WELCOME!

Japantown Osaka Way/Buchanan Mall

OPEN HOUSE #1
AGENDA

➔ Welcome | Introduction (3 min.)
➔ Project Overview (3 min.)
➔ Area History (5 min.)
➔ Ruth Asawa (7 min.)
➔ Site Context (3 min.)
➔ Existing Conditions (10 min.)
➔ Preliminary Outreach (5 min.)
➔ Public Life Studies (5 min.)
➔ Next Steps (2 min.)
➔ Brief Q&A (10–15 min.)
San Francisco Planning acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost, nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the Ancestors, Elders, and Relatives of the Ramaytush Ohlone community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.
Japantown’s Osaka Way (Buchanan Mall) is the pedestrian portion of Buchanan Street that runs for one block between Post and Sutter streets.

Along with Peace Plaza, it’s the geographic and cultural heart of the neighborhood allowing residents and visitors to experience Japantown’s culture in a pedestrian environment.
PROJECT GOALS

1. **ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY**
   Enhance accessibility of Osaka Way for seniors and people with disabilities and limited mobility.

2. **RESTORE THE RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAINS**
   Rehabilitate the Ruth Asawa fountains that are iconic to Osaka Way.

3. **SUPPORT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY**
   Support the business community by embellishing the sense of cultural authenticity and enhancing the commercial edges of Osaka Way.
PROJECT TIMELINE

Children's Day Festival Outreach

Nihonmachi Street Fair Outreach

Cherry Blossom Festival Outreach

Open House #2

Peace Plaza Construction Begins

2022

Cherry Blossom Festival Outreach

Public Life Studies

2023

Initial Project Outreach

Public Workshop Series

Focused Conversations

Open House #1

Open House #3

2024

Conditions & Needs Assessment

Design Refinement

Environmental Review Begins

Detailed Design

2025

Construction Begins
AREA HISTORY

- 1945: San Francisco’s First General Plan
- 1956: Redevelopment Phase A-1
- 1963: Urban Design Study
- 1966: Redevelopment Phase A-2
- 1970s: Buchanan Mall construction & Ruth Asawa Commission
AREA HISTORY: 1959 - PRESENT
SITE HISTORY

1963
NIHON MACHI
March 15, 1963
Rai Y. Okamoto
San Francisco Redevelopment Agency
Van Buren/Nakamura
An Urban Design Study in the Western Addition Area

URBAN DESIGN STUDY

1970s
RUTH ASAWA COMMISSION

RUTH ASAWA COMMISSION

1970s
CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION

1976
PROJECT COMPLETION

PROJECT COMPLETION

1999
FOUNTAINS RECAST IN BRONZE

FOUNTAINS RECAST IN BRONZE

1999
RENAAMED OSAKA WAY

RENAAMED OSAKA WAY

2007

2007
RUTH ASAWA

- Biography

- Buchanan Mall Commission
  - Origami Fountains
  - Cobblestone River
  - Concrete Benches
ORIGAMI FOUNTAINS

All Artwork © 2023 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Courtesy David Zwirner
ORIGAMI FOUNTAINS

All Artwork © 2023 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Courtesy David Zwirner
COBBLESTONE RIVER

All Artwork © 2023 Ruth Asawa Lanier, Inc./Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, Courtesy David Zwirner
CAST CONCRETE BENCHES
Video provided by the
Ruth Asawa Family and Estate

For more information, visit
ruthasawa.com
SITE CONTEXT

● Connectivity
● Buchanan Street Corridor
● Scale Comparison
BUCHANAN STREET CORRIDOR

OSAKA WAY

PEACE PLAZA

GEARY CROSSWALK

BUCHANAN ST MALL

[Image of diagrams and illustrations of the Japantown Osaka Way/Buchanan Mall Upgrades Project]
EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Existing Forms
  - Existing Lighting
  - Existing Planting
- Shadow Study
- Outdoor Dining, Retail & Circulation
EXISTING OUTDOOR DINING & CIRCULATION
SHADOW STUDY

SPRING/FALL EQUINOX

SUMMER SOLSTICE

WINTER SOLSTICE
PRELIMINARY OUTREACH

- 2022 Cherry Blossom Festival
- 2022 Children’s Day Festival
- Merchant Outreach & Surveys
- 2022 Nihonmachi Street Fair
- Public Life Studies - Summer 2022
- 2023 Cherry Blossom Festival
WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT OSAKA WAY?

- dining
- cherry trees
- gateway
- lanterns
- ceremonial
- shops
- paving
- art
- fountains
- culture
- friendly people

[Colors and categories: Greenery, Furniture, Accessibility, Arts & Culture, Programming, Commercial]
WHAT WOULD IMPROVE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THIS SPACE?
PUBLIC LIFE STUDIES

- Pedestrian Screenline Counts
- Pedestrian Tracing
- Stationary Activity Mapping
- Intercept Surveys
PEDESTRIAN COUNTS

- More people visit the space on a weekend
- Those entering and existing the space are relatively equal
- Some visitors use other forms of mobility including, biking, running, scooting and wheelchairs.
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

1. **People Primarily Walk Along the Sides of Plaza**
2. **People Stop to Read Menus and Dine**
3. **Outdoor Seating Directs People into Center**
4. **People Avoid Uneven Cobble Paving**
5. **People Like to Walk Through Torii Gate**
STAY INVOLVED!

TODAY!

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1
FOCUS: Project overview, Goals and objectives, Site history, Existing conditions, Community feedback, Projected timeline

SUMMER 2023

FOCUSED CONVERSATIONS & SURVEYS
Focused outreach with merchants, children and youth, seniors and people with disabilities

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2
FOCUS: Initial conceptual design alternatives, gather feedback on preferred options

FALL 2023

PUBLIC WORKSHOP #3
FOCUS: Present a revised conceptual design and address remaining concerns

PROJECT TIMELINE (subject to changes)

- **Spring 2022 - Winter 2023**
  Conditions & Needs Assessment, Initial Project Outreach

- **Spring 2023 - Summer 2023**
  Public Workshop Series and Conceptual Design Development

- **Fall 2023 - Spring 2024**
  Design Refinement, Environmental Review

- **Summer 2024**
  Detailed Design

- **Spring 2025**
  Construction begins
Any Questions or Comments?

➔ If you’re joining via Zoom, please add your comments in the chat for us to read out loud
➔ If you’re joining in person, please step forward and line up behind the microphone
THANK YOU!

SFPlanning.org/JapantownBuchananMall

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