Major players in the economy

The following criteria:

- personhood. Let’s build a better world!
- attacking our communities, homes, education, environment, democracy,
- The San Francisco Financial District has long been nicknamed “Wall St.”
- “Wall St.”, shorthand for corporate power, is not just in New York City.

Opportunity has named and mapped these financial systems so that we can occupy them. Let’s expose how Wall St. operates in our midst, attacking our economic, social, political, and cultural life, and well being. Let’s push back against corporate power, overthrew the rule of “the 1%” and its crazy legal founda- tion of corporate personhood. Let’s build a better world!

OccupySF has chosen the Wall Street banks and corporations based on the following criteria:

- Major players in the economy
- Contributed to the 2008 meltdown
- Have a presence in San Francisco
- There are on-going local campaigns against them

**KEY WALL STREET CORPORATIONS: CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL (CAPITAL GROUP COMPANIES)**

The Washington Post called Capital Group one of the top ten firms that rules the world, and others rank it second among the “super-entity” companies that control the global economy. It’s present within the multinationals. It manages more than $1 trillion in assets, is based in L.A., and counts Fidelity Investments among its largest competitors.

**CHARIS GROUP/PAIR**

One of the leaders in the collapse of 2008, AIG had taken on $440 billion in credit default swaps (CDS) with little or no reserves with which to make good on their liabilities. When real estate prices began to fall, AIG owed so much money to other banks inside and outside of the United States that it destabilized the world financial system. No one got bailed out more dramatically than AIG, or acted more irresponsibly, and the consequences affect us all.

**MORGAN STANLEY**

Morgan Stanley is the sixth largest investment bank in US, spun off of JP Morgan & Stanford Investments. The bank that the late Alan Greenspan speculated asks around the kind of business they did—-stabilizing move for the economy overturned in 1999. By 2007, Morgan Stanley had reached a leverage ratio of thirty-one to one, meaning it had only one dollar in capital for every thirty-one it had borrowed and was heavily involved in packaging and selling subprime mortgages. The Federal Reserve allowed the failing institution to change its status from an investment bank to a bank holding company, thereby gaining access to low-interest federal loans—for an institution with 158 tax-dodging subsidiaries in the Cayman Islands, more than any other US bank.

**GOLDMAN SACHS**

Known for its obscenely large executive bonuses even while receiving bailout money. Goldman Sachs has become “the most profitable securities firm in Wall Street history.” Derogation by the SEC enabled Goldman Sachs and four other of the largest investment banks to substantially expand their businesses through borrowing, but left them fatally undercapitalized when they suffered losses. In 2008 Goldman Sachs only paid 1.1 percent of its income in taxes even though it earned a profit of $22.3 billion and held almost $800 billion from the Federal Reserve and U.S. Treasury Department.

**BECHTEL CORPORATION**

BECHTEL CORPORATION is the largest in the world of private industry, and in its financial best interest to have students default on their loans. Once a loan goes into default, Sallie Mae charges exorbitant penalties and collection costs. Between 2000-2005, the companies fee increase income by 228%.

**HYATT CORPORATION**

In an emblematic fight over the direction of our economy, thousands of Hyatt workers organized four citywide strikes in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Honolulu—with on strike in September. Hyatt has singled itself out as the worst employer in the hotel industry.

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

The SEC is the governing body of the U.S. responsible for overseeing the regulation of the securities industry. The SEC relaxed rules in 2004 that enabled banks and bank holding companies to substantially increase the level of debt they were taking on, fueling the growth in mortgage-backed securities supporting subprime mortgages. As a result, three of the five largest US investment banks either went bankrupt (Lahman Brothers) or were sold at fire-sale prices to other banks (Bear Stearns and Merrill Lynch) during 2008, creating instability in the global financial system. The remaining two converted to commercial bank models in order to qualify for Troubled Asset Relief Program funds (Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley).

**CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL (CAPITAL GROUP COMPANIES)**

Fannie Mae

AKA Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), was founded in 1938 during the Great Depression as part of the New Deal. The corporation’s purpose is to expand the secondary mortgage market by securitizing mortgages in the form of mortgage-backed securities (MBS). A December 2004 SEC review concluded that the company had to restate earnings back to 2001 because it violated accounting rules for derivatives, which are financial contracts that allow hedge agencies to make interest-rate swings, as well as for prepaid loans. On Oct. 21, 2010 an FHFA estimate revealed that the bailout of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae will likely cost taxpayers $224-340 billion in total, with over $150 billion already provided.

**MERRILL LYNCH**

Merrill Lynch is the wealth management division of Bank of America. With over 15,000 financial advisors and $2 trillion in client assets it is the world’s largest brokerage. Merrill had agreed to be purchased by B of A on September 14, 2008, at the height of the 2008 Financial crisis. In November between July 2007 and July 2008, Merrill Lynch lost $19.2 billion, or 52 million a day In 2008 Merrill Lynch arranged for payment of $3.6 billion in bonuses and commissions. Merrill received from the Fed $28.3 billion bailout.

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK**

The Federal Reserve was created by Congress in 1913. The member banks under Federal Reserve are actually private corporations and all the stocks of Federal Reserve are owned by member banks. Federal Reserve notes are therefore backed by the assets of the Federal Reserve, but primarily by the power of Congress to levy taxes. In 1986, Fed chair Alan Greenspan, a former director of JP Morgan, suggested credit derivatives could be used in the capital requirements of the United States to set aside capital to cover losses in the event that borrowers defaulted. With credit derivatives, financial institutions such as JP Morgan only not succeeded in shifting risks off their books, but they created a rapidly expanding market, which reached in billions in fees for financial institutions. In 2010 the Federal Reserve decided on its own to pump $1 trillion into the economy—nearly doubling all its previous cash injections. This was accomplished as the New York Times pointed out “by creating vast sums of money out of thin air.” The basic economic policy of our supposedly democratic nation is effectively being run by and for private industry, and the Fed is at the rotten heart of the matter.

**OTHER ECONOMIC PLAYERS**

**SALLIE MAE**

Sallie Mae is the nation’s largest student loan lender. In 1995, the company transpired from a government-sponsored entity to a for-profit corporation. In the next decade leading up to the 2008 economic meltdown, Sallie Mae’s stock shot up by more than 160 percent. In 2007, on the eve of the latest economic crisis, Sallie Mae’s top two officials together made over half a billion dollars.

In their 2003 annual report the company’s CEO, Albert Lord, bragged to shareholders that the company’s record profits were “largely from collections of defaulted student loans.” Because Sallie Mae also owns and controls collection agencies, it is in their financial best interest to have students default on their loans. Once a loan goes into default, Sallie Mae charges exorbitant penalties and collection costs. Between 2000-2005, the companies fee increase income by 228%.

**OTHERS SUGGESTED BY THE 99%**

**BECHTEL CORPORATION**

HQ of major contractor for US military and nuclear weapons projects, whose lobbyist, Philip Boecht, was Senate Banking Committee counsel during deregulation of 1990s.

**VERIZON**

When most companies experience an increase in profits, they reward the employees that helped to make it happen. Not so with Verizon. On Aug. 7th, 45,000 Verizon employees went on strike to demand an end to asking employees to contribute more to their health care and halting pension accruals for the year. Verizon’s CEO received $18 million in salary increases in 2010. Verizon also routinely slumps out on paying taxes.

**CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER (CPMC)**

CPMC is San Francisco’s largest and most profitable hospital, bequeathing its tax-exempt, non-profit status. Its Sacramento-based parent, corporate parent, Sutter Health, wants a franchise to dominate our City’s healthcare market. The company has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to convince voters to allow the deal. The lobbyist, CPMC’s lobbyist, is a former Sacramento legislator with A an employee, Sutter’s approach is to force strikes in the hopes of evading standards for workers’ rights and good jobs already in place at San Francisco’s other hospital.

9TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

On January 21, 2010, with its ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations are persons, entitled by the U.S. Constitution to buy elections and run our government. Human beings are people, corporations are legal fictions.

Action planned for Friday, January 20, 2012.

(See also occupywallstreet.org for changes.

(As of January 1/2 2012)