



Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition
<http://sdrpc.mkgarden.org/>

To City Parks Foundation

January 29, 2018

Parks Department recently invited Anina Gerchick's BirdLink into the Sara Roosevelt Park. We support this living breathing work of art not only because it will excite the community's curiosity on the issue of birds and their habitat, but also simply as a piece of beauty in an often derelict section of SDR Park.

We have five stewarded community gardens here. The long-standing gardens have richly planted and dense foliage. As Gardeners we've begun to slowly incorporate indigenous plant species to better support the bird and insect life here. One garden is a bird 'sanctuary' for Hua Mei bird lovers who bring their songbirds to a designated and volunteer tended section of this Park. One garden supports chickens that, though not wild, have been the first time some of the children here have ever seen these birds.

We have had the Urban Park Rangers hold bird education walks and we've begun to have a more dedicated Audubon Society presence in the park with birdwalks offered by their volunteers for local schools and neighbors. We have a Sharp-Shinned Hawk and several Red Tail Hawks hunting actively here and a few of our gardeners and bird lovers will be joining the Parks Departments new Wildlife unit in tracking raptors here.

We hope to continue and broaden the neighborhood's knowledge and care for the park by reminding them of the complex and interesting web of life right where we live. Anina's sculpture comes at a good time to weave all of these projects together.

We are eager to see her well thought-out and handsomely executed bird planting wall and all the subsequent community and school engagement that she intends for this project.

It is a welcome addition to our continual efforts to bring nature, a love of science and caring for the environment into the lives of our local community.

With appreciation,

Yours,

K

K Webster
President
Sara Roosevelt Park Coalition
http://sdrpc.mkgarden.org

