



City and County of San Francisco Civil Grand Jury, 2012-2013

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Making the most of SF surplus and under-used real estate

What do the building at 170 Fell St. across the street from SF Jazz, the Fleishhacker Pool Bathhouse, the pumpkin patch at 7th Avenue and Lawton St., the Fire Chief's residence and SFMTA's Kirkland Yard have in common? They are among publicly-owned real estate in SF included in the 2012-13 Civil Grand Jury report on *Optimizing the Use of Publicly-Owned Real Estate, Achieving Transparency, Momentum and Accountability*.

About one quarter of the land in SF is publicly-owned. Some of that real estate has been designated surplus and other has remained idle or under used for decades. If put into use, or better use, such property can provide much needed housing, commercial space and meet other community needs and at the same time increase the City's tax base.

While there have been numerous reports generated over the years that go to use of public surplus and under-used real estate in SF, after initially garnering some public attention and generating calls for action, the impact of the reports fades away with little being done. For that reason, this Jury's report focuses on the need to (i) make information about publicly-owned real estate more readily available, complete and useful; (ii) maintaining that information current; and (iii) holding decision makers accountable on an ongoing basis. The report makes recommendations that address obstacles to moving forward at the City and School District levels.

The report also undertakes an in depth review of attempts to move the School of the Arts to Civic Center to the former headquarters of the SFUSD (including 170 Fell St.) that were damaged by the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. While to date that has not happened in part because of lack of funding, the report points out that if surplus property owned the district had been sold, all, or nearly all, of the SOTA project could have been funded.

To view and download the entire report, go to: <http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org> and click on Civil Grand Jury Reports.