

This Week's Friday Report



San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

703 Market Street, Suite 609
 San Francisco, CA 94103
 P: 415-278-9611
<http://www.sfhcc.com/>

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FRIDAY REPORT: September 4, 2009

Upcoming Events

- [Sep 12 - Viva Las Americas at Pier 39](#)
- [Sep 18 - Latino Business Leadership Awards and SFHCC 25th Anniversary Celebration](#)
- [Oct 15 - Latina Breakfast Strategies](#)



Check the [Mark Your Calendars](#) Section for more information about these events.

WEATHER

San Francisco Weekend Weather

Saturday ⁵	Sunday ⁶
 High 62°F Low 57°F Partly Cloudy	 High 62°F Low 55°F Partly Cloudy
Precip: 10%	Precip: 10%

NEWS

Redevelopment Agency Awards the Mexican Museum \$250,000 in

Grant Funds to Jump Start Plans for a New Home South of Market -- The San Francisco Arts Commission will Manage Funds and Collaboratively Develop and Implement a Predevelopment Plan for the Re-launched Museum

On Tuesday, August 4, at a packed public hearing, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency voted unanimously to approve \$280,000 in funding to provide assistance to the Mexican Museum as it begins predevelopment planning for its new home, located adjacent to Jessie Square in the Yerba Buena Cultural District. The San Francisco Arts Commission will manage the disbursement of \$250,000 to the Museum and will retain \$30,000 for its fiscal oversight and consulting assistance. The Arts Commission will play a key role in implementing the predevelopment plan, which includes specific performance milestones related to facility planning, fundraising, membership and capacity building of the Museum's Board of Trustees, and partnerships with other key institutions.

"The City of San Francisco has always taken great pride in its cultural diversity and this renewed support for the Mexican Museum will lay the groundwork for a future world-class museum of Latino and Mexican art, serving as a capstone to the Yerba Buena Cultural District." said Mayor Gavin Newsom.

Since the early 1990s, the Redevelopment Agency has been working with the Museum toward the development of a new facility. While earlier planning focused on a "stand-alone" building, current efforts are centered on a new mixed-use project that includes 706 Mission Street and consists of a residential tower incorporating both the landmark Mercantile Building and the Museum.

"The Mexican Museum is the final piece of the Redevelopment Agency's plan for the Yerba Buena Redevelopment District. With the recent changes in the Museum's Board and the leadership it has demonstrated, we feel that we are now well positioned to move forward with predevelopment planning for this important project," said Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency Fred Blackwell.

"The collection of the Mexican Museum is of national and international importance and will draw visitors to our City, and the unanimous vote by the Commissioners of the Redevelopment Agency last night demonstrated strong support for re-launching the Museum," said Luis R. Cancel, Director of Cultural Affairs. "I look forward to working with the new Board leadership of the Mexican Museum to help this organization reach its full potential."

The Museum had a great show of support, requiring an additional room to handle the overflow. Supporters from San Francisco's Latino and artists communities delivered compelling testimony in favor of the Mexican Museum. Collectively, they expressed the importance of an institution that reflects and celebrates Latino history and culture in a city that is home to such culturally-specific museums as the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Asian Art Museum and the Museum of the African Diaspora. Their voices were echoed by well-respected community leaders and arts professionals including: Miguel Bustos; former Mexican Museum Executive Director and SFAC Commissioner Lorraine GarcNakata; Adriana Williams, the granddaughter of Mexican President Plutarco El Calles who donated the important Covarrubias Collection to the Museum; former Trustee Jesse Aguirre and Palo Alto Art Center Curator Signe Mayfield.

"The Mexican Museum is elated at the unanimous approval by the San Francisco Redevelopment Commissioners for the release of these funds to give us the impetus to move forward and kick off our revival fundraising, which we've appropriately titled the 'Renacimiento: The Mexican Museum Today' campaign," said Mario Diaz, co-chair of the Mexican Museum's Board of Trustees. "We are proud to continue the vision of Peter Rodriguez, who founded the Museum in 1975, and further its important and dedicated mission."

The Mexican Museum holds a unique collection of over 12,000 objects, including painting, sculpture, and folk art, representing thousands of years of Mexican art and culture within the Americas. The

permanent collection, the Museum's most important asset and resource, includes five collecting areas: Pre-Conquest; Colonial; Popular; Modern and Contemporary Mexican and Latino; and Chicano Art. The Museum also has an impressive number of rare books and a growing collection of Latin American art.

The Palo Alto Art Center recently announced Treasures from The Mexican Museum: A Spirited Legacy (on view September 26, 2009- April 18, 2010), an exhibition featuring works from the Museum's collection. The exhibition will provide a much-needed back drop to support the Museum's fundraising efforts.

Crunch time for federal procurement staffs

By Elise Castelli, Federal News

Late August and September are typically peak season for agency procurement staffs, busy spending the remains of their budgets before the fiscal year ends Sept. 30. This year the influx of stimulus cash adds to the workload. The Energy Department procurement staff, for example, has seen its workload more than double, said Ed Simpson, the department's director of procurement and assistance management. In addition to its \$28 billion in fiscal 2009 procurement dollars, the department has \$38 billion in stimulus funding for projects such as renewable energy research and home weatherization. Stimulus funds expire in 2011.

"From the magnitude of the numbers, it is unprecedented in terms of the impacts it will have on the acquisition workforce and the procurement system generally," Simpson said. Energy's procurement staff also manages its grants distribution, which is how most of Energy's stimulus money is being distributed.

As of Aug. 7, Energy had spent \$1.85 billion of its stimulus funding and \$24.5 billion of its 2009 funding, according to USASpending.gov. The site showed Energy as the biggest spender of stimulus funds so far. To assist its staff, Energy developed stimulus spending guidance; brought in the inspector general to train procurement staff to spot waste, fraud and abuse; and asked the Defense Contract Audit Agency to audit bids. The department has also rehired retirees and brought on new federal employees and contractor support, Simpson said. More importantly, the department is rebalancing duties to shift help to field offices hardest hit by the Recovery Act spending, Simpson said. In the past, such coordination was difficult because field-office personnel report to regional administrators, not Simpson. But thanks to the staffs' commitment and the department's electronic acquisition and financial management systems, offices are able to handle work virtually, closing geographic and organizational gaps, Simpson said.

As the fiscal year draws to a close, the department may prioritize spending on projects that can be awarded fastest or have the greatest need, Simpson said. If money cannot be spent by the end of the fiscal year, the department may seek to put money in reserve, he said. But Simpson thinks the department will meet spending deadlines. "It's working," Simpson said. "In August, we are seeing the rate of increase in awards climbing." In total, agencies have spent \$2.3 billion in stimulus funding and \$322 billion in fiscal 2009 funding as of Aug. 7, according to USASpending.gov. In fiscal 2008, agencies spent \$182 billion in the last quarter of the year. The Recovery Act allowed the Homeland Security Department to accelerate many projects, said Elaine Duke, DHS undersecretary for management.

For example, \$240 million in stimulus funding allowed the Coast Guard to add four bridge alteration projects to those it had planned to undertake by Sept. 30. Approximately \$420 million in Recovery Act spending allowed Customs and Border Protection to move up 33 reconstruction or repair projects at land ports of entry before October 2010, Duke said. In total, DHS received \$2.8 billion in Recovery Act money and spent \$51 million as of Aug. 7, according to www.USASpending.gov.

To handle the additional workload, the department has realigned staff; appointed "senior accountable officials" to oversee the Recovery Act-related projects; and established acquisition review boards for all

Recovery Act projects to ensure they move forward rapidly and responsibly, she said. To address DHS inspector general concerns about the department's disparate financial management systems, the department has added staff and financial processes to ensure dollars are appropriately accounted for, Duke said. In addition, DHS continues to beef up its acquisition workforce through new hires and internship programs, addressing IG concerns that short-staffed acquisition shops couldn't handle the workload, she said. Earlier management changes are also proving helpful in keeping up with both the stimulus and fiscal 2009 spending, Duke said. While some agencies may be racing to spend their fiscal 2009 funds before they expire Sept. 30, Homeland Security is not, she said.

DHS procurement officers begin market research and contract requirements writing before funding is even received. In addition, DHS uses authorities that allow it to strike contracts without full funding upfront, she said. For example, if an agency needs 500 radios, but only has money for 100, the department can award a contract for the 100 radios with the option to buy the rest at a later date, eliminating the need to rush into a new contract if funds are received toward the end of the fiscal year, she said. By planning for late funding and creating robust oversight of stimulus spending, Duke believes the department will meet its 2009 spending goals for both pots of money. Skyrocketing sales Joanne Woytek, program manager for a NASA contract on which all agencies can buy information technology, believes DHS is not the only agency more efficiently spending throughout the year and avoiding a year-end rush. At the end of July, sales on NASA's Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) were up 30 percent from fiscal 2008, with much of the buying in the spring, Woytek said. She attributes the midyear increase to agencies planning better to spend money before its expiration date, even when the money arrives late. Agencies also are placing larger orders, indicating that they're more attuned to saving by buying in bulk.

Because of the late spring spending, Woytek said, spending may actually slow down in September. Even so, she expects SEWP sales to be up by 10 percent at the close of the fiscal year. Last year, agencies spent \$1.3 billion on SEWP products. The General Services Administration is also seeing more activity on its multiple award schedules contracts. Total fiscal 2009 spending on the contract topped \$28 billion in June, up 4 percent from the same time last year, said Steve Kempf, assistant commissioner for acquisition management at GSA's Federal Acquisition Service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sep 12 - Viva Las Americas at Pier 39



PIER 39 celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Viva Las Americas, a free community event, from 1p-5p on Saturday, September 12. This festive event showcases traditional dance and music performances from Mexico, Central and South America. Children can enjoy the fun with traditional Latin American crafts, dancing and more. Sponsored by: El Mensajero, Coca-Cola, La Preciosa, The San Francisco Examiner, Shell Vacations Club, and Telemundo. [See Details.](#)

Sep 18 - Latino Business Leadership Awards and SFHCC 25th Anniversary Celebration



The Latino Business Leadership Awards continues the journey to highlight increasingly powerful achievements in corporate America, entrepreneurship, nonprofit/ philanthropy, healthcare, public sector, and emerging leadership under 40. The event will be hosted on **September 18, 2009** at the **San Francisco Hilton** located at **333 O'Farrell St.**

Agenda

- 6:00 pm** - Registration/ Cocktail Reception
- 6:40 pm** - Seating for Dinner
- 6:50 pm** - Welcome Remarks
- 7:00 pm** - Dinner and Musical Performance (made possible by the San Francisco Symphony)
- 7:35 pm** - Most Influential Hispanics Honored
- 8:45 pm** - SFHCC 25th Anniversary Celebration and Dance
- 11:00 pm** - Program End

Masters of Ceremonies

Roberta Gonzales and **Joe Vasquez**. Roberta Gonzales is a four-time EMMY award winning Weather Anchor for CBS 5 Eyewitness News at 5, 6 and 10pm. EMMY award winning reporter Joe Vasquez has a local news career that spans more than two decades. As a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, he volunteers his time to empower the next generation of storytellers.

Tickets

Tickets can be [purchased online](#):

- [Full Program 6pm - 11pm](#): Dinner and Anniversary Celebration
\$100 per person
- **or**
- [Anniversary Celebration and Dance only 8:45pm - 11pm](#)
\$35 per person

Get More information about the Latino Business Leadership Awards at <http://sfhcc.com/leadership/introduction.html>. Supplements and photos from prior years are also

available.

Oct 15 - Latina Breakfast Strategies

Latina Business Strategies Breakfast

The SFHCC is proud to introduce a new program to address the needs of the Latina professional and business owner by presenting the Latina Business Strategies Breakfast. This interactive business development program brings together Latina business owners and Latina professionals with experts sharing strategies to success needed by these outstanding entrepreneurs to

create or expand their business. Take new strategies to your business to implement and demonstrate growth.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, working women Latinas are the fastest growing small business in the U.S. with a phenomenal growth rate of 114 percent over the last five years. Latinas control 39 percent of the 1.4 million companies owned by women of color in the United States, which generate nearly \$147 billion in sales, according to the Center for Business Women's Research. More than one-third (34.9 percent) of all Hispanic businesses are owned by women.

Join us from 8:00am - 12:30pm at the Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf located at 2500 Mason Street in San Francisco. Registration: \$35 for members/ \$45 for non-members. For more information, call 415-278-9611. [Register online.](#)

PROCUREMENT

Sep 14 / Sep 16 Deadline - The Caldecott Tunnel & Building Project

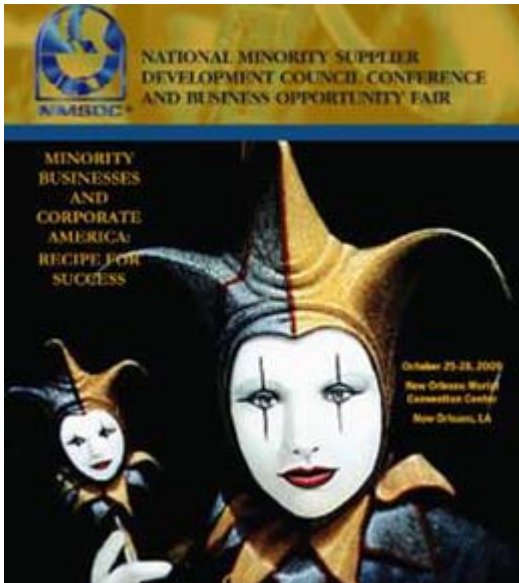
The Caldecott Constructors is soliciting quotes from subcontractors & supplier for Caldecott tunnel & Building Project. Contract #04-294914 - Alameda & Contra Costa Counties - **California Bid Due: September 16, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m. PDT / Quotes Due: September 14 by 5:00 p.m. PDT** for this owner estimated \$270 million project (not limited to): Tunnel Spoils Hauling; HazMat Handling/Disposal; Demolition; Furnish & Install Rebar; Form & Place Concrete; Clearing & Grubbing; Landscaping & Seeding; Erosion Control, Utility Relocation, Grading & Paving, Roadway/Curb/Gutter/Sidewalk, Temporary & Permanent Electrical; F&I Instrumentation; Survey; Traffic Control & Signage; QC for Concrete, Soil, Material; Installation and Construction of Ground Support and Retaining Walls; and Weld testing. Also materials including Gasoline/Diesel Fuel/Oil/Grease; Electrical & Safety Supplies; Ready-Mix Concrete; Equipment Rentals; Tunnel Forms; Water Treatment Systems; and Temporary Fencing.

We encourage quotes from all qualified Subcontractors and Suppliers, including California Certified UDBEs and DBEs. We will give consideration to contract size and special bonding or credit needs. Plans are available for review by contacting Carmen Stone at 5000 Shoreline Court, Suite 201, South San Francisco, CA 94080 Phone (650) 952-4910, Ext. 1138 Fax (650) 589-8384 Email: carmen.stone@obayashi-usa.com

Sep 28 - Small & Minority Business Opportunity Conference / Follow the Money from Washington DC: How to Take Advantage of the Opportunities in the Infrastructure & Construction Market

You are invited to an upcoming Small Business Opportunity Conference on how the money flowing from Washington DC has help to stimulate the local economy and create an assortment of contracting opportunities, and to hear of current and upcoming contracting opportunities available from Bay Area transit and transportation agencies. Join us on Monday, September 28, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Hilton San Francisco located at 333 O'Farrell Street. This is your chance to become better informed on how to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) designed to create jobs, stimulate the economy and grow small businesses. Seats Limited - First Come First Served / Cost: \$25.00 (should you require special accommodations, please note in your RSVP) For more information, contact Lin Li via email at lin@uspaacc.com or by calling 202-378-1135.

Oct 25-28 — Save the Date: National Minority Supplier Development Council Conference and Business Opportunity Fair, New Orleans



Join us in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the 2009 National Minority Supplier Development Council Conference and Business Opportunity Fair, October 25 through 28, at the New Orleans Morial Convention Center. We hope that you will be one of the more than 7,000 corporate executives, minority business owners and government officials who will attend NMSDC's biggest event of the year. This year's Conference will deliver the most up-to-date information on minority business development. Nationally-renowned speakers at Power Breakfasts, Luncheons, Plenary Sessions and Workshops with Corporate CEO's, Purchasing Executives, Minority Entrepreneurs, Government Decision-makers, and many other national experts on minority supplier development. Program includes Business Opportunity Fair on Monday only with more than 850 corporate and minority business booths. This is the only event of its kind - one that brings together the

best of meetings, special events and minority businesses and corporations! This year's Conference program, coupled with the Business Opportunity Fair, is an opportunity you can't afford to miss. A leader in minority business development for 37 years, NMSDC has made great strides in providing increased procurement and business opportunities for Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American-owned businesses of all sizes.

Pre-registration discount available through Sep 11th. Full Conference Pass, Day Pass, and Business Opportunity Fair Only Pass are available. For additional details, visit <http://www.nmsdconline.com/>

Pacific Gas & Electric Seeks Contractors

The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC), has been working with Pacific, Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) to identify companies to bid on upcoming contract opportunities. Currently, the CHCC needs your assistance in identifying the following types of companies:

Areas of Work - NAICS Codes

- Transmission & Distribution - construction 541330 / 237110 / 237120 / 238910
- Substation Work - engineering 333613
- Trenching & Paving - 238110 / 238140 / 238990

- Hydro, and power plant experience - 237130 / 237990
 - * We ask that the above companies have a background with other utilities
- Nuclear engineering, project management, construction, and furniture - 238220 / 238290 / 236210 / 237110
 - * In most cases, these companies must also have a Nuclear background
- SAP consultants that have worked specifically with utilities - 541611 / 541614
- Diverse rental car company and diverse GM dealer - 441110

All companies should be certified through the California Public Utilities Commission Supplier Clearing House.

All companies must complete CHCC's Procurement Participant Questionnaire. (Questionnaire available at http://www.cahcc.com/procurement_questions.pdf) Please send any information about potential companies to CHCC's Director of Programs & Administration Sophia Garcia at sophia@cahcc.com. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate contact Sophia at 916-444-2221.

Transbay Transit Center Project is a \$4.185 Billion Project Seeking Contractors

The Transbay project consists of three interconnected elements:

1. Replacing the outdated Transbay Terminal at 1st and Mission Streets in San Francisco with a new Transit Center that will be the nation's model of new downtown intermodal stations;
2. Extending Caltrain 1.3 miles underground from its current terminus at 4th and Townsend Streets to the new downtown Transit Center, which will also serve the San Francisco station for future California High Speed Rail; and
3. Creating new neighborhood with homes, offices, parks, and shops surrounding the new Transit Center.

The project is in need of minority contractors. Details are available at <http://www.transbaycenter.org/TransBay/content.aspx?id=425>. Other subcontracting opportunities are available for construction related businesses and professional services.

Call the SFHCC at 415-278-9611 to be notified of upcoming opportunities.

EVENTS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Small Business Administration (SBA) Classes September 2009

The Small Business Administration offers almost 500 classes each year for business owners on a variety of topics in their Entrepreneur Center, located at 455 Market St., 6th Floor in downtown San Francisco. Complete class listing and registration is available at www.sbatraining.eventbrite.com

For more information, please contact Gary Marshall at (415) 744 6771.

FEATURED MEMBERS

Marketing Communications

Esther Burciaga

337 Fulton St #26
San Francisco California, 94102
P: 415-412-8239

NEW MEMBERS

Chamber members have access to exclusive benefits that build relationships, increase visibility, and generate business leads. They're the first to learn about economic trends and developments that shape the City's business environment and their own companies' growth. And they influence decision makers in San Francisco and beyond, helping ensure that San Francisco means business-in every sense. We welcome additions to the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Memberships can be purchased online at: <http://sfhcc.com/members/join.html>