

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TNDC)
RE-OPENS AARTI HOTEL FOR HOMELESS YOUTH NEEDING
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

*Larkin Street Youth Services Provides 40 Units of Housing for
Transition-Aged Young People*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA...Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC), in partnership with **Larkin Street Youth Services**, is proud to announce the rehabilitation completion of the **Aarti Hotel**, a 40-unit single-room occupancy building built in 1907 and acquired by TNDC in 1981. All tenants are formerly homeless, at-risk Transition-Aged Youth (TAY), ages 18 to 24, that participate in Larkin Street's Routz program, which provides housing and wraparound support services for youth with serious mental health needs. A celebration for the re-opening of the **Aarti Hotel** (at **510 Ellis Street**) will take place on **Monday, March 26** from **11:30am to 1pm** and feature the building's Transition Aged Youth tenants, TNDC Executive Director **Don Falk**, Larkin Street Executive Director **Sherilyn Adams**, San Francisco Supervisor **Jane Kim**, key partners in the project, a performance by the **Larkin Street Glee Club**, refreshments, and more. The grand re-opening reception and program will take place at **Tenderloin National Forest**, adjacent to **The Luggage Store, 509 Ellis Street** followed by tours of the Aarti Hotel.

Given the trauma so many homeless youth experienced during their young lives as a result of abuse or neglect in their homes and/or due to the violence and exploitation of life on the streets, it is not surprising that so many homeless kids suffer

from mental health issues and engage in substance abuse. As the service provider, Larkin Street works closely with the **City and County of San Francisco's Community Behavioral Health Services Department**, a division of the Department of Public Health, to identify TAY tenants who are most appropriate for the Routz housing program. Once enrolled in Routz, residents have access to Larkin Street's continuum of programs and community partners. TNDC will remain the property manager and owner during Larkin Street's tenancy.

"It gives me great pride to re-open the historic Aarti Hotel that will give dozens of at-risk young adults a place to call home," said TNDC Executive Director Don Falk. "Because of our collaboration with Larkin Street, the city and our partners, these youth will have a safe and nurturing environment to help them thrive."

"One of the most profound trends among the young people Larkin Street serves is around the need for more expansive mental health services linked to housing," said Sherilyn Adams. "After years of planning with TNDC, we are thrilled to see the project conclude and create a more robust and service-rich housing option for these vulnerable youth."

With a design by **Asian Neighborhood Design** and **Okamoto Saijo Architecture** and built by **AmOne Construction**, the rehabilitation scope included the complete remodel of the ground floor commercial space to include counseling offices, a community room and a computer lab. The residential floors received a new laundry room, upgraded kitchens, living rooms, wash closets, and shower rooms. All 40 residential units received new furniture, unit doors and windows. This spring TNDC will utilize its remaining grant funding to repaint the building exterior and install a new roof.

Financing sources came from the **City and County of San Francisco, Mayor's**

Office of Housing (CDBG); City and County of San Francisco, Department of Public Health (MHSA-CBHS); Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco; Affordable Housing Program; Silicon Valley Bank (AHP Sponsor Bank) and NeighborWorks America.

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Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC)

Founded in 1981, TNDC's mission is to provide safe, affordable housing with support services for low-income people in the Tenderloin community and be a leader in making the neighborhood a better place to live. TNDC owns and manages 30 buildings that provide homes for over 3,000 extremely low-income seniors, families, people with disabilities, emancipated youth from the foster care system, and formerly homeless individuals recovering from substance abuse or mental illness. In addition, TNDC provides support services to help residents stabilize their lives and develop a sense of community, including a team of 25 on-site social workers, the free TNDC Tenderloin After-School Program for neighborhood children, and a Community Organizing program to encourage residents to get involved in making positive change in the Tenderloin. More information about TNDC and its programs can be found at www.tndc.org.

Larkin Street Youth Services

San Francisco's Larkin Street Youth Services is an internationally recognized leader in providing effective housing, medical, social and educational services to at-risk, homeless and runaway youth. Three out of four youth who complete the organization's comprehensive programs exit street life. Larkin Street reaches youth ages 12 - 24 through 15 locations and 25 programs. For more information, please visit www.larkinstreetyouth.org.