



Contact: Rachel Norton
Tel: (415) 621-3260 x 112
Cell: (415) 377-6678
Email: racheln@sfparksalliance.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2014

**SAN FRANCISCO PARKS ALLIANCE TAKES
ACTION IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS CITY**
***\$29,000 Action Grants Program to Promote Volunteerism and Parks
Stewardship City-Wide***

The San Francisco Parks Alliance announced today the release of its second annual SFPA Action Grants funding opportunity, which will stimulate park beautification and volunteerism through \$29,000 in grants awards to parks organizations and volunteers.

SFPA will award up to eight organizations with grants in amounts of up to \$3,000. Additionally, SFPA will award one \$5,000 grant to an organization in recognition of their "Volunteer of the Year," who will be honored along with other awardees at an afternoon awards ceremony on Saturday, June 14, at our annual Love Your Parks Day celebration.

"The Parks Alliance is proud to showcase the best the City has to offer through this innovative program," said SFPA Executive Director Matthew O'Grady. "These action grants not only promote stewardship and volunteerism in our precious parks, but play a key role in educating our communities in the importance of maintaining our parks and integrating them further into the community fabric. "

SFPA Action Grants enable residents to take positive action in and for San Francisco Parks. Any organization involved in programming or capital improvements in an SF Park or recreation facility may apply for an action grant. In 2013, funded projects included the Dahlia Garden at Cabrillo Playground and Friends of the AMP Saturdays in the Park music series in the Jerry Garcia Amphitheater in McLaren Park. The 2013 Volunteer of the Year was Mishwa Lee, one of the leaders of the Northridge CommUNITY Garden in Bayview.

"The action grants will recognize and reward volunteer engagement in our city parks system. As San Francisco grows and evolves, healthy parks that are cared for by the people who benefit most from them will only serve to strengthen our communities and create more livable spaces for generations to come," O'Grady continued.

Applications are now available online at:

www.sfparksalliance.org/our-work/philanthropy/sfpa-action-grants

The deadline for submissions is April 25, 2014. A full list of organizations and projects awarded Action Grants in 2013 is at www.sfparksalliance.org/2013-action-grants.

####