

[Chuck Finnie, OF THE EXAMINER STAFF](#)

- [SF Gate Home](#)
- [Today's News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Live Views](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Bay Area Travel](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Conferences](#)
- [Search](#)
- [Index](#)

- [Printer-friendly version](#)
- [Email this article to a friend](#)

## Riders cheer as S.F. opens new Duboce Bikeway

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- San Francisco bicycle activism is on a roll.

After paving the way for more bike lanes, showers and lockers in new office buildings, and helping procure space for cyclists on trains and buses, the movement has helped orchestrate The City's first car-less street for the two-wheeled set. It debuted Saturday.

"This represents our dreams of a car-free city," gushed bike advocate Joel Pomerantz, marking the occasion with the unveiling of the Duboce Bikeway Mural.

The mural, a work in progress the past 145 days and seen by Muni riders peering out from N-Judah and J-Church streetcars, will be the star of a transformed, two-block stretch of Duboce Street.

The strip - a short cut for motorists and a back-alley shooting gallery for junkies, according to neighbors - is being given over to bikes and wheelchairs.

About 200 people - mostly activists, bike riders, disabled people and Duboce Triangle residents - turned out Saturday to celebrate the artwork, the creation of 29-year-old Academy of Art College graduate Mona Caron.

"I am grateful it is finally completed because this back alley has been an eyesore and a nuisance," said Bob Planthold, an advocate for the disabled who has lived around the corner for a dozen years. "It is going to improve the whole feel."

According to Peter Straus, Municipal Railway planning director, the project began as part of a federally funded program to build access ramps for the disabled along Muni streetcar lines.

Jump to :



### TOP JOBS AT WORK

▶ **INSURANCE**

A PROFESSIONAL OPPTY. Well establish

▶ **TEACHER**

Assts Mainstreamed spec ed. 1:1 rati

▶ **POLICE**

BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTENT POLICE SER

▶ **NURSING**

Manage your own time and caseload  
Affiliated Home Call

▶ **RESTAURANT**

Specialty Italian Cook. Min. exp. 3y

▶ **LEGAL SECRETARY**

Mid-size Financial District Law Firm

▶ **DESIGNER**

ASSISTANT DESIGNER San Francisco Bay

▶ **EDI**

TRANSACTION Coordinator. Does your e

▶ **INSURANCE**

A Career With Meaning! If you are an

▶ **NURSING**

RN's. Excellent work that makes you

▶ **EXECUTIVE**

ASST P/T 8:30-1pm M-F. Exp'd self-st

▶ **SALES**

Publishing Sales Manager Ashley Group

▶ **LOAN AGENTS**

Mortgage Broker Pays 100% comm.!

It grew to encompass a wider beautification plan with a \$1.7million budget, including installation of historic street lamps and consultation with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

On Saturday, Duboce Bikeway, tucked alongside a Muni Metro tunnel entrance, took on the feel of an art gallery opening as the curtain was raised on Caron's mural.

In the planning stages for more than two years, the work covers 6,075 square feet of the back of a Safeway store. It was produced by more than 50 volunteer artists.

Noting the bikeway is situated at the halfway point between the Bay and the ocean, Caron said the mural depicts the journey across The City, as well as a symbolic voyage: cycling advocates' struggle for a bike-friendly city.

"It is a surreal representation of the path the bicyclists are taking," she said.

The painting begins with an aerial depiction of a car-jammed downtown with bike riders hovering high above. Yellow banners attached to the cyclists billow in the wind and represent their dreams, then give way to an unfolding nirvana.

It ends with a bold figure seated atop a mountain bike on a sand dune, pointed toward the broad blue expanse of the Pacific Ocean.

The rider is depicted only from the shoulders down so that viewers can imagine themselves as the joyful cyclist.

"It is not necessarily reality, but a reality that could be - a very achievable utopia," Caron said.

Every detail is meant to be symbolic. A beetle next to a bicycle tire track is supposed to reflect bicycles' low impact on nature.

A community garden in the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park is intended to reflect a belief that bike travel puts people in closer touch and fosters social well-being.

Stacy Smith, a business consultant at a large accounting firm, watched the mural unfold

---

▶ **ACTIVISM**

CAMPAIGN JOBS for the ENVIRONMENT \$4

---

▶ **HOTEL**

Desk Clerk F/T, Exp. pref. Dwntrwn SF

---

▶ **EXCHANGE MANAGER**

National Title Insurance  
[LandAmerica](#)

---

▶ **NURSING**

Quality Improvement Director Trans P

---

▶ **RESTAURANT**

SOUS CHEF We are seeking an enthusia

---

▶ **RESTAURANT**

Dry Creek Kitchen All Positions Avl.  
[Dry Creek Kitchen](#)

---

▶ **THERAPIST**

S) for Outpatient Mental Health Trea

---

▶ **HEALTHCARE**

ADMINISTRATOR To provide overall day

---

▶ **HOTEL**

Opportunity abounds at the SHERATON

---

▶ **SOCIAL**

SERVICES Expanding early childhood m

---

▶ **ELECTRICIAN**

needed. 5 years experience. Call 510

---

▶ **RESTAURANT**

Building a TEAM for 2002!

---

[About Top Jobs](#)  
[View All Top Jobs](#)

---

during her daily commute from the window of the N-Judah streetcar.

"I was curious to see what the final project looked like," Smith said. "I love it. You could stand for hours and keep finding new stuff."

She pointed out how her Muni line was included by Caron, but with a new name: the N-Judah became the N-Desire.

The Bikeway mural doesn't shy from some recent history.

Official disapproval of the July 1997 Critical Mass protest ride - a high point of political muscle-flexing for the activists - is there. Look for the windows of skyscrapers painted as angry, disapproving eyes.

But Pomerantz, a founder of the Critical Mass rides and coordinator of the mural project, said the mural is a testament to the movement's cooperative side.

"What this represents is how both sides - government and activists - can work together to build a public space." <

©2000 San Francisco Examiner  
originally printed by the Hearst Examiner Page D -

Examiner Sections ▼

GO

Feedback

