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## BPWA WINS GRANT FOR ALLEY MURAL



### Path Wanderers and Young Artists Win Grant For a New Mural in West Berkeley

*By Sandy Friedland*

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association and [Youth Spirit Artworks](#) (YSA), a Berkeley-based organization that empowers underserved young people, teamed up to win a \$3,000 grant to design and add a mural to an exciting public art project in West Berkeley. The money comes from [Commotion West Berkeley](#), a group of merchants and residents dedicated to beautifying and promoting community engagement in the area west of San Pablo Avenue.

The mural will be in Jeronimus Alley — aka 5½ Street — between 5th and 6th Streets and from Cedar to Camelia. Because it also serves as a public walkway, it was added to the latest edition of our Berkeley and Its Pathways map.

Some walls and fences that border the alley already have eye-popping murals, but plenty of blank “canvases” remain. Lawrence Grown, who founded Commotion West Berkeley, has organized cleanup days in the alley. He says Commotion Berkeley hopes to obtain funding for a mural festival in an unpainted portion of the alley between Cedar and Virginia. He envisions the entire length of the alley someday being filled with art and becoming a popular attraction, similar to the richly decorated alleys in San Francisco’s Mission District, such as [Balmy Alley](#) and [Clarion Alley](#).

[Read more](#)

## CHARLIE BOWEN IN BAY AREA MONITOR



### **Charlie Bowen: Smoothing the Way for Bay Area Paths**

*By Robin Meadows; this article originally appeared in the [Bay Area Monitor](#).*

Charlie Bowen had no idea that a network of walking paths wound through the Berkeley hills until she went to her first Berkeley Path Wanderers Association meeting more than two decades ago. Steep and twisty, the paths are public rights-of-way that date to the early 1900s. Back then automobiles were uncommon and most people relied on streetcars, so developers set aside 10-foot-wide strips between lots for paths that served as neighborhood shortcuts to rail lines. Today the paths offer spectacular, unimpeded views of

the San Francisco Bay as well as opportunities for urban hiking, an affordable, accessible activity that reduces stress and buoys spirits. [Read more](#)

### Visalia Walk temporary closure

As part of upcoming path repairs supported by Berkeley's T1 bond funding, a portion of the concrete steps at Visalia Walk between Vincente Avenue and Menlo Place will be reconstructed in April. The work is expected to last 2 weeks, barring any unforeseen setbacks. Visalia Walk will be closed to the public during this time.

## SHOP OUR SPRING SPECIAL



**Save 25% on our exclusive greeting card and envelope set.** Spring is a great time to enjoy and support the Berkeley Paths. The four-pack features watercolor paintings—of Rose Walk, Billy Jean Walk, Fountain Walk, and La Vereda Steps—by [East Bay artist Karen Kemp](#). The cards are blank on the inside and ready to be used for congrats to grads, thank yous, and other thoughtful messages.

Your purchase supports BPWA's work to maintain our walks and paths. This low \$15 special price includes sales tax as well as shipping and handling. Special pricing ends April 30.

**Buy Berkeley Path Notecards, set of 4 for \$15**

## JOIN OUR BOARD!



## **BPWA seeks new board members**

Join our fun and effective all-volunteer board! We meet monthly. Members serve 2-year terms with the option of renewing once. Interested in one of these board positions? Write to BPWA president Janet Byron at [info@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.org).

**Map coordinator:** BPWA volunteers have sold some 40,000 units in 9 editions of our best-selling “Berkeley and Its Paths” map. Board member oversees retail sales, marketing, and inventory, and helps with revisions for the upcoming 25th anniversary/10th edition.

**Emergency services liaison:** Berkeley’s path network serves a key role in evacuation planning for natural disasters such as earthquake and fire. Board member represents the interests of Berkeley paths in citywide emergency services efforts, CERT, and streetlight planning.

**Grant writer:** Explores grant opportunities for path and trail improvements, and leads grant writing, submission, and administration.

## **UPCOMING WALKS**

**NOTE: Walk leaders request that all participants be vaccinated and boosted, or masked. Heavy rain cancels.**

### **Pooches and Paths**

**When:** Saturday, April 2, 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**Leader:** Lynn Deregowski

**Where:** NE corner of [Solano Avenue and The Alameda](#)

**Distance and duration:** just over 2 miles and 2 hours

**Accessibility:** Numerous paths with steep steps

(This walk was postponed from March 19th due to weather.)

As we continue to explore the 55+ parks Berkeley has to offer, this installment of



Pooches on the Paths will cover the Thousand Oaks neighborhood. The route includes five parks, numerous paths, and some only-in-Berkeley yard and wall art. Whether you have a four-footed friend or not, everyone is welcome on this leisurely, convivial walk. [Read more](#)

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### [Las Trampas](#)

**When:** Sunday, April 10, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Bob Johnson

**Where:** Meet at the paved parking area in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness [at the end of Bollinger Canyon Road.](#)

**Accessibility:** Dirt single-track and fire trails; well-behaved dogs on leash welcome.

Thanks to four distinct natural habitats, Las Trampas offers a wonderful range of wildflowers and other native plants as well as fine views from the ridges in this unspoiled and relatively uncrowded East Bay park. [Read more](#)

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### [UC Berkeley Bear Tour](#)

**When:** Sunday, April 24, 1 to 3:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Lois Switzer

**Where:** Pomodoro's sphere sculpture, near the [corner of Oxford and Center streets](#) on the UC Berkeley campus

**Accessibility:** Several stairways

This moderately paced, 4-mile walk will start going uphill on the UC Berkeley campus with brief stops to admire about 14 bear sculptures and a few non-bear features. There will be lots of stairs to climb on campus and [Read more](#)

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## [I-Spy Bingo Walk](#)

**When:** Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Leader:** Sandy Friedland

**Where:** Bus shelter on the SE corner of [Claremont Avenue and The Uplands](#)

**RSVP required by May 12:** Send child's first name and age to [Sandy](#)

**Accessibility:** Fully accessible on mostly flat sidewalks; no dogs, please

Your 4- to 7-year-olds will love this family-friendly adventure in the Claremont and Elmwood neighborhoods. As they walk our mostly flat 1.8-mile route on sidewalks, players will look for yard art, window decorations, and other eye candy that match the photos on their Bingo cards. Everyone wins! Each child needs a pen or pencil. [Read more](#)

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## [Long Walk 2022: Circling Mt. Tam](#)

**When:** Saturday May 21, 8:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.

**Leaders:** Alina Constantinescu and John Ford

**Where:** [Parking lot](#) across from Mountain Home Inn at 810 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley.

**Accessibility:** Challenging trails, many of them with stairs. Sorry, no dogs allowed.

It's time for the Wanderers' annual Long Walk! This year's adventure takes us to Marin County where we will circumnavigate Mount Tamalpais on a 15-mile route with wondrous trails, historic points, and unbeatable views. [Read more](#)



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## [Slow Walk Around Strawberry Creek Park - Again](#)

**When:** Sunday, May 29, 10 to 11:30 a.m

**Leader:** Janet Byron

**Where:** Hidden Cafe @ Strawberry Creek Park, [1250 Addison St.](#)

**Accessibility:** Fully accessible, with no stairs; dogs on leash welcome

Walk leader Janet Byron deeply apologizes for being a no-show at her own walk! Please join her—for real—for a leisurely walk around Strawberry Creek

Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.  
[Read more](#)

## PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES



### Join a path maintenance work party!

Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Thursday, April 28, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Path maintenance work parties are back! The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments.

Please RSVP to receive an email with the locations for this month's work parties:  
[path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org).

### Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a community organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Learn more](#)

The BPWA board generally meets monthly. Guests are welcome! Please contact [info@berkeleypaths.com](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.com) for more information.

To support our path-building efforts, you can [donate online](#). All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, purchasing handrails, and advocating for paths.



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