The Fillmore Mural Key

The Wells Fargo Community Mural Program is dedicated to creating unique, custom-designed, historical artwork that respects the community’s legacy, celebrates its diversity, and honors the past upon which the community was founded.

Images Courtesy Of: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library • William P. Gottlieb/Ira and Leonore S. Gershwin Fund Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress • The Estate of Mercer K. Ellington, Paul M. Ellington, Executor • Wells Fargo Corporate Archives

Wells Fargo wagon and driver in San Francisco, c. 1887. By 1888, Wells Fargo became the country’s first nationwide express company; with the famed wagon delivering goods in communities across the county. (WFCA)

By 1918, Wells Fargo had 10,000 offices from “Ocean to Ocean” and “From Over the Sea.” (WFCA)

Advertisement for Wells Fargo express and banking services, 1886. (WFCA)

A Market Street Railway car on Fillmore Street, c. late 1800s. The rail line was an important factor in the development of the neighborhood’s business district, especially following the 1906 earthquake and fire. (SFPL)

Fillmore Street arches, 1926. Fourteen illuminated arches were built between Fulton and Sacramento streets in 1907 to bring shoppers back to the area. New residents also relocated to the neighborhood, including members of the Japanese, Jewish, and African American communities. (SFPL)

Wells Fargo ‘First of Exchange’ for $540 in gold issued to C. C. Richards, San Francisco, 1871. When miners wished to send money back east, they traded their gold for a convenient Wells Fargo paper bill of exchange that could be easily carried or mailed and cashed in distant locations. (WFCA)

Duke Ellington and his orchestra, c. 1946. During the 1940s, Fillmore Street jazz clubs hosted the era’s major musical talents, including Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Duke Ellington. (Photographer William P. Gottlieb, Library of Congress)

Lafayette Square, established in 1867. Despite early litigation over the park’s ownership, it was at one time home to an observatory, and also served as a tent camp for refugees of 1906 earthquake. (SFPL)

View of San Francisco Bay from Pacific Avenue and Fillmore Street, May 7, 1949. The tower tops of the Golden Gate Bridge can be seen above the fog, while the Marina District and dome of the Palace of Fine Arts is visible below. (SFPL)

Ice skaters at Winterland, 1940. Located at Post and Steiner streets, the multi-use venue first opened in 1928 as the “New Dreamland Auditorium.” It was converted to exclusive use as a music venue by rock promoter Bill Graham in 1971. (SFPL)

Firefighters on the roof of Fillmore Street's Clay Theater, 1940. The historic theater was built by the Naify brothers in 1910. Originally opened as a nickelodeon, admission to the movies was only five cents. (SFPL)

Cherry Blossom Festival parade in Japantown. Built and settled as part of the Western Addition in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Japanese immigrants began moving into the area after the 1906 earthquake. (SFPL)

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