

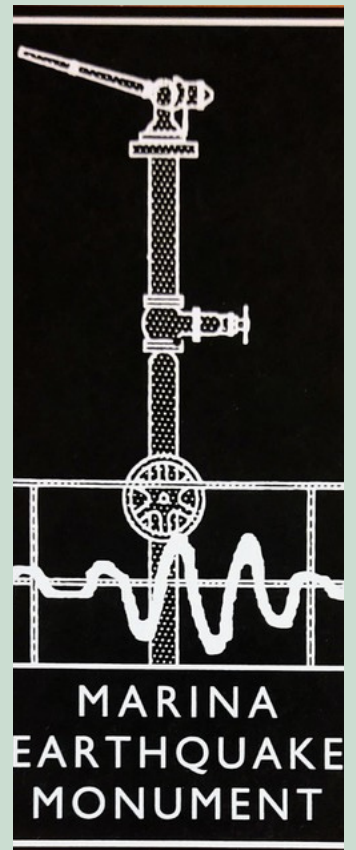
Welcome to the 33rd commemoration of

the Loma Prieta Earthquake

AND HONORING OF

The work of the Marina Earthquake Monument
Group (mEQm) and creation of the Neighborhood
Emergency Response Team (NERT)

mEQm cannot thank all of you enough for joining us today. We would especially like to thank the San Francisco Fire Credit Union for the graphic design of our logo (Alberic Rivera) and the promotional pieces they generously created for us, SF Parks Alliance for being the fiscal sponsor and the SF Arts Commission. Additionally, the support of Mayor Gavin Newsom, the SF Fire Department - former Chief Hayes-White, Chief Erica Arteseros Brown, Lt. Jonathan Baxter, PIO, Chief Frank Blackburn (ret.) and now Chief Jeanine Nicholson - sustained this project through the many years it took to be realized.



The Loma Prieta Earthquake struck San Francisco on Oct. 17th, 1989 at 5:04 pm. The Marina District was badly damaged due to liquefaction which caused the collapse of many buildings. Water mains cracked and ruptured gas mains caused structural fires. The SFFD Fireboat Phoenix along with the Portable Water Supply System (PWSS) - created in S.F. by Asst. Chief Frank Blackburn, Ret. - saved the Marina from a major conflagration. The Phoenix drew water from S.F. Bay while citizens spontaneously joined firefighters laying the hose, with the portable hydrants, many blocks away.

This was the grassroots beginnings of the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) and the Marina Earthquake Monument (mEQm) group, whose mission has been to create a monument to remember the Loma Prieta earthquake and its impact on the Bay Area; to honor the Phoenix, the SFFD, and the NERT program; and to educate the public about the importance of disaster preparedness. There is an historical connection between the 1906 Earthquake, the 1915 Pan-Pacific Exposition (PPIE), and the Marina District: The PPIE was created to showcase San Francisco's recovery from the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire; the Marina District was created with land fill for the building of the PPIE; and it is the land fill that caused the liquefaction damage in 1989! The SF Arts Commission took over the mEQm monument project in 2014 after initial public funding was arranged by Supervisor Mark Farrell, and after numerous designs, finally commissioned the sculpture which now stands in front of Station 35.

