

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Project Name **Beyond Homelessness: Alternatives to Traditional Shelters** Location **San Francisco and Berkeley, CA**  
 Owner **Several owners including City/County of San Francisco, Chemical Awareness & Treatment Services, Travelers Aid, etc.**  
 Project Use(s) **Drop-In Center, Multi-Service Centers, Transitional Housing, Housing for the Formerly Homeless, Family Housing**  
 Project Size **Sizes vary: from an 1,100 foot drop-in center to a 56,000 <sup>square foot</sup> multi-service homeless center.** Total Development Cost **Cost: Several projects; N.A.**

Annual Operating Budget (if appropriate) **Not applicable**  
 Date Initiated **As early as 1983; most 1990-92.** Percent Completed, Dec. 30, 1992 **75-100%**  
 Projected Completion Date (if appropriate) **Some complete already; others will be complete by 1993. See abstract.**

(Attach, if you wish, a list of relevant project dates)

Application submitted by:  
 Name **Maurice Lim Miller**  
 Title **Executive Director**  
 Organization **Asian Neighborhood Design**  
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**Key Participants (Attach an additional sheet if needed)**

Organization	Key Person	Telephone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Agencies</b> <b>Mayor's Office of Housing</b>	<b>Jon Pon</b>	<b>(415) 554-8952</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Developer</b> <b>Chinese Community Housing Corporation</b> <i>(one of several developers)</i>	<b>Gordon Chin</b>	<b>(415) 984-1450</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Professional consultants:</b> <b>Asian Neighborhood Design</b>	<b>Harry Ja Wong</b>	<b>(415) 982-2959</b>
Architect		
Landscape architect		
Urban designer		
Planner		
Lawyer		
Other		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Community group(s)</b> <b>Chemical Awareness &amp; Treatment Services</b>	<b>Cynthia Bellon</b>	
<b>S.F. Homeless Task Force</b>	<b>Bryan Boyd</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Sponsor</b>		

Please indicate how you learned of the Rudy Bruner Award in Urban Excellence.

mailing                       media                       previous RBA entrant                       other

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## ABSTRACT

Project Name Beyond Homelessness: Alternatives to Traditional Shelters

Location San Francisco and Berkeley, California

1. Describe briefly the project's design and implementation.

Working throughout the Bay Area with community and neighborhood groups, service providers, non-profit housing corporations and governmental agencies, Asian Neighborhood Design (A.N.D.) has been an integral partner in a comprehensive plan to break the cycle of homelessness. The city of San Francisco initially developed the concept in their "Beyond Shelter" program, and A.N.D., a non-profit community agency, has provided architectural services for a variety of projects that have implemented key elements of this comprehensive plan as well as other projects.

### The plan involves:

1. Initial intake
2. Drop-in Center
3. Multi-Service Center (MSC)
4. Transitional Housing with on-site social services
5. Permanent housing

### Related projects in San Francisco (except as noted) include:

(start/completion dates in parentheses)

1. Transbay Homeless Outreach Project (1992/1992)
2. McMillan Drop-in Center (1992/1992)
3. North of Market MSC (1990/1992)  
South of Market MSC (1989/1991)
4. Cambridge Hotel (1988/1991)
5. San Christina (1990/1993)  
Madrid Hotel (1983/1986)  
Park View Hotel (1983/1986)  
U.A. Homes, Berkeley, CA (1990/1992)  
Stark Hotel, Berkeley, CA (1991/1993)

2. What local urban issues did this project address? What were its goals? Were there issues that, in your judgement, might have been addressed but were not?

**Responses to Homelessness.** The quick-fix approach has been to provide temporary substandard shelter without any supportive social services that will assist the homeless to break the cycle of homelessness. The goals of the comprehensive plan, instead, are to provide **consolidated social services**, including client counseling and follow-up, as well as food and shelter, at the MSCs. The MSCs further assess the homeless needs and build upon the skills they have in order to **achieve stability and structure** in their lives. With guidance and assistance from the MSCs, the homeless are directed toward **transitional housing with on-site social services**. Other projects provide **intake and social service referrals**. **Transitional housing with on-site social services** allows the formerly homeless to worry less about their housing needs and to focus on the skills they will need to acquire independent living. **Permanent housing**, including the Berkeley projects and the San Christina which are designated for the formerly homeless, will further reinforce the supportive services a person needs in the transition back to a **stable living situation and self-sufficiency**. One element of the comprehensive plan that would need further development is the expansion of **job creation opportunities** for the homeless. For example, the non-profit housing corporation of the San Christina renovation project will require the general contractor to hire homeless people in meaningful positions as part of the work force. The ground floor will also be developed as retail/commercial space that will employ the homeless.

3. Describe the financing of the project. Do you think it could be replicated?

The financing of the projects has been developed from a variety of resources including Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), banking institutions, community substance abuse prevention programs and private contributions. As a result, most of the projects have been developed from a public/private partnership that could be replicated throughout the nation.

4. Why does the project merit the Ruby Bruner Award for Excellence in the Urban Environment?

The projects address the demanding urban social condition of homelessness with a solution that can be replicated in diverse communities across the nation. The projects also establish a framework that encourages the interactive partnership and resources of the public, private, community and non-profit agencies to link together to solve one of today's most visible social deficiencies. As the perspectives note, the projects have been successful in significantly improving the living situations of the homeless already.