An Angel Is Born

San Francisco’s Dogpatch residents have established a new Street Park called Angel Alley. The half-a-block long beautification project is located on Tennessee Street between 22nd Street and Tubbs.

Why does it matter? Dogpatch, a small worker and industrial neighborhood set up in the 1860’s, is one of the neighborhoods in San Francisco with most development activity. Dogpatch currently has 13 new development projects. The residents and businesses in Dogpatch have decided to take active part, and focus on creating positive and sustainable change, which caters both to current occupants and the newcomers.

Angel Alley is a perfect example of strategic community actions in Dogpatch. The dead-end alleyway is an important pedestrian and bike shortcut to Dogpatch’s main street, but it was unmaintained. The alley is an ‘unaccepted’ street, which means that it is not part of the city’s maintenance program. The current occupants (homes, businesses and Hells Angels clubhouse) got together with Dogpatch Neighborhood Association and applied for a Community Challenge Grant for the beautification project. When the new construction projects just next door to the site are finished, Angel Alley will be the main pedestrian and bike shortcut from CalTrain station to T-line tram. It will help improve walkability and maintain the ‘village’ ambiance in Dogpatch. Dogpatch established a special ‘property tax’ like fee in the beginning of 2016 to help with maintenance of community lead greening projects in the area (see below, Green Benefit District). Maintenance of Angel Alley will be taken care of by the GBD beginning in some months.

Park stewards Sari Stenfors and Kristin Swanson are excited about the new glow-in-the-dark retaining wall, palm trees, succulents, benches and water fountain. All the materials are recycled and lights are solar powered. Even the water fountain uses recycled water and is solar powered. Kristin comments:” Angel Alley preserves the original flavor of the area. As Dogpatch develops and the neighborhood needs evolve, it was essential to beautify this pedestrian pathway to 22nd Street”.

Angel Alley is hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Saturday April 2 at 11 am.
www.angelalley.org
https://www.facebook.com/angelalleysf/

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Angel Alley park stewards Kristin Swanson and Sari Stenfors planting succulents.