



Timeline of Forces Impacting the Mayfair Community

Background

Present forces – We identified four staff/board members to wear a costume and read a script using four different voices representing the Mayfair neighborhood, the Americas, Corporations and Popular Movements to describe present day forces in the most negative light. Following a posted timeline on the wall, each took turns as we moved through time. We asked the audience to respond to what they heard, what surprised them, what they felt about it. We closed the discussion with by saying that these outcomes are uncertain, and are not inevitable. We create the future with our hands today....

Narrative

Nov. 15, 2007

Four Voices: Mayfair, People's Movements, Corporations, The Americas

Narrative to be read in following order:

1. Mayfair

- 4.5 billion years ago The Earth forms.
- 1.8 million years ago The Santa Clara Valley is created by the sudden uprising of the Santa Cruz and Diablo mountains.
- 10,000 years ago The Ohlone people begin settling the area from San Francisco to Monterey Bay, living in over 50 distinct villages and groups.

2. The Americas

- 5,000 years ago Norte Chico, Peru emerges as one of the two original centers of civilization in the world.
- 4,000 years ago Large scale corn cultivation begins in the Americas.
- 2,000 BCE –1500 CE Many different civilizations rule parts of what is now Mexico. The Cochise people begin migrating from present day U.S. Southwest eventually settling in the Valley of Mexico and establishing the Mexica (Aztec) society.

3. The Americas

- 1492 Christopher Columbus initiates the European invasion of the Americas. Over the next 100 years, 95% of the population is killed by conquest and disease.
- 1519-21 Hernando Cortez lands in Mexico, leads an armed struggle, and conquers the Mexica/Aztec empire for gold and for Spain.
- 1542 Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo claims California for Spain as its northwestern most colony.

4. Corporations

- 1407 The first corporation is chartered by the King England. By the late 1500's corporations are stealing resources and enslaving people for profit throughout the globe.
- 1609 The Virginia Company, and in 1628 the Massachusetts Bay Company, are chartered by the King of England to settle the east coast of North America as corporations.
- 1600's-1850's Indentured servants from England, slaves from Africa, and indigenous people are forced to work in the new colonies in agriculture, domestic service and construction.

5. People's Movements

- 1776 American people revolt against King of England claiming the end of taxation and the start of a new government.
- Knowing the power of corporations, founders of the new United States limit the scope of the corporation's activities for the public good.

6. The Americas

- 1769 Spanish King Carlos III decides that Spain must physically occupy California or risk losing it. Large tracts of lands are granted to descendents of Spanish soldiers.
- 1777 Father Junipero Serra establishes 21 missions throughout California for Spain. Santa Clara de Asis Mission is number eight.

7. Mayfair

- 1769-1839 Spanish settlements and missions bring tremendous upheaval, hardship and decimation to the Ohlone people.
- 1777 Farming begins along the Guadalupe River in order to grow food for the Santa Clara Mission and for Spanish forts. Soon after the Pueblo de San Jose Guadalupe is founded.

8. The Americas

- 1787 The U.S. Constitution is ratified. Citizens are defined as white, property-owning males. Male African slaves are defined as 3/5 of a person for the purposes of establishing the House of Representatives. Women are not counted as persons.
- 1798 U.S. government can deport "dangerous" non-citizens under the Alien and Sedition Act.

9. People's Movements

- 1700's-1800's Hundreds of slave rebellions and insurrections take place in U.S.
- 1821 The people's army of Mexico wins independence from Spain, claiming the end of taxation and the start of a new government.

10. The Americas

- 1846-48 The U.S. declares war on Mexico seizing 55% of Mexican land, including California.

11. Mayfair

- 1850's New Almaden mine just outside of San José extracts mercury for an international market, employing an estimated 2,000 Mexican and Chileans.

12. People's Movements

- 1865 Six hundred Mexican workers at the New Almaden mine organize the first documented work stoppage in Santa Clara Valley.

13. The Americas

- 1862 The Homestead Act encourages Anglos to migrate to western U.S. and to settle there.

14. People's Movements

- 1865 Slavery legally ends in the U.S. through the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.
- 1870 The 15th Amendment grants them the right to vote in federal (but not state) elections.

15. Mayfair

- 1870 Artesian well discovered under entire Santa Clara Valley making it fertile for large scale orchards of almonds, apricots, plums, walnuts, cherries and pears.
- 1871 First family-owned fruit packing company opens in San José. For the next 100 years canneries boom, offering good wages and year-round jobs.

16. The Americas

- 1910-20 Mexican Revolution and Civil War. U.S. troops are sent to Mexico border to protect U.S. interests. Ten percent of the Mexican male population moves north, many to California to work in the fields.

17. Mayfair

- 1920's Immigrant cannery workers begin buying land and building homes in east San José. Mexican neighborhood of Mayfair forms furthest east of city limits to retain cultural traditions and identity.

18. The Americas

- Early 1930's Forced off their land by over farming and the depression, Anglos and African Americans migrate to California in search of work in the fields.
- 1931-34 Two million Mexicans are deported; 1.2 million of whom are Mexican Americans born in the U.S.

19. People's Movements

- 1920 Anglo women are granted the right to vote after more than 70 years of struggle.
- 1932 Highlander Center opens in Tennessee for poor people to meet, to learn from each other and to organize for civil rights, environmental justice, and immigrant rights in the U.S.

20. Corporations

- 1944 Modern globalization is born as economists and politicians develop plans for a new World Bank to make loans to developing countries. Corporations are granted greater mobility, and rights to override countries' labor and environmental laws.
- 1947 Hewlett Packard incorporates in Palo Alto leading the transformation of the "Valley of Heart's Delight" to the "Silicon Valley" and the eventual domination of high-tech industry.

21. The Americas

- 1940's Anglo and African American farm workers leave Santa Clara Valley for better paying factory jobs in L.A. and San Diego during WWII.
- 1942-64 *Bracero* Program imports temporary workers from Mexico to provide inexpensive and controllable labor for U.S. agricultural industry.
- 1954 Operation Wetback targets Mexican American communities in search of "illegal immigrants". More than 100,000 people are deported and hundreds of thousands more leave voluntarily out of fear.

22. Mayfair

- 1940's-50's Mexican neighborhood of east San José named *Sal Si Puedes* (Get Out if You Can) due to street flooding and mud from Silver Creek, toxins from cannery waste, discrimination, and police violence.
- 1952-53 Cesar Chavez lives in *Sal Si Puedes* and organizes Mexican Americans to vote and to gain better living conditions.
- 1955 Mayfair is incorporated into city of San Jose and its streets are paved.

23. People's Movements

- 1962 Paulo Freire, grandfather of popular education, teaches Brazilian sugarcane workers to read and write. Based on Freire's work, Augusto Boal develops his revolutionary Forum Theater and Theater of the Oppressed. Both are exiled by the Brazilian government.
- 1965 Nation-wide grape boycott is organized by the United Farm Workers led by Cesar Chavez.
- 1970's La Raza Unida Party forms to build Chicano electoral power.

24. Mayfair

- 1960's Silver Creek is paved over to reduce flooding during the rainy season.
- 1960's-1990's Rapid growth in the Silicon Valley leads to new homes and office parks in east San José. Canneries move out of town to be closer to orchards and fields. Highway 680 extends to Oakland, cutting through the center of the Mayfair neighborhood.

25. Corporations

- 1981 In exchange for loans by the World Bank, developing countries must cut spending on education and social services. In debt, Mexico agrees to World Bank cuts. Poverty throughout the country skyrockets.
- U.S. corporations quadruple the number of *maquiladoras* across the Mexico border, creating thousands of low-wage and unsafe jobs.
- 1988 Still in debt, Mexico gives away all rights to corn production to U.S. corporations. By 1990 40% of all beans sold in Mexico are imported from U.S. corporations.
- 1994 North American Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA) are signed by Mexico, U.S. and Canada giving corporations unprecedented rights to movement and trade between countries. The Mexican economy collapses.

26. People's Movements

- 1994 An Indian peasant rebellion erupts in Chiapas, Mexico, coinciding with the signing of NAFTA. Zapatistas begin revolutionary movement for autonomy and self-determination.

27. The Americas

- U.S. begins building wall at U.S.-Mexico border. In California, Operation Gatekeeper militarizes border with new steel walls, helicopter patrols, night vision and electronic surveillance equipment.

- Proposition 187 passes in California which prohibits providing public education, welfare and health services to undocumented residents – eventually it is defeated in courts.
- Three major bills affecting immigrants are passed which increases jailing of nonviolent, non criminal immigrants; allows deportation of immigrants for minor crimes; and ends financial and medical assistance for most immigrants.

28. Mayfair

- 1996 Hewlett Foundation, Community Foundation Silicon Valley and Mayfair residents begin planning changes they want to make to address poverty, fear and violence in the neighborhood.
- 1997-2003 During its first six years, the Mayfair Initiative removes the concrete covering Silver Creek, restores the community garden, installs street lights, and paints murals throughout the community. The *Casa en Casa* program utilizes promotores to enroll 1,000 children in health insurance. The Initiative negotiates affordable rents at the new Tierra Encantada housing project and pressures for adult education classrooms to be built in the new Mayfair Community Center.

29. Corporations

- 1999 A new millionaire is created every 30 seconds in the Silicon Valley.
- 2000 The earning power of the Mexican minimum wage drops 72% in the five years since NAFTA passed.

30. People's Movements

- 1999 Popular protests by human rights and environmental groups, organized labor, students and activists shut down the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle concerning the rules of trade between nations.
- 2001 First annual World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre, Brazil as an alternative to the World Trade talks. This movement is made up of poor people who want to create a better world.
- 2002 Neighborhood assemblies spring up in cities throughout Argentina as people seek to create a new form of direct democracy during the economic collapse caused by the World Bank.

31. The Americas

- 2001 After Sept. 11 attacks, the stage is set for national security to be based on immigration policies. Congress passes U.S. Patriot Act trading civil liberties for increased security.

32. Mayfair

- 2004 The Mayfair Initiative transitions to independence from the Hewlett Foundation. The promotor program continues. Popular education and popular theater begin to be used to engage the community and mobilize them to take action for change.

33. People's Movements

- 2005 Coalition of Immokalee workers made up of undocumented farm workers in Florida win a victory for living wages against corporation food giant, Taco Bell after years of popular education, organizing and boycotts.

34. Mayfair

- 2006 Mayfair residents join the largest street march in San José history. 100,000 people demonstrate for immigrant rights. Mayfair Initiative joins national movement to Mobilize the Immigrant Vote.

35. People's Movement

- 500,000 students, teachers, and others march and occupy the streets and the media in Oaxaca, Mexico demanding the resignation of corrupt, right-wing governor.

36. The Americas

- Immigration reform fails at the national level. Issues are highly charged as an estimated 12 million undocumented people live in the U.S., working mainly in agriculture, service and construction. Policymaking moves to the state and city level.

37. People's Movements

- First U.S. Social Forum is held in Atlanta, attended by 10,000 people and grassroots organizations from throughout the U.S. to build popular resistance to U.S. global domination from within.

38. Mayfair

- Mayfair Improvement Initiative changes its name to *Somos Mayfair* (We Are Mayfair) claiming pride in culture and community. *Somos Mayfair* attends first US Social Forum.