

CROSSWALK marathon

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INVITATION TO COVER

POTRERO HILL ARTIST TO WALK 26.2 MILES IN A ONE BLOCK CIRCUIT FOR "CROSSWALK MARATHON", A PUBLIC PEDESTRIAN PERFORMANCE SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER ON SIXTEENTH STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO

What: In one day, artist and Potrero Hill resident Anne Devine will walk in a circuit on the streets of San Francisco, marking the specific locations of two proposed crosswalks. In walking 161 circuits, she will cross Sixteenth Street 322 times and travel 26.2 miles - the length of a marathon. She will never move further than one block from her starting point.

"CROSSWALK marathon" stems from CROSSWALK, an ongoing project by the artist. In April 2006 – as a response to formal requests made by the artist and other individuals for a crosswalk spanning Sixteenth Street – city surveyors determined that, due to such high pedestrian usage and increased vehicular traffic flow in this unregulated stretch of the road, not one but TWO crosswalks are needed at Sixteenth Street [Arkansas and Wisconsin]. The city also suggests a painted "island" for traffic calming and the installation of upright "pedestrian crossing" warnings in the middle of Sixteenth Street. However, crosswalk construction funds will not be approved within the appropriate departments and the city has currently abandoned its own installation proposal.

"CROSSWALK marathon" is the artist's response. Each of the marathon's 322 crossings is the same dangerous risk she must take daily to reach her studio. She has undertaken a rigorous 18-week marathon training program and is physically prepared to go the distance to complete Sunday's performance.

The performance will be free and open to the public. The public is invited to observe "CROSSWALK marathon" at any time throughout the piece's duration and to participate by walking with the artist for one or more circuits of the marathon. Individuals can learn more about the city's crosswalk request process through direct conversation with the artist, or from a concise web page at the CROSSWALK marathon website where the public is encouraged to email, write, or telephone a request to the city of San Francisco for the two proposed crosswalks on Sixteenth Street.

Where: Sixteenth Street (between Arkansas and Wisconsin), lower Potrero Hill, San Francisco

When: Sunday, September 10 2006, 8 AM–until 26.2 miles completed (approx 5-8 PM).