



San Francisco General Hospital Foundation News

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Hospital renderings courtesy of Fong & Chan Architects

Rebuilding SF General Hospital and Trauma Center: New building promises improved care for the modern era

This fall, San Franciscans will be asked to vote on a bond measure that will decide the fate of the city's healthcare services for decades to come. The measure's passage will ensure the rebuilding of the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH), which will prepare it to meet the current and future rigorous demands of urban healthcare.

Under California law, all acute care hospitals in the state must be seismically upgraded or be forced to shut down by 2013. The law also requires that hospitals be able to respond quickly to meet heavy demands caused by major catastrophes.

Should the initiative fail, the City and County's only public hospital and trauma center will close. If that were to happen, all San Francisco residents, visitors, and tourists—from the Marina to the Bayview—would be forced to find trauma care outside the city when minutes could mean the difference between life and death. And San Francisco's "safety net" of healthcare for underserved populations would disappear as would 20% of the hospital beds available to treat residents.

A Design for Improving Community Health

If approved, the new hospital will be located on the West Lawn of the SFGH campus on Potrero Avenue. Seven floors tall, the structure will extend another two floors below ground.

It will incorporate numerous environmentally "green" design principles, such as the use of materials with a high recycled content, for energy efficiency. And, with respect for SFGH's rich heritage, the surrounding buildings on the current site will be left intact.

Incorporating the latest technological building systems within an innovative circular building layout, the hospital has been designed to enable doctors and staff to provide the highest level of humanistic, cost-effective, culturally competent care to all who seek it.

"San Francisco General Hospital is the crown jewel of our public health system," San Francisco's Mayor Gavin Newsom declared at a press conference last spring. "There is no more immediate or more important goal to the health of our residents than to rebuild this facility."

"San Francisco General is here for everyone," adds Gene O'Connell, SFGH Chief Executive Officer. "We provide the full spectrum of services from birth through elder years, from common to chronic to complex healthcare."

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New Building

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Redefining Healthcare, Improving Services

Impressive as those services are, they will only improve in the new facility. Eighty percent of the patient rooms will be single occupancy, a move designed to reduce the spread of infection, reduce medical errors, and to improve the quality of each patient's stay.

"Rebuilding gives us an opportunity to redefine how we deliver patient care in the modern era," says Jeff Critchfield, Chief of the SFGH Medical Staff. "Historically, hospitals have been designed for the convenience of healthcare providers. Now we build them with the patients' needs front and center. We can improve patient safety and comfort, reduce the length of hospital stays, and ultimately enhance healing and health."

The design is an investment in efficiency as well as in patient health. By decreasing hospital-acquired infections, hospital planners expect to reduce the number of days per hospital stay. The rooms are also designed to promote a sense of well-being and healing. With added privacy, patients will be able to sleep better and recuperate more quickly. Likewise, their rooms will have windows that allow for sunlight—a simple, but effective aid in healing.

The building's circular shape will feature nurses' stations located in the central area of each floor, enabling staff to be more responsive to patients' needs. It will also bring added efficiency by centrally locating medicine and supplies. The design will even lower staffing costs through improved ergonomics; the curving hallways will be easier than traditional right angles for navigating gurneys and wheelchairs.

The Only Place for Thousands to Go

Because most of SFGH's patients are uninsured or underinsured, many of the 98,000 adult and pediatric patients who seek the hospital's 24-hour emergency urgent and non-urgent services would have nowhere else to go if the hospital were to close.

"We don't biopsy our patients' wallets," says William Schecter, SFGH Chief of Surgery. "We treat people without judgment."

"I like to tell people I'm a specialist in the surgery of poverty," he continues. "I treat patients who are victims of violence, who have advanced malignancies due to poor access to healthcare, who suffer the complication of cigarettes, alcohol, and drug use."

"No one else cares for those we've chosen to serve," adds O'Connell. "This hospital is the community's safety net. That makes a difference in people's lives all over the city."

She explains that Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Hospital, the county hospital that served the poorest residents of South Los Angeles, closed in 2007 because it did not meet the minimum standards for patient care. Similar situations in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. have cost those cities the ability to provide adequate healthcare for their communities.

"Right now, healthcare is being disrupted in our own state. We can't let that happen in San Francisco," says O'Connell. "A public hospital

must be part of the future."

"One could judge the quality of a society by looking at the hospitals and medical care provided for the disenfranchised," adds Schecter. "I think that San Francisco General represents the very best of San Francisco."

The Next Step in Medical Excellence

He sees the new facility as the next step in what has been a long history of medical excellence.

"In the last thirty to forty years, the technological and scientific advances in medicine have been almost unbelievable," he says, adding that SFGH has been at the forefront in responding to the AIDS epidemic and other community illnesses.

"The rate of change is so rapid that our structure, which was designed in the 1960s and completed in 1970s, is no longer capable of sustaining excellence in modern medical practice," he explains. "With the proposed facility, we have anticipated the future and designed a structure that will serve the citizens of San Francisco well through twenty-first century."

To begin with, the emergency department, which O'Connell terms "very, very overcrowded," will more than double in capacity from the current 28 beds to 60. The number of medical, surgical, and critical care beds will increase, as well.



Hospital renderings courtesy of Fong & Chan Architects

"We'll be able to provide the greatest in medical care, regardless of anyone's social, economic, or infectious status," says Schecter.

Continuing Trauma Care

In fact, because SFGH is home to San Francisco's *only* trauma center, *anyone* in the city who has a life-threatening injury, whether it is sustained as the result of an accident or an act of violence is brought there for treatment. In addition, the trauma center is of the highest quality, Level One, thus having a full range of specialists and equipment available 24 hours a day to treat all variety of emergency injuries and medical problems, including the most critical.

"If this hospital disappears, this city will be a dangerous place to be," adds Ted Miclau, Director of Orthopaedic Trauma. To illustrate his point, Miclau offers the following scenario:

"Imagine if you or your child were hit by a bus—in any neighborhood in the city—and there were no San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center. Where would you go for care? You could try Stanford

University or John Muir Medical Center, but it would take at least an hour to get there. In trauma care, that's the 'golden hour,' when we have the greatest chance of resuscitating people," says Miclau.

"Even if you survived the trauma, you would still need the specialized care and training provided by trauma experts," he continues. "You might lose a limb or not think well because you've had less than optimal care for your traumatic brain injury."

Unlike other hospitals in San Francisco, SFGH features surgical and rehabilitative specialists uniquely qualified to address the complete range of traumatic injury.

"People have the uninformed impression that other hospitals can just pick up what we're doing. Even the best-equipped private hospitals aren't capable of providing the same level of care as trauma units," says Miclau. "Flat out, no debate."

Standing Tall When Disaster Strikes

The California state legislature requires all that hospitals meet seismic requirements, not just to withstand an earthquake, but to be able to function in such an event. Should the Bay Area suffer a major disaster—and, according to experts, the likelihood of a major earthquake in the next thirty years is nearly certain—the new San Francisco General Hospital has been designed to meet the sudden and intense demands of such a catastrophe. Hospital staff will be able to transform intermediate care beds into critical care unit beds as needed and then, as people recover, convert back them to intermediate care.

"If we're suddenly required to care for a great number of people, we'll be able to respond quickly and effectively," explains medical chief Critchfield. "Then, as patients' needs become less acute, we can flex back down."

Why Build a New Facility?

While the need for an improved facility is clear, some people have raised the issue of retrofitting the existing hospital rather than rebuilding.

"When you retrofit, you lose space," says O'Connell. "We've already outgrown this space. If we attempted to retrofit, it would make a difficult situation more difficult. Even then, it wouldn't completely bring the hospital up to standards."

At \$887.4 million, the bond measure is the largest General Obligation bond in San Francisco history. However, with other bonds expiring, residents are unlikely to see an impact on their property taxes.

"It's important for voters and people interested in the health of the city to know that the San Francisco controller's office reviewed the practices at San Francisco General and compared them to those of other urban hospitals. What they found was that our system is being run extraordinarily efficiently," says Critchfield. "But we're doing that in a building that's more than forty years old. We need a new facility, but our passion for patient care won't change."

“...anyone in the city who has a life-threatening injury, whether it is sustained as the result of an accident or an act of violence is brought there for treatment.”

A Center of Excellence Going Forward

That passion and commitment is evinced every day through national and international recognition. As one of the nation's leading public teaching hospitals, SFGH has provided an impressive range of unparalleled services to generations of San Francisco residents for more than a century.

"San Francisco General is extraordinarily unique. It combines the rich heritage of service to the city and patients of all walks of life, regardless of ability to pay. At the same time, we've developed an international reputation for academic innovation through our affiliation with UCSF," says Critchfield. "This deep commitment to service and academics ensures we have top-notch clinicians to care for patients—and it ensures that the next generation of providers has been exposed to this community. These are people who understand and embrace the mission of SFGH."

"San Francisco General Hospital has an opportunity to redefine how San Francisco provides healthcare to the community," says Katherine Ripley-Williams, Executive Director of the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation. "Some people underestimate the importance of public hospitals. But these are the places that have a direct impact on how chronic and culturally sensitive healthcare is managed not only for our patients, but for the greater community."

"It seems to me that healthcare has to be the number one priority in our lives," adds O'Connell. "When you look at what's at stake in November, I think any reasonable person would say, 'Yes. We need to care for people. We need for San Francisco to be a healthy city.'"

The Gift of Giving

On May 15, 7th graders from the Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Francisco presented a check for \$1,500 to the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation as part of their annual 7th grade Tzedek Project. The Project teaches students about the value of philanthropy and serving your community. As part of the learning process, each student selects an organization that they either personally contribute to or raise funds for—San Francisco General Hospital Foundation was one of 12 organizations chosen.



San Francisco General Hospital
and Trauma Center

FACT SHEET

Who does SFGH serve?

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center serves all San Franciscans. From everyday health care needs to emergency and disaster response, San Francisco General provides a wide range of important health care and medical services. We are home to the region’s only trauma center (Level 1). And we serve the entire community through our network of clinics and through the City’s innovative Healthy San Francisco program, which provides care to uninsured residents.

What is a Level 1 trauma center?

A Level 1 trauma center has a full range of specialists and equipment available 24-hours a day to treat all variety of emergency injuries and medical problems—even those of the most critically injured patients. In addition, it has a program of research and is a leader in trauma education and injury prevention.

What will happen to these patients if SFGH is not rebuilt?

San Francisco General must be rebuilt or state law requires that it be closed by 2013. Because most of our patients are uninsured or covered by MediCal, the 98,000 adult and pediatric patients who seek the hospital’s 24-hour emergency, urgent and non-urgent services every year will likely have nowhere else to go. In addition, SFGH operates the only trauma center for all San Franciscans. There is no other San Francisco hospital with the ability to treat these critical and often life-threatening cases.

Why not retrofit the old hospital?

SFGH studied the possibility of retrofitting the current building and found that it would be nearly impossible to care for all existing patients while retrofitting the building. Retrofitting would likely require closing at least two floors at a time in order to do retrofit work that would take years. In combination with other required building code upgrades, a retrofit would ultimately result in a loss of patient care beds. Finally, the cost of such a disruptive and difficult project would approach or even exceed the cost of building a new, completely compliant hospital that would not cause the same level of disruption to patient care and capacity.

Will the new hospital be able to care for more patients?

Yes. SFGH has studied future health care needs to ensure that we are building the right hospital for San Franciscans for the next 30 years. The current hospital operates at 95% or greater capacity (as opposed to 80% or less for private hospitals), which stretches our ability to provide the highest quality patient care at all times and respond to spikes in the number of patients needing care. Expanding our emergency room and increasing the number of private rooms and critical care beds to meet community needs require more space. Advances in medical technology also require that we provide more space for new equipment. A new hospital would have greater space and capacity for patient care than exists today. In fact, a new hospital would have room to care for 32 more inpatients.

What’s happening with the old hospital?

The old hospital will continue to serve the City’s health care needs, including outpatient clinics and dietary and pharmacy services, among many others. It will also allow us to relocate other functions closer to the new hospital.

When will construction take place?

If the voters approve a General Obligation Bond in November 2008, initial site work will begin by the Summer of 2009. Construction of the hospital will begin in 2009 and will be completed by 2015.

Where will the new building be located?

The new hospital will be located on the West Lawn of the campus on Potrero Avenue. It will be seven floors, with another two floors below ground. The new building will be curved to allow for the best patient care inside and a graceful exterior design. It will also incorporate environmentally “green” sensitive design principles to bring it to a LEED certification level of Silver or better.

Will a helipad be built on the new hospital?

Although SFGH believes that a helipad is needed on the campus, no helipad is planned for the new hospital. SFGH continues to work with the Planning Department to place a helipad on the roof of the existing hospital.

How will the city pay for it?

As with other large capital needs, the City will utilize a General Obligation Bond to pay for the bulk of the project. In November 2008, voters will be asked to approve the Bonds, which will then be paid for over the next 20 years. Operating costs will continue to be paid for out of the City’s annual budget.

How much will the rebuild cost?

Current estimates for the new building indicate that the new hospital will cost \$887.4 million. That cost is consistent with the cost of other hospital rebuilding projects throughout the Bay Area.

How good are the cost estimates, given that Laguna Honda is now more expensive than originally estimated?

Laguna Honda costs were higher than originally estimated because no planning or design work was done before voters approved a bond measure to pay for it. In the five years it took to complete the planning and design work, construction costs skyrocketed. That planning and design work has already been done for SFGH. That means work on the SFGH rebuild can begin almost immediately after voters approve a bond measure. In addition, the project is utilizing “Design Assist” project delivery, which allows subcontractors early input to design work and avoid unexpected cost problems later on.


Where can I go for more information?

Please call the Rebuild Information Hotline at (415) 206-5784 or visit our website at www.sfghrebuild.org.

| STATS | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Each year at San Francisco General Hospital (FY 2006-07) | |
| 98,244 | Patients Treated |
| 506,150 | Outpatient Visits |
| 16,209 | Inpatient Admissions |
| 10 | Operating Rooms |
| 52,000 | Emergency Department Visits |
| 1,232 | Babies Born |


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Thank You
.....
to the amazing employees who work
tirelessly “24/7” to make The General
the first-class hospital it is.

**Staff
Appreciation
Luncheon**
& 2008 Hearts Grants
Awards Announcement
Friday, Sept 19th
from 11:30am-1:30pm



San Francisco General Hospital Foundation is grateful for the generosity of the following donors and their support of the Women's Options Center renovation:

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The Women's Options Center
AT SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL

Donor Spotlight



“When I moved to San Francisco twelve years ago as a new social worker, I decided I wanted to work at the City’s epicenter of public health, San Francisco General Hospital. Soon after, I started work here. Over the years, I’ve had the opportunity to work at the General in innovative, ground-breaking programs in substance abuse, on the Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Team, and for the Emergency Department Case Management program. Simply put, I cannot think of a more rewarding, stimulating place to work. Every day I feel privileged to be a part of our patients’ lives and to witness the high degree of commitment, devotion, and professionalism of the SFGH staff.

I love working at SFGH. We do critically important work that really matters to our patients and their families. I donate to the SFGH Foundation and named SFGH as a beneficiary in my will to ensure that all San Franciscans continue to get high-quality, thoughtful, and culturally sensitive medical and psychiatric care. I want SFGH to thrive and serve the City’s population long after I’m no longer around.”

—Gary Winter, LCSW, MPH
Social Worker, SFGH

Thank you to our Sponsors & Guests for making the 3rd Dorothy Washington Nursing Scholarship Dinner a Success!



Keynote Speaker Janice Mirikitani, San Francisco Poet Laureate & Founding Director of the Glide Foundation.



Emcee Lynn Jimenez, KGO Radio congratulates scholarship recipient Reginald Hortinela.



André Campbell, MD and Reverend Cecil Williams, Glide.



Sue Currin, RN, MS and scholarship recipient Malachy Osuagwu.

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For information on sponsorship opportunities, please
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Of Note



Carmen Ortiz, PhD, Founder and Executive Director of Circulo de Vida, was profiled on ABC 7's "Profiles of Excellence" which aired Saturday, June 28 at 7pm.

With the leadership of Dr. Ortiz, the Anjelitas Program at Circulo de Vida has provided a peer support program, pairing trained breast cancer survivors with newly diagnosed Latinas with breast cancer. Dr. Ortiz also provides in-clinic patient support as part of San Francisco General Hospital & Trauma Center's interdisciplinary breast clinic. These programs and patient services are supported by the AVON Program at SFGH.

Sojourn Chaplaincy at San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) awarded **Roland Pickens**, Senior Associate Hospital Administrator at SFGH, its Leadership Award at Sojourn Chaplaincy's 25th anniversary celebration on June 21. Roland has been working directly with the Sojourn Chaplaincy since 2006 and has been instrumental in helping educate SFGH staff about the importance of pastoral care for many patients and their families. Through Roland's efforts, referral to spiritual care and appropriate use of chaplain services have increased. Roland has been a bridge between Sojourn Chaplaincy and Hospital administration and helped Sojourn locate needed fiscal support at a time when a traditional funding source was ending. Congratulations to Roland Pickens on this award and for his role in helping patients receive quality spiritual care at SFGH.

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