



## **A restored Sunnyside opens with historic look, new possibilities**

San Francisco (Dec. 1, 2009) — BCCI, a premier commercial construction firm, is proud to announce that San Francisco's Sunnyside neighborhood will officially open its renovated Sunnyside Conservatory this Saturday with a ribbon cutting. The City Landmark No. 78 had become a neglected historic landmark, but with the completed renovation will now be used as a new community center.

The 111-year old Sunnyside Conservatory on Monterey Boulevard was originally part of a larger private estate constructed at the turn of the 20th-century. It was built as an extension of the outer grounds and housed a wide collection of plants that were of special interest to the original owners.

Owned since 1980 by the City, the Conservatory and its grounds had undergone only minor restoration and safety upgrades. Over the years, the Conservatory had become a makeshift site for weekend art workshops and other community events, though it lacked the space and accommodations to adequately support these programs. The City's Recreation & Park Department and the neighborhood group The Friends of Sunnyside Conservatory wanted the site renovated to make it vibrant and functional, while preserving its historic integrity. With its new use, the Conservatory will also be a venue to be rented for private events

BCCI was awarded a City's construction contract for the renovation of Sunnyside Conservatory, with major upgrades including reinforcing the building's structure, seismic upgrades, façade work, improving security, ADA accessibility, landscaping and new irrigation systems and controls. Throughout the work, materials and colors were matched with the aesthetic appearance of the building from when it was originally built.

"It was imperative that we preserve the historic fabric of the site," said John McKernan, vice president of the Building Restoration+ Structures division for BCCI. "That was as critical as achieving the functionality goals."

BCCI used a combination of old and new elements in the restoration, such as incorporating reclaimed wood within the structural framing and panels, and hanging a new custom made chandelier from the dome ceiling.

During renovation, BCCI worked simultaneously with the project landscape architect and consultant arborist and palm specialist to address challenges such as the protection of the mature palms and pine trees during construction activities. The current landscaping is an integral part of the historic and landmark status of the Conservatory and minimizing impact to the grounds was a requirement of the project. In addition, new wrought iron gates and signage was installed, and new accessible ramp and pathways were provided as part of the landscape redesign.

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### **About BCCI**

BCCI is a leading commercial contractor, headquartered in San Francisco with an office in Palo Alto serving the Greater Bay Area. Established in 1986, BCCI provides a full range of construction services to include new building, structural renovation, historic restoration, seismic upgrades, commercial interiors, preconstruction services, sustainable construction and LEED consulting. For more information, please visit [www.bcciconst.com](http://www.bcciconst.com).