

THE PRESIDIO TUNNEL TOPS: TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE INTO A NATIONAL PARK SITE FOR ALL



FIELD SESSION OVERVIEW

Friday November 11, 2022
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
FRI-FS-13

Field Session Leader: Richard Kennedy, ASLA
Field Session Leader: Michael Boland, FASLA
Field Session Presenter: Rania Rayes, ASLA
Field Session Presenter: Kerry Huang, ASLA

As an urban national park, the central focus of the Presidio is to transform a historic former army base into parkland that is inclusive and accessible to all, particularly communities that have traditionally been underrepresented in national park visitation. This session will explore how the renewal of the derelict freeway approach to the Golden Gate Bridge propelled a vision for parklands on the top of new roadway tunnels. Community action, philanthropy, and design were marshaled to transform the Presidio of San Francisco into a national park site for all.



FIELD SESSION TIMETABLE

- A. Travel To Presidio (Bus from Convention Hall To Presidio Visitor Center): ~30 Minutes
- B. Introduction (Presidio Visitor Center): 60 minutes
- C. Presidio Tunnel Tops Project Tour: 90 minutes
- D. Strategies for Creating Parks for All (Field Station or Crissy Field Center): 30 minutes
- E. Discussion/Q&A/Closing ((Field Station or Crissy Field Center): 30 minutes
- F. Return to Convention Hall (Bus from Crissy Field Center to Convention Hall): ~30 Minutes

Total Time: 4 hours and 30 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn how context-sensitive infrastructure projects can have a positive impact on parks and protected areas
- Understand the strategies used to ensure that the new Tunnel Tops parkland serves and is relevant to audiences traditionally underrepresented in national parks and under-served in their access to urban parks and nature
- Learn about the important role that private philanthropy and community support played in shaping the new park
- Learn strategies for developing compelling spaces for urban youth to connect to nature and develop a strong connection to the outdoors



FIELD SESSION OUTLINE

A. Introduction: Presidio Tunnel Tops project context (Presidio Visitor Center)

- I. Introduction to the Presidio of San Francisco, it's history and ecology, and it's role with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (the largest urban national park in the United States)
 - Purpose of urban national parks
 - Brief overview of Presidio history and unique partnership model
 - Transformation of Presidio from army post to national park
 - Role of community in shift from Doyle Drive reconstruction project to Presidio Parkway
- II. Creating an equitable planning and design process to ensure that the Tunnel Tops is a new, relevant gateway welcoming traditionally underrepresented audiences to the Presidio
 - Strategies for community engagement
 - Community-driven aspirations for Tunnel Tops site
- III. Tunnel Tops Design Concept
 - Creating a nexus and gateway for the national park
 - Designing park infrastructure to protect historic and archaeological resources;
 - Strategy for ecological connectivity and climate-readiness
 - Choreographing planting design for diverse experiences, settings and micro-climates
 - Discussion of the Park in use, with diverse programs and settings atop complex infrastructure;
- IV. Private philanthropy as vehicle for creating relevant public spaces
 - Introduction to national park friends groups and cooperating associations
 - Role of Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy) in building connections between the Presidio and underrepresented local communities
 - Tunnel Tops Campaign



FIELD SESSION OUTLINE, CONT'D

B. Presidio Tunnel Tops Project Tour (Walking tour of Project)

- I. Presidio Tunnel Tops Design and Construction overview
- II. Visitor Gateway: focus on creating a gateway for all visitors, especially first-time visitors from traditionally underrepresented communities
- III. Tunnel Top Parklands: focus on welcoming the public, ecological horticulture, leveraging panoramic views, interpreting the Golden Gate
- IV. Crissy Field Center, Field Station, Outpost: focus on creating ladder of engagement for urban youth

C. Strategies for Creating Parks for All (Crissy Field Center)

- I. Overview of the strategies used in the lead up to opening day to ensure that the Tunnel Tops both welcomes and serves diverse audiences
- II. Ongoing community input on all aspects of design, operations, programming & Presidio Activators Council
- III. Post-construction/pre-opening community soft opening
- IV. Community-driven park-as-platform programming

D. Discussion/Q&A/Closing

SPEAKERS



Michael Boland, Chief Park Officer, Presidio Trust

Since 2001, Michael Boland has played a key role in making the Presidio a world class national park site. As Chief Park Officer he leads an interdisciplinary team that has transformed the historic army base by creating comprehensive visitor infrastructure, restoring the Presidio's mosaic of natural and cultural landscapes, establishing national park experiences serving urban youth, and reinventing the post as a unique financially self-sufficient national park community. Boland holds a bachelor of arts in architecture, and master's degrees in landscape architecture and city planning from UC Berkeley, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.



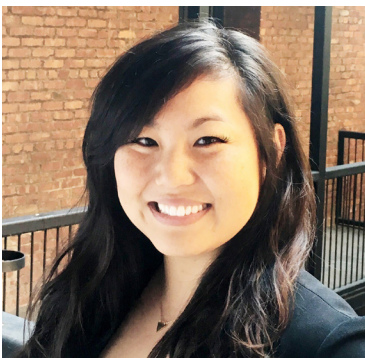
Richard Kennedy, Senior Principal, James Corner Field Operations

Richard is a Senior Principal at Field Operations and Director of the firm's San Francisco office. With 20 years of professional experience, Richard is committed to improving cities through the design of a resilient, holistic and vibrant public realm. Richard led the design of San Francisco's Presidio Tunnel Tops; Cleveland's Public Square; Memphis' Shelby Farms Park; and the award-winning South Plaza at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Richard holds a Master of Landscape Architecture with distinction from Harvard University, and has taught graduate level design studios and lectured at universities, symposiums and institutions around the world.



Rania Rayes, Senior Landscape Architect, Presidio Trust

Rania Rayes has worked as a Landscape Architect and Senior Project Manager in the Park Design and Construction Department of the Presidio Trust of San Francisco since 2005. She managed the Presidio Tunnel Tops Project landscape design and is co-managing its construction. She has led the planning, design, and construction of various projects in the Presidio, including trails, overlooks, wetland restoration, and historic landscape rehabilitation. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the American University of Beirut and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley.



Kerry Huang, Senior Associate, James Corner Field Operations

Kerry Huang is a licensed landscape architect and Senior Associate at James Corner Field Operations, and led the extensive design team, including architects, engineers, and horticulturalists for the construction of Tunnel Tops Park. Her experience has been dedicated to designing public parks, both locally in San Francisco and nationally. As both a designer and project manager, her focus is to ensure that projects are delivered true to its design intent. This means delivering a public amenity that is impactful, grounded in its site context and is built with high quality materials and methods so that it may endure and age gracefully.



NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.