## **Dot Com Boom**

## By Cathy Arellano

internet cafes where people work without working grocery stores close reopen as food boutiques

hipsters invade the bars come for the ethnic ambience stay for the "low" rent sunny weather

take photos of murals of people never asking permission sell photos back to us as Art never see the Artist in us

mom and pop shops closed by owners who can make more by renting to them

moms and pops and kids given notice so landlords can live in space until they turn around and double, triple the rent

speculators flip homes like pancakes buildings burn down from unknown causes but you know condos or lofts going up

from Oakland, Vallejo, Sacramento kids come in every morning to stay in their schools parents cross a bridge or two to keep their paychecks

We mobilize: Hogares sí Desarrollos no! We organize: Homes Yes! Evictions No!

We march: Hogares sí Desarrollos no!

We protest: Homes Yes! Evictions No!

At planning commission meetings
Irish developers bring Irish construction workers
who hire African American and Latino subcontractors
to stare us down
to tear down
remodel
put up
the condos
that are pushing their own people
out of the city they grew up in

the work is here now the money is here now they'll worry about their own commute later

## We

elders artists immigrants queers youth parents students community activists pack city hall chambers

sign up at public meetings to request within our allotted two minutes:

- 1) affordable units set aside
- 2) evicted receive notice and funds to vacate
- 3) zoning codes enforced

one day, one of us talks past the polite ping! planning commission president warns

Joshua pleads bailiff steps president warns please, your honor toward Joshua president warns two minutes isn't enough next to Joshua president warns

Joshua pleads bailiff swings

Joshua's arm high

slams Joshua's face into floor

commission president calls a recess
calls the cops
evicts us for disorderly conduct

mayor condemns us as he breaks records for accepting developer contributions

planning commission approves

every

construction
proposal
in the pipeli

in the pipeline

we know that pipeline has crosshairs know that we are collateral damage

we prepare for the body count in this parade for "progress" know there will be more lives disrupted more dreams deported

we return to the streets

Hogares sí Desarrollos no!