2026
BEST of the BAY
PEEK INSIDE
for San Francisco's hidden gems
SEE WHO THE BAY AREA VOTED
BEST OF THE BAY!
SFBG
48hills

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2026 BEST of the BAY

SFBG 48hills

View the complete 2026 Best of the Bay awards at 48hills.org/bestofthebay

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EDITOR'S NOTE

48 Hills and the Bay Guardian are proud to present the 52nd Annual Best of the Bay! Thousands of our readers voted, telling us who they think deserved to be called "best" in dozens of categories like Best Burrito, Best Drag Show, Best Bookstore, Best Street Fair, Best Date Restaurant, Best Bike Shop, Best Dive Bar…. No matter how much the city changes, there are still beautiful civic treasures to be found. Find more great gems every day at www.48hills.org

–Best of the Bay Editor Marke B.

ABOUT THE ART

Each year for the last 10 years, Marke says something like, "This year's Best of the Bay theme is "Underground." In fact, that's exactly what he said this year. Then I let my weirdo brain try to figure out some way to do something unexpected within that theme. I came up with "grotto". This is probably the most literal interpretation of a theme so far, because usually–and since I'm a tortured artist (well, designer who gets to do an art project for Best of the Bay each year)–I try to make it too angsty and political and Marke has to reign me in a bit. In any case, we wanted to get away from digital drawings and designs from years past. I pitched the idea of a grotto, with magical/sacred/random totems of the city inside. I thought back to art school, did some research on devotional grottoes and grottoes built as retreats. Marke reminded me that Hugh Hefner called his outdoor pool and sexcapade area a grotto.

San Francisco is a grotto! We've carved out and constructed an artificial environment within a natural environment, that, on a good day, is a beautiful retreat for relaxation and the spiritual practice of simply living.

–Best of the Bay Artist & Designer Aaron Joseph

STREET FAIR
Folsom Street Fair
folsomstreetevents.org

NIGHT MARKET
Bhangra & Beats
bhangraandbeats.com

TOURIST ATTRACTION
Ferry Building
ferrybuildingmarketplace.com

HOTEL
Phoenix Hotel
phoenixsf.com

TOUR
Blandina Farley's Fabulous Tours
blandinatours.com

LOCAL WEBSITE
Broke-Ass Stuart
brokeassstuart.com

PODCAST
Diva Dudes
instagram.com/divadudes

RADIO STATION
BFF.FM
BFF.FM

ANIMAL RESCUE
Rocket Dog Rescue
rocketdogrescue.org

BICYCLE REPAIR
Scenic Routes
scenicroutessf.com

SALON
Ginger Rubio
gingerrubio.com

DOG GROOMERS
Virginia's Professional Pet Grooming
virginiaspetgrooming.com

TATTOO PARLOR
Idle Hand
idlehandsf.com

GYM
Fitness SF
fitnesssf.com

PERSONAL TRAINER
Ace Morgan
acemorganfitness.com

YOGA STUDIO
Yoga Flow
yogaflowsf.com

OVERALL RESTAURANT
Original Joe's
originaljoes.com

BUDGET RESTAURANT
Yamo

DATE RESTAURANT
Bix
bixrestaurant.com

FOOD TRUCK
Señor Sisig
senorsisig.com

FARMERS' MARKET
Alemany
sf.gov/location/alemany-farmers-market

VEGETARIAN
Greens
greensrestaurant.com

VEGAN
Shizen
shizensf.com

PIZZA
Golden Boy
goldenboypizza.com

BURRITO
El Farolito
elfarolitosf.com

SANDWICHES
Molinari's Delicatessen
themolinarideli.com

BURGER
Iniburger
iniburger.com

BBQ
Baby Blues
babybluesbbqsf.com

SUSHI
Ebisu
ebisusushi.com

BRUNCH
Taffi's
instagram.com/taffiscafe

CAFE
Atlas Cafe
atlascafe.net

BAKERY
Bernal Basket
bernalbakery.com

OVERALL BAR
Madrone Art Bar
madroneartbar.com

DIVE BAR
El Rio
elriosf.com

SWANKY BAR
Left Door
leftdoor.com

SPORTS BAR
Hi Tops
hitopsbar.com

LGBTQ BAR
El Rio
elriosf.com

WINE BAR
Scopo Divino
www.scopodivino.com

ARTS/MUSIC FESTIVAL
Hardly Strictly Bluegrass
hardlystrictlybluegrass.com

LIVE MUSIC VENUE
The Chapel
thechapelsf.com

CINEMA
Roxie Theater
roxie.com

MUSEUM
De Young Museum
famsf.org

ART GALLERY
Rosebud Gallery
rosebudgallery.com

DANCE COMPANY
Rawdance
rawdance.org

THEATER COMPANY
SF Neo-Futurists
sfneofuturists.org

PERFORMANCE VENUE
The Palace Theater
thepalacetheatersf.com

LOCAL RECORD LABEL
Storefront Records
storefrontrecords.com

NIGHTCLUB
DNA Lounge
dnalounge.com

DANCE PARTY
Strut SF
instagram.com/strut_sf

LGBTQ NIGHTCLUB
Oasis
sfoasis.com

DRAG SHOW
Reparations
sfoasis.com/reparations

DRAG ARTIST
Nicki Jizz
instagram.com/nicki_jizz

OPEN MIC
Hotel Utah
riptidesf.com/index.html

KARAOKE
The Mint
themint.net

COMEDY VENUE
The Function
thefunctionsf.com

STRIP CLUB
Bad Bitch Burlesque
instagram.com/badbitchburlesque

SEX CLUB
Eros
erossf.com

OVERALL STORE
Biordi Art Imports
biordi.com

BOOKSTORE
Green Apple Books
greenapple.books.com

COMIC BOOK STORE
Comix Experience
comixexperience.com

RECORD STORE
Amoeba SF
amoeba.com

GROCERY STORE
Rainbow Grocery Cooperative
rainbow.coop

CANNABIS DISPENSARY
The Green Cross
thegreencross.org

CLOTHING STORE
Sui Generis
suigenerisconsignment.com

STORE FOR KIDS
Tantrum
shoptantrum.com

FLEA MARKET
Alemany Flea Market
sf.gov/location-alemany-flea-market

VINTAGE STORE
Loved Again
instagram.com/findlovedagain

THRIFT STORE
Community Thrift
communitythriftsf.org

SHOE STORE
On The Run
ontherunshoes.com

BIKE SHOP
Valencia Cyclery
valenciacyclery.com

PET GOODS STORE
Maxwell's Pet Bar
maxwellspetbar.com

HARDWARE STORE
Cole Hardware
colehardware.com

GIFT SHOP
Local Take
localtakesf.com