

VALENCIA GARDENS

The new Valencia Gardens was built atop the rubble of the original 61-year-old public housing complex and is starkly different from its predecessor. By

the time housing authorities decided to level the first Valencia Gardens in 2004, the name represented all that was wrong with large-scale federal housing projects: drug dealing, bureaucratic corruption, structural neglect. Surrounded by a fence, it had all the charm of a prison. It was first built in 1943

under the U.S. Housing Authority's slum clearance program and was the fourth housing project developed by the San Francisco Housing Authority.

Nowadays it has rooftop solar panels, dyed cement floors and an open landscaping. The San Francisco Chronicle called it a modern day Mayberry when the five-acre block first opened.



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BERNAL DWELLINGS

Bernal Dwellings is a two-block development of 167 apartments for low-income residents.

Only three stories high, the town houses have short gates and manicured lawns, but it's clear that the blue, yellow, and orange stucco complex on the southern edge of the Mission is different. Hipsters rarely wander near the two-block area bordered by Cesar Chavez and 26th streets and the area is one of the few places in the Mission where there are more African Americans than Latinos. The housing projects were redeveloped in 2001, but despite the makeover, Ginale Harris, the director of the Bernal Dwellings Community Center says, "These are still the projects." "People don't realize we even exist," Harris said. "We are a community within a community. See what's happening in the Bernal community by logging on to <http://missionlocal.org/topics/bernal-dwellings/>