

Matt Allen

Matt Allen will oversee the operations and logistics of the Program. This includes procurement of supplies, equipment maintenance, and the hiring and management of personnel.

Prior to NexStreet, Mr. Allen successfully put together the SOMA West CBD cleaning operation and led the Downtown Berkeley Association cleaning operations while with Streetplus. Mr. Allen brings over 15 years of managing teams and will oversee the hiring of key staff and supervisors.

At Downtown Berkeley, Matt grew the Ambassador program from 8 Ambassadors to 17 Ambassadors. He also started a homelessness outreach program that has successfully teamed up with the city of Berkeley as an extension of the official Berkeley homeless outreach program.

Matt helped Berkeley Police Chief Andrew Greenwood train the officers on protocols with the street population downtown.

Working with UC Berkeley, Matt spearheaded a new hospitality initiative focused on alleviating traffic and navigation issues in the downtown area on game days. This was the first time that UC Berkeley ever teamed up with DBA.

Matt facilitated the Berkeley farmer's market every Saturday, established a relationship with the Art District, and developed hospitality service for the Berkeley Repertory Theater.

Finally, Matt was recently chosen for the Emerging Leaders Fellowship (ELF) program at the International Downtown Association, where he shares insights with up and coming industry leaders.

Al Casciato

Al Casciato was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Excelsior, and not only is very familiar with Ocean Avenue, but also has relatives in the area. He graduated from Sacred Heart HS, CCSF and San Francisco State with a degree in Urban Studies, and joined the San Francisco Police Department on his 21st birthday. He served the police department for 43 years, eventually commanding the Northern Station. Casciato retired as a Captain in 2012. He is fluent in Spanish.

Casciato has worked for 20 years with the International Consular Corps, as well as Federal, State, and neighboring jurisdictions. He has been involved with dignitary protection of national and international figures ranging from President Clinton to Prince Charles. Coordination of demonstrations, celebrations, and formal events at various venues has given him the knowledge, experience, and ability to work with highly diverse entities in highly diverse locales.

He puts together coalitions regularly and with great success. A prime example is Avoid the 14, a police crackdown on impaired drivers. He and a consultant, Jan Ford, organized all police agencies in the City to fight drunk driving. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, named Avoid the 14 the third-best DUI project in the United States.

Casciato, who has his Private Investigator's License, is also a member of the San Francisco Chief of Police's Small Business Advisory Forum, and is very familiar with the public safety challenges that small businesses face in San Francisco. In addition, he works directly with the SFPD Graffiti Officer and is on close terms with OEWD, and is an Advisory Board Member for the Fisherman's Wharf CBD.

Kevin Thomason, J.D.

Mr. Thomason is a 32 year resident of the Bay Area and has either worked or lived in San Francisco that entire time.

Mr. Thomason is currently Director for the Lower Polk Tenant Landlord Clinic (TLC), a fiscally-sponsored not-for-profit corporation that works to prevent homelessness by using ADR to intervene in actual or potential conflicts between tenants and landlords. LPTLC's strategic partners include The Bar Association of San Francisco's Conflict Intervention Service (BASF/CIS), UC Hastings College of the Law (UCH), and the San Francisco Apartment Association (SFAA). Mr. Thomason created and program-designed the TLC with the generous support of Supervisor Aaron Peskin and his Office.

The TLC's fiscal sponsor is the Lower Polk Community Benefit District (LPCBD), and Mr. Thomason also wears a second hat as a Project Manager for the CBD, working as a "second in command" to assist its Executive Director in all aspects of CBD tactical and strategic operations.

Mr. Thomason has extensive experience in grant writing and government relations, and has excellent working relationships with OEWD, Planning, and MOHCD. For example, the TLC (as a local stakeholder) is currently assisting Planning with the TL CAP (Tenderloin Community Action Plan), which is a City-funded initiative to improve the lives of all people in the historically impacted Tenderloin neighborhood.

Finally, Mr. Thomason also operates an SMLLC that consults with CBDs and other 501(c)3s in the CBD/ social services / placemaking space. It is in this last role that Mr. Thomason would be bringing his extensive expertise to NextStreet and hence to OAA.