

## ***Global Environmental Hall of Fame Summary Description Building 103, Main Post, Presidio National Park***

*No matter how well we fare in our battles on a regional and national level within the United States, if we don't tackle environmental problems on a global scale – if we fail to achieve success around the planet – the war to protect our environment will be lost.*

- Edgar Wayburn, M.D. *Your Land and Mine*, page 287

The Global Environmental Hall of Fame will assemble, interpret and engage the visitor with the brightest ideas and best practices for conserving, preserving and restoring the Earth's ecosystems. We will do this by creating interactive displays that inform visitors of human impacts on the Earth, honors the hard work and dedication of environmental champions around the world and inspire people to take action and make sustainable choices. The Hall will serve as a gathering place and intellectual crucible for interactions by local, national and international government agencies and NGOs that will compliment existing Presidio-based organizations and cultural/heritage attractions. It will contribute substantially to the mission of the Presidio Trust "... to ensuring that visitors to this spectacular place have the opportunity to gain a broader understanding of the Presidio, its place in American history, and the plants and wildlife which once thrived throughout the region". The Hall will be a significant response to the deep public need for the Nation and the world to develop fully a range of effective options to conserve, protect and restore our environment.

### **Challenge**

The most authoritative and comprehensive analysis of humanity's impact on the Earth's ecosystems was conducted by *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* that involved the work of more than 1,360 experts world wide. Its report, *Living Beyond Our Means – Natural Assets and Human Well-Being*, stated that:

*Human activity is putting such strains on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted...Above all, protection of these assets can no longer be seen as an optional extra, to be considered once more pressing concerns such as wealth creation or national security have been dealt with...The natural balance sheet we bequeath to future generations depends on choices made at every level and in every corner of the planet – from the head of a village in Bangladesh to a corporation board in a New York skyscraper; from international gatherings of finance ministers to consumers in a Brazilian furniture store.*

### **Response**

The goals of the Global Environmental Hall of Fame are to:

**Inform and Engage** the "head of a village in Bangladesh," "a corporation board in a New York skyscraper", "international gatherings of finance ministers" and "consumers in a Brazilian furniture store" of the impacts of their choices on the world's environmental health by:

- drawing on the wealth of talent and resources in San Francisco Bay Area's world-renowned universities and institutes and in its vibrant non-governmental and business communities
- collaborating with Presidio-based and neighboring organizations to create participatory exhibitions and experiences in the Hall that demonstrate the consequences of individual and collective choices and the range of effective options for sustainable living
- inviting the United Nations Environment Management Group, the United States Global Change Research Project, and their member agencies to create interpretive experiences of their programs and best practices to conserve, protect and restore the Earth's ecosystems.

**Inspire current and future generations** of visitors by inviting organizations that award prizes to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary environmental leadership to create interactive exhibitions of these award winners to inspire visitors to take action in their local communities.

**Honor outstanding global environmental stewardship** by inviting the 192 Member States of the United Nations and the 50 States of the Union to make annual **Presidio Awards** to outstanding environmental leaders in their nation and states and to create interactive exhibitions about these awards at the Hall. We intend to challenge countries to recognize their environmental heroes and to promote awareness within their own countries of their contributions and inspiration.

**Connect organizations and individuals** in our common quest for a better future for humankind by:

- serving as a nexus of ideas, activities and events that connect local environmental, human rights and labor organizations with each other and with organizations throughout the world
- housing the administrative offices of the Phillip and Sala Burton Center for Human Rights and interpreting their great legislative legacy and honoring outstanding labor and human rights leaders.
- inviting the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, associated with the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) MAB Program, to programmatically connect the Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve with the other 506 Biosphere Reserves in 102 countries.