



## A note from Dr. Susan Ehrlich, CEO

### Beautiful Resilience

Having resilience one of the keys to surviving the COVID pandemic. This is true both at home and at work, as our lives have been turned upside down in every way imaginable. Each day balancing work at ZSFG, family life with two teenagers, and basic self-care among other things reminds me of the importance of resilience.

Supporting resilience comes in many ways. One of the remarkable ways this is being supported on our campus is by our unsung heroes in our facilities and groundskeeping team: Anile Woods, David Carroll, Mario Reyna and Everett Pinkney. They have always been so resourceful in keeping our grounds safe and beautiful: their newest project uses our current circumstances to commemorate and further beautify our grounds.

This latest project is the Resilience Garden, tucked in near Buildings 30, 40 and 9. Dedicated to all ZSFG staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, it connects the historic role of SFGH in infectious crises in San Francisco: from the Bubonic Plague in 1900, the Spanish Flu in 1918, HIV/AIDS beginning in the 1980s, and now COVID-19 in 2020.

When I asked Anile how she came up with this ingenious idea, she thoughtfully answered: “The idea really came from my deep frustration over why our flags aren't at half mast, why we don't have a national day of mourning, why we as a society aren't recognizing the pain and struggle of what we have been going through.... coupled with my love of the history of this place and how our hospital has been an important touchstone through the historic plagues and pandemics of the last 100 years.”

Knowing that our historic fountain had to be moved, and with her knowledge from time working at the SF Botanical Gardens, she came up with the idea for the Resilience Garden, shown in the photographs below:



The photographs below the garden show the component pieces. On the left is the fountain that sat in the B/C parking lot on our grounds, circa 1938. That historic fountain was lovingly removed from the lot in pieces to facilitate construction of the UCSF Research and Academic Building. Now, some of the pieces are artfully arranged in the garden.

On the right is a mature Wollemi Pine. Thought to be extinct, it was rediscovered in Australia in 1994. Now it is being planted around the world in hopes of reviving the species. Though, there are not many planted in public spaces, Anile acquired one from the SF Arboretum (funded by our Cheers team) to plant here. It is only about 7 feet now but will grow into the stately adult in the photo. She has more ideas to continue to improve the garden – keep an eye on it!

Our gardener teams' mission is to maintain safe and comfortable green spaces to provide respite for staff, patients and visitors. I hope that you will join me in thanking this small but mightily remarkable crew for the amazing work they do every day to lovingly, creatively and compassionately caring for the 23 acres on which we reside.

Have a great week, everyone. Together, we will get through this as we always do, better than before –

***Susan***

