mission possible: a neighborhood atlas

darin jensen
diensen@berkeley.edu
MISSION POSSIBLE

A Neighborhood Atlas

A Mission Loc@l and CAGE Lab Collaboration
Noise often comes to mind when imagining urban environments. Garbage trucks, sidewalk chatter, and sirens assail the ears of urbanites. How can a neighborhood’s soundscape be mapped?

Using an analog sound pressure meter, samples were gathered at various intersections in the Mission District on a Saturday night in April. At each intersection, one-minute samples were taken and the resulting minimum and maximum sound pressures were noted.

**Decibel Levels (dB)**

Because the decibel scale is exponential, each successive increase corresponds to a greater increase of perceived “loudness” (sound pressure).
Running and cycling are not just forms of exercise, but also great ways to explore your neighborhood.

Suggested Runs
- Start
- Finish
- Easy
- Medium
- Hard

Facilities
1. 24 Hr Fitness
2. Bianchi Fitness
3. Live Fit Gym
4. Burn SF
5. Adaba Cappoera
6. Body Fi
7. JiK Studio
8. Valencia St Muscle

Cross-Training
- Swimming Pool
- Mission Cliffs
- Bike Lanes

Post-Workout Snacks
- Mitchell’s
- Bi-Rite Creamery
- Yotopia
- Xanath
- La Copa-Loca
- Humphrey Slocombe
- Nubl Yogurt

Hydration
- Drinking Fountain

MISSION POSSIBLE: A NEIGHBORHOOD ATLAS
0.5 km 0.5 mi
CHRIS FUENTES - MAP MMXI-0006
Mission: Airways
Above the Street Grid
Communication & Transportation

The Mission’s sidewalks are bustling with urban life—hold this map above your head and you will turn this situation upside-down, discovering an equally busy world in the air.

- Traffic signals dangle over intersections, flashing color-coded messages.
- Trees sprout from the sidewalk to create living architecture—bark pillars topped with emerald capitals. They shade pedestrians, house birds, and sequester carbon. Their genetic material is carried through the city on the wind.
- Cell phone towers repeat residents’ messages around the world.
- Billboards send marketers’ messages.
- Solar panels atop roofs capture the sun’s rays.
- Electrified Muni lines power the buses that travel our streets.
- Thousands of cars zoom above street level on the freeway.
- Pigeons and other city birds transcend these borders as they swoop and soar, flit, and float from BART stations to power lines to parks.

Sources: SF Healthy Development Measurement Tool, SF GIS Data Site, SFMTA, SF Audubon Chapter
High-end coffee shops and local roasters have increased their presence in the Mission neighborhood over the last decade. How this may change the cultural landscape can be seen in a comparison with census data.
The moon/missed connection pairing of this map was inspired by the voxations finding that "man/woman" outweighs any other gender/gender description in personal ads listed on Craigslist's "Missed Connections" section for the Mission. If gibbous (more than half full) and crescent moons were correlated to the day of a post, could a pattern emerge of ms or ws that favor particular moons? One result of interest was that the only moon under which women's posts outnumbered men's was the first quarter moon.

Menstruation in humans averages 29.5 days, the interval of the lunar month. Ovulation tends to occur during the "dark period" of the lunar cycle, from the last quarter to first quarter moon.

The data sample here is inadequate to make assertions about full-moon-bewitched Craigslisters or which moons prompt anyone besides a hetero male to instigate connection via an online listing. What remains is questions: If women are associated with nature through bodily metaphors, does this include men from ties to moon phases? Does the moon affect human impulse? Why does the "m" and "w" binary persist despite the fact that many have no use for it? Why do heterosexual men post missed connections when the "connection" was the element most lacking in the incident?

Sources: Craigslist, US Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department

Mission: Missed Connections and the Moon
March-April 2011

"Glasses, backpack. 24th St. BART-Mission District. 25yrs. I know you this morning (4/21) around 10 AM at the 24th St. Mission BART station. You were wearing round glasses, and you had a tanish backpack on with leather straps. You were standing on the East Bay side of the platform. I wasn't in such a rush to get to work. I would've stopped and asked you to get coffee with me. Please find me!"

"Translympic getting beaten 16th and mission (mission district). Last night I got beaten by two strangers on 16th and mission and then I was sexually assaulted by a thord while everyone watched. Did anyone happen to catch this on video? I would really appreciate it if you could send me whatever info you have, I know a lot of people were there."

"You can't light your match - waw (mission district): "The first time we met you lit your tastes in on fire. You can't light your own match, and I miss my friend. Every day we both screwed up, but I'm still here believing in second chance. Second impressions perhaps."
intranational international boulevard

darin jensen
diensen@berkeley.edu

cage
International Boulevard is designated, by the City of Oakland, a Transit Oriented Development. This means that future development is geared toward developing jobs and housing near transit hubs in order to increase accessibility. Affordable housing has been difficult to ensure in places of increasing property value, like many developing areas in Oakland. The definition of "affordable" is spending <30% of Annual Median Income (AMI) on housing. Sites in prime locations with a less than a 2 minute walk to public transit have a higher chance of increased prices and therefore a decrease of affordable housing stock.
Asthma often starts in childhood, making it the most common chronic disease for children. Asthma onset is associated with environmental factors, such as secondhand smoke, and chemical and air pollution. Extreme air pollution is known to increase the amount of hospital admissions for asthma related issues. In Oakland, air pollution created by the manufacturing industry and the Port of Oakland may be increasing the rates of childhood asthma.
Signs of Diversity
The Language of Signage Along International Boulevard in Oakland's Fruitvale District

Oakland's International Boulevard is known for housing myriad diverse cultures. An investigation of business signage along International Boulevard delineates neighborhood boundaries based on language, rather than the city-defined borders.

Sources: data collected by cartographers; image from Creative Commons
Cartographers: Mia Wachtel and Daniel Anthony Contreras Jr.