The SoMa Youth & Family Zone

In 2008, the vision developed by SOMCAN and the Youth Task Force was incorporated into San Francisco's General Plan with the creation of the SoMa Youth & Family Zone. This vision is an alternative to how the community can grow and benefit from the rapid development happening in SoMa, addressing the needs of local families for affordable housing, jobs for youth and young adults, pedestrian safety, open space, and community-serving businesses. The zone’s definition of families include extended, senior, non-traditional, and LGBTQ families.

The realization of this vision will occur incrementally as SoMa community advocates struggle to fight off threats, like the budget cutbacks and increased fees at the existing SoMa Rec Center, and fight to build pieces of the vision, like the creation of a new SoMa Youth Center. Asian Neighborhood Design has worked in partnership with SOMCAN over many years, providing community planning support and policy analysis around a number of issues, from the development of the Eastern Neighborhoods rezoning, impacts analysis of the Rincon Hill developments and subsequent creation of a $34 Million SoMa Community Stabilization Fund, and our ongoing collaboration to help build the vision for the Youth & Family Zone.