Bristol Hotel

Fine Art students enrich portion of Tenderloin by painting a 13 feet x 30 feet mural in collaboration with non-profit Uptown Tenderloin, Inc.

By Staff Writer

San Francisco’s Tenderloin district is perceived as an area of urban blight, but in reality the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District is part of the National Register of Historic Places with a thriving arts community. Thanks to the efforts of Academy of Art University students and faculty, one corner of the Tenderloin has been newly enriched with street art. The Academy team’s recently completed mural, located on the corner of Mason and Eddy Streets, depicts a scene from the interior of a supper club located there in the early 20th century, inspired by a 1910 postcard found in Glenn Koch’s book, “San Francisco Golden Age Postcards.” Approximately 13 x 30 ft. in size, the mural is located outside the Bristol Hotel and was made possible through a collaboration between the Academy of Art University, Bristol Hotel and Uptown Tenderloin, Inc. District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim will honor the five Fine Art students at the official unveiling of the mural.



Student Michael Wiens

For the students, there were some very concrete benefits to the effort that were uppermost in the instructors’ minds when they set out. Instructor Carol Nunnally said, “The class is designed to be a real world project where students can use skills learned in classes in fine art painting, illustration and design and apply them toward a business opportunity. In this case, students learned how to paint a mural, how to work with clients, how to estimate and manage materials and a budget ... as well as meeting a deadline. And hopefully along the way, they have created a way for people to come together.”

Randy Shaw, Executive Director of Uptown Tenderloin, Inc. praises the Academy of Art University’s contributions to the neighborhood, “AAU has continued to make significant contributions to the Tenderloin facilitating community-based projects to bring the arts dynamically into the neighborhood.”



District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim Speaking



See Below

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORICAL MURAL



“It was a visceral experience, painting at street level with the ongoing traffic noise and endless comments and suggestions.”

MICHAEL WIENS

There are many colorful characters in San Francisco's Tenderloin district, so it's appropriate that a wall on the corner of Eddy and Mason would become as colourful. Michael Wiens, with a group of students from San Francisco's Academy of Art, painted a large, 31 foot mural on the side of the Bristol Hotel. The mural depicts a group of musicians playing inside the long gone Breakers Café in 1910. The image is taken from an historic post card depicting the supper club that occupied that very corner.

The experience of painting on a Tenderloin sidewalk for several months was its own interesting experience. Not only did Mike help paint the mural, he makes a cameo in it. He posed for the image of the band's piano player. The mural is part of an effort to spruce up the Tenderloin, which lists a deep history of architecture and music, beneath its grimy, drug-addled façade.