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## Member Spotlights

### Duvivier Architects

#### *Interview with Isabelle Duvivier*

I have a small architectural firm here in Venice, Duvivier Architects. My office has been on Westminster for 30 years. We do mostly single-family homes, Accessory Dwelling Units, wetland restorations, educational mapping, and creative sustainable parking lots designs (including trees, swales for water collection, and permeable paving). Our focus is the integration of the built environment with the natural world, and outdoor place-making. We have done many LEED (green) buildings which incorporate active/passive solar, collect water on site, and use native plants/edible gardening. I am currently interested and involved in planning green roofs and hope to find more clients that are interested in “greening” their own roofs, yards, and buildings.

#### **How are you adapting?**

To adapt to the current times, I am working from home a lot. I have staggered staff time at the office. And to improve my mood, I walk the dogs 4 miles every morning, and do yoga via zoom. With Noël Johnston, I started a small, and expanding group, called Verdant Venice, which plants trees in canopy-poor areas of Venice.

#### **How are you helping support the community?**

Currently people are spending much more time at home and walking and biking around the neighborhood. Partly as a reaction to this (and also because Venice needs more canopy), Verdant Venice has been planting trees around the neighborhood and, so far, have planted over 120 trees in Venice. The residents have expressed interest in our work and gratitude for both the shade and the habitat that the trees provide. We have also done maintenance work on streets where trees were suffering and have encouraged the neighbors to help in our efforts.

- Call us if you want a free tree in your yard or parkway. We can help you fill out City forms, follow up and we can show you how to care for your tree.



#### **Good news to share:**

The new trees and the maintenance of existing trees is pretty good news for us all! The City is stressed right now but still providing us with interesting species and healthy trees. We are impressed with their continued enthusiasm and support.

#### **Words of wisdom/advice:**

Working with a small group of people who are passionate about improving our neighborhood has been really inspiring and makes me excited to get up in the morning. We are meeting neighbors who are grateful for our service and our group is spinning off into subgroups in other neighborhoods, such as East Venice and Mar Vista. We are causing the change we would like to see and are building a forest for the future.

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*Pictured below: Isabelle and volunteers planting and maintaining trees*

