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[www.10000stepsoakland.org](http://www.10000stepsoakland.org)

## MEMO

**TO: Steven Huss + Kristen Zaremba / Oakland Cultural Funding Program**

**FROM: Sue Mark + Bruce Douglas / marksearch team**

**RE: *Walking the Invisible City* Marker Text Community Vetting Process**

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The self-guided walking tour will consist of 34 unique markers. Up to 6 markers will include Chinese text and up to 4 markers will include Spanish text. The remainder will be entirely in English. The marker text is written in a poetic haiku style.

The content for the marker text is based on stories we collected in the communities during our on-site work (2007-2010), articles, books and conversations with staff of the Oakland History Room, conversations and research conducted with Betty Marvin and Annalee Allen, and online research including information from relevant websites, newspaper texts, historic books and academic papers.

The following people and organizations have positively reviewed the marker text:

- Gilbert Gong, Director, Lincoln Square Recreation Center
- Darlene Lee, Youth Services, Lincoln Square Recreation Center
- Rich Fong, Chinese American Citizen Alliance
- Edward Yu, Vice-President, Chinese American Citizens Alliance
- Roy Chan, Oakland Asian Cultural Center
- William Wong, Chinatown Historian
- Annalee Allen, Oakland Historian, Coordinator of Oakland's Walking Tour program
- Tina 'Tamale' Ramos, Old Oakland activist
- Hoang Bahn, President, Old Oakland Neighbors
- Members of Old Oakland Neighbors + Swan's Co-housing Community

We are also in conversation with these individuals about specific markers:

- Pastor Emily Lin, Chinese Community United Methodist Church
- Roland Hui, President, Wa Sung Community Service Organization
- George Ong, Long-time Chinatown resident
- Ed + Evelyn Loo, Madison Square Tai Chi practitioners
- Elena Voiron, Owner, G.B Ratto's
- Buddhist Church of Oakland

In March, 2011 we will be visiting businesses and buildings near where the markers will be installed. We will be informing them about the installation process. We visited all of these businesses initially in Spring, 2010 to tell them about the project and the possible installation of the markers. Everyone we spoke with was very enthusiastic and supportive of the project.



# 10,000 STEPS: Walking the Invisible City

Proposal for 34 marker locations. Locations subject to approval by city staff and stakeholders. See key for marker content.

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1853

Oakland was shaped by  
*seven* **GREEN SQUARES**  
Downtown's *living rooms*,  
now, only **FOUR**.

*Parks bring out the  
goodness of good people.*

10KSTEPS.ORG

JEFFERSON  
SQUARE

10000  
steps

LAFAYETTE  
SQUARE

**PROPOSED MARKER TEXT FOR WALKING THE INVISIBLE CITY**

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
1	Project Intro	Madison Park (Chinese?)	1853: Oakland was shaped by 7 green squares Downtown's living rooms, now, only 4 <i>'Parks Bring out the goodness of good people'</i>
2	Project Intro	Lincoln Park (Chinese?)	1853: Oakland was shaped by 7 green squares Downtown's living rooms, now, only 4 <i>'Parks Bring out the goodness of good people'</i>
3	Project Intro	Jefferson Park (Spanish?)	1853: Oakland was shaped by 7 green squares Downtown's living rooms, now, only 4 <i>'Parks Bring out the goodness of good people'</i>
4	Project Intro	Lafayette Park (English)	1853: Oakland was shaped by 7 green squares Downtown's living rooms, now, only 4 <i>'Parks Bring out the goodness of good people'</i>
5	Madison Park name change and relocation for BART	NE Corner Madison St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St	1853: Kellersberger replaced Cattle trails with wide Urban streets; Caroline Square, So named for his dear wife.

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
6	Lincoln Park Chinese Women's "USO"	11 <sup>th</sup> St btw Harrison St. & Alice St.	'Our Chinese boy soldiers had nowhere to go.' 1943 Friendship, dancing, & hospitality. Dorothy Eng's Oak-Chi Center blossomed Chinese daughters' worlds.
7	The last standing house	SW corner MLK Way & 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	Latino, Irish, & African American neighbors, Their children loved this park. Make way...Here comes the freeway! 1950s Here's the last home standing.
8	Site of Oakland High School	NW corner MLK Way & 11 <sup>th</sup> St.	Pardee, London, Brown & Morgan, Educated at Oakland's first High School (1895-1928). Topped in 1940, Its bricks built Lincoln Square's club house.
9	Former Washington & Franklin Parks location	NW corner Broadway & 5th St.	Main Street divided twin squares "Sacred for the people" Carpentier's power grab for young Oakland (1874) The Alameda County Seat
10	Harrison Park ID & fact	NW corner Harrison St. & 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	A nostalgic park, Linked to Oakland's pioneer days. A past Railroad Museum Now honors Local Chinese-American heroes.
11	Tai Chi, Qi Gong and master Choy, Madison Park	SE corner Jackson St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St.	1965 & 2006: A BART land exchange. A daily morning sea of movement, Hundreds flow together. Ed & Evelyn Loo: 'Tai Chi Park is our dream'

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
12A	Fong Get Moo woman barber	SW corner Harrison St. & 8 <sup>th</sup> St.	Fong Get Moo Chinatown's Queen Barber (1940s-80s): A trim, A lollipop, Even a myna bird! A community oasis.
12B	C. A. C. A.	SW corner Harrison St. & 8th St.	The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Oakland Lodge Defenders of civil rights, Hurdling social & political barriers From here since 1912
13	Japanese internment / Buddhist Church	SW corner Jackson St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St.	'I am an American!' 1942's Executive Order 9066 Shattered Japantown. This Buddhist Church embodies Their history.
14	Redwood tree Lincoln Park	SE corner Harrison St. & 10 <sup>th</sup> St.	1898: A young sequoia grew, Nurtured by soil from each state To honor the Great Emancipator Abe Lincoln.
15	EBALDC – WWII parachute factory	SW corner Harrison St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St.	A neo-gothic 'keeper of secrets', (1922) A code machine factory Never realized. From the top floor, Chinatown women sewed WWII parachutes.

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
16	Pacific Renaissance Center, Asian Cultural Center	9th St. btw Franklin St. & Webster St.	<b>TEXT UNDER REVISION</b>
17	Underground gambling passages – Geo. Ong building	NW corner Franklin St. & 7th St.	Seeking fortunes Games of chance: Pai Gow, Fan Tan, The white pigeon ticket Underground escape routes passageways (1897)
18	Intro, English - about “Walking the Invisible City”	NE corner Broadway & 9 <sup>th</sup> St. (Spanish)	Follow the trees, Walk among them. Urban secrets revealed: Discover your Invisible City.
19	Intro, Chinese - about “Walking the Invisible City”	NW corner Broadway & 8 <sup>th</sup> St. (Chinese)	Follow the trees, Walk among them. Urban secrets revealed: Discover your Invisible City.
20	Former train station	7 <sup>th</sup> St. btw Clay St. & Washington St	Buried, ‘Great Iron Horse’ tracks A transcontinental waiting room 1875-1941, Booming Oakland. Fresh tortillas (1941-1998) A multicultural city.
21	Chinatown Epicenter	8 <sup>th</sup> & Webster (check for exact location)	1882-1943: 61 years of exclusion A forced Chinese sanctuary & Bachelor society, The builders of California’s Infrastructure.

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
22	George Scotlan, Convention Center, Mega Blocks redev.	NW corner Broadway & 10th St.	This anchor to the City Center Alters historic Oakland's terrain (1983) Dedicated to black civic leader Scotlan, A devoted youth advocate.
23	Former Swan's Market	10 <sup>th</sup> St. btw Clay St. & Washington St.	From the romantic Mr. Pantoskey's Free Market (1885) To the shrewd Mr. Swan's Dry Goods Salvage (1924) Swan's Marketplace: "Everything Under the Sun"
24	Former Fong Wan Herbalist	10 <sup>th</sup> St. btw Jefferson St. & Clay St.	The Herbalist King Fong Wan (1930s-50s) Providing miraculous cures Doubted by mainstream medicine Arrested 20+ times "I am the light of the world!"
25	Former Housewives Market block	SE corner Jefferson St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St.	"Housewives was Oakland" A southern food lifeline: greens, yams & all animal 'spare parts'; From food wagons The once elite East Bay shopping district is (1930s) Part of downtown's housing renaissance. (2011)
26	Darlene Lee leader for thousands of local youth	10 <sup>th</sup> St. btw Harrison St. & Alice St.	Peace keeper & Park Mom, A safe haven for kids, Ms. Lee always listens.
27	Tina 'Tamale' Ramos – neighborhood leader	7 <sup>th</sup> St. btw Jefferson St. & Clay St.	Tina Tamale, Guardian of cultural heritage on the Cobblestoned La Siete Oakland's first Latino Barrio Creating a livable city

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
28	Mary meals at St. Joseph Church for Lafayette patrons	NW corner MLK Way & 10 <sup>th</sup> St.	Oakland's Mother Theresa, Mary Ann Wright Inspired by a vision; Sharing food & hope In the park, she quietly Changed the world.
29	Pardee House	NE corner Castro St. & 11 <sup>th</sup> St.	The Pardees Elder: A gold rush mayor, Junior, A public water advocate The Mrs: An avid traveler & eccentric collector; A living museum preserved by Dedicated daughters
30	Intro, 12 <sup>th</sup> St BART station	NE corner Broadway & 11 <sup>th</sup> St. (English)	Follow the trees Walk among them Urban secrets revealed Discover your Invisible City
31	Chinese Community United Methodist Church	Scout location	1887: Faith, hope, love at work. Immigrants become neighbors. One community.  1887:

	<b>MARKER TOPIC</b>	<b>MARKER LOCATION</b>	<b>MARKER TEXT</b>
32	Ratto's	Washington St. btwn 8 <sup>th</sup> St. & 9 <sup>th</sup> St.	Once a tradition: Meet at Ratto's On Wednesday for pesto, On Saturday for pasta opera; A family deli since 1890
33	Junk Ship	Lincoln Square	The junk ship 'Free China', A symbol of determination; A gift of Wa Sung Service Club (1969) to children everywhere. 中國帆船 華生社贈
34	Oakland Museum	Museum entrance	Once a lush marsh Ohlone, 'almost amphibious' Fed off its abundance Transform Transform Transform The people's museum

**NOTES:**

- All **marker numbers** are for reference only and coordinate with the attached map. The final markers will not include these numbers.
- The **marker topic** will not be included on the marker itself. This information is for reference only.
- The **marker location** indicates the general location. We are currently scouting for the exact sidewalk square in which to place the marker. The community is also advising us on specific sidewalk locations.

- The **marker text** is subject to further revisions with the community and through the layout design process. The overall content will not change unless there are discrepancies with factual information. (Some of the Chinese text appears as small boxes.)