

September 2, 2020

To: Recreation and Parks Commission, Renaming Committee, and Director Amy Wooldridge  
From: Rename Jackson Park

RE: Community Suggestions for a New Name for the Park FKA Jackson Park

As part of the effort to rename (the park formerly known as) Jackson Park, we solicited suggestions for new names from community members.

Between August 4-September 2, we sent two messages to our petition signatories. We recommended criteria for new name suggestions. The guiding themes, below, included diversity, anti-racism, and local connections to Alameda.

We received responses from 45 people. Twenty (20) names referred to people, five (5) referred to values, and three (3) referred to places. This is a summary of the submissions, followed by the full list.

The names submitted mostly acknowledge racial justice and diversity and respond to the history of the City honoring Andrew Jackson for over 100 years. Considering Jackson's history as an enslaver of African people and the "Indian Killer" for his violence against Indigenous or Native Americans, the names represent an effort to create an anti-racist city where we all belong.

Activists in the Black freedom struggle, from anti-slavery activism to the modern Civil Rights Movement, including Harriet Tubman and the late John Lewis, with five (5) suggestions each<sup>1</sup>. Others included Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Participants also suggested we honor Indigenous peoples, especially the first peoples of Alameda, the Ohlone (7), and the Chochenyo (1).

Names also related to the Government's forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Suggestions highlighted civil rights activist Fred Korematsu (2), as well as Alamedan Yushiko Uchida.

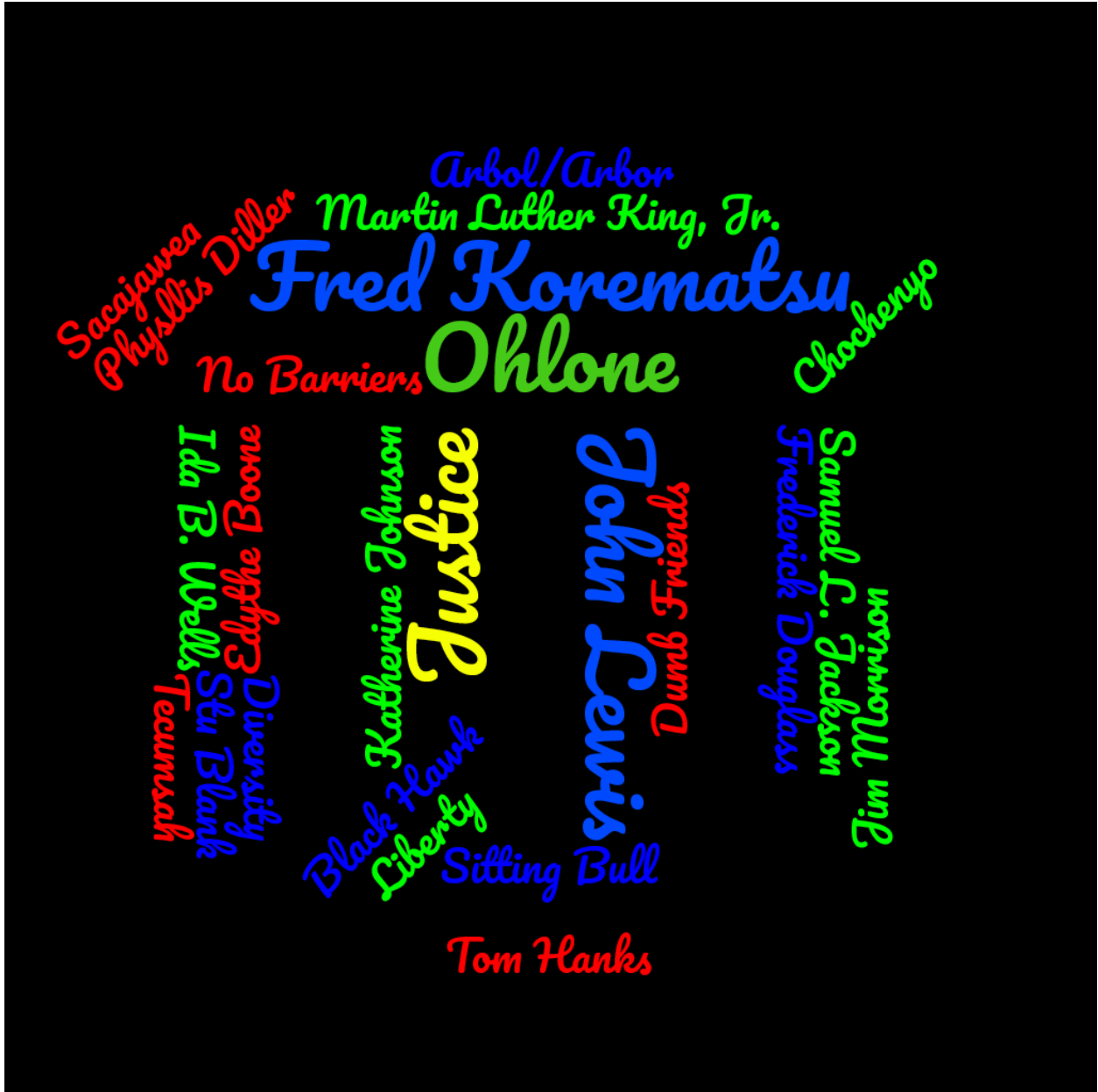
The value of Justice (2) has been suggested as an alternative to naming the park after a person, and as a theme reflecting many of the suggestions above. Other suggestions included Diversity and Liberty.

There were also suggestions for a number of living artists and activists, like Angela Davis and Edythe Boone, as well as Alamedans like Phyllis Diller and Jim Morrison. There were place-based suggestions, like Arbol/Arbor, "Dumb Friends," and "Alameda Park."

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<sup>1</sup> Tubman, a noted abolitionist, was set to replace Jackson on the \$20 bill. Lewis passed away just before our survey was distributed

Word Cloud with New Name Suggestions



Name	Justification/Rationale	Criteria met
Ohlone	<p>Is there anything on this island which carries a Native American name? The time is long past for that to happen. Consulting Sogorea Te Land Trust could be helpful.</p> <p>An historical name that honors the indigenous people who walked the land where the park is.</p> <p>We should recognize our indigenous predecessors.</p> <p>This is Ohlone land, let's honor the first people of Alameda.</p> <p>The Ohlone were the first people here. It's also a nice counterpoint to the former namesake, Andrew Jackson, who was known as the "Indian Killer."</p> <p>The Chochenyo were the first Alameda residents - they were the Ohlone people who inhabited Alameda pre-contact. (Or others like:</p> <p>To honor and recognize Native American people who have been mistreated and reviled throughout U.S. history. (Also: Ohlone,, Sitting Bull, Tecumseh, Black Hawk, Sacajawea)</p> <p>Ohlone Park or Alameda Park</p> <p>Land Back;</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
John Lewis	<p>Commemorate a leader in civil rights who recently died.</p> <p>To acknowledge the debt we owe to a recently deceased public servant, and continue the tradition of naming parks after political figures while changing the narrative by including more leaders of color.</p> <p>It is fitting that we honor the incomparable life's work of the late John Lewis. His life serves as an inspiration in these increasingly divided and openly racist times.</p> <p>Though John Lewis was not local to the area, he was a civil rights leader and activist and he currently represents the moment we are in now. We removed the name of Jackson in 2020, John Lewis passed away in 2020. It would be a nice reminder of a modern</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism</p>

	<p>civil right hero.</p> <p>John Lewis represents everything we, as Alamedans, should hope to stand for.</p> <p>John Lewis was a civil rights hero and we need to celebrate more people from that movement.</p>	
(Harriet) Tubman	<p>Both Tubman &amp; Douglass stood in righteous opposition to the racism of Andrew Jackson</p> <p>Harriet was one of the most remarkable women of her time or any time. Not only did she walk miles to take enslaved persons to freedom, she fought in the Civil War as a leader of the union army, and she was instrumental in the women’s suffrage movement. She embodies all that it means to be tenacious and to persevere. She gave her life in faithful service. She is my hero. She worked her whole life to save her people with the Underground Railroad, fighting for woman’s right to vote, and leading men into battle in the civil war fighting for freedom.</p> <p>Harriett Tubman overcame being a slave a child and ultimately helped free slaves using the Underground Railroad. I cannot think of a better person to replace a known racist and slave owner.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism</p>
(Frederick) Douglass	<p>Both Tubman &amp; Douglass stood in righteous opposition to the racism of Andrew Jackson</p>	
Ohlone, Sitting Bull, Tecumseh, Black Hawk	<p>To honor and recognize Native American people who have been mistreated and reviled throughout U.S. history.</p>	
Sacajawea	<p>Recognition of the indigenous people who played an important role in history</p>	
Chochenyo	<p>The Chochenyo were the first Alameda residents - they were the Ohlone people who inhabited Alameda pre-contact.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Local connection and/or impact</p>

<p>Jim Morrison</p>	<p>Jim Morrison, a visionary musician and songwriter was an inspiration for young people in the 1960's. A bench in the park is dedicated to the place where he used to hang out with other young Alamedans. Jim Morrison is a symbol of the creative force that rock music played in shifting public morals and consciousness. His band the Doors, opened a path led many young people to question the racist narratives of the time.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
<p>Phyllis Diller</p>	<p>Phyllis Diller was a long-time resident of Alameda and is a legend in performing arts.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
<p>Martin Luther King Jr</p>	<p>I believe we should name this park after MLK JR because he is a historically man who taught for civil rights and equality for all. He was a man of value and respect. We all should know who this man was and what he did and fought for that immensely changed the world. I think he should be honored because he was murdered by violence and he never showed violence. He was a man of peace and justice and I feel</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in</p>

	<p>like we all need to be reminded of his accomplishments and we should honor him &amp; show everyone alameda stands behind equality and peace and support all people of color. I'm sick of hearing that alameda is racist. Let's show everyone that we are a united island that support our brothers and sisters of whatever color you are!!!</p>	<p>environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
Katherine Johnson	<p>She was a historical mathematician at NASA and her work of complex calculations made it possible for crewed space flights. She was also one of the first African American scientists to work at NASA.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism</p>
Fred Korematsu	<p>Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland and resisted the Japanese Internment in WWII. The Supreme Court decision that upheld the camps has his name on it. "He stood up to the whole United States over racism. He fought this all the way to the Supreme Court. Constitutional law classes read and brief this case. The case is known as the justification for Japanese people being interned during World War II.</p> <p>Judge Roberts just mentioned how this decision was wrong in the case of Trump v. Hawaii. Naming this park for Korematsu is a small token of apology for what happened to our local Japanese people. It stands against racism, particularly when it is codified, or legalized. It was a stance against systemic racism.</p> <p>Here is the wikilink to him:  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Korematsu">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Korematsu</a>"</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
Ida Bell Wells-Barnett	<p>Ida B. Wells was born into slavery, but became an investigative journalist documenting institutionalized lynching in the south, an activist for women's suffrage and the abolition of social and educational segregation, and a founder of the National Association</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects</p>

	<p>for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Just a few months ago, she was awarded a (posthumous) Pulitzer Prize for her work. She's a role model for perseverance and opposition to institutionalized brutality and adversity, advocacy for the rights of women and people of color, and for the lasting impact that women can have on history.</p>	<p>anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism</p>
Yoshiko Uchida	<p>Yoshiko Uchida was born in Alameda, was imprisoned in an internment camp and then went on to write beautifully about her experiences. She received many awards for her writing.</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact</p>
Stu Blank	<p>Stu ruled</p>	<p>Local connection and/or impact</p>
Angela Davis or Davis	<p>Angela Davis is Bay Area and Civil rights icon who has made it her life's work to support and Improve the black communities within the Bay Area and around the country with her work with the black panthers and to this day as 76 year old professor. Davis is important leader from East Bay</p>	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism</p>
Tom Hanks	<p>Tom Hanks is a national treasure who used to live here in Alameda.</p>	<p>Principle or Value that reflects</p>

		anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact
Samuel L. Jackson	He fought for social justice. He is very cool and we would not have to get used to a new name.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism
Edythe Boone	Edythe Boone is an African-American artist and activist. She has worked as a muralist, counselor, and art teacher throughout her life in an under-served area in California. Boone is perhaps most well-known for being one of the muralists behind the famous MaestraPeace mural on the Women's Building in San Francisco. The piece represents "transhistorical, crosscultural and transnational connections between the African and indigenous cultures of the Americas" and its multicultural feminism suits the Women's Building's purpose and location in an ethnically diverse area. She oversaw the creation in Berkeley, CA of a 100-foot mural (completed in 2018) on Ashby Avenue between Harper and Ellis Streets. The mural depicts images of people, places, and interactions representing the history of South Berkeley from the times of the Ohlone to the present.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact
Marc Morales	Marc has spent 30 years working at The Boys and Girls Club of Alameda. He made a huge positive impact on my life and looking back on it I'm sure he did the same to many others. Please take this name	Local connection and/or impact

	into consideration.	
Liberty	I believe ideals are best and more meaningful over time. No person is perfect and we know sooner or later everything comes out or the person will be largely forgotten over time (I didn't even know who Godfrey was, as an example). I think Liberty speaks to what everyone wants (no matter your political affiliation) and one doesn't have to be a long time local to know what it is about. Liberty means "the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views." (from Google). We all want that and I think anyone in Alameda could relate in some form.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism
Justice	Alameda uncritically honored Andrew Jackson for 111 years. We call for a new "monument" honoring peoples who experienced racist enslavement and forced displacement at the hands of Jackson. We also call for recognition of Alameda's own history of exclusion and forced displacement, especially the Ohlone people, African Americans, and Asian Pacific Islanders (especially Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino Americans). Do not name parks after people. Justice is an evergreen need and inspires discussion.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact
Humanism	Though humanism could be considered a philosophical, psychological, and/or spiritual concept, at the very least, it is universally recognized as an acknowledgement of the inherent worth of human beings as feeling, thinking, individuals who should be treated with dignity.  The name, Humanism Park, represents the antithesis of former US president Andrew Jackson's ghastly white supremacist policies that decimated the lives and livelihoods of countless Native Americans and formerly enslaved Africans. The proposed name in and of itself also connotes the motive for renaming the	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact

	<p>park and consequently, could forever serve as a conversation piece bridging the past, present, and future as they relate to white supremacy, and the quest for an antiracist and humanistic society.</p> <p>*Regardless of what the park is named, I hope there can be a plaque describing how and why the park was de- and then re-named. I think this would especially be important if the park is named after an individual. It's disheartening to learn only by happenstance the contributions of great Alamedans like Elector Littlejohn.... Let's not just HOPE that inspiring individuals' legacies are remembered by naming a building, park, etc. after them, let's MAKE SURE OF IT!</p>	
No Barriers		Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism
Diversity	A place to bring us all together. Where everyone is welcome.	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism, Local connection and/or impact
Arbol or Arbor	It would be nice to move away from naming parks and schools after people as it is such a shifting bar as to who/what qualifies as appropriate. The meaning of the word "Alameda" is a parkway shaded by trees, the meaning of the word "Encinal" is an area marked by the growth of trees/oak trees. It would be lovely to continue the tradition of focusing trees with some	Local connection and/or impact

	name connecting to the park to the tree theme we have in Alameda. Hence the suggestion of "Arbol Park", which honors the tradition of Spanish language in naming on the island given that Arbol translates to Tree; or the more general "Arbor Park" which is the Latin word for tree.	
Dumb Friends	Because of the bench, which celebrates animal friends!	Local connection and/or impact
Alameda	Ohlone or Alameda Park	

“Recommend New Park Name” by Rename Jackson Park, Aug. 4-Sept. 1, 2020.

<http://bit.ly/new-name/>

After two years, the Parks Commission and City Council denamed Andrew Jackson Park last month. A renaming committee is being formed by ARPD and we want to recommend new names.

Rename Jackson Park is collecting names to recommend to the Renaming Committee. We want names that reflect Alameda’s diversity, have a historic connection to Alameda, or connect to the anti-racist future for Alameda we envision.

Guiding themes may include:

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Principle or Value that reflects anti-racism
- Community leader involved in environmental justice, human rights, social justice, and/or anti-racism
- Person, place, or ideal/value with local connection and/or impact