



Candidate Questionnaire Responses from: Bevan Dufty

Questions from the San Francisco Urban Agriculture Alliance

Access to Land

One of the largest barriers to expanding urban agriculture in San Francisco is access to land. There are numerous potential locations including vacant lots, underutilized public land, and barren rooftops. How will you facilitate the linking of passionate gardeners and organizations with usable sites? And will you prioritize helping the SFUAA reach its goal of 12 new gardens by the end of 2012?

In 2010 when the Dearborn Community Garden in the Mission faced possible auction by the city because of uncertainty of the owner, I introduced legislation to make the Department of Public Works the owner of the garden. Doing so enabled residents to continue cultivating the garden without fear it would be sold.

As Mayor, I would work with SFUAA to identify vacant or underutilized areas that could be used for farming, and make sure City departments cooperate in this goal to expand to 12 new gardens. I will work with Community Benefits Districts and merchants groups to identify areas within small business that could be used for gardens and green roofs.

City Support

What role do you see the city government playing in supporting urban agriculture and the growing community of city gardeners and farmers? How will you work to create a more fluid and efficient system for the creation and maintenance of urban gardens and farms in SF?

As Mayor, I will expand the sites available for greening and farming, and make sure that we make the process as easy as possible for volunteers to create and maintain urban gardens and farms. As Supervisor, I strongly supported the Mission Greenbelt project. This effort is a perfect example of people coming together to beautify the community, improve public spaces, and grow and distribute freshly grown food. As Mayor, I will recommend that the Planning Department, Department of Public Works, and Department of Recreation all coordinate to develop and maintain projects such as the Mission Greenbelt for our citizens to enjoy.

Access to Resources

The will and manpower to create beautiful and effective urban agriculture projects is amply present as evidenced by the extensive community involvement in the work of SFUAA members (<http://www.sfuaa.org/membership.html>). However, a lack of resources such as tools, compost, mulch and money has continued to be a difficult obstacle to overcome. If you become mayor, what will you do to help increase the availability and distribution of resources for urban gardeners and farmers? And will you commit to ensuring that every supervisorial district is equipped with an urban agriculture resource center by 2012?

I am an avid recycler and I've been known to go through our campaign trash to re-sort. We have an admirably high diversion rate and a growing compost program, so first I'd work with the Department of the Environment and Recology to find ways to keep San Francisco compost in our urban gardens. I'd also work with merchant groups to sponsor gardens and donate material and support to maintenance.

San Francisco as a National Leader

Since San Francisco prides itself on being a trailblazer for progressive causes, how will you make San Francisco a national leader in building a healthy and sustainable food system?

We need to work closely with early childcare centers, SFUSD and private and parochial schools to incorporate sustainability in curriculum and school lunches. All school sites should have a gardening component—whether herbs in pots, or a green roof—so that children begin to connect what they eat with what they grow.

Gardening and Agricultural Experience

Do you currently grow, or have you ever grown, food in the city? We are curious to hear about anything from a small pot of herbs in a window sill to a full blown vegetable garden.

I grew basil in LA and had a Lemon tree that we used for juice. When I lived on Clifford Terrace we had a huge backyard trove of Rosemary that I loved to use.

Questions from the San Francisco Green Schoolyard Alliance

Outdoor Classrooms

SFGSA's experience shows that green schoolyards serving as outdoor classrooms help close the achievement gap and attract families to our public schools. How would you encourage this trend?

The green schoolyard effort has been a remarkable success in San Francisco. My 5 year old daughter Sidney attends Rooftop, and I have seen firsthand the benefits of this program and how well students respond to the green school yards. Sidney and her classmates enjoy being able to get their hands dirty in the garden, while learning about biology and the environment in a fun leaning atmosphere. This hands on learning environment, combined with the other benefits such as the encouragement of parent and community volunteers, is what makes San Francisco public schools special. By expanding upon the success of the program, and further publicizing it to other families, we can attract more student to our public school and close the achievement gap. I pledge to be a mayor that gets the problems solved, and I will be the biggest advocate for green schoolyards as I know how important it is to our children.

Schools as Green Hubs

SFGSA is launching into our next phase of work to insure that SFUSD schools are green hubs for each community. For example, we are helping schools develop gardens and natural play areas, installing cisterns for rainwater harvesting to better understand the value of our watersheds, solar panels to understand renewable energy sources, and composting lunch room waste to help increase waste diversion above 75%. How would you support this momentum in our public schools?

My schools platform (See:bevandufty.com) is based on establishing strong public private partnerships and attracting resources so that every school can succeed.

Increasing Community Support

All of our efforts to make our schools better only work with intensive community support. San Francisco has the highest percentage of families who have decided not to send their children to public schools. How would you change this?

San Francisco faces a critical challenge: over 7000 children have left our public schools. Over 5000 have left the City altogether. Uneven schools and uncertainty about school assignments are driving families away.

Many of these families who opt out of our public schools could bring valuable personal and financial resources to our public schools – resources that would benefit the entire public school system. As Mayor, I'll work with our city and with our schools to keep more families in our public schools. Every child deserves a school that succeeds and is the center of the community. As a public school parent, I am committed to making our school system vibrant, effective and relevant. As Mayor, I'll champion the expansion and reauthorization of the Public Education Enrichment Fund, and make sure the City

provides critical healthcare, nutrition, afterschool, and support services so that children attend school ready to learn.

To create more jobs in San Francisco, we must focus on creating strong schools that prepare our young people for our economic future. The innovation workforce begins in schools. Our education system must serve today's families, while training the skilled workforce of tomorrow. We need to do more than ask our leaders to write checks for school programs. We need their guidance to develop career pathways in competitive workforce areas like the building trades' vocational training at John O'Connell High School and the Biotech program at Lincoln High School.

As Mayor, I will draw on my experience establishing and growing innovative programs like Mission ASAP and Kindergarten to College to galvanize education, business, community leaders and school stakeholders. Together, we can implement a long-term education agenda and develop a new capacity to innovate, scale and sustain effective teaching and learning.

My plan is to:

1. Expand opportunities for our youth to develop job skills and attend college
2. Invest in Community Schools
3. Increase language immersion programs
4. Expand access to high quality childcare

For more information, see: www.BevanDufty.com

Green Schoolyard Tours

SFGSA has found that our green schoolyard tours can change the way potential SFUSD families view our public schools. Have you toured any SFUSD green schoolyards lately?

I drop off Sidney at Rooftop every day!

Next Generation of Students

Our public schools are in crisis. Our environment is in crisis. What sort of environmental knowledge would you like the next generation of SFUSD students to graduate with, and how will you help them attain it?

Some of our students, like those in biology classes at Lincoln High School, are getting world class preparation, in part due to partnerships with local companies like Genentech. As Mayor, I will focus on building stronger connections between our business partners, artists, labor unions and our schools. Why shouldn't our children benefit from the City's growing economic strength in biotechnology, health sciences, environmental sciences, entertainment and culinary arts?

We need these partnerships to get students excited about their educational future. After two Mission High students were killed by gun violence in their neighborhood, I helped to create a program to cultivate a college-bound culture by providing access to summer

college programs, one-on-one mentoring, individualized academic guidance and college counseling services. I invited 49ers owners Denise and John York to participate, and their support has been an incredible launching point for the program. Now called Mission ASAP (missionasap.org), this program has helped triple the rate of Mission High students graduating ready for a four-year college.

As Mayor, I will line up supporters from every sector in our economy especially Building Trades organization so that we can support students learning building trades at John O'Connell, getting mentored by local artists at SOTA, and building their college savings account through Kindergarten to College. Our City's economic success must be linked with the success of schools.

Questions from the Bay Area Water Stewards

Potential New Water Sources

San Francisco imports virtually all of its water from outside the City primarily from the wild and scenic Tuolumne River (85% of SF's water supply). SFPUC is currently evaluating several potential new sources of local water supply, including greywater, recycled water, groundwater and a desalination plant on SF Bay. All of the options under consideration have generated controversy over cost (most are more expensive than our current water supply) and environmental impacts. As mayor, how would you decide which, if any of these alternatives to pursue, and how would you address the controversies surrounding your decision?

I like to say that an angry customer is my best asset. I am committed to collaborating, innovating, and working harder--that's what I've done all my life. I'm scrappy enough to roll up my sleeves every day to make this promise real- that's what I've always done- and that's what I love to do.

Stormwater Runoff and Green Spaces

The city has a combined sewer/stormwater system, which means that we spend money and energy to treat all of our stormwater as sewage. An increase in urban agriculture and greening, along with an emphasis on low-impact development, can save time, water, and money. Given the City receives an average of 20 inches of rainfall each year (the equivalent of half of our annual consumption) how would your office support these strategies?

Throughout my career I have successfully built coalitions to get things done. I have taken the time to get to know my colleagues in City government- particularly those whose jobs impact the daily lives of San Franciscans- and by engaging them we've been able to find solutions to problems that have plagued neighborhoods for years. The issue over our storm water system's efficiency is no different. I believe by bringing City leaders, advocacy groups and community members to the table, we can address this large strain on city resources.

Smart Water Usage

The City has the lowest per-capita water usage of any large City in California, because of climate, small lot size, and the fact that much of the land area is covered in impervious surfaces (buildings, streets and sidewalks). Greening the City without increasing our water usage will require smarter use of existing supplies (including stormwater, gray water and recycled water) Will you as Mayor direct the SFPUC to invest in alternative (non-system) water supplies for community garden and urban farms?

Yes

Long-term Stormwater Capture

SF's sewer system is designed to allow 10-12 combined sewer overflows annually. As sea levels continue to rise, this practice will become less and less feasible. Long-term investments in stormwater capture through green infrastructure can reduce these overflows, but cannot be accomplished by the PUC alone. What will you as Mayor do to integrate needed actions (such as design requirements, enforcement of impervious bans and new maintenance needs) into all City Departments' work plans and budgets?

I will be an Outcome Mayor. It is no secret that San Francisco is facing problems with infrastructure in a wide array of areas, one of which is our storm water system. As Mayor, it will be my goal to improve cross- department collaboration and identify funds to address stormwater capture. If we wait any longer, the costs of fixing our problems will only continue to grow.

Commission Nominee Attributes

The SF PUC sets water policy for the City. As Mayor, what attributes would you look for in candidates you nominate to serve on the commission?

I am known as a collaborative bridge builder, and I would continue that record as Mayor, particularly as it relates to appointments. I do not believe we need to look beyond our City limits to find a bright and talented workforce, and I would seek out department heads and commissioners who can build relationships with staff, listen and respond to community concerns, and, most importantly, get the job done. Beyond these attributes, I will seek someone who shares my values on the importance of sustainability and environmental protection.

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