

LETTER FROM THE SELLER

649 61st Street, Oakland

Dear Future Owners of 649 61st Street,

Welcome home! We wanted to write a letter to the prospective buyers of this unique home because it feels so meaningful to us to pass on the rich legacy of this home and to share a piece of its history with you. We are so excited for you to add your story to the rich tapestry that is this home and this incredible neighborhood. The house was built in 1908 and has been deeply loved and well cared for over the years by a total of 4 owners, including our family. When we walked through the front doors a little over 14 years ago, we instantly fell in love with its original craftsman charm featuring redwood framing and baseboards, functional built-ins, warm wood floors, a generous layout and ingenious use of space, and its unique doorways that are every size imaginable as they were all built by hand on site over a hundred years ago. Alex immediately fell in love with the light and sunny rooms, while Aaron loved the warm cozy feel inside and the potential to build a farmette in the back yard. We took our time to make changes over the years and with every change we made to this home, we always worked to honor and preserve its original charm.

The owners immediately before us added a new roof and foundation with retrofitting and we continued that work by adding central heating, double paned windows throughout, new light fixtures and switches throughout, solid Quaker doors and hardware, new flooring in the kitchen, new sinks, vanities, and toilets in the bathrooms, new garbage disposal, Wolf oven and Miele dishwasher, interior and exterior paint, and new fences on either side of the house. Over the years we spent a great deal of time cultivating a fruitful garden, beehives, and a chicken coop. Whether you call it a homestead or a farmette, we have taken great satisfaction in repaying our neighbors' kindnesses with warm apple pies, sweet lavender infused honey, zesty lemon squares, plum and lemon preserve, tasty zucchini bread, farm fresh eggs and other delights which are gathered from our garden and shared among the wonderful residents of 61st street.

This home and community have been an incredible place to raise our children. We have always felt so grateful to live in a neighborhood where our children could walk and bike to their local school and to visit friends in the community. Living at 649 61st Street not only gives you access to amazing OUSD schools (Peralta Elementary/ Sankofa Elementary Schools, Claremont Middle School, and Oakland Tech HS), but also situates you close to AC public transit up the street on Shattuck, Ashby Bart only a 7 minute walk away, easy freeway access, local shopping in Temescal/Rockridge/Elmwood, Berkeley Bowl nearby, Bushrod Park and Dover Park only a few minutes' walk away, La Peña Cultural Arts Center only a 5 minute walk away, and an incredibly vibrant community of neighbors and friends who beautifully reflect the rich diversity of Oakland. We've raised our children here from birth to their current ages of 9 and 12. As we have grown with this home over the years, our love for our community has only deepened, which has made it close to impossible to leave.

Our only hope is that the next owners of 649 61st Street will also love this home's warm energy and flow, will appreciate the smell of fresh cut flowers and produce for a true farm to table experience, and will love living in a neighborhood teaming with vibrant families and community-minded folks who make this street so special and unique. Living in this home and community has shaped our family and enriched our lives in many more ways that are hard to describe. May you see that same potential that we saw so many years ago when we first walked into this home, and may you feel inspired to make it your own as well. We wish you our very best and please feel free to reach out with any and all questions you may have about this home, neighborhood, and community.

Warm wishes,

Aaron, Alexandra, Sabine and BenLuka