

## **COMMON AREA RENOVATIONS AND SIGNS COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT**

The CARS Committee was formed in April 2008 and charged with the task of choosing a design firm for the renovation of all common areas of the community including lobbies, elevator cabs, elevator landings, hallways (lighting, painting, carpeting, and signage), and exterior lighting and signage.

Early committee brainstorming sessions generated a list of options for all of the project components. The committee then researched numerous Bay Area design firms and developed a list of 18 that would be appropriate for the CARS project. A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) was mailed to these firms in October 2008. Responses were received from nine interested firms and were reviewed in detail by the committee, who decided that six of the firms were good candidates for the CARS project. In December, a Request For Proposal (RFP) was mailed to these firms along with an invitation to attend January 2009 in-person interviews with the CARS Committee, Tim Sutherland, and Jim Ellis.

Following the interviews, two firms were selected to take part in a design competition in which their design concepts will be presented to a special joint meeting of the WCA Board and the CARS Committee. The two firms are Huntsman Architectural Group and Kwan Henmi Architecture & Planning. After their presentation to the Board and the CARS Committee, their designs will be available for viewing and comment by members of the community. Watch for further news of this sometime in April or May.

Huntsman Architectural Group is an award-winning architecture and interior design firm founded in 1981 with offices in San Francisco and New York. A significant local multi-family complex renovated by Huntsman in 2002 is The Villas at Park Merced, adjacent to San Francisco State University.

Founded in 1980 and based in San Francisco, Kwan Henmi Architecture & Planning won the 2000 Gold Nugget Award of Merit – Best Value For Affordable Project for the Leland Apartments in San Francisco, as well as a 1997 AIA Certificate of Merit for the AirTrain Domestic Terminal Stations at SF International Airport.

The funds for the Watergate Common Area Renovations and Signs project will come from WCA reserves. No special assessment is planned or expected.