



SAN FRANCISCO
**CHILDREN
& NATURE**

1,095
Days of
**San Francisco
Children & Nature**



6,930

people engaged in
hands-on nature
programming
(includes
create-with-nature
community programs,
nature play days, and
activation days at Nature
Exploration Areas)

2018: 670

2019: 6,260

Building castles at City Kids Family Day in the Mission,
presented by Children's Council of San Francisco



2,450

preschoolers
and

1,420

youth (6-18)
engaged in hands-on
nature programming

Building with dad at Dia de los Niños, Dia de los Libros where we explored the connection between Nature + Literacy



3

Nature Play Days for preschoolers piloted in Equity Zone Parks

SF Rec & Park, First 5 SF, OECE
SFUSD, Cal Academy, Botanical
Gardens, Liif, Golden Gate National
Parks Conservancy, National Park
Service, Presidio Trust, SF Public
Library, Tandem Partners in Early
Learning, Children's Council of San
Francisco Healthy Apple Program,
Randall Museum, Bay Area Children
in Nature, YMCA, Department of
Public Health, Department of the
Environment, Planet Bee
Foundation

2018: 0

2019: 3

Lettuce learn to transplant greens with Brenda, Rec & Park's, Youth Volunteer Services Manager at the McLaren Park Community Garden Nature Play Day



342

Preschoolers hosted at pilot Nature Play Days

"Nature Day was a huge success! Our students, staff, and parents loved it! It was so organized, fun, and perfect for our preschoolers! We look forward to attending more of these events!" -Amanda Lee, St. Francis Site Coordinator, Stonestown Family YMCA Preschool

"Many of our kids didn't know this park existed. Now they have a place they can come back to with their families." - Ms. Nicole Scott, Principal, John McLaren School

Stonestown YMCA preschoolers getting up close with nature at the Louis Sutter Nature Play Day!



88

Educators and Parents participated in Nature Play Days

Nature Play Days were intentionally designed with hands-on replicable activities to build confidence and inspire educators to embed nature into their everyday programing.

“We had the best time. Thanks so much for enriching our children’s outdoor exploration and connecting them deeper to nature-inspired play. Taking many ideas from today to enhance nature exploration at our childcare program.” -Teacher from Carabao Kids Family Childcare

Brilliant Kids teachers and preschoolers make discoveries at a McLaren Park Community Garden scavenger hunt

A young boy and girl are sitting on the ground, playing with wooden crates. The boy, on the left, is wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt and glasses, and is holding a wooden stick. The girl, on the right, is wearing a denim jacket over a pink shirt and glasses, and is looking up. They are both smiling. In the background, other people are sitting on the ground, and there are trees and a clear sky. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

44

create-with-nature
programs at
community events

Create-with-Nature
programming brings nature
play to spaces across the
city where families, and
kids of all ages are invited
to explore and create while
connecting with the natural
world and with each other.

2018: 15

2019: 29 |  93%

A balancing act at Access to Adventure, an event hosted by
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities in
partnership with the SF Recreation and Park Department



26

Activation Events
at

2

Pilot Nature
Exploration Areas:
Rolph Nicol Park
and Presidio Main
Post Pop-up

Something for every age at the Presidio Main
Post pop-up Nature Exploration Area



16

create-with-nature
kits assembled

SF State, SF Rec & Park,
Presidio Trust

2018: 6

2019: 10

SF State Recreation, Parks & Tourism students
assemble Create-with-Nature kits

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a plaid shirt, is focused on working with green moss on a table. The table is covered with a blue cloth and is filled with various nature-based materials, including potted plants, a green glass bottle, and small wooden structures. In the background, other people are visible, suggesting a workshop or training session. The overall atmosphere is educational and hands-on.

276

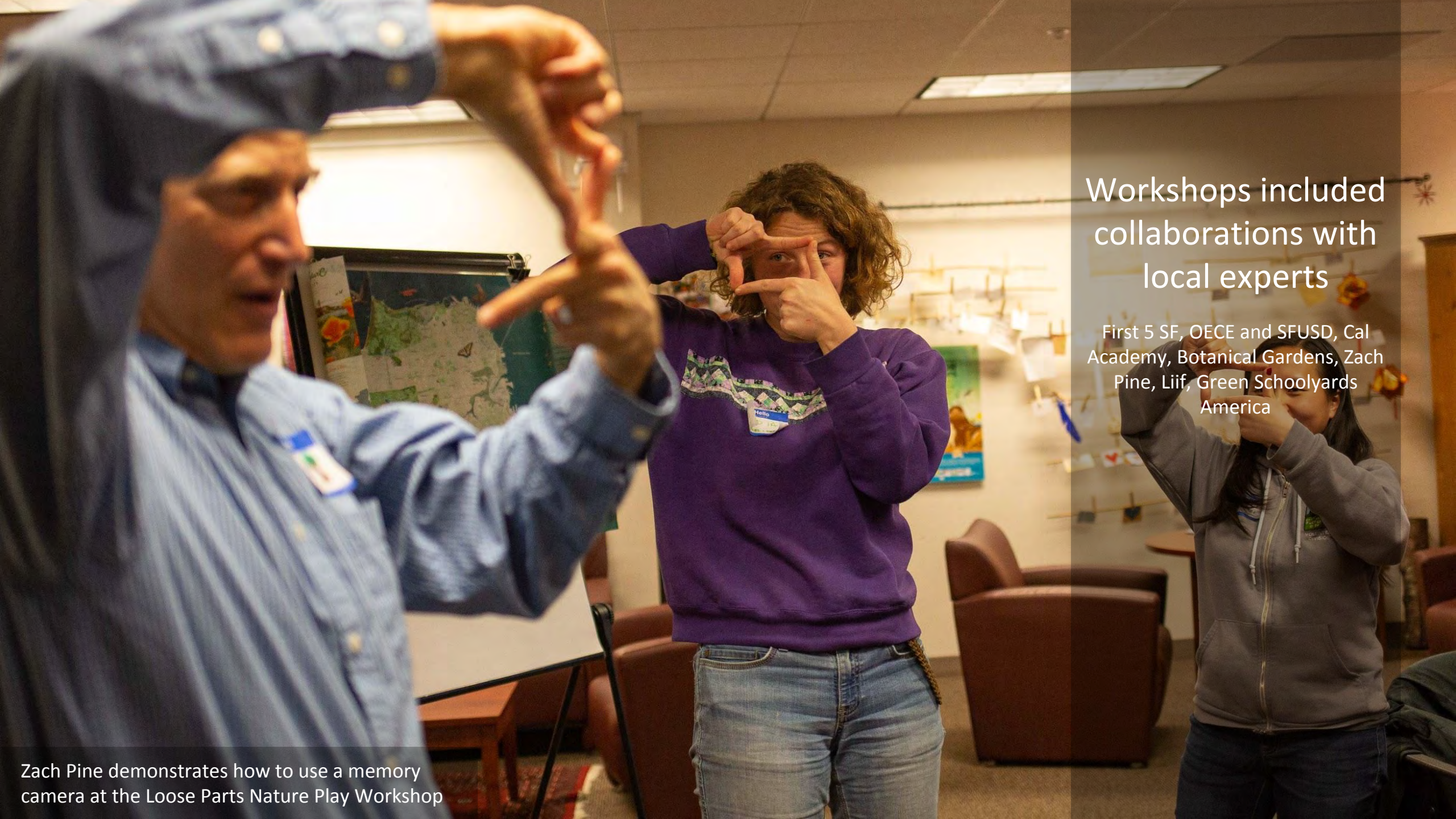
educators trained in
nature-based
education

9 workshops hosted through, First
5 SF, OECE and SFUSD, Cal
Academy, Botanical Gardens, Zach
Pine, Liif, Green Schoolyards
America

2018: 110

2019: 166

First 5 SF and OECE host Connecting Children to Nature Training
for ECE teachers and administrators at the SF Botanical Gardens



Workshops included
collaborations with
local experts

First 5 SF, OECE and SFUSD, Cal
Academy, Botanical Gardens, Zach
Pine, Liif, Green Schoolyards
America

Zach Pine demonstrates how to use a memory
camera at the Loose Parts Nature Play Workshop



...and global leaders
in the field.

Susan Humphries, recognized as one of the founders of the green schoolyards movement from her work at the Coombes School in England, presents workshop on - Experiential Outdoor Learning in Early Childhood Workshop.

First 5 SF, OECE, SFUSD, Liif, Green Schoolyards America, SF Rec & Park

"It is only once all the senses are engaged that we can begin to immerse children in learning."
— Susan Humphries



Adam Bienenstock presents Nature
Play Design/Build workshop with
support from SF Children & Nature,
Presidio Trust, SF Rec & Park

974

Wooden Stumps
repurposed for
nature play in early
childhood centers
and school sites

Presidio Trust Forestry, SF Rec &
Park Forestry, First 5 SF, OECE and
SFUSD

2017: 100

2018: 316

2019: 558



21%

of youth RARELY
visit nature



Family outings (70%) and **school events/field trips** (56%) are the ways youth most often experience nature. **After-school programs** (19%) are also important.

12%

of youth do not
feel safe in nature

660

Youth Participated
in the Youth Nature
Survey

Initial findings of survey
conducted February - April
2019 by San Francisco Children
& Nature work group members
to 1) establish a baseline of
youth nature connection in San
Francisco 2) hear from youth 3)
understand barriers and
opportunities, and 4) influence
key policy and
decision-makers.



66

Work Group
Members

2017: 25

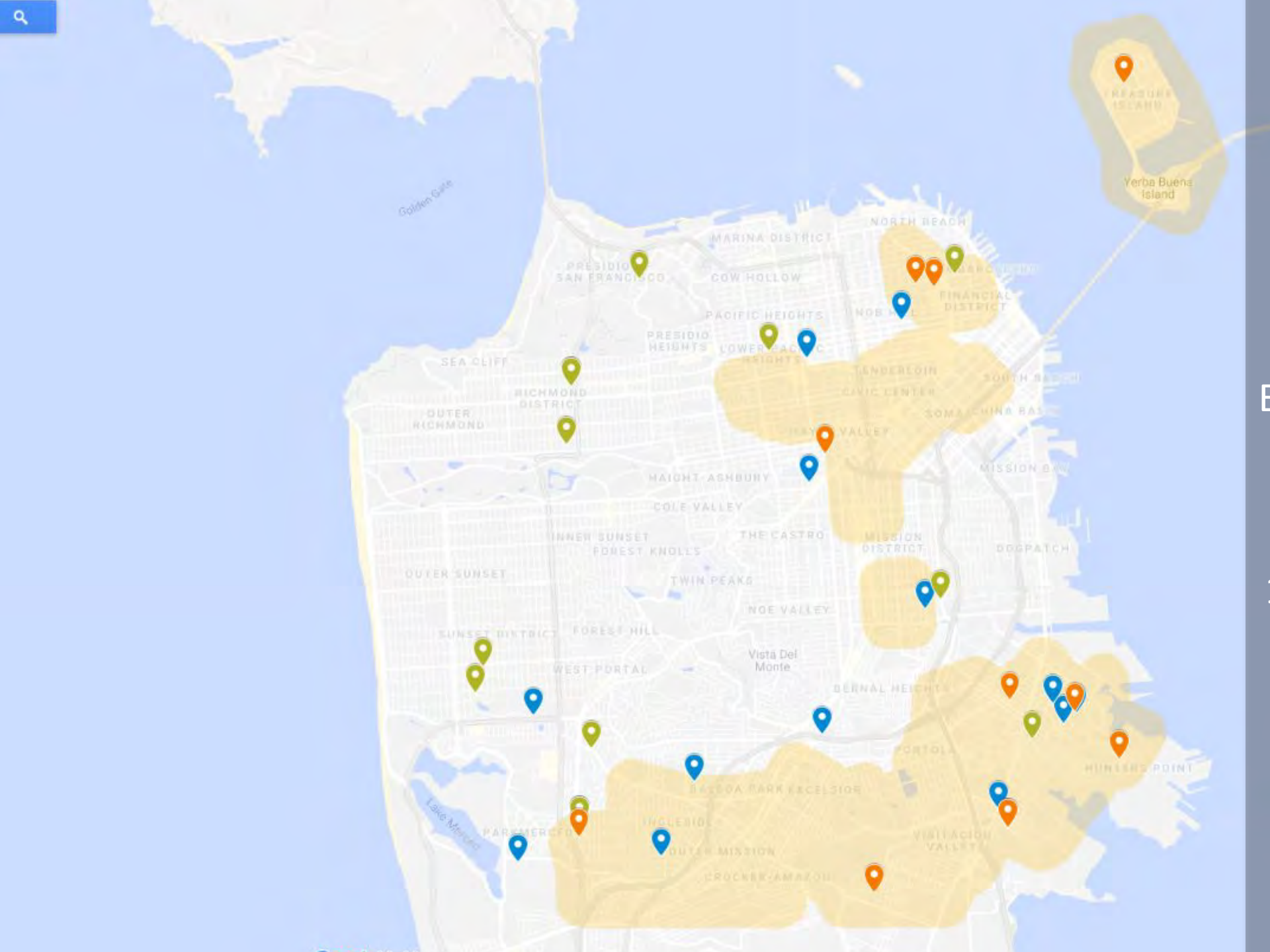
2018: 48

2019: 66

3

Work Groups
Community & Youth
Engagement

Early Childhood Education
Nature Connection Design

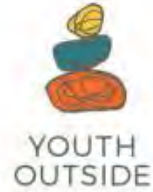


36

Playspaces
Enhanced for Nature
Connection

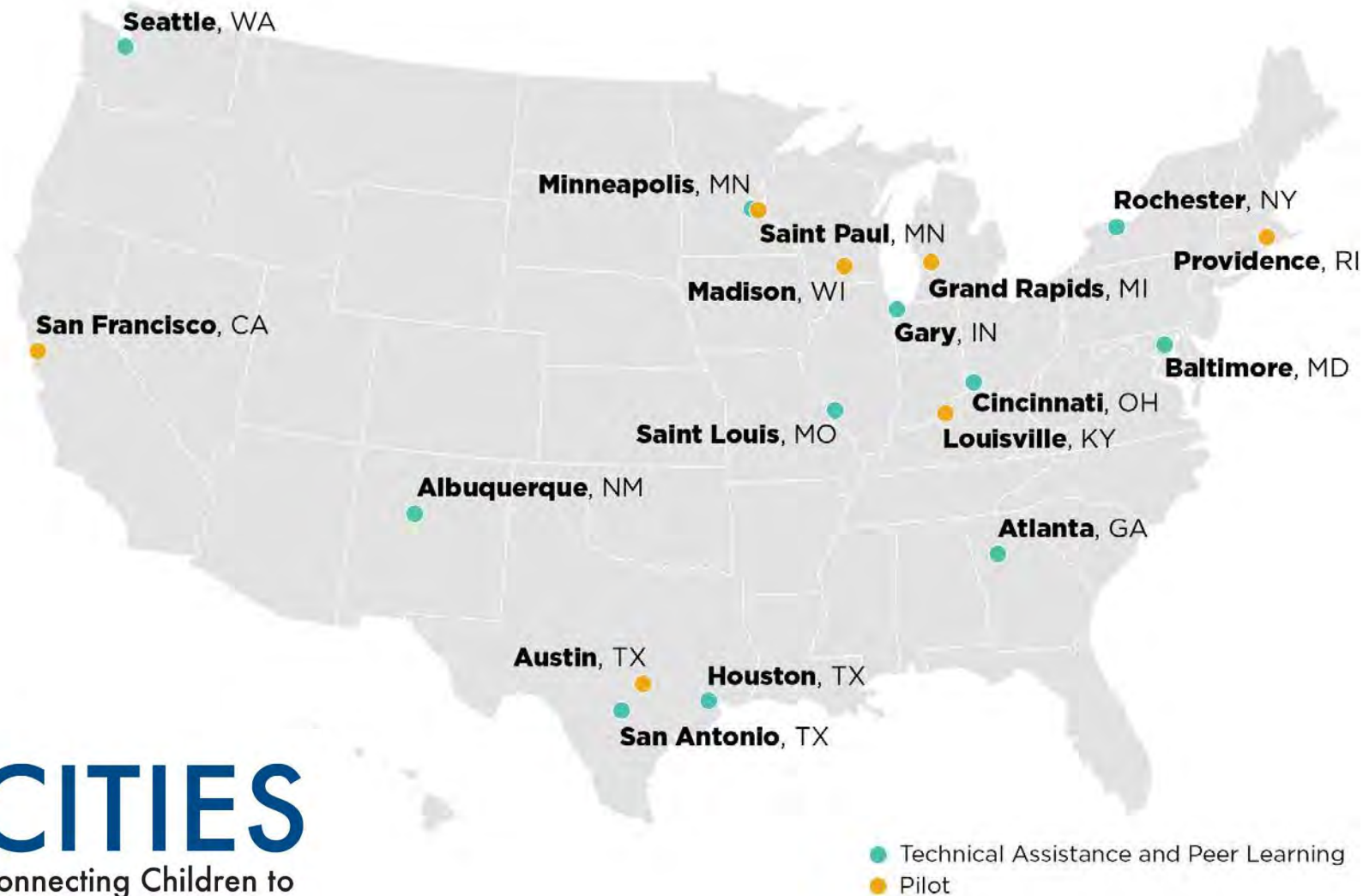
First 5 SF, OECE Quality
Connections Program

1,348 kids impacted



30

SF Children &
Nature participating
organizations



20

Cities in the
national Cities
Connecting
Children to Nature
Initiative

(Children & Nature Network &
National League of Cities)

2017: 7

2018: 7

2019: 20



17

Work Group Meetings

2017: 5

2018: 6

2019: 6

Ilaria Salvadori, SF Planning opens our October Work Groups Meeting with an introduction to Playland at 43rd

Bayview/Hunters Point

Chinatown

Excelsior

Ingleside

Ingleside Terraces

Lakeshore

Merced Heights

Mission

Ocean View

Outer Mission

Portola

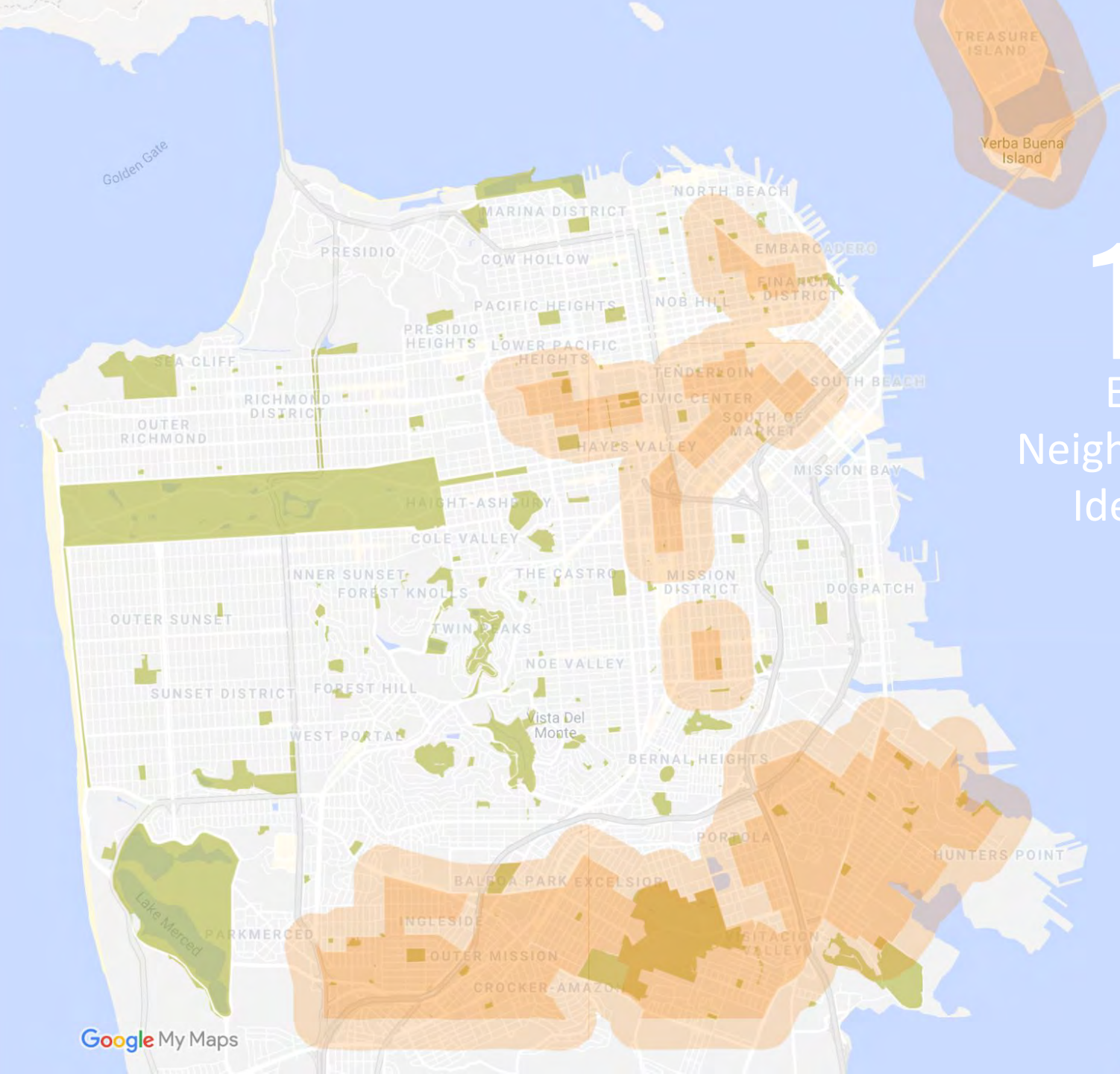
SOMA

Tenderloin

Treasure Island

Visitation Valley

Western Addition



16

Equity
Neighborhoods
Identified

Executive Council Chairs

Presidio Trust | *Jean Fraser, CEO*

SF Recreation & Parks Department | *Phil Ginsburg, General Manager*

YMCA of San Francisco | *Chuck Collins, President & CEO*

Executive Council Representatives

California Academy of Science | *Elizabeth Babcock, Dean of Education*

DCYF | *Maria Su, Executive Director*

First 5 of San Francisco | *Theresa Zighera, Interim Executive Director*

Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy | *Christy Rocca, Associate Vice-President*

Golden Gate National Recreation Area | *Michelle Gee, Chief of Interpretation and Education*

Office of Early Childhood Education | *Ingrid Mezquita, Executive Director*

Presidio Trust | *Jean Fraser, CEO*

SF Department of Public Health | *Curtis Chan, Medical Director, MCAH*

SF Parks Alliance | *Drew Betcher, CEO*

SF Recreation & Parks Department | *Phil Ginsburg, General Manager*

SFUSD Sustainability | *Nik Kaestern, Director*

YMCA of San Francisco | *Chuck Collins, President & CEO*

Youth Outside | *Kim Bailey, Executive Director*

13

Executive Council
Members

+

3

Executive Council
Chairs


A group of approximately 15-20 people are gathered in a room with a patterned carpet and glass walls. They are engaged in a presentation or workshop, with some individuals looking towards the center and others looking at each other. The room has a modern, professional feel with glass partitions and various items on tables in the background.

12

Presentations at National Gatherings and Webinars

Children & Nature Network
Conference, Greater Greener
Conference, CCCN national
Convenings, topic based pod
calls and webinars

Damien Raffa, Presidio Trust, Anthony Khalil, LEJ, Lisa Lee, First 5 SF,
Wendy Meluch, YMCA SF and Maria Durana, SFCN/SF Rec & Park lead
workshop on strategies for equitable nature connection at the 2019
Children & Nature Network Conference, Oakland

The background features a stylized illustration. On the left, a child sits on a hill with a basket. In the center, a bird flies. On the right, a person climbs a tower. The background is a mix of green and yellow with a large yellow circle and a crescent moon in the top left.

SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN'S **OUTDOOR** **BILL OF RIGHTS**

11

In which **EVERY CHILD** has the right to:

Children's Rights
Promoted

Explore all the wild places in the city

Harvest and eat a fruit or vegetable

Plant a seed and watch it grow

Visit and care for a local park

Splash in the ocean or bay

Play in the sand & mud

Discover urban wildlife

Sleep under the stars

Climb a tree

Ride a bike



7
Steering Committee
Members

4
Work Group Chairs



EQUITY

NEARBY
NATURE

CHILDREN'S
NEEDS

3

Core Values

2

Resolutions Supported

Child and Youth Friendly City Initiative to develop a citywide action plan that leads San Francisco to achieving the UNICEF Child-Friendly City designation.

San Francisco Biodiversity Policy, Resolution Establishing Local Biodiversity as a Citywide Priority, with a Framework for Interagency Collaboration for Nature-Based Initiatives, including connecting the next generation to the outdoors.

Serena Unger speaks at the 11/19 Board of Supervisors meeting in support of the Child Friendly City Resolution



1

Shared Vision

Nature
Connection for
Every Child,
Every Day



Countless
relationships
built



SAN FRANCISCO
**CHILDREN
& NATURE**

Thank You
for being a part of our
collective movement



Plant a seed and watch it grow.

- San Francisco Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

For more information please contact: Maria.Durana@sfgov.org