

The mural walk was on Saturday, Sept 10, 2023. Fourteen of us had lunch at a local restaurant near Precita park. We were next led on a tour of the murals by one of the artists who has worked on the murals for more than 40 years. Precita Eyes is the artist collective that is responsible for most murals. However, some artists independently created murals; there is no rule except to obtain permission of the wall's owner before doing the mural. We learned about the history of the Precita (little dam) area of San Francisco. There was a river and a small dam until the 1906 earthquake. Then the river was undergrounded and covered by a very popular local park. Artists work as a group to design the murals and create a scale model on paper, one inch to one foot. Then each artist is assigned small one-inch squares to scale up to the full mural. Our group background shows ocean scenes because the mural covers one side of a local swimming pool. Most murals celebrated the artist's homeland: Guatemala, Panama, etc. But a few were more political, dealing with issues faced by the largely Hispanic community. A mural on a school wall celebrated education. Overall, we were fascinated by the tour which lasted 90 minutes and covered about eight blocks including Balmy Alley which is essentially covered by murals on all sides.

~ Frank Valone (walk organizer)