



Land Use and Transportation Committee

Brendon Levitt, Co-Chair

Steve Lowe, Co-Chair

To: Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC)
Date: 1 August 2011
Re: Jack London-Chinatown-Old Oakland I-880 Underpass Murals

Project Proposal:

Jack London District Association, along with our counterparts in Chinatown and Old Oakland, would help organize a series of coordinated murals on freeway guardrails and columns at six underpasses connecting Jack London with Chinatown and Old Oakland: Oak, Madison, Jackson, Webster Place, Webster, and Broadway.

This project is meant to engender neighborhood pride and involvement not just as a “capital improvement” but also as a way of building community through active involvement in funding, selecting, and completing the murals.

One preliminary idea is to initiate a “competition” among residents and businesses along each street to sponsor their street’s mural. We will have to find a way to balance the desire to make the process open with a desire to have a unifying theme and aesthetic for all six murals.

In the past six months, JLDA has identified a synergy in planning and construction efforts centered around the Downtown Oakland Underpasses:

- Lake Merritt BART Station Area Plan - JLDA has been working with the City of Oakland planners and community groups on recommendations for better physical connections between Jack London District and Chinatown.
- Broadway to Jackson Interchange Improvement Project - ACTIA is working on a plan that could affect both the Broadway and Jackson underpasses.
- I-880 5th Ave Seismic Retrofit Project – CalTrans’ freeway construction will impact the Oak Street underpass.

JLDA organized a community charrette last November in order to generate ideas and gauge interest in the underpasses. The murals are just one aspect of a multi-pronged approach to creating safer, cleaner, more vibrant spaces under the freeway. Please feel free to visit the Wikispace that was made as a forum for the charrette (nimitzunderpasses.wikispaces.com). It was clear that the neighborhood is engaged and excited about the possibilities.

We understand from CalTrans that the Oak Street underpass is scheduled to be worked on in the coming months in conjunction with the I-880 construction. We have spoken to Doug Eng, Landscape Architect for CalTrans District 4, as well as Stan Gee, Project Manager for the I-880 5th Ave Seismic Retrofit Project. We are hoping to engage the City of Oakland and CalTrans in order to start the process, and Oak Street would seem to be a natural starting point for our efforts. We would like to solicit your thoughts and suggestions as we begin the process and we look forward to your continued involvement.

Jack London - Chinatown - Old Oakland I-880 Underpasses



Broadway

Webster St

Webster Pl

Jackson

Madison

Oak

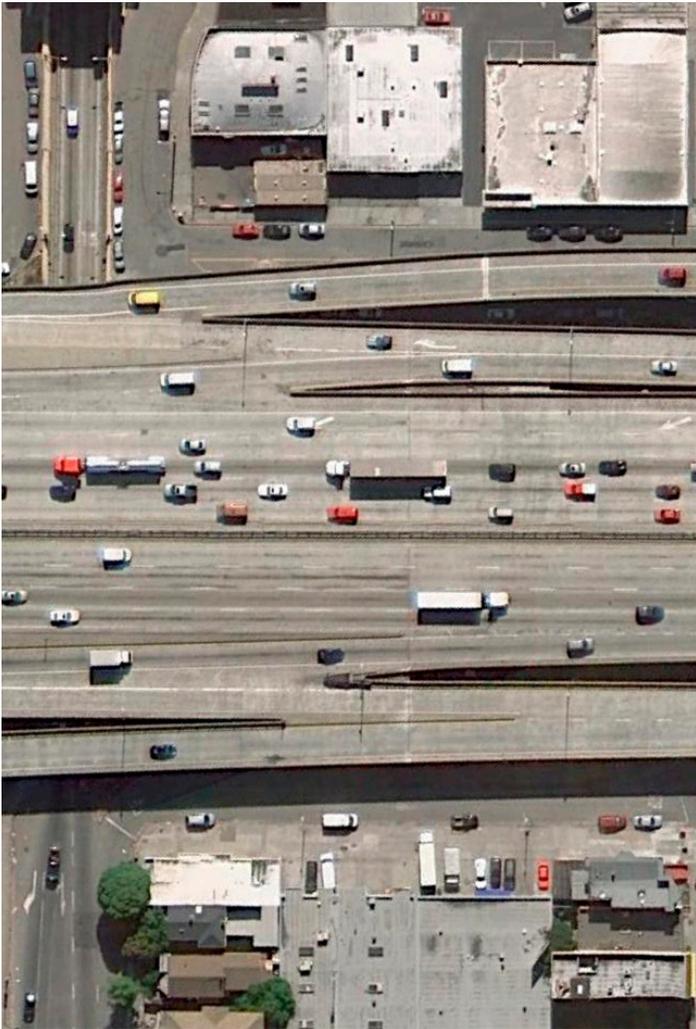
Broadway



Webster



Webster Place



Jackson



Madison



Oak

