

# SUTRO TOWER®

connection

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SUTRO TOWER NEIGHBORHOOD | JANUARY 2018



From the Instagram page #sutrotowertattoo

## Why People Get a Sutro Tower Tattoo

San Francisco has hundreds of tattoo artists, at parlors with ambiance ranging from dark biker bar to well-lit, airy salon. What they have in common: customers want a Sutro Tower tattoo.

"I've done them a hundred times," said Juan Puente, of Black Heart Tattoo, who's been inking for 28 years. "People living here, it's more than an icon – it's something special." He has done Sutro Tower tattoos as small as an inch and "one that covered a guy's whole rib cage – that one was a little more abstract."

Analise Perry of Bernal Heights got her tower tattoo this summer. "I love the tower," she said at Authentic Tattoo, where owner Tex Buss inked it on Perry's upper arm. "For me, Sutro Tower IS San Francisco. My friend Ellie has it on her back, and I thought it was beautiful. My Sutro Tower

SEE SUTRO TOWER TATTOO ON PAGE 3



Analise Perry  
"Sutro Tower IS  
San Francisco"

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# Work Begins for New Antennas at Sutro Tower

Preliminary work has started on the project to add new antennas on Sutro Tower, as part of the Federal Communications Commission's program to "repack" television broadcasting into a smaller portion of the broadcast spectrum, so as to expand the radio frequencies available for wireless communications such as mobile devices and smaller local towers.

Ten Bay Area TV stations auctioned off their broadcast frequencies in the FCC's 15-month-long auction. Going forward, most TV broadcasters, even those who did not participate in the auction, must repack their transmission frequencies into a smaller overall band of frequencies under the FCC's rules. In the fall, the FCC authorized TV stations with antennas on Sutro Tower to spend up to \$3.5 million on initial equipment purchases to begin meeting their repack needs.

Over the next three years, Bay Area broadcasters have requested authorization to spend \$33 million, which will be reimbursed by the FCC from \$19.8 billion collected from wireless companies purchasing broadcast frequencies. The stations need new antennas

designed for new, narrower broadcast frequencies, as well as other technical equipment in control rooms to deliver the broadcast signals. The San Francisco market and Sutro Tower are deemed "extremely complex" by the FCC, so the repack on-air deadlines are scheduled for 2020, at the end of the FCC's transition period. Most of the construction necessarily will occur during the spring and summer of 2019.

**"We are managing the television stations' upgrades at Sutro Tower to ensure we meet the FCC's deadlines so that Bay Area viewers have uninterrupted service."**

"We are managing the television stations' upgrades at Sutro Tower to ensure we meet the FCC's deadlines so that Bay Area viewers have uninterrupted service," said Eric Dausman, vice president of Sutro Tower Inc. "There are literally thousands of pieces of equipment to be ordered, delivered and installed, so the stations prudently

have started making their purchases."

Though the new antennas are required under FCC rules, the San Francisco Planning Commission must approve the installation on Sutro Tower to ensure it meets all safety standards. In September, Ronald Hamburger, Sutro Tower Inc.'s structural engineer of record, submitted a preliminary building permit application to the Planning Department for the work to be done at the tower, with the understanding that it will be updated as the TV stations finalize their technical needs early this year.

Parallel to the Planning Department review of the application, the Department of Building Inspection has mandated that a peer review committee, including a structural engineer and a soils engineer, also assess the plans. Sutro Tower Inc. already has met with the Mayor's Office of Technology and District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee's office, as well as the community liaisons of the Twin Peaks, Forest Knolls and Midtown Terrace neighborhood organizations, to discuss the plans and answer any questions. There will be a public meeting to discuss the application later in 2018.

## SUPPORTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**Bill and Debbie Lee Tamayo, who live on Christopher Drive, won Santa's drawing for a Sutro Tower coat rack at the Forest Knolls Holiday Party, then gave it to Tom Pfeifer of Clarendon Avenue. Sutro Tower Inc. is the major sponsor of the annual party, which has grown to give dinner, drinks, cookies and activities to 100 adults and 50 children.**



**Sutro Tower hosted a table of neighbors at the 45th annual Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods holiday dinner, a major fundraiser for the umbrella organization for the city's neighborhood associations.**

is my love for San Francisco. This is perfect, exactly what I wanted.”

The reaction? “People think it’s beautiful,” Perry said. “I get a lot of really nice comments. At Thanksgiving, there was this really shy little boy, but he knew the tower, and seeing it on my arm, he just opened up. It’s definitely a conversation starter.”

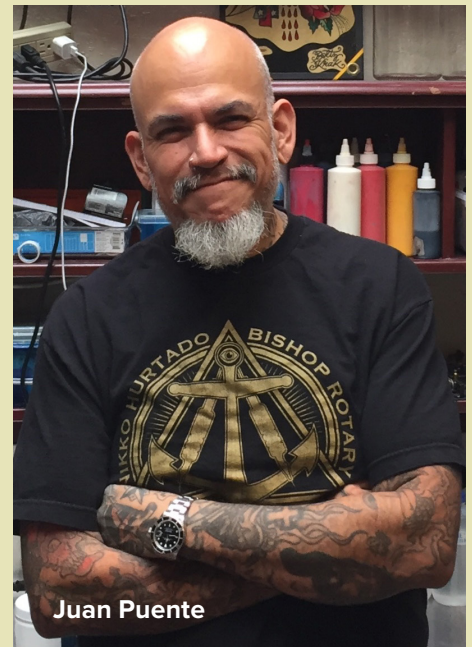
Salem Ofa was finishing a Sutro Tower tattoo on the arm of Norbert Rostas at Eye of the Tiger Tattoo. “Fans of the city definitely include it with a San Francisco tattoo,” said Ofa. “It has so many different angles, and no matter what angle, it’s an archetype – and really cool.”

Rostas, a North Beach resident who has been here for 1-1/2 years, said, “I like how it looks, it’s part of the San Francisco landscape. This is my first tattoo. San Francisco is a change for me, it brought me life, and with this tattoo I’ll always remember.”

Ofa, a native San Franciscan, spent three sessions inking Rostas: outline, shading, then finishing. “I love it so far,” said Rostas. “It’s nicer and nicer every day.”

Dustin, an artist at Bulldog Tattoo, said he’s done many Sutro Tower tattoos for people getting ready to leave the city. “They want a tattoo to keep the memory, and they choose Sutro Tower,” he said.

That’s the reason Stuart Weinstein got his tower tattoo. “I knew I was leaving the city,” said Weinstein, who recently moved to San Anselmo, “and Sutro Tower represented a sense of place, of geography. It encompassed the zeitgeist of the city. I thought Sutro Tower was more emblematic of the city than the Golden Gate Bridge.” The small tower tattoo Buss did on Weinstein’s arm “highlights the swallows” tattooed around it. “My ex-wife loved it,” he said.



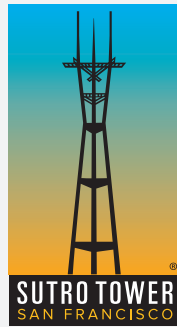
Each artist depicts Sutro Tower with his or her own combination of color, black, black-and-gray, abstract, stylized, dimensional, illustrative, or silhouette art. “Tattoo artists now have the skill set to do something complex like a cityscape,” said Ofa. Buss called the 8-inch-long tattoo of fog swirling around the tower that she drew on Perry’s arm “realistic-ish”.

“Tex asked me if I wanted the tower with or without fog,” Perry said. “Trick question,” Buss interjected. “You passed.”

Buss, who of course came from Texas (“I got the name Tex when I was one of three Laura’s working at a bar”), said people who ask for Sutro Tower tattoos “may have moved here and get sentimental about San Francisco. It’s a local thing, even if it’s not a native thing.”

Questions? Visit [www.sutrotower.com/for-our-neighbors/](http://www.sutrotower.com/for-our-neighbors/), or contact Sutro Tower Chief Operating Officer Eric Dausman at 415-681-8850 or [info@sutrotower.com](mailto:info@sutrotower.com).

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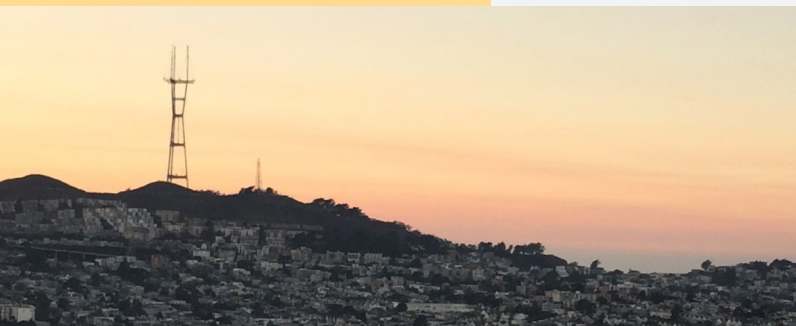


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**Smoky skies were a too-frequent backdrop for Sutro Tower due to California's wildfires this fall**



## Sutro Tower Beehives Help Neighborhood Bloom

**H**ome gardeners in neighborhoods surrounding Sutro Tower have been the beneficiaries of a program by the Planet Bee Foundation to help communities blossom by installing two hive boxes at the base of the tower.



"We've had the most bountiful year ever for our Meyer lemons," said Jean McDonagh, who has lived on Forest Knolls Drive for 35 years. "We got bags and bags of lemons."

"It's really been great," said her husband, Steve. "Like never before."

After the hive boxes were installed in April, tens of thousands of new honey bees brought new pollination power to flowers and fruit trees within three miles

of the tower. "The bees make apple trees, cherry trees, citrus, and blackberry bushes produce more fruit," said Bill Tomaszewski, Planet Bee's president and



**Bill Tomaszewski removes a frame from a Sutro Tower hive box**

master beekeeper. "They make flowers bloom. Have you tasted blackberry honey? It's so sweet!"

The Sutro Tower hive boxes consist of

two brood boxes at the bottom, where the hive queen and most of the bees live, and two smaller honey super boxes above, each with eight frames. The bees build their six-sided wax cells on the frames and deposit their nectar. The bees get less active in winter as the temperature drops, which is when the honey is collected.

Unfortunately, one of the hives collapsed this fall, apparently the victim of a parasite called the varroa mite, which attacks honey bees' wings and bodies. "The colony was fine in October, but when we came back before Thanksgiving it was dead," said Tomaszewski, who will bring in a new queen bee to start a replacement hive in the spring.

"The setting here is great – lots of trees and blackberry bushes, and a sunny spot for the hives," he said. "Sutro Tower has the highest hive in the city."