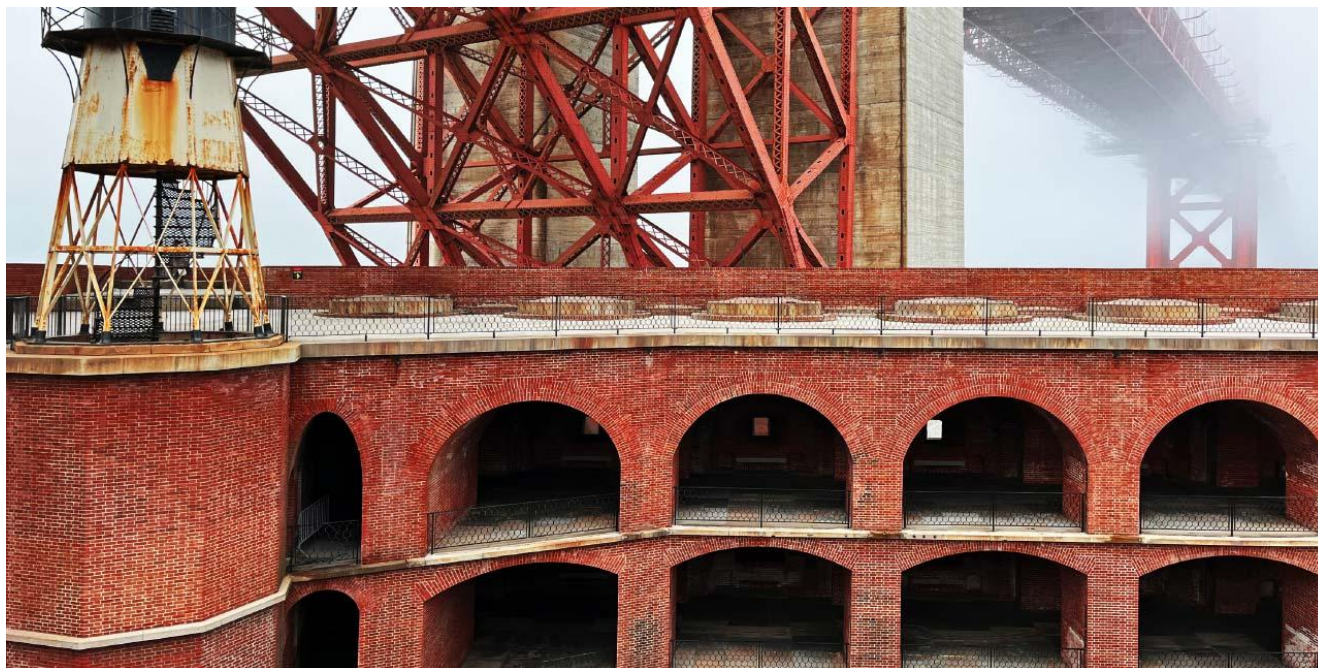


Last updated: September 21, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CURATORIAL COLLABORATORS TRANSFORM THE BASTIONS OF FORT POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE WITH LIVE PERFORMANCE AROUND FIRE PITS
FOR-SITE's *Keepers of the Fire* program series takes place Thursdays, September 28th - October 26th, 2023



San Francisco, CA, September 21st, 2023 — Presented by FOR-SITE in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (Parks Conservancy) and conceived by Founding Executive Director & Chief Curator Cheryl Haines, the *Keepers of the Fire* series invites five Bay Area curators to each program an evening of artist interventions activating the Civil War-era Fort Point National Historic Site, located at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge.

A long-standing relationship with NPS and the Parks Conservancy is making it possible for FOR-SITE to host intimate, twilight gatherings, inviting artists and public audiences to commune around fire pits for curated films, conversations, and live performances inside the bastions of the historic Fort. Guests will be guided upstairs to their seats by NPS Rangers with candle-lit lanterns.

“Fort Point National Historic Site, despite its monumental brick edifice, is exposed to the elements. It is fitting then for the five elements to serve as a reference for this program series,” shares Haines.

“Audiences will experience our vulnerability to these natural forces while reflecting on the protection offered by the hearths, not unlike the fires used by soldiers stationed at Fort Point to guard against the cold.”

On consecutive Thursdays from September 28th through October 26th, five curators will present one 90-minute-long evening program each, referencing one of the five elements; earth, fire, water, air, and ether. The invited creatives will explore topics including ancestry, heritage, renewal, place, and more.

Marking FOR-SITE's 20th anniversary year with another unprecedented project, *Keepers of the Fire* is the organization's first-ever collaboration with curators from major Bay Area institutions, including: Susan Miller, Executive Director at McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, earth; Claudia Schmuckli, Curator-in-Charge, Contemporary Art and Programming at Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, fire; Veronica Roberts, John and Jill Freidenrich Director at Cantor Arts Center, water; Frank Smigiel, Director of Arts Programming & Partnerships at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, air; Cheryl Haines, Executive Director & Chief Curator at FOR-SITE, ether.

Keepers of the Fire begins on Thursday, September 28th responding to 'earth' with a presentation of *Memories to Light*, a projected screening of Asian American home movies with a live performance by local musicians Danny Clay, Gabby Wen, and Sophia Shen, curated by Susan Miller. The film, directed and edited by Chester Canlas and Antonio Remington with an original score composed by Danny Clay and Theresa Wong, was originally commissioned by the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts and the Center

for Asian American Media, San Francisco. While *Memories to Light* was originally shown in 2021, this presentation will be revisited through a live performance in dialogue with the film.

For the fifth and final program concluding the *Keepers of the Fire* series on the evening of October 26th, Cheryl Haines, referencing 'ether', will present *River (The Water Serpent)*, artist Cannupa Hanska Luger's documentation, first presented in 2016, of his ongoing Mirror Shield Project in support of the Water Protectors at Oceti Sakowin camp near Standing Rock, ND. Local contemporary dancers Alivia Schaffer and Dazaun Soleyn, and local sound artist Miles Lassi, will perform live in response to Luger's work. The evening will conclude with a crystal bowl sound bath meditation by Sam Jackson.

Further details on the additional evenings to be announced.

In 2012, FOR-SITE presented *International Orange*, an exhibition calling public attention to the enduring landmark that is Fort Point and celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. Just over a decade later, after 20 years as a non-profit dedicated to presenting art about place, FOR-SITE returns to Fort Point National Historic Site with a new programming series that revisits the site anew while bringing the community together in preparation for future art interventions that tell its rich history.

FOR-SITE, together with the Parks, hopes that the *Keepers of the Fire* series will ultimately endure not as a five-evening activation within the fortified walls and bastions of Fort Point, but in the memory of the Bay Area community for years to come. NPS Ranger Angel Garcia shared that "the Fort was abandoned for many years, but it has always found a way to repurpose itself and redefine itself." Those who register to attend one of the free, curated programs and "...gather around a fire pit within one of the bastions of the Fort, with beautiful views through the portholes of the Bay Area in San Francisco, to hear stories about the Fort told through local artists," as Garcia says, will hopefully see how the Parks, engaged together with non-profit organizations such as FOR-SITE, are actively operating in the public trust.

About FOR-SITE

Established in 2003, FOR-SITE is dedicated to the creation, presentation, and understanding of art about place. Highly acclaimed, major FOR-SITE projects include: *Lands End* at the former Cliff House (2021-2022), *Sanctuary* (2017-2018); *Home Land Security* (2016); *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz* (2014-2015); *International Orange* (2012), a group show honoring the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge; and land-art installations by Andy Goldsworthy currently on view in the Presidio, including *Spire* (2008) and *Wood Line* (2011).

Keepers of the Fire is presented by FOR-SITE (for-site.org) in collaboration with the National Park Service (nps.gov) and the Golden Gate National National Park Conservancy (parksconservancy.org). *Keepers of the Fire* is made possible thanks to generous support from Joanna Drake & Christopher Smith, Tad J. Freese & Brook Hartzell, Peter & Beverly Lipman, Robert Joseph Louie Memorial Fund, and Claire & Holden Spaht.

About Fort Point National Historic Site

Fort Point was constructed in the 1860s at the entrance to San Francisco Bay to protect San Francisco harbor from Confederate and foreign attack during and after the American Civil War. Its arched casemates reflect master brickwork from the Civil War period. In the late 1930s, plans for the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge also involved plans to demolish Fort Point. Fortunately, the Fort's architectural value was recognized and a special arch was engineered to allow the construction of the bridge over the Fort. During World War II, Fort Point was used as temporary housing for soldiers. Through the preservation efforts of a group of retired military officers and civilian engineers, Fort Point was named a National Historic Site in 1970 and is now managed by the National Park Service and open to the public. For information and hours, visit www.nps.gov/fopo.

IMAGE: Site Views of Fort Point National Historic Site; image courtesy of FOR-SITE; photo: Lisa Ellsworth

FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS:

Program series dates:

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Point National Historic Site, Building 999, 201 Marine Drive, San Francisco, CA 94129

Admission: Free; registration required

Information: for-site.org

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