



# THE BERNAL LIBRARY MURAL

*a mural by the artist [illegible] for the Bernal Library*

# BACKGROUND

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- ❖ Mural project originated by former Bernal Librarian Ruth McGinnis, community activist Kate Esposito and volunteer neighborhood group
- ❖ Group commissioned Arch Williams, Bernal resident as muralist
- ❖ Arch worked with neighborhood youth and volunteer artists to complete the project
- ❖ Mural dedicated in 1982

# ABOUT ARCH WILLIAMS

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- ❖ Arch Williams was member of the Haight-Ashbury Muralists
- ❖ Committed to using artistic skills for social change
- ❖ Painted other mural s in Balmy Alley and Francisco Middle School
- ❖ Mr. Williams passed away in 1996

# ABOUT THE MURAL THEMES

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- ❖ South side (back side of library) represents Bernal Heights past and present
- ❖ East side (Moultrie Street) represents different themes
- ❖ Front side on Cortland Street
  - ❖ Most significant historic and artistic elements
  - ❖ Represents power of culture and continuity





Bernal Mural – Cortland Street Facade





Bernal Library Mural – Cortland Street Facade



Bernal Mural – Cortland Street Facade





Bernal Mural – Cortland Street Facade





Bernal Mural  
– East Side  
Moultrie Street  
façade





Bernal Mural – South Side  
Facing playground



# DISCUSSIONS REGARDING MURAL OPTIONS

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- ❖ Discussion with community about Bernal Mural dates back to 2002
- ❖ Further discussions with community members held in September 2008
- ❖ No consensus on options for mural

# IDEAS AND OPTIONS FOR BERNAL MURAL

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- ❖ Restore the mural (all walls or portions of it)
- ❖ Restore exterior to original WPA style by painting over entire mural and either:
  - ❖ Recognize the existing mural with replica inside of building (ex. located in stairwell, program room)
  - ❖ Create a new mural on back wall (south façade) facing playground



# RECOMMENDATION

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- ❖ Restore the mural on the Cortland Street side of building only (front side)
- ❖ Paint over east and south sides of the mural

# NEXT STEPS

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- ❖ Recommendation would go to Visual Arts Committee for review and recommendation to full San Francisco Arts Commission in September