

# OHLONE CANOES

## NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE AREA

Tule (pronounced "too-lee") canoes are made from tule reeds (*Schoenoplectus acutus*). They are a bulrush, which flourishes in California wetlands. Gathering the reeds and weaving the tule into canoes is a skilled tradition that goes back many centuries.



*Ohlone Indians in a Tule Boat in the San Francisco Bay circa 1822, painting by Louis Andrevitch Choris, courtesy of The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley*

The Bayview-Hunters Point area was a favored fishing ground for the Ramaytush Ohlone of the San Francisco Peninsula.

It takes about 5,000 ten-foot long stalks or stems to create one canoe. Each stalk is filled with tiny air pockets, therefore making the canoes naturally buoyant and able to float atop the water.

Tule canoes were used by the Ohlone people to traverse marshes, inlets, lakes and bays, and used for fishing, and gathering of mollusks and shellfish.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Jessica Bodner, a Bayview resident, built the traditional Ohlone canoes displayed in Hilltop Park as a memorial tribute to celebrate and honor the Ohlone culture.



*Ohlone Ceremonial Dance by Georg von Langsdorff, 1806. Courtesy of Pentacle Press.*



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