

That's how you do it! Ms. San Francisco Leather, SoMa Bar Crawl at Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District

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by Race Bannon

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Left to right: Matt Haney, San Francisco District 6 Supervisor; Beth Hunt, Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District Manager; Lex Montiel, owner of the SF Eagle; and Honey Mahogany, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Matt Haney, as they reached the soon to be finished Eagle Plaza

Crawling around SoMa

On Thursday, February 6, the Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District, along with District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney, sponsored a South of Market bar crawl. I did the entire crawl with at least 50 other people in attendance as we started at The Stud and moved on to the Powerhouse, Hole in the Wall, The Lone Star Saloon, and ended up at the SF Eagle. I loved that the District sponsored this event, which gave attendees a chance to mingle with some of the District staff and Board and learn about the great work the District has planned for the future.

Beth Hunt, the Cultural District Manager, said this about the crawl.

"The bar crawl was a great success! We were honored to have Supervisor Matt Haney and the new director off SFMTA Jeffrey Tumlin join in the fun. We look forward to future collaborations with all our guests from West CBD, SF Pride, and D6. This is how we build a stronger neighborhood."

To ensure that the District has sufficient community input, they are hosting a Town Hall gathering on Wednesday, March 25, from 6pm to 9pm in the Rainbow Room at the San Francisco LGBT Center at 1800 Market Street.

During the Town Hall, the District will provide highlights of their work and vision, present plans for developing a long-term strategy (a CHHESS report and seek community input through breakout groups. So, if you want to influence the future of the District, attend this event and participate in a breakout group. Anyone with a stake in the District's success is welcome.

Mark your calendars also for Saturday, May 9. That's when the District will be hosting its official Launch Event at Folsom Street Foundry, 5pm-9pm, showcasing various aspects of the District. There will be performances, food from local restaurants, leather demonstrations, a bootblack, and a maker's market with community vendors, craftspeople, and artists. Admission is free. While wearing the leather or gear that makes you feel sexy is encouraged, it's not required.

We are so lucky to live in a city that has the open-minded heart to have a Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District in the first place, and even luckier that it's actively engaging with its local community constituents in such a welcoming and inclusive manner.

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