

## D8 Kate Stoia

November 2022 Election

### **What park in your district do you use the most, and what do you love about it?**

I use Corona Heights Parks the most. I love that it brings the neighborhood together in a small, friendly, shared space. I also love that it has very well-tended and manicured areas and also totally overgrown, wild spaces. Finally, whoever placed the gingerbread monolith there on Christmas 2020 wins my vote for San Franciscan of the decade for bringing some wild San Francisco joy to a very dark season.

### **Are there any parks in your district that you feel need help? If so, which one do you feel needs the most help and what do you propose?**

Dolores Park needs help. There are too many unhoused, drug-addicted, and mentally unwell people in the park. We need to build more housing in San Francisco to alleviate our housing crisis to solve our homelessness problem. That will allow us to devote resources to creating and, where necessary, compelling treatment for people who need them. It all begins with building more housing and lowering housing costs in San Francisco.

### **What do you see as the biggest challenge facing SF parks in the next 4 years? How do you intend to address this?**

The extreme housing crisis in San Francisco is the biggest challenge to parks and to the city as a whole. I will vote yes on every housing project brought before the Board of Supervisors and I will also make sure that housing in District 8 is built as quickly and as densely as possible.

### **What were some of the successes and failures of COVID- era public space programs in your district? Be specific.**

Like so many things in San Francisco, the shared space programs during covid felt reactive and unplanned. For example, I am a huge fan of pedestrian streets (and I love Slow Sanchez personally) but I understand the pushback on these programs. On Sanchez Street, for example, because cars do still cut through it cross-wise and do often drive on the street itself, it feels very much like an accident waiting to happen. I would propose a 5-year and 10-year plan for creating pedestrian streets throughout the city. We could have used the Covid shutdown to create true pedestrian streets for a limited time period -- say three years -- and then voted on whether to keep them permanent.

**How do you plan to move forward with COVID-era changes made to parks and public spaces in your district?**

I look forward to hearing more about what is and what is not working for the residents of District 8.

**What involvement do you have with volunteer community groups in your district?**

I serve on two Boards in my community -- San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company and Mission High Foundation.

**We've heard from our partners that they believe the city permitting process is the greatest hurdle to serving public spaces. If you believe any changes need to be made, what would your proposals be?**

All permits should be streamlined and made as inexpensive as possible. They should be available through mobile apps because although not everyone has access to a computer at home, most people now have mobile phones and the ability to access mobile apps.

**According to the SF Recreation and Parks Department, they currently have about \$1.5 billion in deferred maintenance. How do you plan to tackle this?**

Our current city budget is spending hundreds of millions -- and even billions of dollars -- on programs which are not centrally managed or overseen and have no metrics for success. I believe we can reallocate funds from our current very large budget first. Public/private partnerships have also been successful in renovating San Francisco parks and could help with deferred maintenance.

**Is there anything you'd like to add or expand on?**

Our parks are one of our greatest resources. However, it can be difficult to access green space in San Francisco because of our hills. We should explore micro-transit options here in San Francisco to make sure that people can get to all areas of the city without spending hours on Muni. If we don't, people -- especially parents and those with mobility issues -- will continue to rely on cars.