

RESUME

Al Barna and Randall Ann Homan, Neon Historians/Consultants
SAN FRANCISCO NEON/HISTORIC NEON NETWORK
415-272-7623 | historicneonnetwork@gmail.com
<http://www.historicneon.net>

PROFILE

Local neon historians/consultants Al Barna and Randall Ann Homan are the authors/photographers of *San Francisco Neon: Survivors and Lost Icons* (Giant Orange Press, 2014). This book is the result of 5 years of documenting and celebrating San Francisco's 200+ historic neon signs and includes endnotes for iconic signs with a neighborhood index of sign condition and location. Since the book's publication, Al and Randall have continued historic research on individual signs/small businesses and developed walking tours through out the city, and continued to do historical research and promote awareness for San Francisco's unique collection of historic neon signs via neon talks, video screenings, and photo exhibits. Neon events are customized to connect with audiences on many levels: science, art, popular culture, design, typography, city history, and the growing national movement to preserve landmark neon signs.

Neon event partners in include: Art Deco Society of California, Atlas Obscura, Balboa Theater, Exploratorium Museum, International Association of Lighting Designers, Mechanics Institute Library, Noir City Film Festival, Neon Type Camp, Nerd Nite EB, Nerd Nite SF, RayKo Photography Center Gallery, Portola Neighborhood Association, San Francisco City Guides, San Francisco History Association, San Francisco History Days, San Francisco Public Library, Society for Experiential Graphic Design SF, Tenderloin Museum, and Westerners Historical Society.

NEON EVENTS/CONSULTING EXPERIENCE (PARTIAL LIST)

San Francisco Neon Walking Tours Spring 2015 to present
<https://giantorangeexpress.ticketleap.com/>

Event Description: Five different historic neon walking tours offered twice monthly in San Francisco. Over 80 sold-out tours have engaged more than 800 tourees mostly locals who love to take all five tours. Tourees become historic neon advocates and keep us posted on any changes to historic neon signs in their neighborhoods.

Avenue Theater Neon Restoration September 2017
2675 San Bruno Avenue SF

Consultation and sign design for marquee sign "The Ave"

Event Description: San Francisco Mayor promotes neon restoration! The Avenue Theater's neon celebration featured SF Mayor Ed Lee to help flip the switch to reveal the Avenue's towering restored neon sign. L organ music, ice cream, and plenty of popcorn were part of the neighborhood festivities! We were on hand to celebrate and see our design for the marquee neon "The AVE" aglow for the first time. Luke Spray, Jim Rizzo, and the Neon Works team are to be congratulated for another excellent neon restoration project of an historic cinema treasure. This restoration is a project of the Portola Neighborhood Association and the city's Office of Economic and Workforce Development.

Atlas Obscura-NeonWorks Shop Tour-Talk-Demo July 2017
967 Grace Avenue, Oakland

Presentation: *The History, People, and Science behind Neon Signs*

Event Description: Oakland Mayor promotes neon restoration! We had a surprise visit from Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, posing here with Jim and Kate Rizzo. Jim and Kate graciously hosted a neon event at Neon Works HQ, organized by Bart Bernhardt for Atlas Obscura. We did our neon history talk, Jim gave a fascinating tour of his shop and personal sign collection, Libby Cahill gave an expert demonstration on the fine art of tube-bending.

SF Neon City: An Evolving Landscape December 2016
San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, Koret Auditorium

Presentation: *The Evolving Landscape and History of San Francisco's Vintage Neon Signs*

Event Description: How have neon signs influenced the landscape of our city? How does a unique neon sign evolve from advertising to art? Join us for an afternoon exploring these questions with neon historians and *San Francisco Neon* authors Al Barna and Randall Ann Homan plus special guest speaker Avery Trufelman of 99 Percent Invisible/Radiotopia.

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Exploratorium After Dark: Everything Matters/Neon January 2017
Exploratorium Museum, Pier 15, San Francisco

Presentation: San Francisco Neon Lost Landscapes Video/Talk

Event Description: *San Francisco Neon* authors will be signing books and screening neon-focused footage from the Prelinger Archive and classic Hollywood films. The main event is a scientific presentation on neon, the featured element from the ongoing series called *Everything Matters: Tales from the Periodic Table*. Come be in your elements with Exploratorium scientific raconteur Ron Hipschman.

PHOTO EXHIBITS/EXHIBITIONS

Rayko Photo Center August–November 2015

428 Third Street San Francisco CA

Gallery Exhibition: *San Francisco Neon: 36 Prints*

San Francisco Public Library August 2016–January 2017

100 Larkin Street San Francisco CA

Arts and Music Department Exhibit: *Neon Survivors and Lost Icons from the Archives*

Mechanics Institute Library December 2017 to present

57 Post St, San Francisco, CA

Public Exhibit: *San Francisco Neon book and photographs*

PUBLICATIONS

Hardcover trade book: *San Francisco Neon: Survivors and Lost Icons* (Giant Orange Press, 2014)

Exhibit catalog: *San Francisco Neon Icons* (Giant Orange Press/San Francisco Public Library 2016)

Upcoming publication in Spring 2018: *Neon Best Practices: A Community Guide* (Giant Orange Press/Tenderloin Museum, 2018)

AWARDS

2016 Preservation Award: Art Deco Society of California

BIOS

Al Barna is a San Francisco photographer and artist whose work has been shown in exhibitions at the de Young Museum, the Legion of Honor Museum, the Rayko Gallery, and the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery. His photography has been published in CA Modern magazine, Society of Commercial Archeology Journal, The Sun magazine, Alta California magazine, Shots magazine, Slate.com, FastCompany.com,, and AtlasObscura.com.

Portfolio: albarna.com

Education: Studies at San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco CA

Randall Ann Homan is a San Francisco art director, photographer, website developer, and an award-winning graphic designer. She began her interest in the art of signage as an apprentice sign painter in Flagstaff, Arizona. Her photography has been published in Society of Commercial Archeology Journal, Alta California magazine Slate.com, FastCompany.com, and AtlasObscura.com.

Portfolio: giantorange.net

Education: Studies at Lone Mountain College, San Francisco CA

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PRESS

Bringing the Light Back to the Night

— *Bonnie Burton, AltaOnline.com*

San Francisco Neon Renaissance

— *Joyce Slayton, PerLaMente.com*

City and Property Owners restore neon signs in the Tenderloin

— *Carrie Sisto, Hoodline.com*

San Francisco Neon Tours Celebrate Luminous Signs Past & Present

— *Nikki Collister, Hoodline.com*

Lush photography book illuminates San Francisco's neon history...

— *Jim Van Buskirk, San Francisco Examiner*

Once loved, then reviled, the world of neon art is back in lights—from Los Angeles to San Francisco

— *Jack Levitan, CA Modern Magazine*

An Ode to the Disappearing Neon Signs That Light Up the Streets of San Francisco

— *Jordan G. Teicher, "Behold" photography blog, on Slate.com*

A New Book Documents San Francisco's Disappearing Neon Signs

— *Meg Miller, CoDesign on FastCompany.com*

Neon City, Jimmy Carter and more

— *Weekend Features, San Francisco Examiner*

If only San Francisco's neon signs could live forever...

— *Anika Bugess, AtlasObscura.com*

These San Francisco neon signs are awesome...

— *Annie Tittinger, San Francisco Magazine*

San Francisco once basked in the glow of neon... .

— *Carl Nolte, San Francisco Chronicle*

Book to focus on San Francisco neon...

— *David Weinstein, Eichler Network*