



London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

## Herz Playground Recreation Center Project- FAQs

February 18, 2021

1. What is the timeline for the project?

The project is currently in the Planning Phase, which will be complete March 2021. The other phases are as follows.

Construction Documents- Spring 2021-Winter 2021

Bid/Award- Spring 2022

Construction- Summer 2022- Winter 2023

2. Will neighbors be able to rent the indoor spaces?

Yes, the multi-purpose room will be reservable by the public. Bookings of courts by individual groups are usually only done during days and times that the courts are closed to the public, which is typically, Sundays and Mondays.

Generally, the courts are open for programs and free community play. We will work to develop programming that will serve the community and more information will be available about this in the coming months.

3. Are there fees for using renting the spaces?

Yes, there are fees for rentals, which vary depending on the type of user, day and time.

Rec & Park has a robust scholarship program to reduce or eliminate program fees for those who cannot pay. Information will be available on our [website](#) under the Permits and Reservations tab in the future.

4. Will the building have solar panels?

Absolutely! 15% of the roof's area will be covered with solar panels.

5. How well lit is the area?

We understand that outdoor lighting is important to the community and we will be providing exterior lighting on the building and in the park. Please see the slide on our [website](#) for more detail.

6. Will there be covered space for Tai Chi, yoga and other indoor activities?

Inside the new Recreation Center, there will be a multi-purpose room. We are anticipating offering classes such as yoga, Zumba and other wellness classes. Recreation and Park Department staff will work with the community to develop the selection of class offerings.

The design does not include outdoor covered space as this is difficult for our staff to maintain. We have recently made improvements to the multi-use courts at Crocker Amazon Playground to facilitate use by Tai Chi practitioners. We also have an on-going project to build a dedicated space to Tai chi at near the intersection of Mansell Ave and Visitacion Ave. This project will be in construction later this year. For additional project opportunities, please consider the Community Opportunity Fund Program and the McLaren Park Citywide Parks Program from the 2020 Bond. Contact [Alexis.Ward@sfgov.org](mailto:Alexis.Ward@sfgov.org) for more information.



7. Will a dog play area be provided?  
There are plans to create a dog play area at Orchard Court, which will be developed by Mercy Housing in a future phase. Orchard Court will be south of Herz Playground (south of the lower basketball court).
8. Will there be a public art component? How is it funded?  
Yes! Please see the Arts Commission slides, which are available on our [website](#) to learn more about this. If you would like more information please email the Arts Commission Project Manager, Marcus Davies at [marcus.davies@sfgov.org](mailto:marcus.davies@sfgov.org).

The project budget pays for the art budget. We currently have a number of different locations under consideration for the artwork. If you would like to give your feedback please contact Marcus Davies.

9. Can local resident submit artwork?  
There will be a Request for Proposals process. Local residents are encouraged to participate! Again, please contact [marcus.davies@sfgov.org](mailto:marcus.davies@sfgov.org) to get involved.
10. Will the building be named?  
This project is being delivered as a partnership with Mercy Housing & Related CA who are privately raising \$10 million to grant to the City for this project. As part of this process, there will be a donor recognition program with naming opportunities. It is possible that large gifts may be associated with naming of specific elements of the building or potentially the entire building. Rec Park staff is developing this donor recognition plan with Mercy Housing & Related CA. If you would like to learn more, please contact Rec Park Deputy Director of Partnerships, Nathan Tinclair, [nathan.tinclair@sfgov.org](mailto:nathan.tinclair@sfgov.org). The partnership agreement including the donor recognition plan will be presented to the Recreation and Park Department Commission for approval. Naming of an overall facility requires a minimum donation of 50% of the project cost, in accordance with the Recreation and Park Commission's Gift Policy.
11. What's the criteria for naming besides donating significant funding?  
The Department has a naming policy which can be viewed here:  
<https://sfrecpark.org/DocumentCenter/View/499/Rec-and-Park-Commission-Naming-Policy-PDF?bidId=>

According to this policy:

*The Commission will name a new park, playground, baseball diamond, path, tennis court, flower bed, or miscellaneous facility to recognize:*

- a. A deceased person who has made significant contributions to the City and/or the Recreation and Park Department and has not been previously honored in a meaningful way by the City.*
- b. Living people for whom an area has some particular significance to the park or park system and where there is broad community support for such a designation.*
- c. Ethnic or other national or community groups not yet honored in some fashion when there are organizations and individuals prepared to contribute to the maintenance of the designated facility or provide money for its upkeep.*

Further detail is outlined in the naming policy.

12. Can the community work with Rec & Park to discuss naming the gym as “Visitacion Valley Memorial Gym”?

As described above, naming and donor recognition are an important tool to raise the funding needed for this project. With that said, we would be happy to discuss an appropriate way to recognize/memorialize community members as part of this project. Please reach out to LaMonte’ Bishop [Lamonte.bishop@sfgov.org](mailto:Lamonte.bishop@sfgov.org) and Nathan Tinclair [Nathan.tinclair@sfgov.org](mailto:Nathan.tinclair@sfgov.org) for more information on the discussion.

13. Can people donate to get benches or smaller items named after them? What are the cost ranges? Currently we plan to seek approval for donor recognition elements at \$25,000 or above. We anticipate developing other recognition opportunities at lower cost ranges at a later date.

14. How will parking be addressed?

We realize that there are important concerns that with the new gym, more people will come and need parking. Rec Park has secured a planning grant to study access to and through the southern half of McLaren Park, including Herz Playground and Crocker Amazon Playground. The study will focus on walking and biking circulation, as well as parking. The study will be coordinated with the SFMTA Visitacion Valley and Portola Community Based Transportation Plan that will look at developing neighborhood priority projects such as sidewalk, bike lane, traffic calming improvements. Rec & Park must prioritize recreational uses on its land. Adding a parking lot would take critical land away from the gym and the park itself.

Additionally, this facility is being designed and developed to serve the residents of the Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley communities. For those able to utilize other modes of transportation, a new bus stop will be located nearby at the community center. There will be bicycle racks provided at the Recreation Center, as well as an accessible white zone passenger loading zone.

Rec & Park’s recreation centers and pools do not have general public parking apart from some that have disabled parking, operations parking. In some rare instances (e.g. Balboa Pool, Senior Center) a handful of spaces are available. Most other Rec Centers, including Palega, MLK Pool, Coffman Pool, and St. Mary’s do not have parking.

15. Will there be disabled parking?

The Public Works Disability Access Coordinator and MTA Color Curb Program Manager have advised the project team to incorporate ADA accessible loading zones in lieu of parking spaces. We understand that this does not accommodate those with disabilities that are driving to the Recreation Center. An accessible white zone will benefit more Recreation Center users than a blue zone accessible space that may be occupied by any blue placard carrying car – whether going to gym or not. We will bring this issue back to the Disability Access Coordinator and MTA in our subsequent reviews.

16. Can an estimate be developed to provide an indoor track?

An elevated track would require an elevator to be fully ADA accessible and stairs; the building would also need to get larger to accommodate those uses. Elevators alone are approximately \$1,000,000 and they are also an expensive item to maintain. Additionally, the entire building would need to get larger including the building’s foundation and structural system. This would add significant cost that the project cannot accommodate.

When this idea came up earlier in the project, the request was for a track so that seniors could walk while basketball was on-going in the gym. Our Recreation staff shared that it is difficult to offer other programming during a game or practice because the space can become very noisy and uncomfortable. Rec Park would like to be responsive to the programming desires of the community and we can incorporate non-basketball playing uses in the gym. One solution that came up was that we could still offer programming times for flexible use of the gym to accommodate activities such as this one. As we progress with the project, our Recreation staff will work with the community to determine what kind of programming we should offer and the times/days.

The other concerns that were raised by our staff were around safety and vandalism. It would be difficult for staff to monitor an elevated track as the main office and reception area is located near the ground floor entrance.

17. Who were Coffman and Herz?

Both Coffman and Herz were former Recreation and Park Commissioners who were instrumental in the development of McLaren Park.