

Who is Harrison?

A Book About a Block in San Francisco



ALFONSO MARTIN



Color picker
Harrison



SPY
Harrison



Irrational
Thoughts
Harrison



Sketch
Harrison



Map
Harrison



Harrison
meets
Jesse
the
Poet



Type
Hunt
Harrison



Harrison
meets
Mr. Muggles.



Survey
Harrison



Photographer
Harrison



Trash Hunt
Harrison



Harrison
visits
Evergreen



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A Book About a Block in San Francisco



ALFONSO MARTIN

WHO IS HARRISON?

What is my book about?

an investigation,

a depiction,

a sketchbook,

a photo book,

an interpretation,

of Harrison Street between 18th and Mariposa.

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WHERE IS HARRISON?

Where is Harrison anyways? It is in San Francisco obviously, if you didn't read the title already, but where in San Francisco? In this section, you will know exactly where it is in San Francisco and then you will be an expert and be all ready to go and plan your trip there.





The Intersection of 18th and Harrison St.



Hello Harrison!

Welcome to Harrison Street between 18th and Mariposa. This block is in the Inner Mission District of San Francisco. In this particular area it is more of an industrial neighborhood but it is becoming more of a mixture and has different kinds of establishments occupying the block, such as offices, doggy daycare, residential apartments, and a restaurant. This block is usually busy with plenty of drivers and people passing through it. The weather on this block is almost always really nice, with mostly sunny days and clear skies throughout the year.

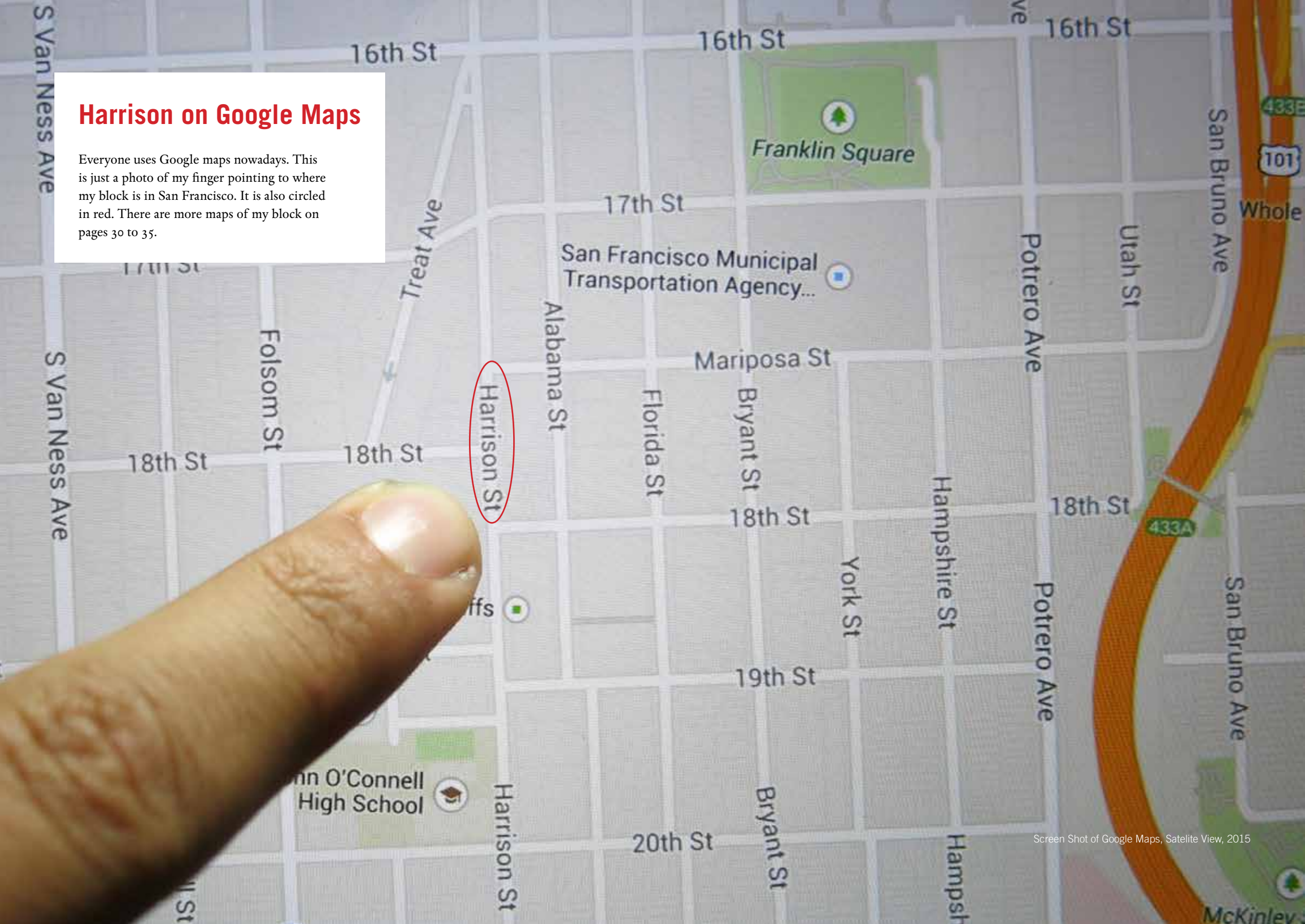
How Do I Know Harrison?

What is my relationship to Harrison? Well, I actually work right on the block, at Mr. Muggles' Dogs. I have been working there for a while now and I enjoy it and the location of it because it is in between the Bart and my school CCA (California College of the Arts). Before my job I didn't visit this block but I have been on Harrison Street before when I was in High School. During one of the summers I took art classes at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and had to catch the bus on Harrison. It is pretty far from the block I am

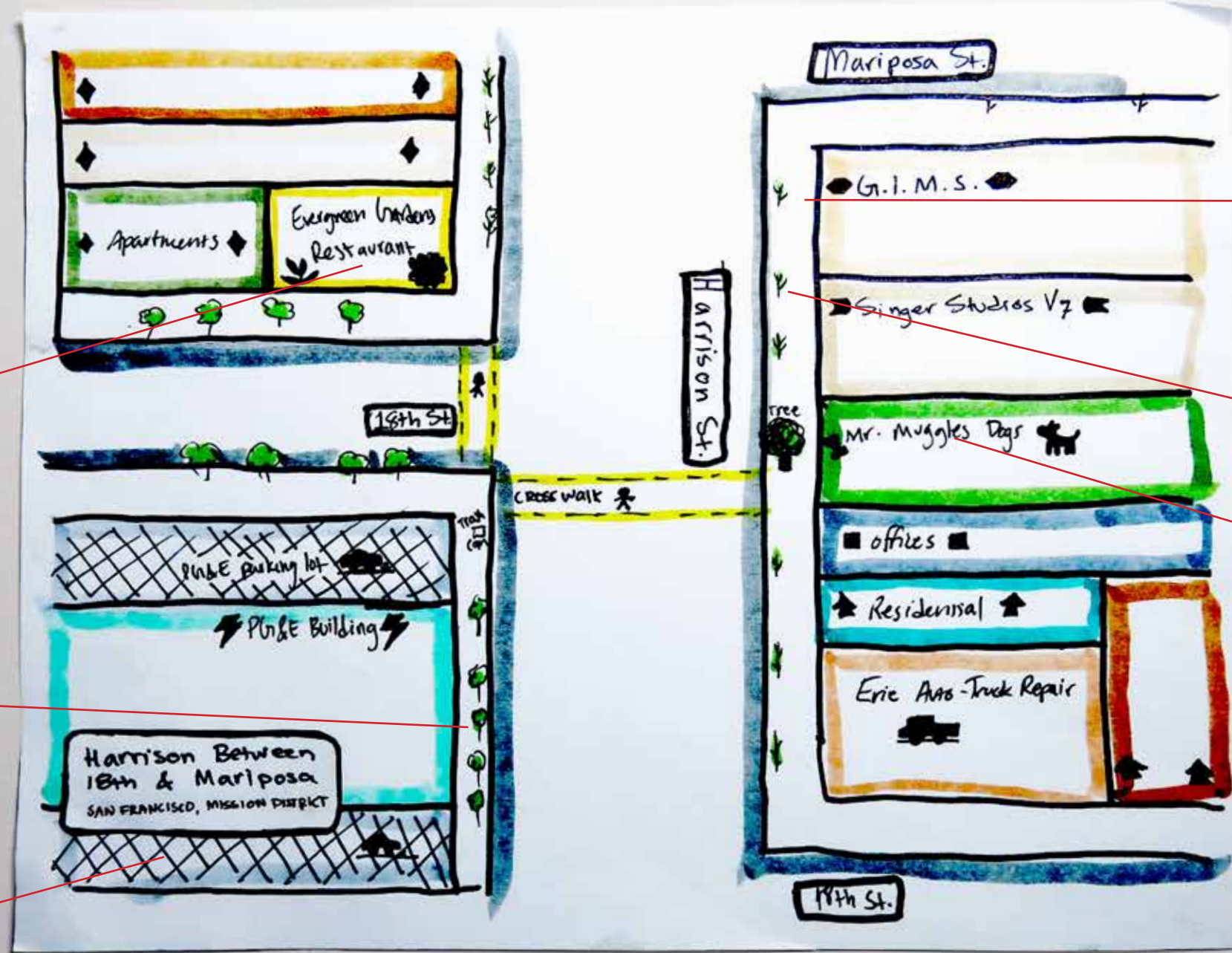
talking about in this book but thought it was worthy of mentioning because I sometimes forget how long Harrison actually is. Also that part of Harrison is pretty different from this Harrison. There are some similarities like homeless roaming about here and there but the Harrison I met during that summer was a bit sketchier and had a lot more traffic.

Harrison on Google Maps

Everyone uses Google maps nowadays. This is just a photo of my finger pointing to where my block is in San Francisco. It is also circled in red. There are more maps of my block on pages 30 to 35.



My Map of Harrison



Pretty good Vietnamese food. Beautiful outdoor eating area.

A couple of homeless folk are stationed here.

PG&E workers always driving into and working in this lot.

Chairs and other used furniture pieces are sold here sometimes.

Dianne's small garden. Don't let your dog pee on the flowers, Dianne will scorn you for it. *

This is where I work.

*Dianne is an old woman who lives on the block.

WHY HARRISON?

Why did I choose Harrison Street? Well, in this chapter I'll give you some reasons as to why I picked this block for my book and also show you through a variety of pictures that I took of the block. Hopefully by the end of the book my block will seem so interesting that you will want to come and visit it sometime.



My List of Reasons

I think Harrison between Mariposa and 18th is a pretty unusual and interesting block. The weather always seems to be nice which gives the block this Zen and meditative atmosphere. The dogs that pass by or that go to the daycare also make the block feel more uplifting. Although it is strange because the block might appear dandy and bright but it isn't always. Homeless are stationed just on the edge of the block by the carnival mural and pass through the block occasionally. Sometimes, kooky and shady characters lurk around the neighborhood but I think that is more of a typical city sort of thing than just my block.

A much more legible list of reasons than the one on the right.

- 1) The Doggies! Lots of dogs visit my block!
- 2) The weather, it's always sunny!
- 3) The foot traffic! Lots of people always walking by.
- 4) The plant life! There are many trees and small gardens people keep.
- 5) The businesses are interesting. Not your typical street.
- 6) Mixture of industrial, commercial and residential.
- 7) The bikes! Everyone passes on his or her bikes!
- 8) Very nice mural down the street!
- 9) I work on the block and wanted to learn more about it.
- 10) Very relaxing atmosphere, thanks to the weather.

Why did I choose my Block?

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- 2) The weather, it's always sunny!
- 3) The foot traffic! Lots of people always walking by.
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- 5) The businesses are interesting. Not your typical street.
- 6) Mixture of industrial, commercial and residential.
- 7) The Bikes! Everyone passes on their bikes!
- 8) Very nice mural down the street!
- 9) I work on the block and wanted to learn more about the block.
- 10) Very relaxing atmosphere, thanks to the weather.

Capturing Thoughts

As I captured photos of my block I associated a word to the picture based on what I was thinking when taking the picture. I came up with weird words and photo combinations and this is the result of that. These word and picture combinations are all representative of what I was experiencing on the block. Maybe some of these combinations will help paint a picture of what the block feels like and maybe they won't, but nonetheless they are capturing something about the block.

All these pictures were taken on Harrison between Mariposa and 18th the same day, January 28, 2015 and are marked with the times that they were taken, which is mostly in the afternoon when the block is most lively.



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1:46 pm | 1:52 pm | 1:53 pm | 1:54 pm | 1:57 pm | 1:58 pm | 2:03 pm | 2:04 pm | 2:05 pm | 2:07 pm | 2:08 pm | 2:08 pm | 2:21 pm | 2:32 pm | 2:42 pm | 9:02 pm |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| odd | empty | cozy | complex | alive | fin | caution | clear | vibrant | cute | goofy | daunting | shadow | pattern | pot | plane |



2:06 pm

reflection



2:06 pm

portal



2:15 pm

garden



2:15 pm

star



2:18 pm

posh



9:01 pm

dark

artificial

2:02 pm



As I was taking this picture I was thinking of a song “Artificial Nocturne” by one of my favorite bands “Metric”. I think the way the grid glass panels looked against the natural organic shapes of the trees, and the reflections of the trees on the glass reminded me of the art from one of there albums. Then while I was in that moment that song played in my head.

A paragraph about the block, using the words that I thought of when photographing the block.

Harrison is an **odd** street. It is never **empty** but yet it feels **cozy**. It is **complex** to communicate. The road feels **alive**, the constant traffic never **finishes**. I **caution** those who visit to look both ways and making sure the coast is **clear** before crossing the street. It can be very **vibrant** during the day. There are many **cute** and **goofy** dogs prancing around the place. Although, it can also feel **daunting** when you go to the end of the block where the homeless are stationed in front of the Carnival mural. It is also more **shadowy** in that direction because of the trees. When the sun hits that part of the block you can see the **patterns** on the murals more vividly. Trees are not the only plant life in the area, many residents of the block have plants in **pots** to decorate their homes. **Planes** can be seen in the sky over the street sometimes. As I make this **reflection** it is like going through a **portal** and transporting to the block. I can see the **garden** in front of Evergreen and smell the food cooking from the restaurant as I think about it. At night you cannot see **stars** in the sky because of all the lights from the **posh** apartments and street lamps. This also makes the street not very **dark** at night. It is always being illuminated by all the **artificial** lights from the street and from the cars lights when they pass by.