



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Legacy Business Registry Case Report

HEARING DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2017

*Filing Date:* September 22, 2017  
*Case No.:* 2017-012394LBR  
*Business Name:* El Rio, Your Dive  
*Business Address:* 3158 Mission Street  
*Zoning:* NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale)/  
50-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 6574/007  
*Applicant:* Dawn Huston, Owner  
3158 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Hillary Ronen, District 9  
*Staff Contact:* Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186  
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

El Rio, Your Dive ("El Rio") is a local bar and event space located in the Mission District. Founded in 1978 as a Brazilian leather gay bar, El Rio is an anchor for the LGBTQ+ community in the Mission. Opened by Malcom Thornley and Robert Nett, El Rio was inspired by their leather motorcycle riding lifestyle and their love for Brazil and they wanted to create a space that combined these interests in the form of a neighborhood bar mixed with a community center. The intent was to develop a space of inclusivity and opened its doors to all in the community to gather, socialize, plan events, and unite.

The business partners with local non-profits and community based organizations to help promote an equitable San Francisco for all and offers its space for these organizations to host benefits, fundraisers, and community events. El Rio has become a vital gather space for many individuals and groups in the neighborhood and throughout the city and, apart from offering its space to local organizations for events, the business also hosts its own events open to everyone. These include Salsa Sundays, a bi-weekly event that features dancing and live salsa music from musicians throughout the Bay Area, and Mango, a monthly dance tea party for queer women of color. The outdoor patio and garden with large lemon tree and community altar has become a significant aspect of the business as a community-oriented and -driven and has played host to many events and fundraisers since opening.

El Rio is a neighborhood dive bar with a strong community-centered agenda. The business' mixed space has become an anchor to the Mission District, LGBTQ+ communities of color, and underserved communities and has rendered the reputation of being a welcoming place that does not tolerate harassment, discrimination or bigotry. Placed at the crossroads of a diverse intersection of communities in San Francisco, El Rio has thrived on its inclusive and welcoming environment.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

1978

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes, El Rio qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. El Rio has operated for 39 years.
- ii. El Rio has contributed to the Mission District community's history and identity by continuously offering a space of inclusivity for people in the community to gather, socialize, and host benefits and other events. El Rio prides itself in its dedication to giving back to the community and neighborhood in which it is rooted through profit sharing and community benefits.
- iii. El Rio is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define its presence as a welcoming and inclusive space.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

The business is associated with the tradition of being a welcoming and inclusive space for all in the community to gather.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

No. The 1924 property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a "Category B Property" that requires further review per the Planning Department's CEQA review procedures for historical resources.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

No.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. The business has been cited in numerous publications including but not limited to: SF Gate, 11/26/2009, "11 Things: Arty institutions to be grateful for," by Kimberly Chun; SF Chronicle, 3/22/2009, "The City Exposed," by Mike Kepka.

### *Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

#### **Location(s) associated with the business:**

- 3158 Mission Street



**Recommended by Applicant**

- Patio and garden with large wooden deck, large lemon tree and community altar
- Long front interior bar
- Large wooden Carmen Miranda and Marilyn Monroe paintings
- Indoor shuffle board
- Key traditions that define the heart of El Rio as a community institution in the Mission neighborhood:
  - We are a LGBTQ+ space that is welcoming to all good people.
  - We actively invest in communities to promote social change.
  - We actively invest in our local arts and music scene to give space for artists.
  - We actively pursue underserved communities in the use of our space.
- Business model that includes profit sharing and community benefits that drives the business' fundamental purpose of giving back to the community and neighborhood in which it is rooted.

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Signage at the front that says "El Rio" and "your dive"
- Location in the Mission District

*Filing Date:* September 22, 2017  
*Case No.:* 2017-012398LBR  
*Business Name:* Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center  
*Business Address:* 90 Welsh Street  
*Zoning:* SLI (SOMA Service – Light Industrial)/  
65-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 3583/011  
*Applicant:* Master Steve Rapport, Owner  
90 Welsh Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim, District 6  
*Staff Contact:* Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186  
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

## BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center (HRK), founded in 1973, is a local martial arts center serving both youth and adults alike and is believed to be the oldest Korean martial arts center on the West Coast. The origins of HRK can be traced back to the Korean United Methodist Church (constructed in 1928), the first Korean Church to be constructed in the United States by and for Koreans. In 1969, Pastor Song offered the name “Hwa Rang Kwan” to a Korean Youth Group at 712 Polk Street that was run by the former Korean Association President Min Hee Rhee, father of Taekwondo legends and actors Masters Phillip and Simon Rhee. During this same time, a man by the name of Master Dong Kie Shin opened a Hwa Rang Kwan dojang (martial arts’ school) in the Miadong district of Seoul, Korea. In 1971, Master Shin moved to San Francisco and continued his training at the Polk Street school and in 1973, he opened a HRK of his own, the Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center, on Fillmore Street.

The school has moved several times since its independent establishment opened in 1973, mostly due to rising rents. Despite the frequency with which the school has had to move, it has continually been a safe and disciplined space for Bay Area residents and visitors alike to gain confidence, strength, fitness, and balance through traditional martial arts classes such as Taekwondo, Hapkido and Kumdo (Korean wooden sword). The school’s motto is “the friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul” that is exhibited through its selection of self-defense seminars, kickboxing classes and traditional martial arts classes for both youth and adults. The school also offers its space to outside martial arts groups that cannot afford to rent premises of their own; each of which rents space from HRK on a month-to-month basis.

The school has become a place to call home, a place that offers activities to engage and improve the mind and body, and a nurturing place that teaches values and discipline. HRK is an educational institution that teaches and fosters humility, requiring that younger students spend their Saturday mornings cleaning up trash in the neighborhood and caters to and supports everyone regardless of ability to pay with the ultimate goal of teaching life skills that prepare students to navigate the 21<sup>st</sup> century with confidence, calmness and humility.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

1973

2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes, Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center has operated for 44 years.
- ii. Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center has contributed to the San Francisco and Korean community's history and identity by providing a space for the community to gather, form friendships, learn self-defense and traditional Korean martial arts and Taekwondo skills, and learn the five tenets of Taekwondo: courtesy, integrity, self-control, perseverance, and indomitable spirit.
- iii. Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define it as a prominent West Coast Korean martial arts center.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

The business is associated with teaching traditional martial arts skills and techniques.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

The 1925 property was previously surveyed as part of the South of Market Area Historic Resource Survey completed in 2010 and found to be ineligible for the National Register, California Register, or local designation through survey evaluation. The property is considered a "Category C Property" per the Planning Department's CEQA review procedures for historical resources.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

No.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. The business has been cited in the following publications: SF Chronicle, 7/29/1986, "Masters of the Martial Arts," by Jerry Carroll and SF Examiner, 10/17/2007, "Entrepreneurial exemplars honored," by Kate Williamson. Additionally, the business has received the following awards and recognitions: Certificate of Recognition by the City and County of San Francisco (1994); Proclamations by the City and County of San Francisco (1995, 1997); Certificate of Recognition by the California Legislature Assembly (2007); and Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder (2007).

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

**Location(s) associated with the business:**

- 90 Welsh Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Offering traditional martial arts classes (Taekwondo, Hapkido and Kumdo) and other self-defense classes.
- Offerings its space for local martial arts clubs and groups to practice who cannot otherwise afford to rent spaces of their own.
- Motto, “the friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul.”
- Five tenets of Taekwondo that the school does its best to instill in students: Courtesy, Integrity, Self-Control, Perseverance, and Indomitable Spirit.
- Logo containing the laurel wreath that symbolizes peace, the traditional Korean weapon (dabong – short stick) in the Taekwondo fist, the Um/Yang symbol and the Rose of Sharon hibiscus (national flower of Korea).
- Moral on the front of the building at 90 Welsh Street that features one of the school’s most talented former Taekwondo Black Belts: Michelle Bolong.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Applicant has been nominated as a "Legacy Business" by a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor.

## **OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED**

Per Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the subject nomination requires review and approval by the Small Business Commission at a public hearing in order to be added to the Legacy Business Registry.

## **PUBLIC/NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT**

The Department has received letters of support for El Rio and Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center, which are included as part of their application packets.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS**

Nomination to the Legacy Business Registry does not constitute a "project" requiring environmental review per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The nomination act would not result in any physical alteration to the subject property and could not have an effect on the environment.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission find that the above businesses qualify for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the above listed physical features and traditions as amended by Staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Draft Resolution  
Legacy Business Application

SC: XXXX



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE OCTOBER 18, 2017

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

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*Block/Lot:* 6574/007  
*Applicant:* Dawn Huston, Owner  
3158 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Hillary Ronen, District 9  
*Staff Contact:* Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186  
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION  
APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR EL RIO, YOUR DIVE,  
CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 3158 MISSION STREET (BLOCK/LOT 6574/007).**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the Mission District neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on October 18, 2017, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends that El Rio, Your Dive qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for El Rio, Your Dive

*Location (if applicable)*

- 3158 Mission Street

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business*

- *Patio and garden with large wooden deck, large lemon tree and community altar*
- *Long front interior bar*
- *Large wooden Carmen Miranda and Marilyn Monroe paintings*
- *Indoor shuffle board*
- *Key traditions that define the heart of El Rio as a community institution in the Mission neighborhood:*
  - *We are a LGBTQ+ space that is welcoming to all good people.*
  - *We actively invest in communities to promote social change.*
  - *We actively invest in our local arts and music scene to give space for artists.*
  - *We actively pursue underserved communities in the use of our space.*
- *Business model that includes profit sharing and community benefits that drives the business' fundamental purpose of giving back to the community and neighborhood in which it is rooted.*
- *Signage at the front that says "El Rio" and "your dive"*
- *Location in the Mission District*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations** are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2017-012394LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on October 18, 2017.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:

DRAFT





# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
tim.frye@sfgov.org

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTER, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 90 WELSH STREET (BLOCK/LOT 3583/011).**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the South of Market and San Francisco neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on October 18, 2017, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** that Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center

***Location (if applicable)***

- 90 Welsh Street

***Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business***

- Offering traditional martial arts classes (Taekwondo, Hapkido and Kumdo) and other self-defense classes.
- Offerings its space for local martial arts clubs and groups to practice who cannot otherwise afford to rent spaces of their own.
- Motto, "the friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul."
- Five tenets of Taekwondo that the school does its best to instill in students: Courtesy, Integrity, Self-Control, Perseverance, and Indomitable Spirit.
- Logo containing the laurel wreath that symbolizes peace, the traditional Korean weapon (danbong – short stick) in the Taekwondo fist, the Um/Yang symbol and the Rose of Sharon hibiscus (national flower of Korea).
- Moral on the front of the building at 90 Welsh Street that features one of the school's most talented former Taekwondo Black Belts: Michelle Bolong.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations** are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs** its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2017-012398LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on October 18, 2017.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:

DRAFT



SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2017-18-013  
*Business Name:* El Rio, Your Dive  
*Business Address:* 3158 Mission Street  
*District:* District 9  
*Applicant:* Dawn Huston, Owner  
*Nomination Date:* September 22, 2017  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Hillary Ronen

**CRITERION 1:** Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?       X       Yes                      No

3158 Mission Street from 1978 to Present

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?       X       Yes                      No

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?       X       Yes                      No

**NOTES:** NA

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** September 22, 2017

Richard Kurylo  
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 9



City and County of San Francisco

## HILLARY RONEN

September 22nd, 2017

Dear Director Kurylo

I am writing to nominate to the Legacy Business Registry, El Rio. El Rio was founded in 1978 as a Brazilian gay bar at its original location on 3158 Mission St, where it has become a pillar of the Mission District. Its outdoor patio and garden has hosted many events that have created a safe and inclusive space for San Franciscans of very diverse backgrounds.

El Rio actively invests in its community through partnering with local non-profits and community based organizations that help promote an equitable San Francisco for all. Several times a week El Rio hosts fundraisers, events, and happy hour beneficiaries for organizations that assist San Francisco's most underserved communities. From the minute they opened their doors, El Rio has been a haven for the LGBTQ community as well as for people of color, women and the working class. The Mission District has been hit the hardest by rapid gentrification; similar businesses have closed its doors, leaving San Francisco's marginalized communities with few spaces to feel safe to express themselves. El Rio is one of the last remaining establishments of its kind. It continuously promotes social justice while enriching and improving its local community.

El Rio is an anchor for the Mission District. It my distinct honor to nominate El Rio to become part of San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hillary Ronen".

Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

## Section One:

### Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
El Rio, Your Dive		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Dawn Huston		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:	
3158 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110	(415) 282-3325	
	EMAIL:	
	elriosflive@gmail.com	
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
www.elriosf.com	https://www.facebook.com/elriosf/	https://www.yelp.com/biz/el-rio-san-francisco

APPLICANT'S NAME	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
	( )
	EMAIL:

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0396483	

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
3158 Mission St, San Francisco, CA	94110	1978
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

## Section Three:

### Disclosure Statement.

#### San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for the Business Assistance Grant.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- ☐ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☐ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☐ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☐ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☐ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☐ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☐ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Jaron Browne 9/18/17

jaron  
browne

Digitally signed by jaron browne  
DN: cn=jaron browne, o, ou,  
email=jaronbrowne@gmail.com,  
c=US  
Date: 2017.09.22 11:28:02 -07'00'

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:



## **EL RIO**

### **Section 4: Written Historical Narrative**

#### **CRITERION 1**

**a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.**

El Rio began her life in 1978 as a Brazilian leather gay bar. The original owners, Malcolm Thornley and Robert Nett, ran El Rio until their retirement when they passed the club to Dawn Huston. Malcolm and Robert were motorcycle-riding leather gay men. They also always loved Brazil. They wove these elements of their community into all aspects of the club, with world music, community -serving events, caipirinhas on the menu and original art on the walls reflecting both Marilyn Monroe and Carmen Miranda. The infamous Salsa Sundays live music afternoon tea party was one of the first parties they started. Salsa Sundays remains one of the cornerstones of El Rio today, featuring some of the best live salsa musicians in the Bay Area.

From inception, El Rio was always intended to be an LGBTQ-friendly place that was also a mixed bar, open to everyone. This characteristic has remained throughout as one of the defining aspects of the club. There are four key aspects that define the heart of El Rio as a community institution in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco:

1. We are a LGBTQ+ space that is welcoming to all good people.
2. We actively invest in communities to promote social change.
3. We actively invest in our local arts and music scene to give space for artists.
4. We actively pursue underserved communities in the use of our space.

**b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?**

El Rio has not ceased operations in San Francisco for more than six months.

**c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.**

While El Rio is not formally a family-owned business, in our community Malcolm and Robert were like chosen family to Dawn. Dawn worked at El Rio as a door person and they were very close.

**d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.**

Malcolm Thornley and Robert Nett owned El Rio for the first 19 years, from 1978 to 1997. Dawn Huston took over the bar in 1997 when Malcolm and Robert were ready for retirement. The former owners remained connected to El Rio for many years after their retirement.

**e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

Documentation is provided in the Legacy Business Registry application.

**f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.**

The property is considered a “Category B Property.” Further consultation and review will be required for evaluation as to whether the property is an historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

## **CRITERION 2**

**a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.**

El Rio has always been driven by a fundamental purpose of giving back to the community and neighborhood where we are rooted. Profit sharing and community benefits are elemental to El Rio’s entire mission and business model. We believe that our club is a resource that can be a vehicle to support funds returning back to our community to support many vital community services and programs. Malcolm and Robert began that tradition with a weekly benefit party. When Dawn took over and applied some of her strengths coming from non-profit community service, the benefit model expanded to many nights of the week.

Through years of practice, we have developed a well scaffolded model of community-based benefit opportunities to address the wide range of needs and experiences of our community partners. In our model, we aim to accommodate everyone – those who have never organized a fundraiser before can easily apply to be one of our weekly happy hour beneficiaries, while experienced fundraising and event organizers can make use of our make use of our staffing and event infrastructure to throw a larger, more curated event. At this point, El Rio has hosted benefits for several thousand community organizations, with priority always given to Mission-based and local Bay Area organizations.

Not only does El Rio open our doors for people to approach us with requests for benefits, we also pay close attention to many of the needs and crises that happen in our city. At least half a dozen times a year, we reach out to community organizations in struggle and ask how we can

offer support. In addition to prioritizing local organizations in the Mission, priority is also given to LGBTQ rights organizations, local schools, children and family support organizations, women's and gender justice organizations and animal rescue agencies.

Some of the beneficiaries of fundraisers at El Rio in the last few years include: the Housing Rights Committee; Causa Justa::Just Cause; Mujeres Unidas y Activas; Modern Times Bookstore; the San Francisco Dyke March; the Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project; Breast Cancer Action; the Chinese Progressive Association; St James Infirmary; The Mario Woods Foundation and many more.

Included in this Legacy Business Registry application is a list of some of the community beneficiaries from El Rio fundraisers.

**b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city, or the business industry?**

El Rio has been home some of the longest running cultural events that provide an anchor for LGBTQ communities of color in San Francisco. Salsa Sundays, a mixed live music party rooted in LGBTQ Latino community, has been running for over 30 years. Mango, a monthly dance tea party for queer women of color and their friends, is celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. During Pride weekend, El Rio has been the site for the after parties of both the Trans March and the Dyke March, as well as the gathering point for Dykes on Bikes before the Dyke March.

**c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?**

Over the years, El Rio has received numerous awards, reviews and articles highlighting our contribution as a community business in San Francisco. Included in this Legacy Business Registry application is a list of some of the awards and business media coverage that El Rio has received over the years.

**d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?**

San Francisco feminists and well-known LGBTQ civil rights activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin were patrons of El Rio. Jello Biafra, the former lead singer and songwriter of the San Francisco punk band The Dead Kennedys regularly attends shows at our club. Several well-known San Francisco supervisors, including Tom Ammiano and David Campos, have held events at El Rio over the years. Additionally, Monika Treut, a famous German lesbian filmmaker, filmed part of the legendary 1988 film "The Virgin Machine" at El Rio.

**e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?**

El Rio's commitment to our community is expressed through our consistent hosting of benefits and community events that provide an anchor, gathering place and resource generator for

LGBTQ+ peoples, communities of color, working class and low-income families in the city. In addition to revenue sharing through our benefits model, El Rio is also very intentional about maintaining the most accessible pricing possible. We work hard to keep entry and product prices low so that our long-term community members at various income levels are always able to feel welcome and at home in our club.

**f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.**

El Rio is a resource to an extremely diverse intersection of communities in San Francisco. The heart of our community includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities of color and their friends. We have always been a mixed space, and our community also encompasses a broad range of public school teachers, service workers, construction workers and trades people, musicians, dancers, artists, politicians and activists. As the demographics of the Mission neighborhood have changed over the last few decades, we have also found our club to be an intersection of the long term San Francisco natives, and the newer tech workers who have been moving to the Bay Area. Within these changing conditions, we have found ways to continually teach, model and enforce best practices around inclusive space including zero tolerance policies around sexual harassment, racism, homophobia, transphobia and other forms of discrimination or harassment.

**g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?**

El Rio's patio and garden with our large lemon tree and our community altar is the most significant aspect of our physical space that has deep association with our club.

**h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?**

Witnessing the deep community grief associated with the closure of Maud's Study in 1989, Amelia's in 1991 and the Lexington Club in 2015, we know how incredibly precious and rare women-centered queer spaces are in San Francisco and how difficult they are to maintain in this competitive economy. Safe and inclusive gathering spaces are essential to the survival and resilience of LGBTQ and all marginalized peoples.

### **CRITERION 3**

**a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.**

The essence of El Rio is a neighborhood dive bar mixed with a community center. We feel a really deep responsibility to our community, our neighbors and the communities we have chosen to focus on and create space for.

**b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)**

The key practices that have supported and preserved our historical character include our centering of El Rio as an LGBTQ and mixed space, and our cultural practices that create a welcoming space and do not tolerate harassment, discrimination or bigotry. Our business model of benefits and giving back further develops this community-centered orientation throughout the club. Lastly, our commitment to affordability and keeping prices as accessible as possible to low-income and longtime San Franciscan residents is a core practice that preserves our character and traditions.

**c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).**

Physical features that define El Rio include our long front bar as a welcoming space when you first enter the club, and the expansive patio and garden that open the space up in the back of the club. Other notable physical features with historic significance to El Rio include the large wooden Carmen Miranda and Marilyn Monroe paintings that were commissioned by Malcolm and Robert from a local San Francisco artist in 1983. Finally the classic shuffle board inside the club, along with the large lemon tree, community altar and large wooden deck in the patio of the club are key physical features of El Rio.

In 2009, the website Burrito Justice published historical records on the history of El Rio's building as it transformed over 100 years ago from a horse and carriage space to an area with a historic concentration of saloons and bars: <https://burritojustice.com/2009/10/21/el-rio-31-el-rio-123/>.

**d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

El Rio's original owners, Malcolm and Robert, ran the club for the first 19 years. Dawn, the current owner, has been running El Rio for the last 20 years. While the core character has been maintained, there has been some evolution and development of the club along our maturation. When Malcolm and Robert began El Rio, we had one night a week designated for benefits. Dawn took that essential model and expanded it to 3-6 nights a week. Throughout all of our years, El Rio has been a mixed space for LGBTQ communities and the broader neighborhood

with a focus on people of color, women and folks of all genders and gender expressions. The original party that Malcolm and Robert began when they first opened the club, Salsa Sundays, is still going strong and is foundational to our club. Some of our regular customers span the full history of our club and help to hold this history and tradition with our staff. El Rio has been such a vital community center for so many San Franciscans that we have also been host to a number of weddings, anniversaries and even memorials as a reflection of deep importance many San Franciscans feel about the community space created in our club.

## EL RIO

### Press

2016 “Best Neighborhood Bar” - Bay Area Reporter  
2016 “Best Small Live Music Venue” - Bay Area Reporter  
2016 “Best Women’s Party, Mango” - Bay Area Reporter  
2016 “Best Nightlife Party, Hard French” - Bay Area Reporter  
2015/16 “Best Dog Friendly Bar” - Bay Woof Readers  
2015 “Best Neighborhood Bar, Mango,” “Best Women’s Party, Hard French,” “Best Afternoon Party” - Bay Area Reporter  
2014 “Best Dog Friendly Bar” - Bay Woof Readers  
2014 “Best Lesbian Bar” - Bay Guardian Readers  
2013 “Best Dive Bar” - Bay Guardian  
2013 [“Best Dive Bar”](#) - foursquare  
2013 “Best Queer Dance Spot ~ Hard French” - Bay Guardian  
2013 “Best Food Cart ~ Rocky’s Fry Bread” - Bay Guardian  
2012 “Small Business Award: Community Service”  
2012 “Community Ally Award” - Harvy Milk Club  
2012 “Pride Community Award” - SF Pride  
2012 “Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition” - SF Mayor/Board Of Supervisors  
2012 “Certificate of Honor” - Board of Supervisors

### Bay Guardian Best Of

*“Best Place to pretend you’re in a Fellini Movie- El Rio on a Sunday Afternoon”*

1995 “Best Dive Bar”  
1998 “Best of the Bay”  
1999 “Best Salsa Club”  
2000 “Best Place to meet Women, Mango on Saturday”  
2001 “Best Salsa Club”  
2002 “Best Bar To Play Pool In”  
2002 “Best Salsa Club”  
2003 “Best Gayish Bar”  
2004 “Best Queer Revolutionary Headquarters”  
2005 “Best Happy Hour- Audience Award”  
2008 “Best Happy Hour”  
2008 “Small Business Award: Community Service”  
2008 “Best Happy Hour - Free Oysters” - Audience Award  
2009 “Best Happy Hour” and Swing Goth  
2011 “Community Spirit Award”- Frameline  
2011 “Best Dive Bar” and “Best Super Duper Gay Party - Hard French”

### Bay Guardian Scene Spring 2007

“Party spaces that give a damn: Billing itself as ‘your dive,’ El Rio defines ‘you’ as a crowd of anarchists, trannies, feminists, retro cool kids, and heat-seeking salseros as diverse as you’re likely to find congregating around one shuffle board table. Whether featuring a rawkin Gender Pirates benefit show or a rare screening of ‘The Fall of the I-Hotel as part of a radical film series Televising The Revolution, El Rio encourages and intimacy and camaraderie among its dance floor-loving patrons less frequently found these days in an increasingly class divided Mission.”

**City Search**

2006 “Best OutDoor Bar” - Audience Winner

2008 “Best Happy Hours”

2010 “Best Happy Hour”

**AOL City Guide**

“Best Gay Bar”

**Examiner & The Independent**

“Peninsulas Best Latin Music Club”

**SF Chronicle/BayList Winner 09 Voted Best Neighborhood Bar**

**Sf Chronicle/SF Gate 09 Best Nightlife/Neighborhood Bar**

**Red Hots Burlesque**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/redhotdottie/sets/72157604035538444/>

**El Rio on You Tube**

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=el+rio+sf&search\\_type=](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=el+rio+sf&search_type=)

**Gay Cities**

<http://sanfrancisco.gaycities.com/bardetail/24/>



## **Some of the Community Beneficiaries from El Rio Fundraisers**

AIDA  
Bernal Heights Outdoor Cinema  
Finding Insight  
Girls Rock Camp Alliance  
Jeff 'Free' Luers  
John Avalos for SF mayor campaign  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
Lyon Martin Health Services  
SF LGBT Center  
Warrior 3  
.change1021.org  
[SSEX BBOX]  
99% Print Committee  
AIDS-LIFECYCLE  
Amazon Watch  
AMERICAN TRIPPS ? Berlin-Style Ping Pong Party  
Americans for Safe Access  
Angela Park  
Art XX Magazine  
Auto-Defensa Bilingue/Bilingual Self-Defens  
BAAWL  
Bad Rap  
Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights  
Bay Area Radical Women  
Bayan USA  
Beast of the Bay Awards  
borderOUT  
Born To Drum  
Brass Liberation Orchestra  
Breast Cancer Actio  
Building Bridges: Struggle, Solidarity, Equality LGBTQ Conference  
Capoeira Ijexa  
Casa Besu  
Charming Hostess  
Chinese for Progressive Association  
CIS Elementary School Fundraiser  
Community Boards  
Derby Dog  
Doctors With Out Borders  
Earthquake & Tsunami Relief Fund  
Fabulosa  
Faith Golden  
Fat Fancy  
Feel Good

Fellowship of Reconciliation Colombia Program  
Flying Needle Project Acupuncture Clinic  
Friends of 3356 (victims of the 24th Street fire)  
Give A Dog A Bone  
GLBTQ PACIFIC ISLANDERS COMMUNITY  
Golden Roots  
Good Vibrations Indie Erotic Film Fest  
GreenEmpowerment.org  
Grrrl Camp  
Haiti Medical Aid Project  
Harvey Milk Day  
Hip Hop Against Hate  
Homobiles  
Housing Rights Committee  
IEP Clinic  
ImmigrationEquality.org  
Jewish Funds for Justice  
Karlyn Lotney (aka Fairy Butch.)  
KeepTurningHeads.org  
Larry Gibson  
Leonard Flynn Elementary school PTA  
Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School  
Liberation Institute  
Livid Cult Burlesque Theatre  
Lusty Lady Cinema  
Maria Machetes  
Mckinley Elementary  
Memoir Journal  
Mia Tu Mutch Sex Change Fund  
Michigan Womyn's music festival  
Modern Times Bookstore  
Monica Nolan  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
Muttville  
Mutual Aid Disaster Relief  
NAMI Walk San Francisco  
NOLOSE  
Pachamama Alliance  
Palestinian Circus School Documentary  
Pancake Playhouse  
Paulie Milagros Schreck  
Precita Eyes  
Produce to the People  
Progressive Jewish Alliance  
ProjectCommotion.org  
Public Interest Reporting Project

Queer Art Camp Fundraiser  
Queer Ballroom  
Queer Girl Theatre Project  
Queer Porn Summer Camp Film Project  
Queer Porn TV  
QueerSouth.com  
Radiant Dark  
Rae Thomas  
Rocket Dog  
Saint James School  
San Francisco Community Land Trust  
San Francisco Community School  
San Francisco Dyke March  
San Francisco General Hospital's Special Homeless Programs (EDCM)  
San Francisco Living Wage  
San Francisco Trans March  
San Francisco Womens' Film Festival  
San Pancho Art Collective  
Schools for Salone  
Sexual Minorities Uganda  
SF Aids Foundation  
SF Community School  
SF Creatures of the Loin, Moped Rally  
SF Dimensions Queer Youth Clinic  
SF Dykes on Bikes  
SF Food Bank  
SF Pride at Work  
SFSU's Health Education/Public Health Department  
Shawna Virago  
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence  
Soccer Without Borders  
St. James Infirmary  
Storm Miguel Flore  
Street Level Heath  
TCB Courier  
Team In Training  
The Bay Area Booking Collective  
The Center for Sex & Culture  
The Crow & The Wolf Project  
The Great Grandfather's Club  
The Hop-Cinco De Mayo Edition  
The Icarus Project  
The Kariua Project  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
The Stack: Fully Occupied News

Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project.

TransLatinas

US Federation of Worker Cooperatives Conference

Wild Horse Sanctuary

Wotever World

Yes Alexander

Young Workers United



... your dive

thirty one fifty eight

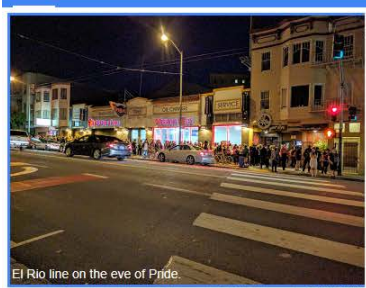
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LOS ANGELES  
CALIF. 90028





# El Rio

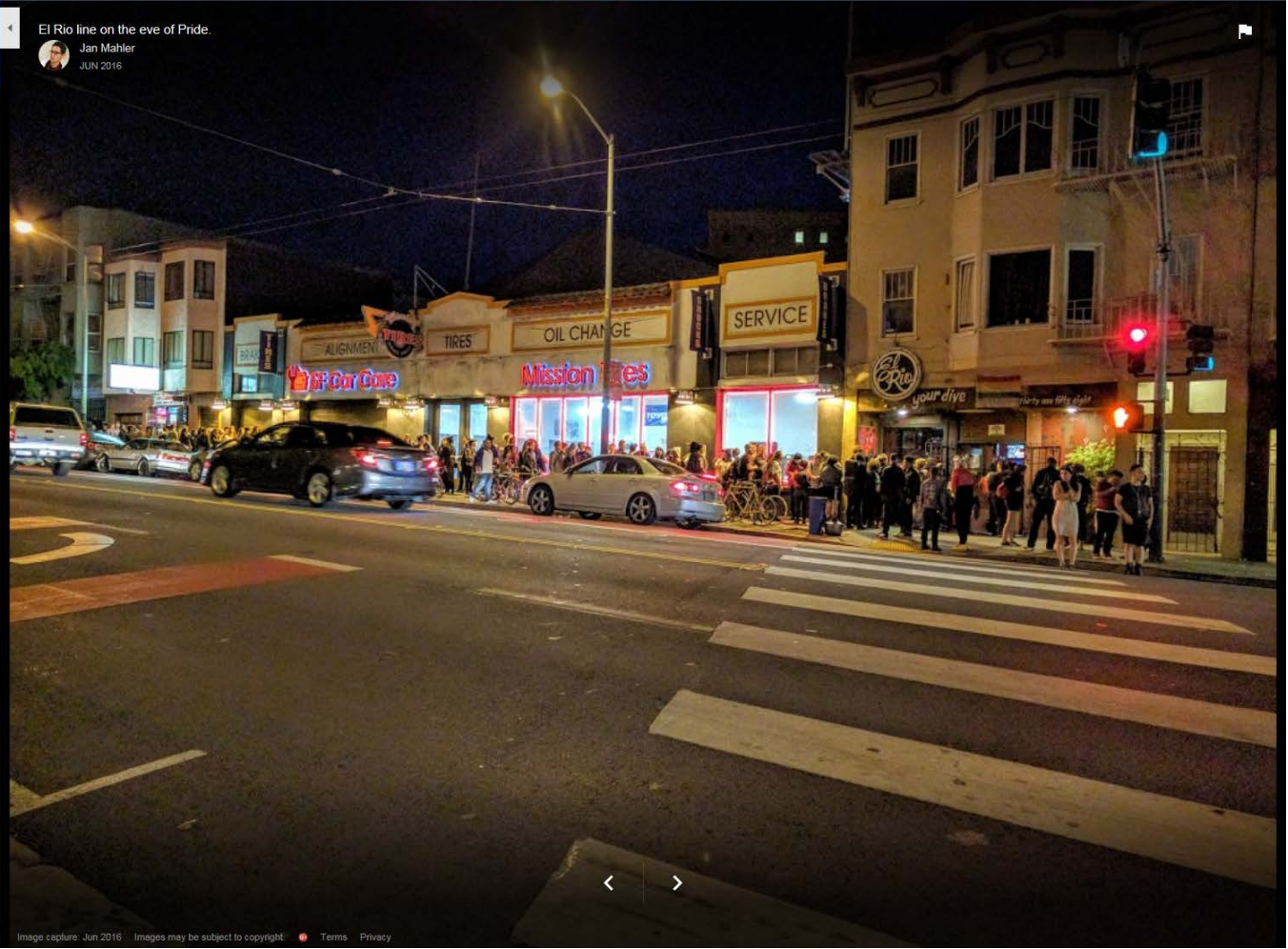
ALL FROM MENU BY OWNER



El Rio line on the eve of Pride.

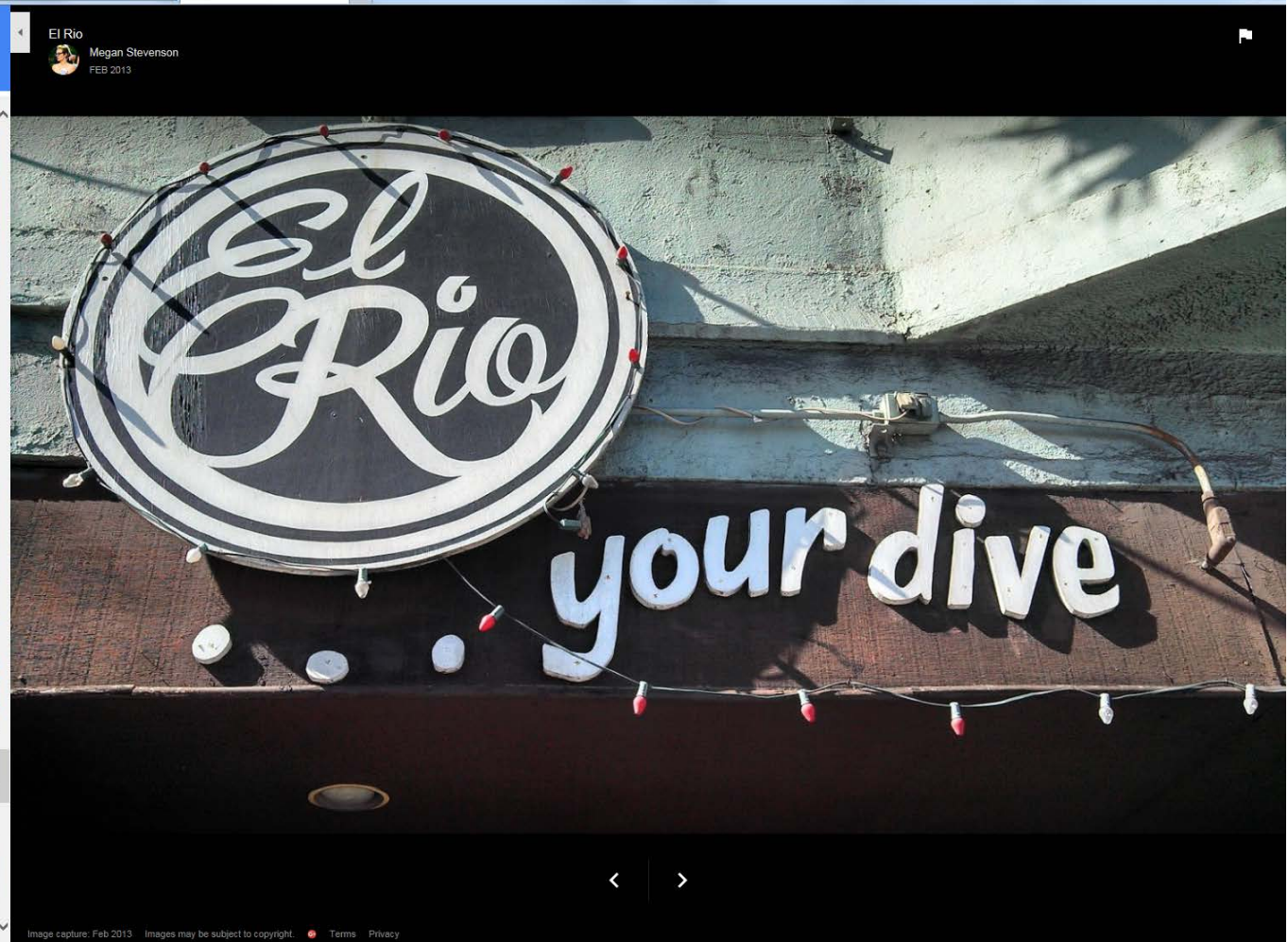
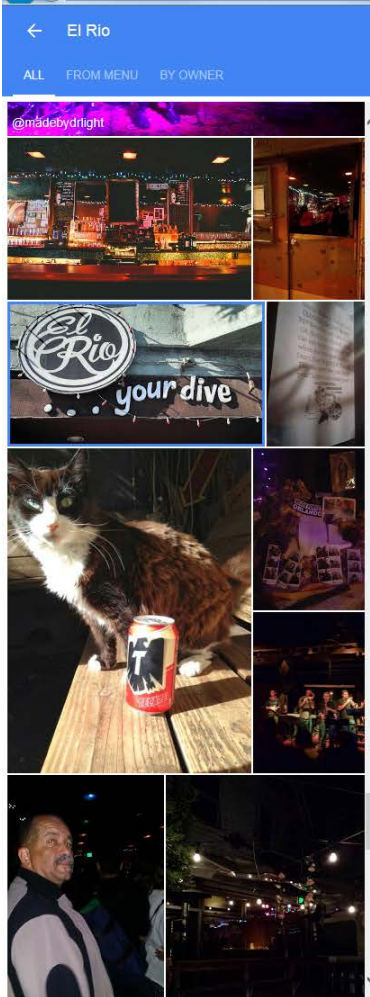


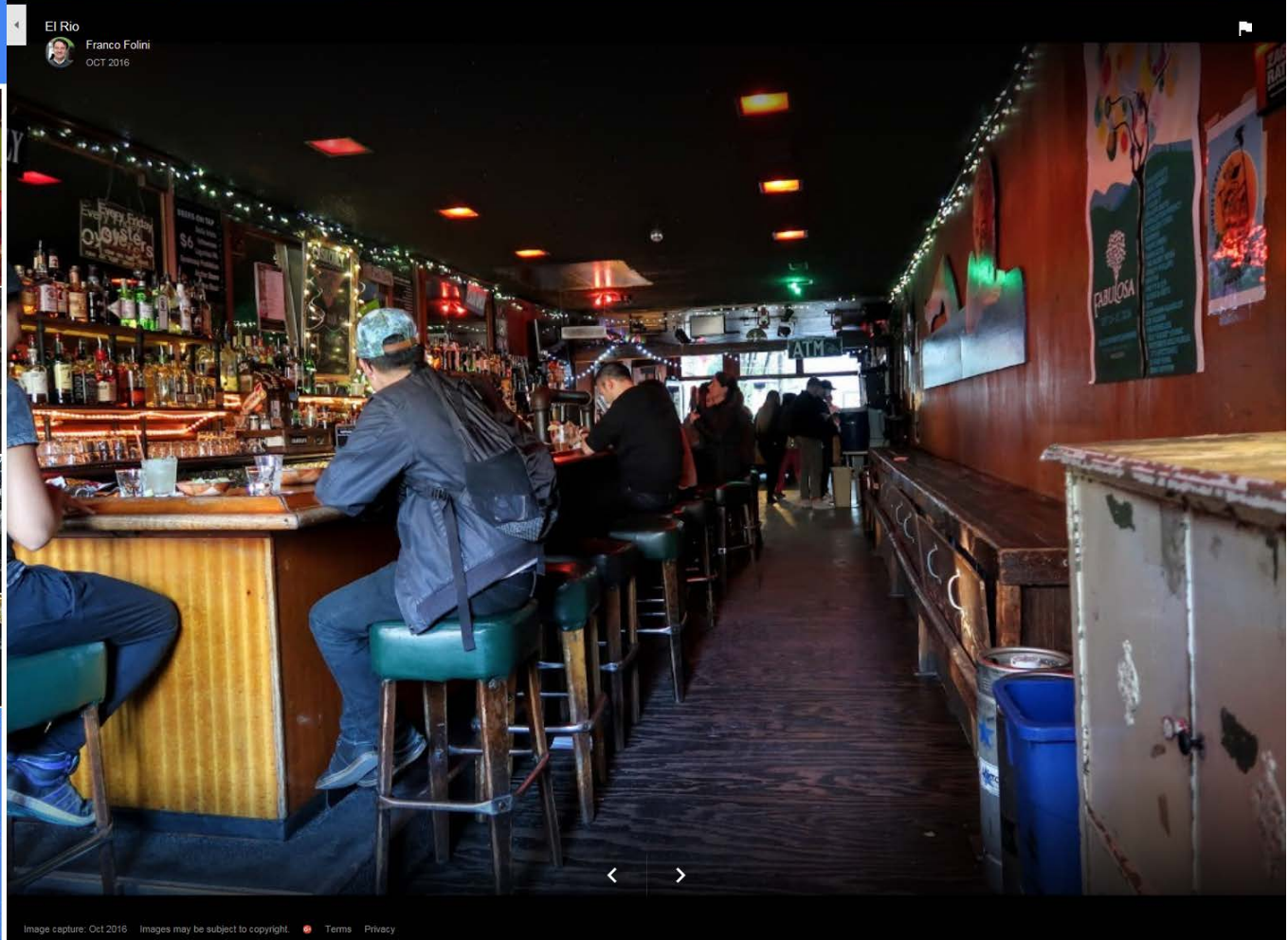
Salsa Sundays at Mission



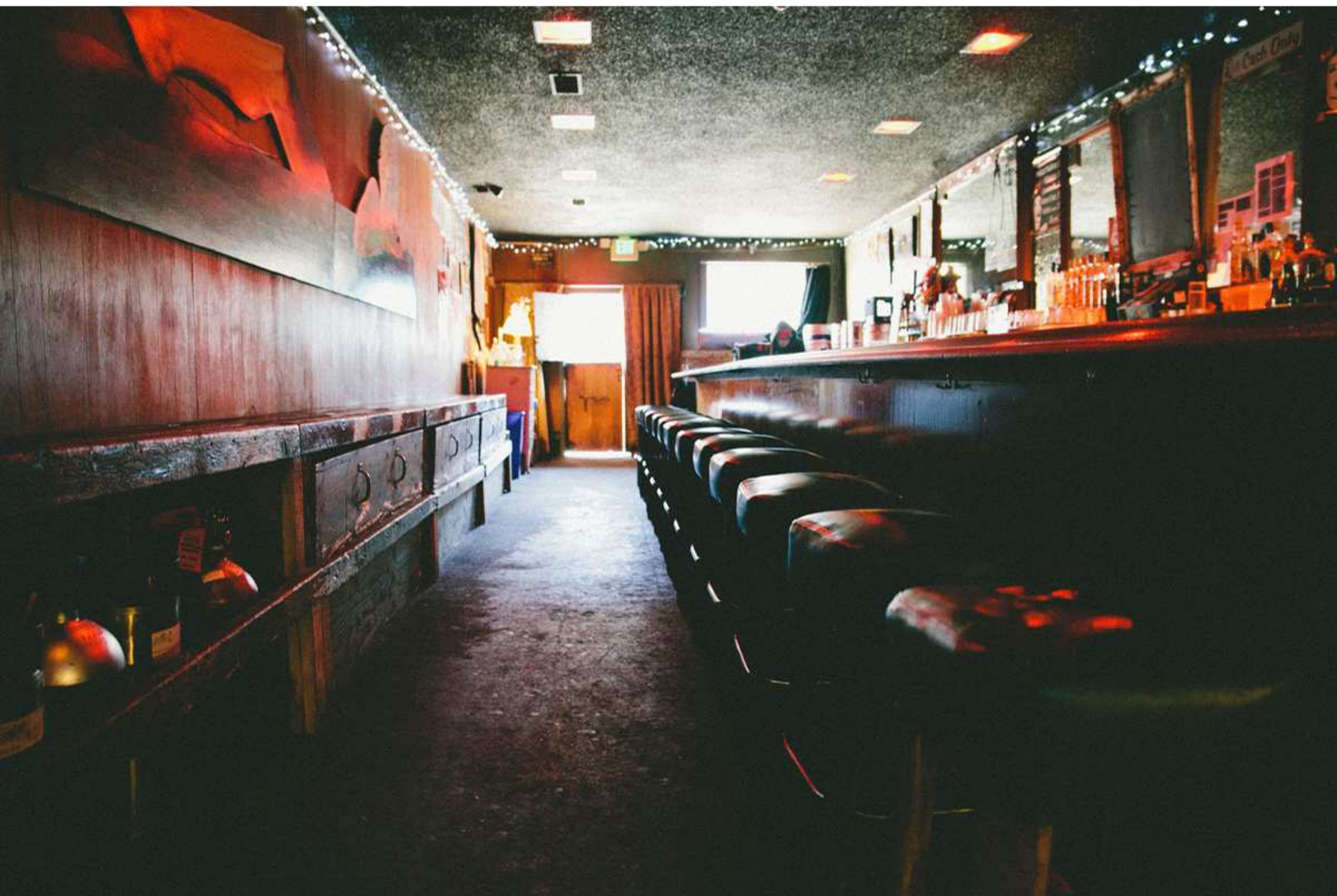
El Rio line on the eve of Pride.  
Jan Mahler  
JUN 2016





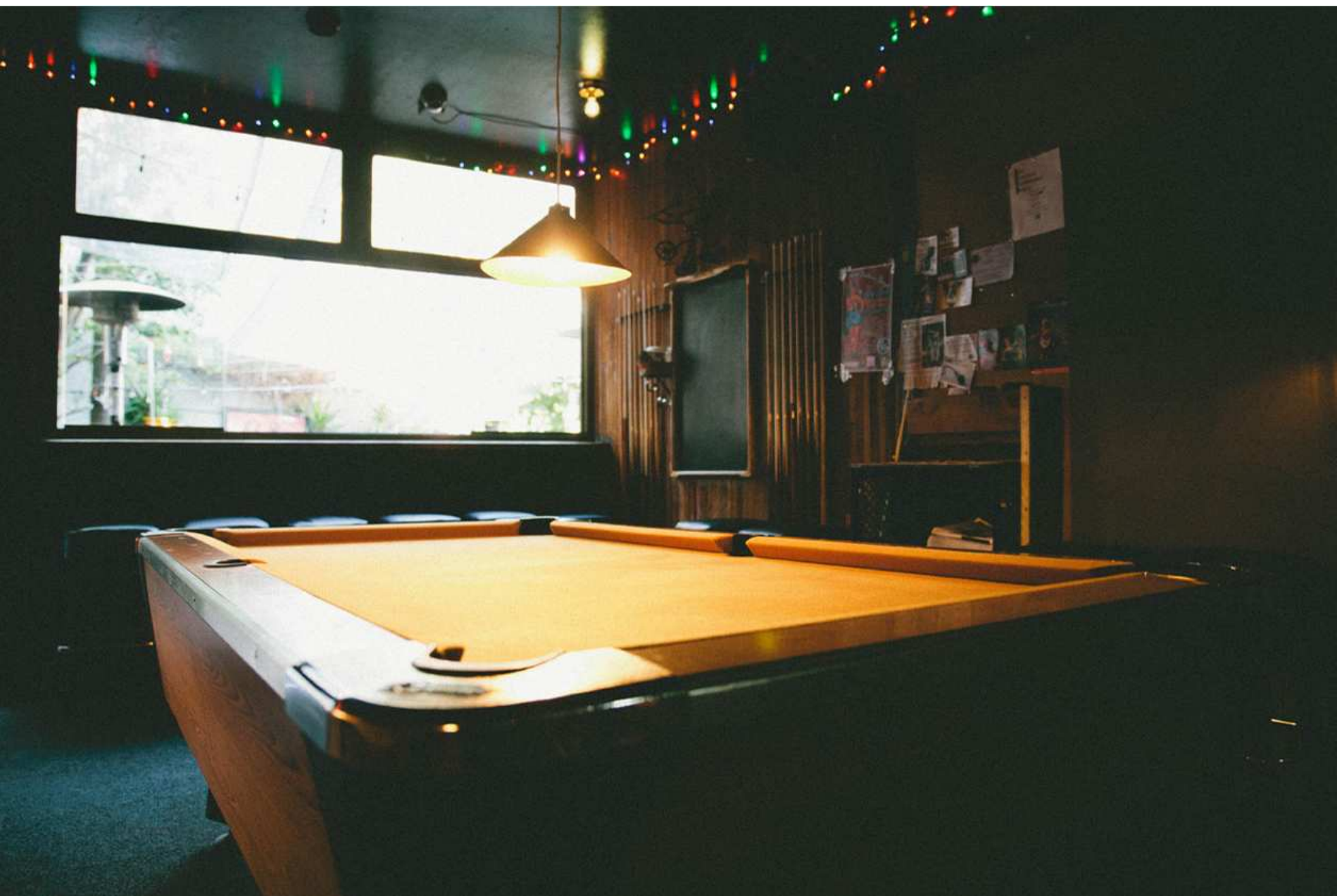








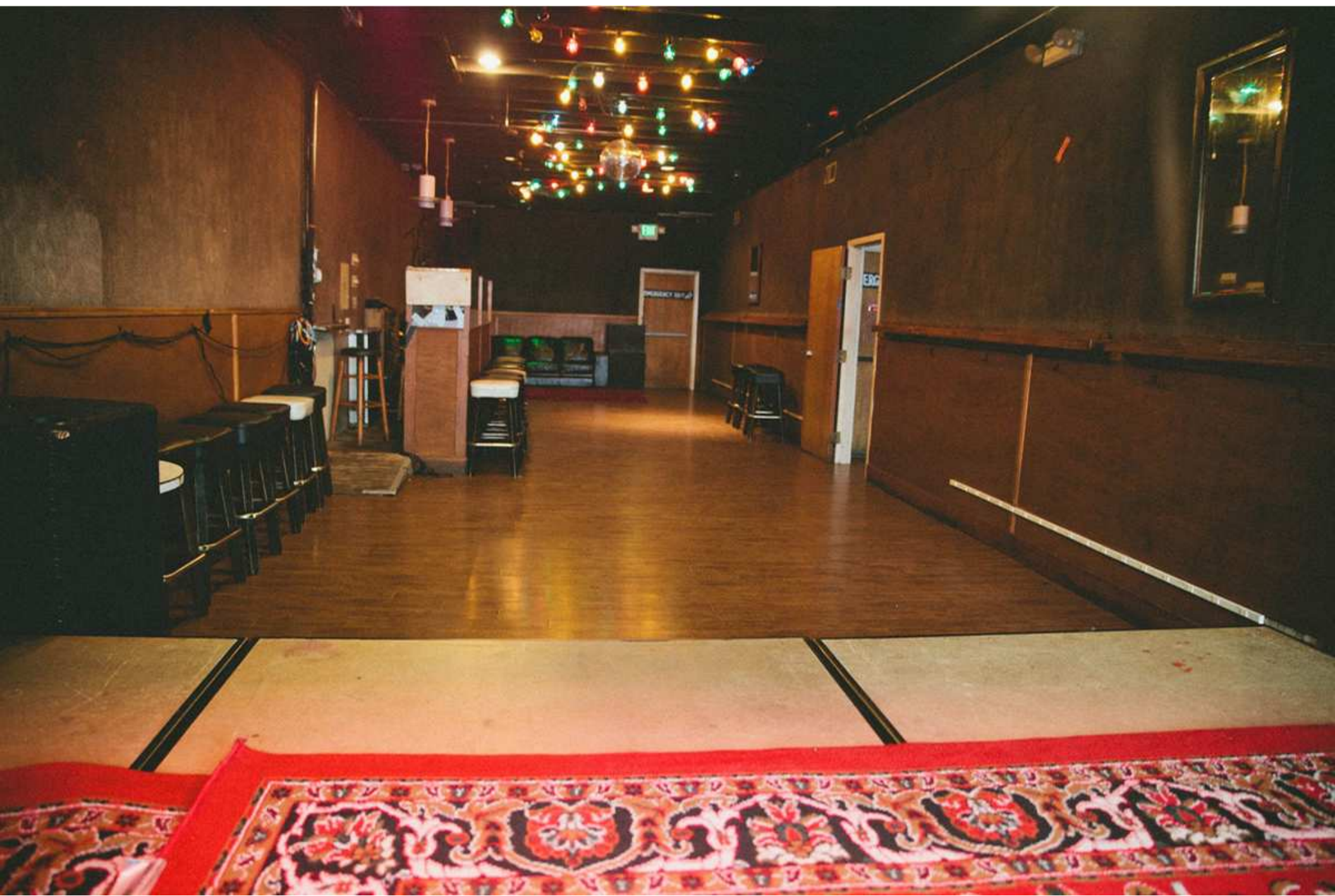








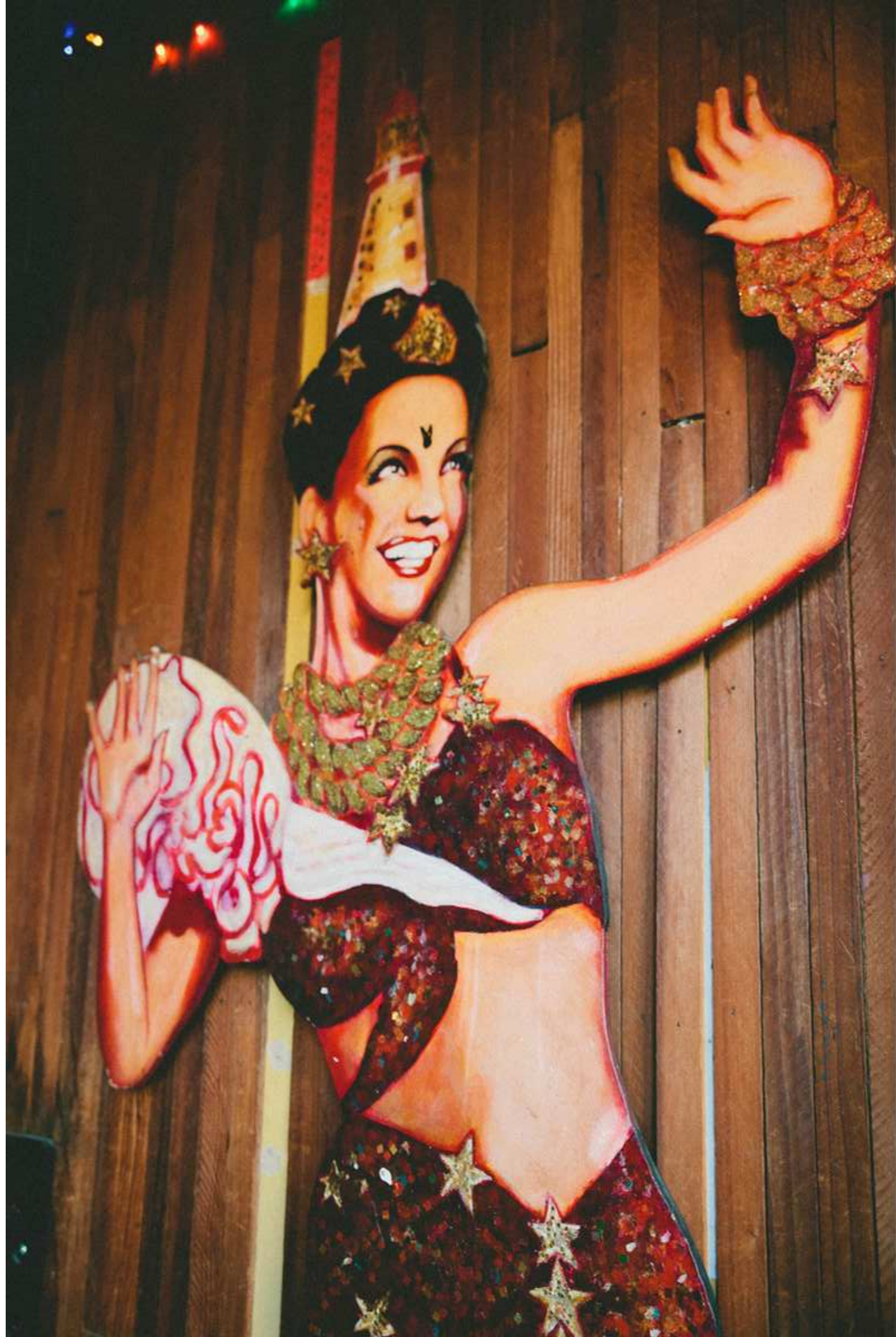




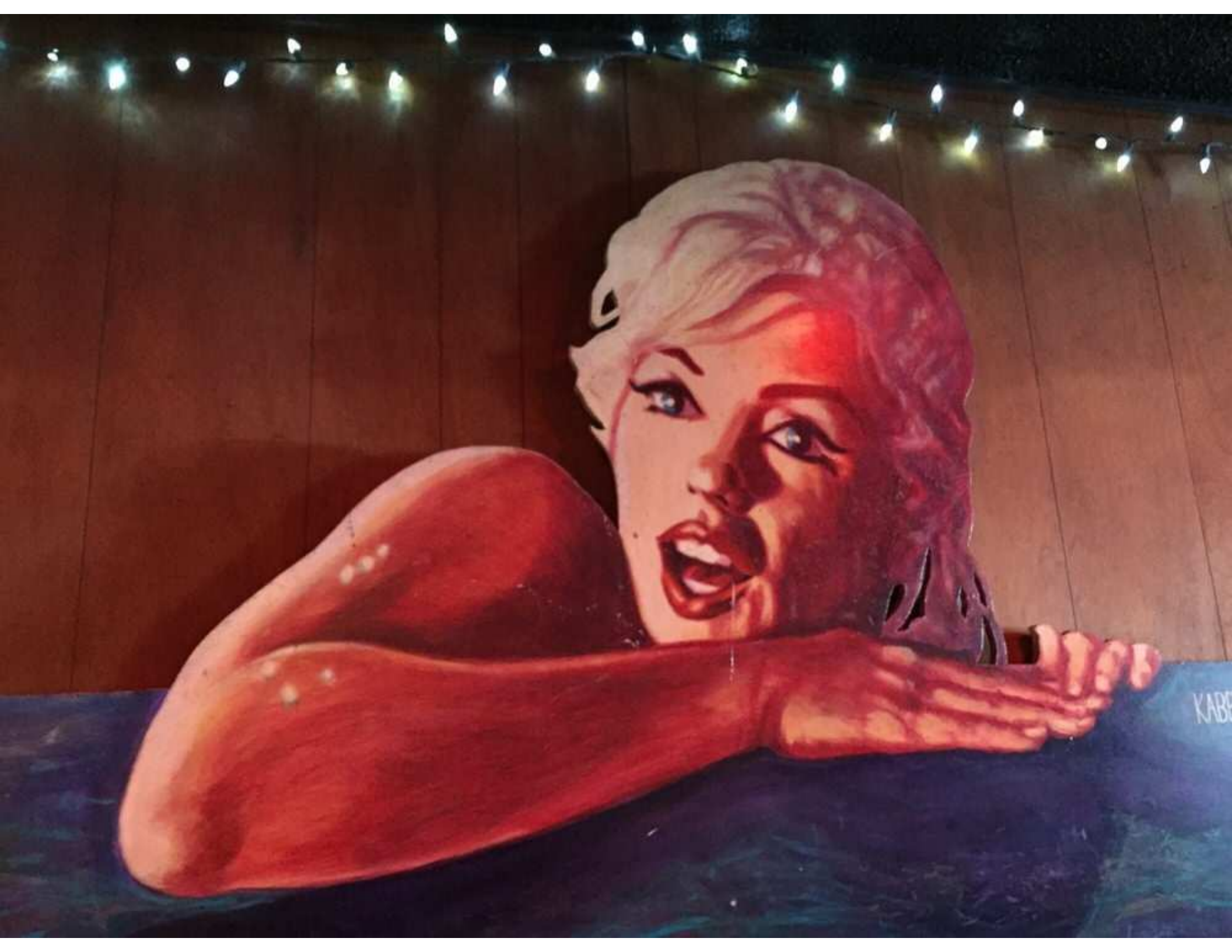












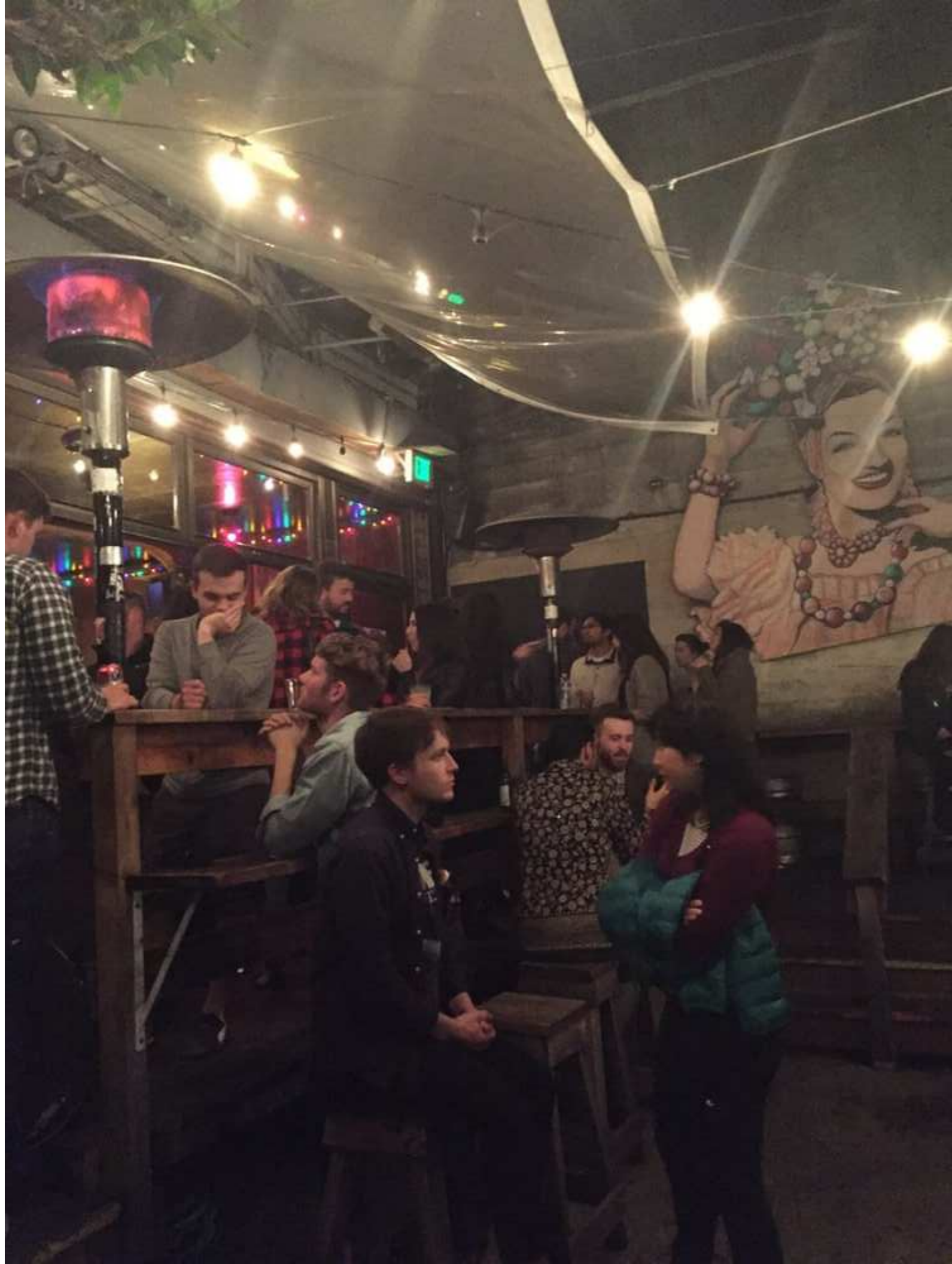
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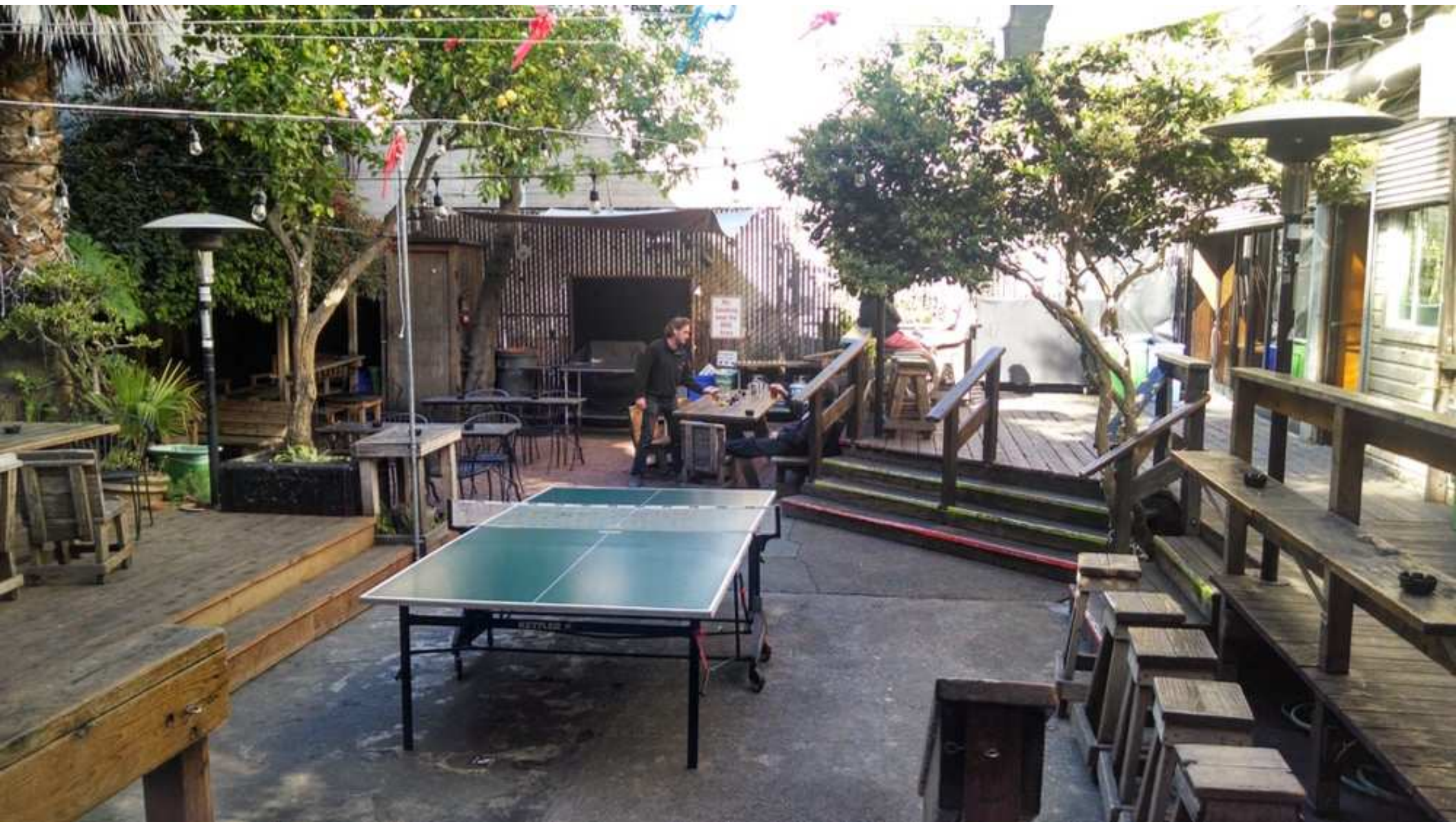








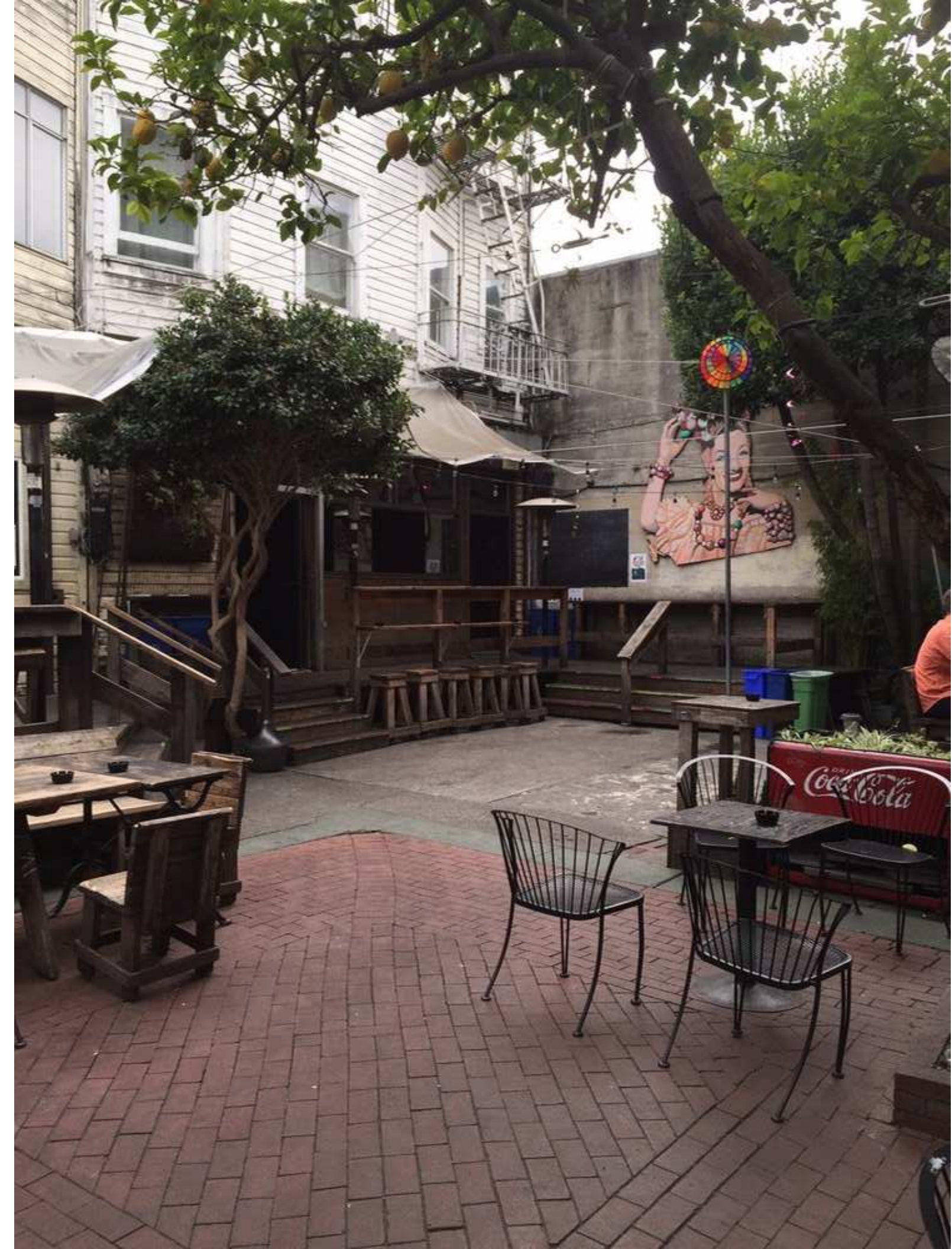




































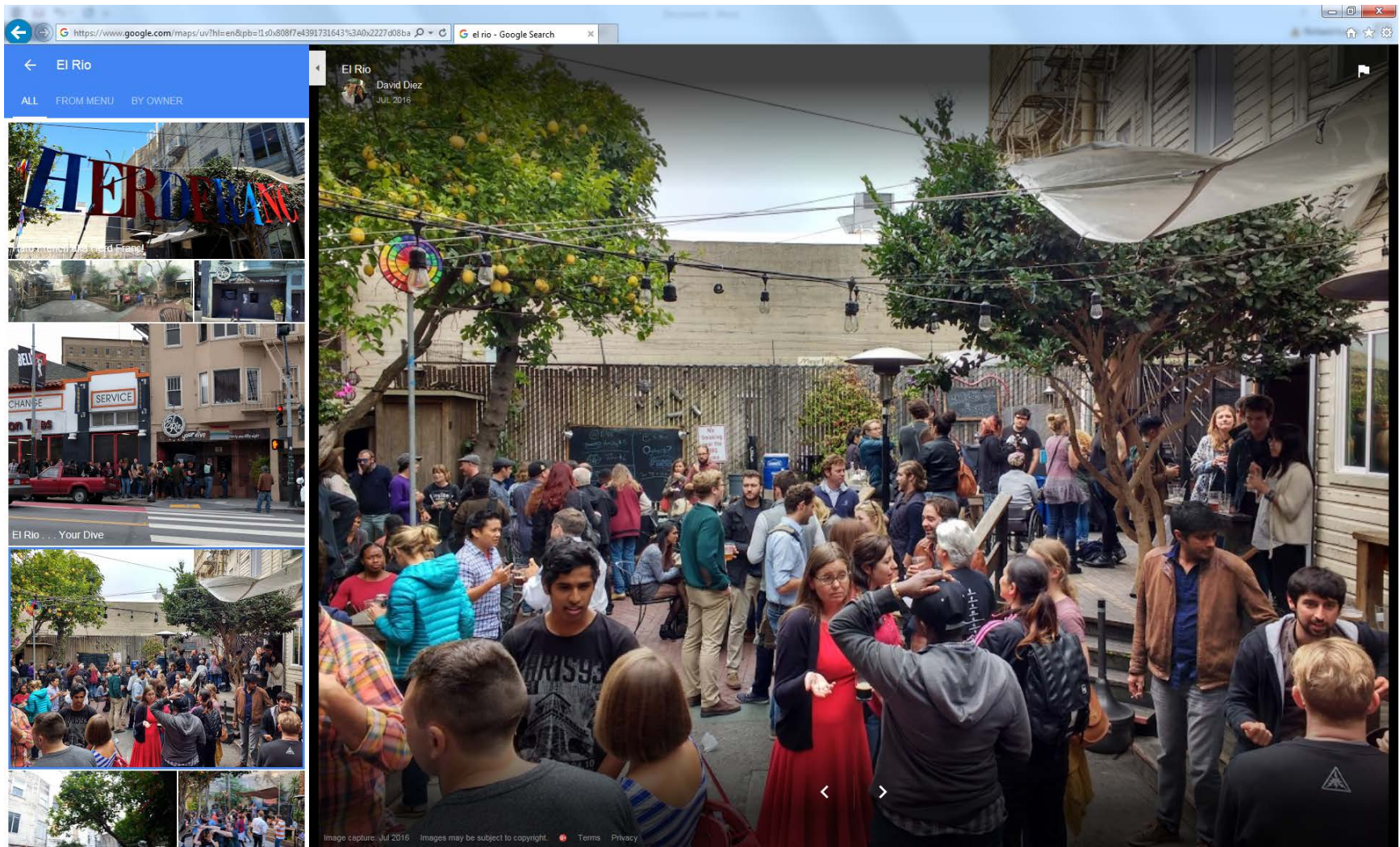


















A photograph including the original owners of El Rio,  
Malcolm Thornley and Robert Nett





**Hard French**  
Photos by: Shot in the City

# A BENEFIT FOR



# BAY AREA RISING



Skip the Needle

SATURDAY JANUARY 16TH 3-8PM

EL RIO- 3158 MISSION ST, SF, CA

\$10 - ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ONE BILLION RISING  
INCLUDES A RAFFLE TICKET FOR THE MAIN EVENT FEB 13TH





PRESS RELEASE

EL RIO 3158 A Mission Street, San Francisco, CA

2 -20- 79

There is a new bar in the Mission District of San Francisco, EL RIO! The two owners, Robert Nett and Malcolm Thornley live in the area and opened up a friendly and spirited bar which is comfortable and organized. They worked with the Latin flavor of the area thru the name, the tile work behind the bar and the whopping big Margaritas they serve in addition to a Peruvian speciality, Pisco sours. Tortilla chips and home made salsa are placed on the bar for customers. The rust sculptures throughout the bar are unique. They and the fresh flower arrangements are executed by Robert. For playing they have one of the only long board shuffle boards left in San Francisco in addition to pinball and pool. The juke box features everything from Chuck Mangione to Gloria Gaynor to Marilyn Monroe doing 'The River of No Return.' When asked what kind of clientele come in they said, "We are running a bar where people don't feel pressure to act stereotyped but can enjoy themselves and other people."



<http://www.sfgate.com/thingstodo/article/>

# SFGATE

## 11 Things: Arty institutions to be grateful for

Kimberly Chun

Published 4:00 am, Thursday, November 26, 2009



Photo: Sterling Andrews

Wallpaper performs Friday at the Regency Ballroom in San Francisco. Anglos 0409

### 1. S.F. Museum of Modern Art

Casting aside the crowd pleasers, you gotta love the substantial overview of Bill Viola, the walloping whaling ship mania of Matthew Barney and the psychedelic mind games of Olafur Eliasson.

### 2. El Rio

Thank the river gods for those thick, toothsome and super-savory Bloody Marys, sipped as the bodies start to wiggle and writhe at a dance party in back.

### **3. Multi-genre Mission art spaces**

It's a mixed bag, but sometimes you stumble over brilliance, laughs and outright weirdness when you least expect it.

### **4. Club Sandwich**

All-ages shows took a turn from the emo and mall-punk and toward the cool and art-schooled at these rotating-venue DIY events, complete with PB&J sammies.

### **5. Hemlock Tavern**

You have to wade through a lot of bellowing drunks on weekends, but it's a consistently fab, comfortably snug spot to see intrepid rock, folk and experimental sounds.

### **6. Sumptuous movie palaces**

Even crankies can enjoy a fix of theatrical eye candy with places like the Castro, the Paramount and the Fox.

### **7. Festival fever**

Music festivals like Noise Pop and Outside Lands, film fests such as S.F. International, Jewish, Hole in the Head - we love our arts firmly packaged, well-edited and thoroughly curated.

### **8. Free stuff**

Even a curmudgeon can't complain about Hardly Strictly Bluegrass and the First Thursday gallery crawl. Be thankful that there are a few fee-less upsides to the pricey city.

### **9. Indie movie houses**

Netflix can't do this: Provide soda in a can and films that are uncanned, sometimes obscure and, at moments, mind-blowing.

### **10. Indie bookstores**

City Lights and Green Apple are more fun and fruitful than midnight cruising the Marina Safeway - and the pickings are much brainier.

### **11. Local musical talents**

Watch pop savant Eric Frederic of Wallpaper scale the walls of the onetime psych palace opening for Peaches. Then text him your love. 9 p.m. Fri. \$25-\$27. Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter St., S.F. (415) 421-8497, [www.goldenvoice.com](http://www.goldenvoice.com).



## BACK PAGE

MIKE KEPKA

# The City Exposed

### Naked lady

A recent Friday, 7:59 p.m.: It's a minute till showtime. Dottie Lux takes one last drag on her cigarette before running off to announce the start of her weekly Red Hots Burlesque show in the back room at El Rio. A little over a year ago, Lux left New York. She needed a change, so she packed the show and her corset and headed west for a new city that she says has stolen her heart. She's joined a new community that shares the same thrill of performance. "I'm doing what I love," said Lux. "I knew when I was 8 years old and Mommy asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up — I pretty much knew I was going to be a naked lady ... so for me, I'm living my dream."

To hear audio and more photos, go to [sfgate.com/cityexposed](http://sfgate.com/cityexposed). If you have ideas for the City Exposed,







September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Community United Against Violence (CUAV) to fully support with appreciation and enthusiasm El Rio's request to be designated a legacy business in San Francisco.

El Rio is without a doubt one of the anchor businesses in San Francisco that truly reflects the principles and values that this city prides itself in: inclusion, diversity, community and humanitarianism. El Rio has invested time, energy and its generosity to the larger community by hosting fundraising events for many different causes, including the work of local non-profits, political races, individuals who've lost their homes to fires, public school teachers, SF Dyke March, TransMarch, animal rescue organizations and so many more.

As a past beneficiary of El Rio's fundraising events, CUAV has counted on El Rio's support for the work that we do, serving LGBTQ survivors of violence, sexual assault and police misconduct. One thing we have learned by working with survivors is the crucial importance of safe spaces that are respectful and inclusive of our diverse communities. And El Rio is committed to being as safe a space as possible for all!

Where identities intersect in the Mission District, El Rio has been there! For example, to the Latinx communities, especially queer and trans individuals, El Rio has been a treasure, a place to celebrate culture, gender and sexuality at Salsa Sundays, dancing openly and freely as LGBTQ people.

The emergence of the World Music scene had one of its roots at El Rio, and the club continue to provide a space in which to highlight local artists: musical acts, DJs and performers from a variety of genres and backgrounds.

El Rio is known around the world as a destination when visiting San Francisco. This is a testament to the club's practice of being a place where most everyone feels welcomed and seen. These are the kinds of businesses that make this city a beautiful place to live and grow, or visit.

Please support El Rio's request to be designated a legacy business in San Francisco. We thank you!

Cordially,

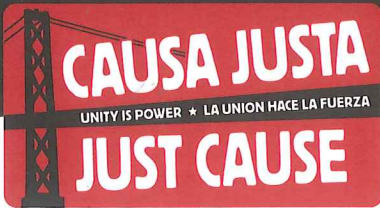
Pablo Espinoza-Schaudel

Co-Director

CUAV – Community United Against Violence

The Mission District, San Francisco, CA





info@cjc.org | www.cjc.org

**MISSION DISTRICT, SF** 2301 Mission St #201, San Francisco, CA 94110 | tel 415.487.9203 f 415.487.9022  
**BAYVIEW DISTRICT, SF** 2145 Keith Street, San Francisco, CA 94124 | tel 415.864.8372 f 415.864.8373  
**WEST OAKLAND** 3268 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, CA 94608 | tel 510.763.5877 f 510.763.5824  
**EAST OAKLAND** 9124 International Blvd., Oakland, CA 94603  
**MAILING** PO Box 3596, Oakland, CA 94609

September 18, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Causa Justa :: Just Cause to express our strong support for El Rio to officially be recognized as a legacy business. Causa Justa :: Just Cause (CJJC) has partnered with El Rio for years, because El Rio has actively made their business available for grassroots events that not only provided safe, community-building space for diverse communities of color, LGBT communities and low-income communities. CJJC is a community organization that builds solidarity and power amongst immigrant Latino and black communities to defend and advance immigrant and tenant rights across the Bay Area.

In San Francisco, these kind of spaces are dwindling, as are the businesses that invest in finding ways to partner with and support mission-driven organizations like CJJC. El Rio not only responds to requests for support, but proactively reaches out to create programming that raises funds for social justice work and speaks directly to the people that CJJC organizes. All of their staff stand by the business's zero tolerance policy for bigotry and harassment, expecting all patrons to treat each other with respect while ensuring that LGBT people, differently abled people, women and people of color feel at home at El Rio. The long-standing events such as Salsa Sunday and Mango have offered a very special multi-generational, multi-racial and queer spaces that have built solidarity and strengthened community for decades.

El Rio stands as an indispensable gathering place of celebration and community involvement for the communities most in need of a safe, supportive space. El Rio models for all other businesses in our city the principles of diversity and inclusion, social justice and community service.

We urge you to recognize El Rio as a legacy business and protect this unique and historic community space for many years to come, for the communities and organizations that see it as a second home, a partner and an ally.

In Solidarity,

  
Vanessa Moses  
Executive Director

September 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing with great enthusiasm in support of El Rio's application for legacy business status in San Francisco. As a dyke leader in San Francisco, preserving our spaces and experiences is of the utmost importance to me and to our city's rich queer history. El Rio has supported and embraced our lesbian community throughout its 39-year existence. Today, El Rio continues its legacy of upholding our values and opening their hearts - and doors - while we experience a dramatic shift among our community.

From 2013 - 2017, I served as the Co-Chair of the San Francisco Dyke March, a radical, grassroots feminist organization that thrives on community support. The Dyke March is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives and is overseen by a volunteer organizing committee. Our success has always been rooted in community partnerships that share a commitment to lesbian visibility. The Mission District was once a booming lesbian neighborhood with business, bars, bookstores and even our own bathhouse. Today, there are few of us left and even fewer business we can call our own. El Rio thrives as one such business, with a staunch commitment to queer visibility and direct support for the lesbian community in San Francisco.

During my time as Co-Chair, and prior to that for more than a decade, El Rio has hosted fundraising events for Dyke March. This annual event became known as the SUPER BIG GAY Dance Party, produced by Lila Thirkield of the Lexington Club, in partnership with several lesbian centric parties including Mango, Uhaul, Soulovely, Hella Saucey and House of Babes. This event raised funding for Dyke March while promoting visibility and community building. At its peak, the event hosted nearly 1000 people and raised \$10,000 for Dyke March. El Rio held our community for this event and many others with incredible generosity and heart.

El Rio is more than a bar, it is a sanctuary for us, and even more so as we face a chaotic and uncertain future. It is the place where I first came out to a friend from my midwest home town, and home to Mango (the longest running T-Dance in San Francisco). It is a space for us to come together to grieve, to organize, to celebrate, and to build. It is a community space that truly embodies its community, and is deeply deserving of recognition for its legacy. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

In gratitude,



Elizabeth Lanyon

Co-Chair, San Francisco Dyke March (2013-2017)

[e.m.lanyon@gmail.com](mailto:e.m.lanyon@gmail.com)

September 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in strong support of the El Rio Bar on Mission Street being designated a legacy LGBTQ business.

Speaking personally as a long-term member of San Francisco's LGBTQ community, El Rio is really important me, and has been for a long time. I first moved to the Bay Area in 1983 to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley. I lived then in the East Bay, and for the first few years I was deeply immersed in my academic program and being a young parent, but by the later 1980s I was actively exploring San Francisco's fabled queer world. *The Virgin Machine*, a 1988 film set in San Francisco and directed by the internationally-acclaimed German lesbian experimental filmmaker Monika Treut, was a vital point of entry for me into San Francisco's underground sexuality scene. Dorothee, the heroine of that film, is a young German woman searching for her mother who had run off to become a lesbian in San Francisco, and she makes the rounds of all of the then-iconic lesbian or women-centric bars in the city, including El Rio. I retraced the fictional Dorothee's path through real-life San Francisco, expanded my own community, and discovered El Rio's wonderful vibe for myself. It has been my favorite San Francisco bar ever since. Sadly, El Rio is the only bar featured in *The Virgin Machine* that remains open. On that basis alone I think it merits support as a legacy business.

By the mid-1990s I was partnered with someone who lived in the Precita Park neighborhood, moving in with her in 2002, and we always took seriously the slogan on El Rio's sign that said "It's Your Dive!" We literally made it "our dive." It's walking distance from our house, and we go there numerous times a year. We love the back patio on a sunny weekend afternoon (especially if there's salsa dancing!) or a rare warm fall evening. We've gone to music and comedy performances there—particular when our favorite impresario Lisa Geduldig is hosting. When out of town friends come to visit and want to go on a pub crawl, El Rio is always the first stop (and sometimes the last, because it's such a great place to hang out). In short, El Rio is an important thread in the fabric of my life, and if it were ever to close I would miss it with the passion that I miss another neighborhood institution shuttered not long ago by fire, Cole Hardware.

Speaking in my professional capacity as a gender and sexuality studies professor, historian, documentary filmmaker, and former executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, as well as a person who consults regularly on LGBTQ historic preservation and landmarking issues (including having a single-authored chapter in the National Park Service's watershed 2016 publication *LTBTQ America*, and serving on the advisory committee for the Stonewall Inn National Historic Site), I am well qualified to appreciate the historical significance of lesbian bars, and to advocate for the preservation and support of these vital yet increasingly vulnerable subcultural spaces in a shockingly gentrified San Francisco.

My own research has been vital to the establishment the Compton's Cafeteria transgender historic district in San Francisco's Tenderloin, and I am well aware of the many benefits to be gained through mobilizing unique historical and cultural resources for economic stabilization and community empowerment. El Rio deeply merits support from the City and County of San Francisco for its long-established centrality to the distinctive lesbian and women's community that has been rooted in Bernal Heights and the Mission since the 1970s. Please support this request for El Rio's designation as a legacy LGBT Business.

Sincerely,



Susan Stryker, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Gender and Women's Studies, University of Arizona  
Director, *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*  
Former Executive Director, GLBT Historical Society

1541 Alabama Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
susanstryker@email.arizona.edu  
(415) 824-6553

# BURRITO JUSTICE

## El Rio, 31 (El Rio, 151)

October 21, 2009

tags: [bar](#), [bernal](#), [el rio](#), [history](#), [la lengua](#), [maps](#), [mission](#), [sanborn](#), [st. luke's](#), [valenica](#)

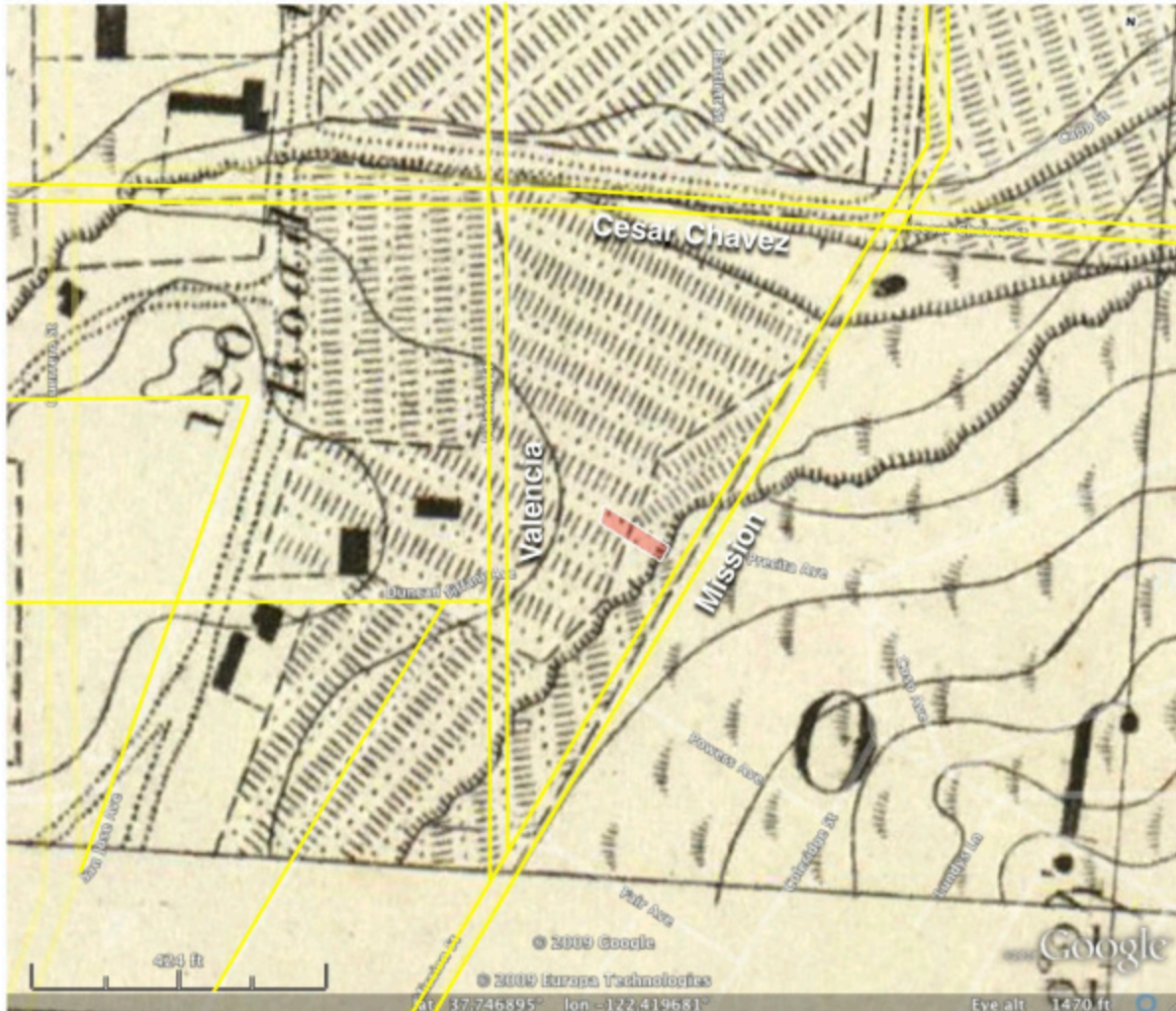
El Rio's 31! Hooray! Being able to drink in the open air is the best.

[Mission Mistaken asked for some recent history on El Rio](#), but my time machine only starts working a minimum of half a century back.

### **Mission and Valencia, 1858:**

El Rio's future site is the red rectangle.





The 1859 US Coast Survey map (surveyed in 1858, published in 1859) is digitally available thanks to the fine work of [David Rumsey](#), including a [Google Earth layer](#).

A field and a creek mark what will become El Rio. Valencia is not yet a road, and the path that will become Mission makes a hard right at stone wall bordering Precita Creek, the future Serpentine/Army/Cesar Chavez. A few buildings are clustered to the west of the future El Rio site, around the “Road to San Jose” (now cut off by the St. Luke’s doctors parking lot, Salvation Army and [Guerrero Park](#)).

I suspect that these buildings were the home of [Jose C. Bernal](#), son of Juan Francisco Bernal, a soldier under [Captain Juan Bautista de Anza](#), “Father of San Francisco”. (There is apparently a photo of the Bernal homestead floating around — if you know of it, please oh please let me know.)

After a successful stint as a government administrator in San Jose, Bernal was given [a land grant in the 1830s](#) that encompassed most of the land south of CC and east of the road to San Jose.

October 10th, 1839. Governor Alvarado to J.C. Bernal; one square league, being "[Rincon de Salinas y Potrero Viejo](#)." It will be seen, by an examination of the archives, that Bernal applied for a grant of this land, and "La Visitacion," on the second of November, 1834, two days before the order was issued by the Governor for organizing the pueblo of San Francisco. On the second of January, 1835, Governor Figueroa decreed on this as follows:

*"As it appears, from the preceding reports, that the land asked for by José Cornelio Bernal is of the property of the pueblo of San Francisco de Assis, to which it serves as ejidos for the common cattle, the petition is not granted, as it cannot be given in ownership (en propiedad), but the party interested may keep his cattle there, the same as other citizens do."*

The Rincon de las Salinas land grant (encompassing La Lengua, Bernal and Excelsior/Crocker/Outer Mission) was secured by 1839. (He previously received a grant of farmland near Mission Dolores in 1834 and was given a third grant, El Potrero Viejo (Bayview and Hunter's Point) in 1840.

But J.C. Bernal died in 1842, aged 46, and his widow Carmen Cibrian de Bernal and their son, José de Jesus Bernal, took over the land. However, like many rancheros, the family was not exactly focused on business and sold the land off bit by bit. Within 15 years the family moved off the Rincon de las Salinas holdings to live near Mission Dolores. By 1917, the Bernal descendants lost their last bit of land. [The Bernal History Project points us to this 1929 obituary of the grandson](#), which gives more detail of their lifestyle. While not business savvy, they certainly seemed friendly:

*The history of the passing of the Bernal grant was similar to that of nearly every one of the great Spanish and Mexican families who once held a huge portion of the best agricultural and grazing lands of Alta California. The dons and their descendants lived a feudal life, giving little care to business and leaving their vast herds of cattle and horses and great flocks of sheep largely to the supervision of the vaqueros and herdsmen. The homes of the owners were centers of hospitality. The Bernal family was no exception to the deep seated tradition of extending hospitality. The best road from the little Mission Dolores and the Presidio to the southern missions ran at the foot of the hill where the Bernal hacienda stood. The latch string was always out, and day or night weary travelers were welcomed by the Bernal overlord. It was this carefree life and lavish hospitality, coupled with the lack of good business instincts that led to the gradual breaking up of the grants. When the owners needed money, especially when the country began to attract Americans following the Mexican war, they borrowed. They never seemed to get ahead, and little by little the vast ranchos were whittled down through foreclosure of the mortgages.*

*SOLD FOR \$1500: The first portion of the Bernal grant to pass to other hands was in 1859, when a foreclosure of a mortgage held by General William T. Sherman, resulted in the sale of a large tract from Butchertown to the San Bruno road by the Sheriff for \$1500. General Sherman had loaned old Bernal \$4298 in the early fifties. (ed: \$4298 in 2009 dollars is about \$100,000.) Later, the tract containing Hunters Point and South San Francisco was also sold for \$1500. Other portions were sold from time to time, until in 1908 the last owner under the grant, the late Jose Cornelio Bernal, found himself in possession of only about twenty-five acres located west of Mission road in the little valley crossed by the Ocean House road, now Onondaga avenue, and*



*used for vegetable gardens. This last tract was lost through foreclosure in 1917, and it marked the passing of the final bit of San Francisco real estate from the families of the original grantees.*

(That vegetable garden was next to Balboa High School, and the Bernal Mission Dolores tract was on or near Mission High School.)

Thanks to Greg Pabst and his [expansive article on the Bernal family](#), even longer than my typical diatribe but well worth the read.

**UPDATE:** Spanish land grants had to be approved by the US Federal government after California entered the Union, and here is a slice of the 1857 map showing the approved boundaries of the Bernal tract.

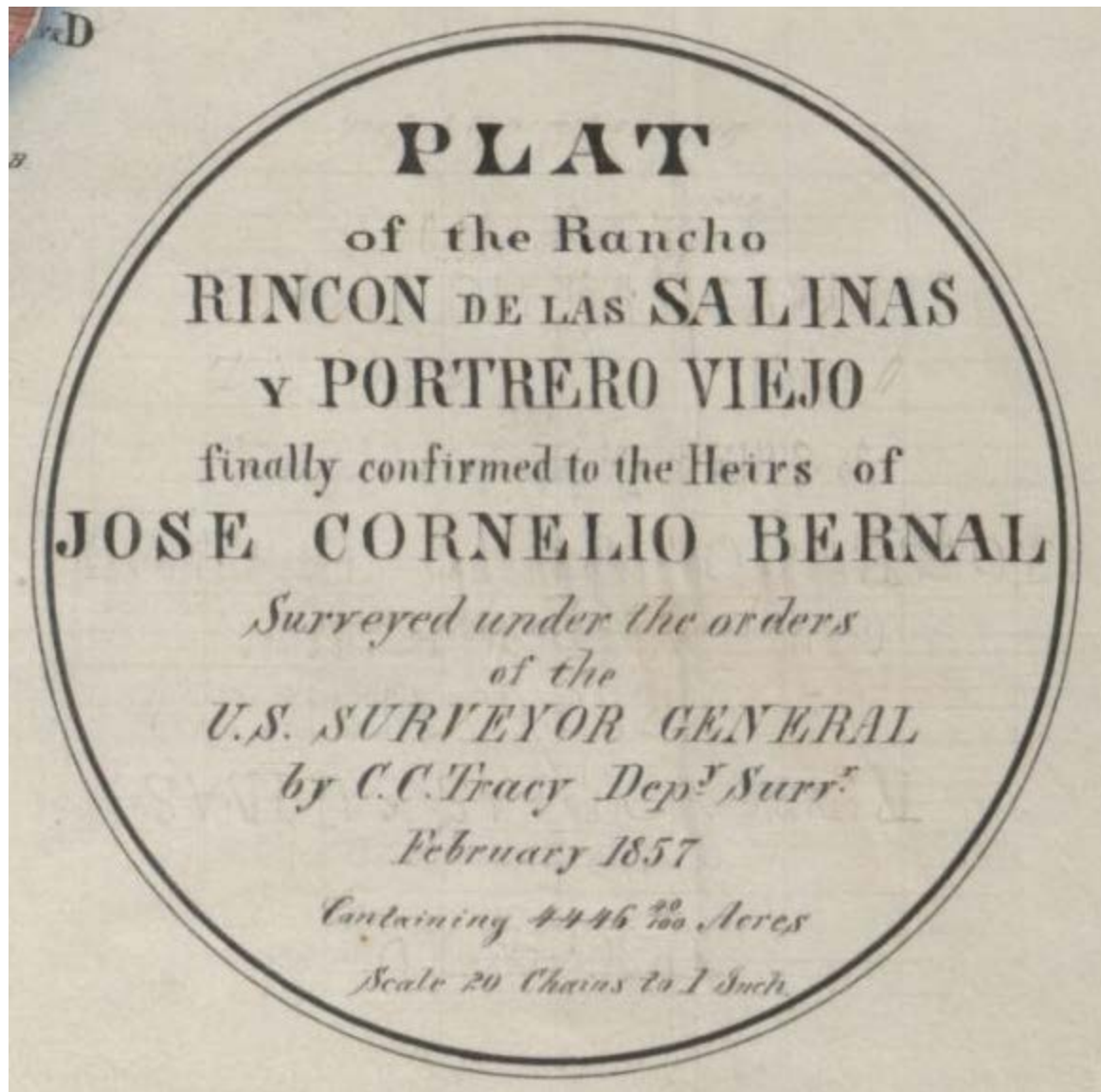


Bigger map of the tract [on Calisphere](#). The Bernal residence was on the north side of what is now Duncan, at the SE corner of the St. Luke's parking structure. Mashup of Google Earth, the 1859 Coast Survey map and the Bernal Survey.



I wish I had a seal like this for my house.

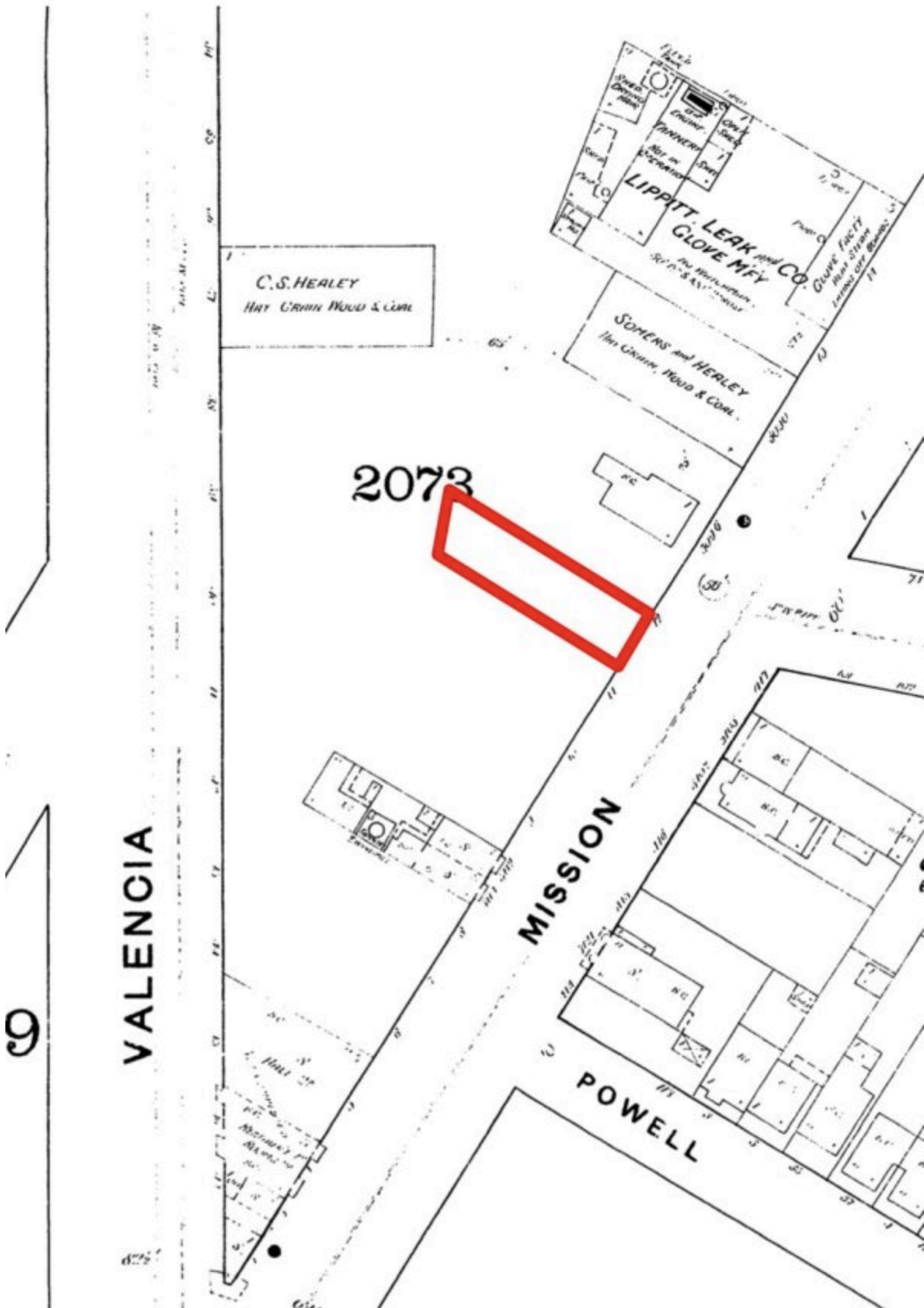




**Mission and Valencia, 1886:**

El Rio is an empty lot, next to some dude's house, a glove factory and Mistery Somers & Healy's Hay, Grain, Wood and Coal Emporium.

1886





In fact you can see many of the buildings in this wonderful (but sadly small) picture of the Mission [from the SF Public Library's collection](#), taken from the top of Bernal in 1888. You are looking to the NW and you just should be able to see the Mission/Valencia/Army triangle in the center, heart of [La Lengua](#)!

Somers and Healy's two white buildings are just to the left of center, and the glove factory is to the right. El Rio would have been just to the left of the little white house beside Somers/Healy empire. (St. Luke's is right behind that.)



(Anyone have a bigger version of this?)

### **2012 UPDATE:**

Not the same photo, but roughly the same angle and much higher resolution! (Click to zoom, [more detail at Bernalwood.](#))



### **Mission and Valencia, 1900:**

In the 1900 Sanborn map of the area, you see progress – we have a harness and carriage trimming shop on the future site of El Rio! While I am not entirely certain what harness and carriage trimming involves, I suspect it would certainly be handy to amble on over to Mr. C.S. Healy's and pick up some hay, or get your carriage painted at "Powell" and Mission. (Click to zoom btw.)



1900

VALENCIA

TIFFANY AV.

633

2073

C. S. HEALY

BALED HAY WARE HSE.

C. S. HEALY

HAY & FEED WARE HSE.



MISSION

AV.

POWELL

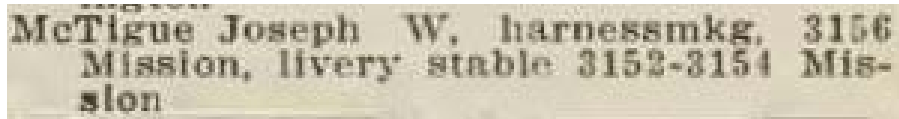
PREC

2074

578

828

The 1908 directory tells us that [JW McTigue](#) owns that harness shop over at 3154 Mission on the future Rio site.



McTigue Joseph W. harnessmkg. 3156  
Mission, livery stable 3152-3154 Mis-  
sion

And there seems to be a saloon across the street as well now – hooray, that’s handy! I bet [Thomas Donlan’s bar at 3151 Mission](#) is a fine establishment where you could get a nice steam beer from [his wife Julia, listed in the 1915 SF phone book](#).

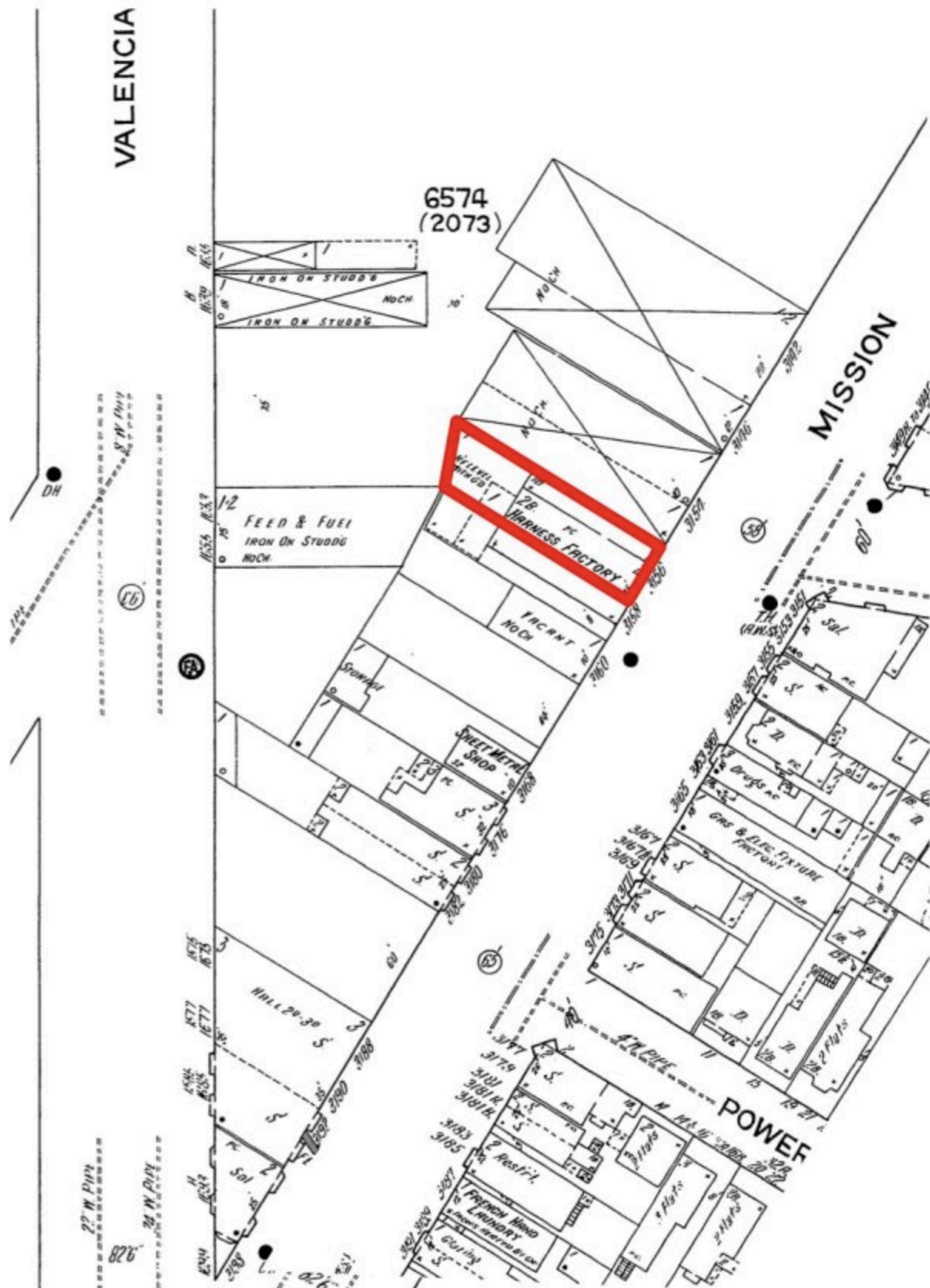
### **Mission and Valencia, 1914:**

Jumping forward another 14 years, we find that (at least as of 1907) Healy’s is gone [with Eagle Stables in its place](#). (I guess stables were like public parking lots?)

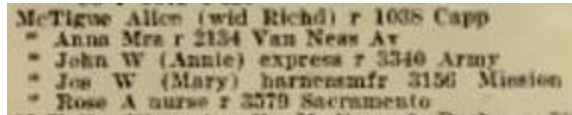
More saloons — one on the tip of Valencia and Mission — a drug store. [Joe McTigue is still hard at work](#), and other [friends and neighbors on Mission are listed](#) thanks to the hard work of the [Bernal History Project](#).



6574  
(2073)



Joe (and his wife Mary) are still listed in the 1921 directory.



McTigue Alice (wid Richd) r 1038 Capp  
" Anna Mrs r 2134 Van Ness Av  
" John W (Annie) express r 3340 Army  
" Joe W (Mary) harnessmfr 3156 Mission  
" Rose A nurse r 3579 Sacramento

**UPDATE:** [UC Berkeley Calisphere](#) has a picture of the McTigue building in 1923, with carriages out front.



But within three years, the building will be torn down.

**Mission and Valencia, 1925:**



Let us venture into the future, somewhere between 1920 and 1950. Joe McTigue's building is gone and we get our first glimpse of El Rio's building (but no information on 3150 in the 1936 directory. No listing for Joe McTigue either, though there is a [Mrs. A McTigue on Army near Capp](#), perhaps a relative.)

**2012 UPDATE:** [A commenter in a Bernalwood post](#) did a rundown on the McTigues!

*Did some genealogical research on the McTigue family, the harness makers. Michael McTigue and Frances Acton were Irish immigrants born in 1830 and 1832 who started the business South of Market .*


*In 1872, they were living at 273 Minna, In 1880 on 8 1/2 Moss. with children Augusta, Fanny, Joseph, Richard, John and Jennie. By 1896 they were living at 19 Alvarado with their harness factory at 3156 Mission Street.*

*Joseph W. McTigue was born in 1866 and died in 1939. He married Mary Theresa Costello and they had a daughter, Marie. She married William Dabel and in the 1940 census they lived at 3182A Mission Street. They had a son William (1927-2006) and I'm trying to trace his descendants.*

A corner that once specialized in horse-related industries made a wholesale jump into cars (and on the east side of Mission, apparently paint). Click to zoom.

VALENCIA



Pretty much everything in the triangle south of [Sears](#) is car related, with the exception of a bowling alley (where Roccapolco is now) and a beauty parlor. Atlas Motors' historical echo is doing the same thing as now, the AAMCO is the old Sears auto department, and Kragen was a car dealership – [Mission Chevrolet!](#) 

**UPDATE:** The crack Imaging Systems team at [Telstar Logistics](#) points us to these shots of Mission and Precita in 1926 and 1927 from the UC Berkeley archives. You can see Mission Chevrolet under construction in the first shot, and finished in the second.





North on Mission at Precita, 1926



North on Mission at Precita, 1927

The restaurant on the left will be called the [Superior Grill](#) in the 1930s, and will come to house Nap's.

And here's [that great picture](#) of the gas station on the corner of Valencia and Mission in 1944.





Some will remember the [then-and-now shot I made a while back](#).

Finally, the [Telstar Logistics Aviation Group](#) presents us with this picture of the intersection in October 2009.



And such is 151 years of history from the corner of Valencia and Mission. Happy birthday, El Rio.



## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2017-18-003  
*Business Name:* Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center  
*Business Address:* 90 Welsh Street  
*District:* District 6  
*Applicant:* Master Steve Rapport, Owner  
*Nomination Date:* July 5, 2017  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Jane Kim

**CRITERION 1:** Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?       X       Yes                      No

1901 Fillmore Street from 1973 to 1981 (8 years)  
 1806 Balboa Street from 1981 to 1983 (2 years)  
 1755 Noriega Street from 1983 to 1985 (2 years)  
 1111 Ocean Avenue from 1985 to 1988 (3 years)  
 2438 Taraval Street from 1985 to 1988 (3 years)  
 2001 Van Ness Avenue from 1988 to 1990 (2 years)  
 869 Ellis Street from 1990 to 1993 (3 years)  
 1335 Sutter Street from 1993 to 1999 (6 years)  
 Benjamin Franklin Middle School, 1430 Scott Street in 1999 (1 year)  
 132 Eddy Street from 1999 to 2001 (2 years)  
 371 5th Street from 2001 to 2012 (11 years)  
 90 Welsh Street from 2012 to Present (5 years)

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?       X       Yes                      No

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?       X       Yes                      No

**NOTES:** NA

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** September 22, 2017

Richard Kurylo  
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

**JANE KIM**  
**金貞妍**

July 5, 2017

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director

San Francisco Small Business Commission

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110

Dear Regina:

I submit this letter to formally nominate the Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center, the oldest Korean martial arts center on the West coast, for consideration for San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry.

Hwa Rang Kwan has existed in various forms for over fifty years in San Francisco, and has deep historic roots to the city's Korean community. The Korean United Methodist Church, the birthplace of Hwa Rang Kwan, was built in 1928 with funds raised from Korean laborers and was designed for and by the Korean community.

For over three decades the church was an active education and employment center, providing Koreans in San Francisco with a means of identifying with their culture locally. In May of 1965, the pastor of the Korean United Methodist Church, Rev. Chung Ryul Song, founded Hwa Rang Kwan as the first Korean martial arts center in the city, and the West coast.

In 1969, Pastor Song gave the Hwa Rang Kwan name to a Korean Youth Group run by former Korean Association President Min Hee Rhee, the father of Taekwondo masters and actors Phillip and Simon Rhee. Two years later, Master Dong Kie Shin moved from Seoul to San Francisco and trained at Hwa Rang Kwan's Polk Street studio. By 1973, he opened his own Hwa Rang Kwan dojo on Bush Street.

Hwa Rang Kwan was truly a labor of love for Master Shin, who went on to guide the dojo through ten successive locations over the next three decades. At one point, when the center was on the brink of failure after being displaced by the dot-com boom in 1999, Master Shin negotiated a last minute deal with Benjamin Franklin Middle School to host classes in the interim until he was able to secure a new location on Eddy Street in the Tenderloin.

Since 2001 a student of Master Shin's, Master Steve Rapport, has taken over the responsibility of maintaining San Francisco's oldest Korean martial arts center. That year he moved the school to a large building on 5<sup>th</sup> street which became famous in its own right in Korea, where a web-toon fictionalized and popularized the experience of learning martial arts at Hwa Rang Kwan.



**JANE KIM**  
**金貞妍**

In 2012, Hwa Rang Kwan's landlord issued a blunt, unapologetic notice to Master Steve that he had 90 days to move the historic dojo or pay triple their current rent. Unable to negotiate, Master Steve worked to find a new location and organize his students, who all pitched in to renovate an old warehouse on Welsh Street in the South of Market neighborhood. The building was rundown, unused, and had previously been used as a doggy day care center.

Over the past five years, this new South of Market location has become a center not just for Master Steve's Hwa Rang Kwan practice, but also for eight other martial arts clubs who each negotiate flexible, nonbinding agreements with Master Steve to operate on a month-by-month basis.

When the landlord of the warehouse at 90 Welsh Street that Hwa Rang Kwan students volunteered their time, effort, and resources to improve recently informed them that he will only renew their five-year lease option with a 60% rent increase, this left Master Steve with limited options. Not only will Hwa Rang Kwan now face potential closure for the first time after five decades of continuous operation in San Francisco, if a compromise with their landlord cannot be reached then all of the other eight clubs who practice at the location will have to cease operations as well.

Hwa Rang Kwan has been an invaluable part of San Francisco's Korean and Korean American community for over five decades, spanning multiple generations, and continuing to serve over 200 adults and children who come to the center to train and socialize. For many long-time San Franciscans and much of the Korean American community, Hwa Rang Kwan represents a rich cultural history, and is an integral part of a vibrant community. I offer my whole-hearted endorsement for their acceptance into the Legacy Business Registry.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Kim".

Jane Kim



## Section One:

### Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTER		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
MASTER STEVE RAPPORT		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
90 WELSH STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94107		(415) 495 2025
		EMAIL:
		mastersteve@hrksf.com
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
www.hrksf.com	www.facebook.com/HRKSF/	yelp.com/biz/hwa-rang-kwan-martial-arts-center-san-francisco2

APPLICANT'S NAME	
MASTER STEVE RAPPORT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
OWNER	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
451 TALBOT AVENUE PACIFICA CA 94044	(415) 235 7556
	EMAIL:
	mastersteve@hrksf.com

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0929710	C3688115

OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
1901 Fillmore Street	94115	1973
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	1973-1981	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1806 Balboa Street	94121	Start: 1981 End: 1983

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1755 Noriega Street	94122	Start: 1983 End: 1985

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1111 Ocean Avenue	94132	Start: 1985 End: 1988

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
2438 Taraval Street	94106	Start: 1985 End: 1988

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
2001 Van Ness Avenue	94109	Start: 1988 End: 1990

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
869 Ellis Street	94109	Start: 1990 End: 1993

## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1335 Sutter Street	94108	Start: 1993 End: 1999

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
Benjamin Franklin Middle School, 1430 Scott Street	94115	Start: 1999 End: 1999

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
132 Eddy Street	94102	Start: 1999 End: 2001

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
371 5th Street	94107	Start: 2001 End: 2012

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
90 Welsh Street	94107	Start: 2012 End: Present

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:



## Section Three:

### Disclosure Statement.

#### San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for the Business Assistance Grant.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- ☒ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☒ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☒ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☒ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☒ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☒ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☒ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

MASTER STATE REPORT

6/28/17

Master State

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

## **HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTER**

### **Section 4: Written Historical Narrative**

#### **CRITERION 1**

**a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.**

Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center is believed to be the oldest Korean martial arts center on the West Coast. The school was founded in San Francisco in 1973 by Master Dong Kie Shin.

The origins of Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center extend back to the 1960s and is associated with Rev. Chung Ryul Song, pastor of the Korean United Methodist Church at 1123 Powell Street. According to political historian Youn-Cha Shin Chey, Ph.D., “the Korean United Methodist Church was the first Korean Church to be constructed in the United States. It was built in 1928 especially for and by Koreans. The site was purchased for \$18,000 with funds raised from Korean laborers. This site served as the center of Korean patriotic activities for its first 15 years when the Koreans' primary focus was to gain their homeland independence from Japanese occupation (1905-1945). Until the 1960s, the church was the only active social, employment and education center and a means of cultural identification for Koreans in SF.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1969, Pastor Song gave the name Hwa Rang Kwan (HRK) to the Korean Youth Group at 712 Polk Street (between Eddy and Ellis) that was run by the former Korean Association President Min Hee Rhee (father of Taekwondo legends and actors Masters Phillip and Simon Rhee, famed for their Best of the Best movies). At the same time, the young Master Dong Kie Shin opened a Hwa Rang Kwan dojang (martial arts' school) in the Miadong district of Seoul, Korea.

In 1971, Master Shin arrived in San Francisco, where he continued his training at the Polk Street school. In 1973 he opened an HRK dojang of his own, Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center at 1901 Fillmore Street (at Bush Street), teaching his unique combination of traditional Korean martial arts - Taekwondo, Hapkido and Kumdo (Korean wooden sword).

Most martial arts' schools are run by their masters as labors of love, and HRK is no different. The school was forced to move many times by changing demographics and rising rents, and by 1992 it lived in a rustic upstairs space at 869 Ellis Street, between Polk and Van Ness.

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<sup>1</sup> A Historical Profile of San Francisco's Korean Community Development, Youn-Cha Shin Chey, Ph.D., September 25, 2002.

In August 1992, newly arrived from England, Steve Rapport joined HRK as a 35-year-old white belt.

Again, the school moved, this time to the old premises of 24 Hour Nautilus on Sutter Street where it resided until 1999.

Displaced by the first dot com boom, HRK lost its lease in 1999, and for a while it seemed that the school might have to close down. However, as a last resort, Grand Master Shin negotiated a deal with Benjamin Franklin Middle School, and without missing a beat HRK was able to hold classes in the school gym and refectory while searching for new premises.

Later in 1999, HRK moved to 132 Eddy Street in the Tenderloin, and in April 2001 Grand Master Shin sold the school to Steve Rapport, who was by then a 3rd degree black belt, a long-time instructor, and one of Master Shin's senior students. Grand Master Shin continued to teach classes at his other school in Redwood City; then in San Carlos; and now (as of June 2017) he still teaches Taekwondo daily at his new space in Belmont.

Now a Master Instructor under Grand Master Shin, Master Steve moved the school to a 4,500 square foot building at 371 5th Street in late 2001. This building found fame of its own in Korea, thanks to student and artist Hye Won Chang, who developed a webtoon (online cartoon, very popular in Korea) named Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco. This incredibly popular fictionalized account of her own martial arts' journey ended in 2016, and to this day HRK is often visited by fans of the now-famous comic book.

The school thrived on 5th Street until 2012 when, out of the blue, the landlord informed HRK that within 90 days the rent would be tripled. Instructors and students scrambled to find new premises, and in August dozens of volunteers began cleaning up a rundown warehouse at 90 Welsh Street in SoMa, which had for years been used as a doggy day care center. HRK moved into these expansive new premises in September 2012, with a five year lease and a five year option, and the 4,800 square foot building has been HRK's home for the past five years.

In addition to the 150 or so adults and 50 or so children that train and socialize at HRK, a further 8 martial arts groups also call 90 Welsh Street home. None of these partner clubs can afford to rent premises of their own, so each of them rents space from HRK on a month-by-month basis. There are no leases and no commitment, just a handshake, so they are always free to leave if circumstances dictate. These partner clubs are Carley Gracie's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Kenya Prach's Cambodian-influenced Muay Thai, Norma Larson's Women's Boot Camp, Rennie Saunders' Indonesian Pencak Silat, Henry Lynn's Chinese Kung Fu, Marc Verstaen's Vietnamese Tay Son Vo Dao, Garland Glessner and Joe Okies' Japanese Bujinkan Ninjitsu

For the past several months HRK has been endeavoring to sign the five year option for the lease that expires at the end of July 2017. Sadly, the landlord recently informed HRK that although he is happy to sign the five year lease option, he intends to raise the rent by 60%, to \$12,480 per month.



HRK is currently negotiating to stay, while also looking for another building to buy or lease in case it is impossible to come to a more reasonable agreement.

**LOCATIONS OF HWA RANG KWAN SINCE FOUNDING IN 1973:**

1973-1981	1901 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115
1981-1983	1806 Balboa Street, San Francisco, CA, 94121
1983-1985	1755 Noriega Street, San Francisco, CA, 94122
1985-1988	1111 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA, 94132 (one of two locations) 2438 Taraval Street, San Francisco, CA, 94106 (one of two locations)
1988-1990	2001 Van Ness Avenue (Pacific Health Club), San Francisco, CA, 94109
1990-1993	869 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA, 94109
1993-1999	1335 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA, 94108
1999	Benjamin Franklin Middle School, 1430 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA, 94115
1999-2001	132 Eddy Street, San Francisco, CA, 94102
2001-2012	371 5th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107
2012-	90 Welsh Street, San Francisco, CA, 94107

**b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?**

The school has been in continuous operation since it was founded, and Master Steve knows from personal experience that HRK has provided classes without a break since August 1992.

**c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.**

Although Hwa Rang Kwan is not a family owned business per se, Grand Master Shin still owns and teaches at a Hwa Rang Kwan in Belmont, and many other senior instructors from the Hwa Rang Kwan family, who studied at one time or another with Grand Master Shin, own and run their own Hwa Rang Kwan schools around the country.

Grand Master Shin is known as Wonsanim, a Korean honorific that means “Head of the Circle.” This is a specific reference to Hwa Rang Kwan as a big family circle.

**d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.**

Grand Master Shin opened his own Hwa Rang Kwan school on Bush Street in 1973, and although the school moved around (and at times he opened and closed a second school), he was both the owner and Head Instructor until he sold the school to his senior instructor Master Steve in April 2001.

Master Steve has been the sole owner and Head Instructor of San Francisco's Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center for the past 16 years, and he continues to teach in the style of his master, D. K. Shin.

Grand Master Shin remains President and spiritual leader of Hwa Rang Kwan, not to be confused with Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center. Master Shin uses the name Hwa Rang Kwan for his own school, which is in Belmont. There are several other Hwa Rang Kwan schools around the country (and probably overseas as well), run by ex-students of Master Shin. Hwa Rang Kwan is the name of our association.

**e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

See attached documents.

**f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.**

The building is not listed on a local, state, or federal historic registry.

## **CRITERION 2**

**a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.**

Martial Arts instruction has always been a labor of love, and there are very few schools that have managed to survive in the harsh economy of San Francisco. Yet Hwa Rang Kwan has managed to both survive and thrive in the city for over 40 years. HRK has always been more of a community than a school. We have one student who has been with us for 25 years; another two coming up to two decades; and many students who have been with us for a decade or more. Our students and instructors marry, have kids, move away, come back, yet always know that they can still find their friends and colleagues at Hwa Rang Kwan.

For the past 16 years, Master Steve has managed to keep the school open in the increasingly expensive SoMa neighborhood of San Francisco, where it has become an oasis for adults and children alike. The school's motto is "the friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul," and amongst other things that means that we try to make it affordable for everyone, whether they can afford our membership prices or not. We have classes for Pee Wee (three years old), Tiger Tots (4-6 years old), Children (7 -13 years), and Adults, and we always promise to provide a safe space for marginalized members of our community. The vast majority of our students are

immigrants or direct descendants of immigrants, and we are fully committed to supporting their rights, even as they are increasingly coming under attack.

**b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city, or the business industry?**

HRK has responded to many significant events here and around the world: for example, hosting fundraisers for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (twice), for victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy, for victims of the Indonesian Tsunami and for Project Open Hand (Thanksgiving food drive).

**c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?**

Unknown.

**d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?**

In the early 1970s, Master Shin brought the Korean spin kick to America, and he taught kicking skills and breaking techniques to the students of martial arts' legend Bruce Lee.

Hwa Rang Kwan has been acknowledged and honored by the City of San Francisco on many occasions:

In 1983, then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein sent an official letter offering the City's Greetings: "As Mayor of San Francisco, I am delighted to convey our sincere appreciation of the invaluable public services rendered by your fine organization to our entire community and wish your participants a most enjoyable and successful Martial Arts Expo and Championship."

In 1994, Mayor Frank Jordan sent a Certificate of Recognition to Grand Master Shin for organizing a tournament and exposition at San Francisco State.

In 1995, Mayor Jordan issued a Proclamation declaring April 11th as Hwa Rang Kwan Day in San Francisco.

In 1997, Mayor Willie Brown Jr, similarly issued a Proclamation, declaring July 26th as Hwa Rang Kwan Day in San Francisco.

In 2007, Hwa Rang Kwan was proud to accept the Urban Solutions Neighborhood Business of the Year Award from Angela Alioto and then-State Senator Mark Leno. Urban Solutions' representative Maureen Futtner said "These awards honor people who are neighborhood heroes in their little corner of The City ... whether it is opening their doors for community groups, cleaning up the neighborhood or helping kids in the area."



**e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?**

HRK provides a safe and disciplined space for residents of the Bay Area, and visitors from across the country and the globe, to gain confidence, strength, fitness, and balance.

We built a gym at the home of our tech neighbors GitHub, where we provide several classes (Boot Camp, Kickboxing and Yoga) each week. We have taught self-defense seminars, women's self-defense seminars and Kickboxing classes to a variety of local businesses, including McKinsey, Apportable, the San Francisco Chronicle, David Baker Architects, Awago Design, the Sage Group, 99 Design, InboxQ and the SF Conservation Corps.

HRK's General Manager, Micah Ehler, has for some time been teaching free Taekwondo classes under the HRK banner to children in an underserved and economically depressed community near his Richmond, California, home, and he is in the process of forming a Hwa Rang Kwan 501(c)(3) corporation to further develop that particular program.

For the past few years, Hwa Rang Kwan has been providing weekly Taekwondo classes to children at Alta Vista School on Somerset Street.

Over the years HRK has participated in many Taekwondo demonstrations at various movie premiers, and at several Korea Day celebrations, most recently in Golden Gate Park.

HRK has also provided letters of support and recommendation to many students seeking to graduate to middle school or university, and to students applying for acceptance to MBA courses.

To commemorate and celebrate the life of the greatest statesman of the 20th century, in 2015 the school offered Nelson Mandela Scholarships to students from disadvantaged communities in the SoMa area of San Francisco. Mandela scholars received a minimum of one year of free classes, provided that they maintained an average attendance of at least two classes each week, for the entire year (something which, sadly but truthfully, proved too difficult for the few successful candidates of the program).

In May 2017, students from HRK embarked on the school's third cultural visit to the home of Taekwondo - Korea.

To demonstrate their commitment to the community and to learn and foster humility, HRK's younger students have often spent their Saturday mornings cleaning up trash in the neighborhood.

The school has also held many fundraising events, such as break-a-thons, for deserving causes like St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and tsunami and hurricane appeals.

**f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.**

HRK serves the SoMa area of San Francisco, a neighborhood that has in recent years seen an influx of tech companies, high-paid jobs and expensive condos, while also witnessing the flight of small businesses and local services.

There is no typical HRK student. We have students who have successfully started their own companies, students who are students, and students who are unemployed. We have students who can afford the monthly membership fees, students who can afford to take private lessons, and students who need financial assistance. We endeavor to cater to, and to support, everyone, regardless of ability to pay, and we teach life skills that prepare our students to navigate the 21st century with confidence, calmness and humility.

**g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?**

Through the Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco webtoon comic, the school is now closely connected to its Korean roots, and many students of Korean origin now take our Taekwondo classes because of this cultural connection.

**h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?**

As rents rise, old warehouses and stores get replaced by tower blocks, and the number of small businesses in our corner of SoMa dwindles. Hwa Rang Kwan serves a vital function to all of its students of all ages: a friendly place to call home; activities to engage and improve the mind and body; friends to bond and grow with; achievements that will be a lifelong source of pride; a place to give and receive respect; a retreat from the harsh realities of life in Trump's America; a place where honesty and integrity can be counted on, encouraged and nurtured.

For more than 40 years HRK, has provided a sense of place for its students. Many have moved away and had families, while staying part of our community. Others have moved back after years away, happy to see familiar faces and experience familiar routines.

Everywhere needs a place like Hwa Rang Kwan, be it a church, mosque or synagogue, or a club, or a traditional martial arts center - and SoMa around 4th Street is already quite poorly served as far as community spaces go.

It is inconceivable that, even in the current crazy rental environment, the business would ever close down and deprive the community - and especially the children - of a nurturing space that teaches values and discipline, and offers the opportunity to experience the better side of the human experience.

## **CRITERION 3**

### **a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.**

Hwa Rang Kwan is a for-profit business that is managed according to two defining principles: honesty and integrity. It is a Taekwondo and Kickboxing school that teaches classes to Pee Wees, Tiger Tots, children and adults. With 4,500 square feet and three workout areas, the school is able to offer a comprehensive training schedule (including interval training and personal training classes), while also providing space for many other martial arts clubs to continue offering their classes.

As referenced earlier, Hwa Rang Kwan is known as the “the friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul.” This is a mission statement, a promise, and the guiding principle of the school.

There are five tenets of Taekwondo: Courtesy; Integrity; Self Control; Perseverance; Indomitable Spirit. These are the characteristics that we do our best to instill in our students. We encourage everyone to be polite and respectful. We expect everyone to keep their word, and to treat others as they would have others treat them. We practice self-control by staying calm under stress, by being dependable and by refusing to follow paths of self-destruction. We persevere, especially in the face of seemingly unsurmountable obstacles (such as injuries and physical/mental handicaps, personal struggles and self-doubt and negative naysayers). And we demonstrate indomitable spirit by never giving up in our quest for self-improvement. When we get knocked down we get up again.

### **b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)**

Although the techniques and forms of Taekwondo continue to evolve, and to a degree HRK evolves with them, the school continues to teach the traditional style of Taekwondo that has been continuously taught by Grand Master Shin since 1971.

Before every adult and children’s Taekwondo class, the students and instructors recite the historic Hwa Rang Creed:

“Through Hwa Rang I vow: to condition my mind body and soul; to continuously perfect and never misuse my art; to impart it to others and protect the weak; to show respect and love for humanity; to strive for a better world; and to lead my life as an example of Hwa Rang pride.”

Since November 8, 2016, this creed has been become much more important than at any time since the school’s inception in 1965. Although we teach the martial arts of Taekwondo and



Kickboxing, and provide fitness and interval training classes to keep our students fit and healthy, the invocation to protect the weak, to show respect and love for humanity, and to strive for a better world is the essence of our philosophy.

We will always welcome students of all races, religions and sexual orientations. We will always provide sanctuary to those who need it, counsel to those who seek it, strength to those who work for it, and comfort to those strive for it. We will continue to carry on our long tradition of speaking out against injustice and intolerance, and supporting those whose words and deeds echo those in our code.

HRK continues to stress to students Grand Master Shin's martial arts aesthetic of power, balance and internal strength, combined with his respect for the discipline, focus and perseverance of the traditional martial arts.

**c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).**

HRK looks today much like it did 30 or more years ago, except in a more modern setting.

The school still uses essentially the same logo, containing the laurel wreath that symbolizes peace, the traditional Korean weapon (danbong - short stick) in the Taekwondo fist, the Um/Yang symbol and the Rose of Sharon hibiscus (national flower of Korea). The photograph the mural is derived from was taken approximately 15 years ago.

The mural on the front of the building at 90 Welsh Street features one of our most talented former Taekwondo Black Belts: dancer, choreographer and Cirque du Soleil performer Michelle Bolong (now owner of her own school, Fly Studios Aerial Arts' in Manhattan Beach, CA). Michelle trained under Master Steve at the Eddy Street and 5th Street schools.

**d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

See supplemental documents.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FIRST FILING <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL  <b>FILING FEE</b> Payable by cash, check with a preprinted name, or money order \$35.00 - For 1st Business Name and 1st Registrant \$9.00 - For each additional business name on same statement \$9.00 - For each additional owner on the same statement	County Clerk City Hall, Room 168 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4678	FILING STAMP ONLY  <b>ENDORSED FILED</b> <i>San Francisco County Clerk</i>  <b>APR 20 2001</b> <b>NANCY ALFARO</b> Deputy County Clerk
	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - S.F. Business Tax Registration Certification <input type="checkbox"/> TAX EXEMPT _____ (date) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAXES PAID <u>4/20/01</u> (date) _____	

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT (FILE NO. 248312)**

- Fictitious Business Name(s): ① HWA RANG KWAN SAN FRANCISCO ② HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTER
- Street Address, City, State & Zip code of Principal Place of Business in California (P.O. Box is not allowed)  
132 EDDY STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102
- Full Name of Registrant #1 (If Corporation or Limited Liability Company, indicate State of Incorporation or organization)  
STEPHEN JACK RAPPORT  
Residence Address, City, State and Zip Code for Registrant #1 (P.O. Box is not allowed)  
229 8TH STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103  
Full Name of Registrant #2 (If Corporation or Limited Liability Company, indicate State of Incorporation or organization)  
Residence Address, City, State and Zip Code for Registrant #2 (P.O. Box is not allowed)  
Full Name of Registrant #3 (If Corporation or Limited Liability Company, indicate State of Incorporation or organization)  
Residence Address, City, State and Zip Code for Registrant #3 (P.O. Box is not allowed)
- This business is conducted by ☒ an individual ☐ a general partnership ☐ a limited partnership  
☐ an unincorporated association other than a partnership ☐ a corporation ☐ a business trust  
☐ co-partners ☐ husband and wife ☐ joint ventures ☐ limited liability company  
☐ other - please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on: 4/20/01  
(enter exact date - If future date, write "not applicable")
- Signed Steve Rapport If registrant is a Corporation or Limited Liability Company, sign below:  
 Typed or \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation or Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name STEVE RAPPORT Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name & Title \_\_\_\_\_

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco on date indicated by the file stamp above.

NOTICE-THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES ON **APR 20 2006**, FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THIS DATE. THE FILING OF THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT OF ITSELF AUTHORIZE THE USE IN THIS STATE OF A FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF ANOTHER UNDER FEDERAL, STATE OR COMMON LAW (SEE SECTION 14400 ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE.)

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original on file at the San Francisco County Clerk's office.

**NANCY ALFARO**

by \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_



2001

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

**SELLER'S PERMIT**



ACCOUNT NUMBER

4/23/2001 SR BH 97-900481

HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CTR  
STEPHEN JACK RAPPORT  
132 EDDY ST.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

THIS PERMIT DOES NOT  
AUTHORIZE THE HOLDER  
TO ENGAGE IN ANY  
BUSINESS CONTRARY TO  
LAWS REGULATING THAT  
BUSINESS OR TO  
POSSESS OR OPERATE  
ANY ILLEGAL DEVICE.

IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO **SALES AND USE TAX LAW** TO ENGAGE IN THE  
BUSINESS OF SELLING TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE ABOVE LOCATION

THIS PERMIT IS VALID UNTIL REVOKED OR CANCELED BUT IS NOT TRANSFERABLE. IF YOU SELL YOUR BUSINESS,  
OR DROP OUT OF A PARTNERSHIP, NOTIFY US OR YOU COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SALES AND USE TAXES  
DUE BY THE NEW OPERATOR OF THE BUSINESS.

*Not valid at any other address*

**FOR GENERAL TAX QUESTIONS, PLEASE TELEPHONE OUR INFORMATION CENTER AT 1-800-400-7115.**

BOE-442-R REV. 13 (6-00)

**NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS REGARDING  
INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

The Information Practices Act of 1977 and the Federal Privacy Act requires this agency to provide the following notice to individuals who are asked  
by the State Board of Equalization (Board) to supply information, including the disclosure of the individual's social security account number.



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO - OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

# BUSINESS TAX REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE NO.	LOC.	CLASS	CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTION	RENEW BY DATE	EXPIRATION DATE
929710	001	07	OTHERS BUSINESSES	10-31-2001	12-31-2001
BUSINESS NAME			FEE PAID		
HMA RANG KWAN SAN FRANCISCO			\$150.00		
BUSINESS LOCATION					
132 EDDY ST					

TAXPAYER SIGNATURE:

OWNERSHIP

RAPPORT STEPHEN J

DBA

HMA RANG KWAN SAN FRANCISCO  
132 EDDY ST

MAILING  
ADDRESS

CITY - STATE SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102

DATE ISSUED:

05-02-2001

*George W. Putris*

GEORGE W. PUTRIS  
TAX ADMINISTRATOR

**MUST BE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY AT THE BUSINESS LOCATION**

READ REVERSE SIDE. NOTIFY THE TAX COLLECTOR IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR ADDRESS - P.O. BOX 7425, SAN FRANCISCO, 94120 - 7425

2001



2017

# BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

FY 2017-18

BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER  
0929710

TRADE NAME (DBA)

HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CTR

BUSINESS

RAPPORT STEPHEN J

RENEW BY DATE  
05-31-2018

EXPIRATION DATE  
06-30-2018

LOCATION ID

1030531-06-151

BUSINESS LOCATION

90 WELSH ST

THIRD PARTY TAX COLLECTOR

☐ PARKING TAX

☐ TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

RAPPORT STEPHEN J  
90 WELSH STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94107-1023

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR



José Cisneros  
Treasurer



David Augustine  
Tax Collector

POST CLEARLY VISIBLE AT THIS BUSINESS LOCATION

Read reverse side. To update addresses or to close a business, go to [www.sftreasurer.org/accountupdate](http://www.sftreasurer.org/accountupdate).



화랑체육관  20주년기념

# Hwa Rang Kwan 20th Anniversary Masters Expo & Championship

Hosted by HwaRangKwan Association and Master D. K. SHIN

1985



July 27, 1985  
Abraham Lincoln  
High School Gym  
2162 - 24th Ave., S.F. CA

Hwa Rang Kwan H.Q.  
1749 Noriega St.  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
(415)759-9202, 751-2112



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1986

# Masters of the Martial Arts

They jump, they kick, they scream — and they teach philosophy

BY JERRY CARROLL

**T**he hottest movie this summer continues the story about the wise counsel a martial arts master gives his young student. "Karate Kid, Part II" grossed \$61.6 million in five weeks, which is better than a blow to the windpipe.

In the movie, kindly and unflappable Mr. Miyagi takes gangly Danny LaRusso back home to Okinawa — home of karate — for more instruction in kicks, chops, punches and Eastern serenity.

The pair tangles with another karate master and his pupils, saves a village from destruction, survives a typhoon and generally upholds goodness and beats up on evil.

There's some romantic stuff, but it doesn't take up so much time that it ruins the movie for the teenage boys paying hard cash to see lights punched out.

So "Karate Kid, Part II" thus maintains the martial arts boom begun by the movie exploits of the late Bruce Lee and continued by Chuck Norris. Television is riding the wave as well.

In the fall, ABC will offer a new series, "The Last Electric Night," about a cop and his karate champ pal. NBC's defunct series about an American ninja, "The Master," is being repackaged for the video stores. Plus, you're seeing more full-contact karate matches on ESPN, the cable network.

"Karate has a mystical quality to it," said Michael Weinbarth, executive producer of "Electric Night." "It is an area where people can see action that is based on honor and defense."

**D.K. Shin:**  
'Respect Enemies'

D.K. Shin, a Korean born karate master who has been involved in the sport for 34 of his 40 years, is an eighth-degree black belt who teaches soldiers and civilians at the Presidio in San Francisco.

"We always respect our enemies, because when you respect people you can look deeper into them," he said. "We want to keep a clean body and a clean mind so we can have real harmony."

## Teach Health, Philosophy

San Francisco Chronicle

Tuesday, July 29, 1986

## PEOPLE





**HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS  
HEALTH & FITNESS CENTER**

1990?



**TAE KWON DO**

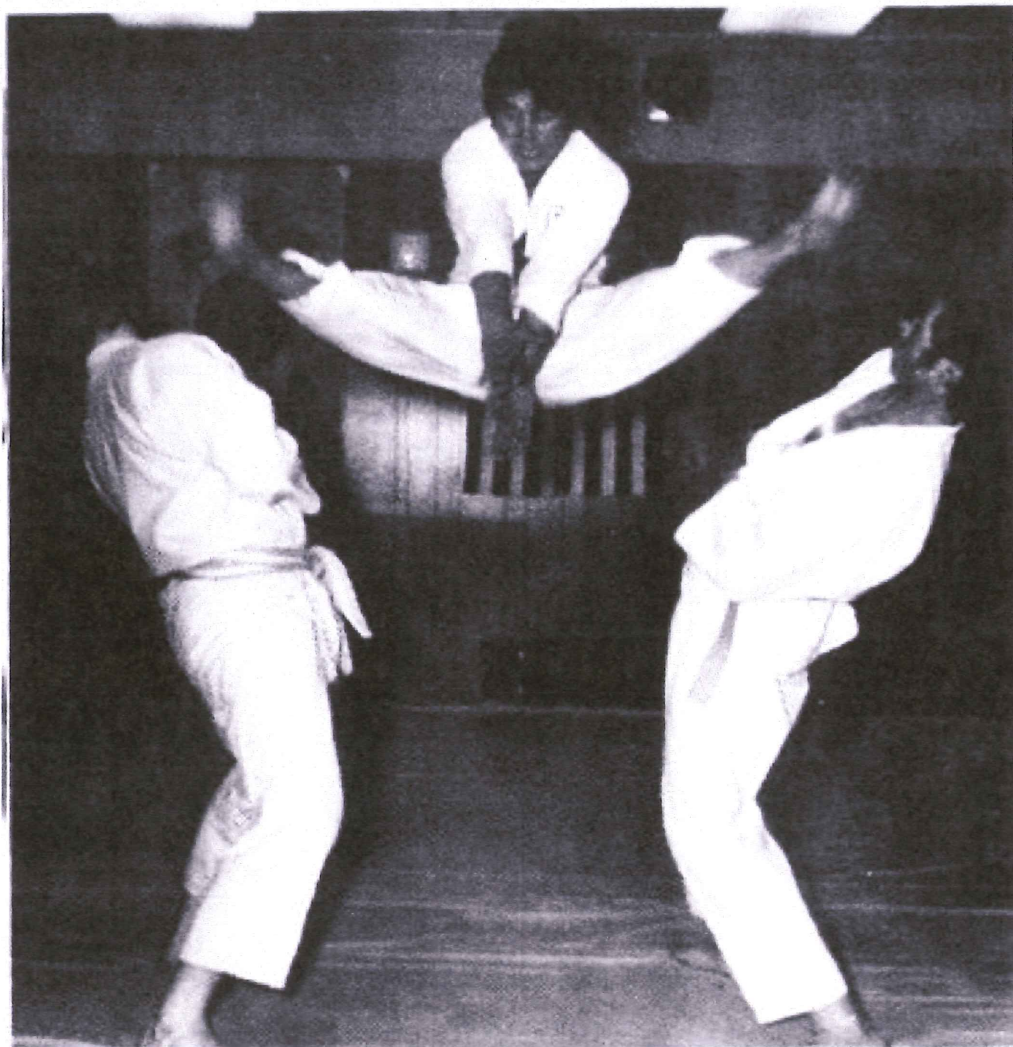
*Olympic Sport Traditional Karate*

**HAP KI DO**

*Traditional Jujitsu*

**SELF DEFENSE • EXERCISE • DISCIPLINE**

태  
권  
도



합  
기  
도

**GRAND MASTER SHIN'S WORLD FAMOUS FLYING SPREAD KICK**

**WORLD TAE KWON DO FEDERATION, KUKKIWON 9TH DAN BLACK BELT (#05000655)**

**WORLD HAP KI DO FEDERATION 9TH DAN BLACK BELT (#03-9-017)**

**PROFESSOR / GRANDMASTER**

**D. K. SHIN    신 동 기**



화랑체육관 축 30 주년기념

1995

30th Anniversary  
**HWA RANG KWAN**  
**MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL**  
in San Francisco

KICK COMPLIMENTS OF GRAND MASTER D. K. SHIN



1995 SAN FRANCISCO

# **TAE KWON DO** championship and MASTERS' EXPOSITION

**Saturday March 11th 1995 Main Gym San Francisco State University**  
(19th Ave & Holloway, San Francisco)

**Recognized by:** United States Olympic Committee  
**Sanctioned by:** United States Taekwondo Union  
**Sponsored by:** California Taekwondo Association  
**Hosted by:** Hwa Rang Hwe

**Championship:** 10AM - 6PM  
**Final & Masters' Expo:** 6PM  
**Admission:** Adults \$7.00 Children \$5.00

**Head Quarters (415) 474-KICK (5425) Fax (415) 931-1679**



2007

# The Examiner

MONARCH OF THE DAILIES

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 17, 2007

examiner.com

SAN FRANCISCO

TICKETS: 1-800-868-7563  
charles SCHWAB

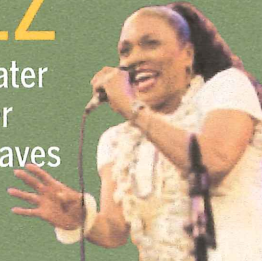


## BEST OF THE BUSINESS

Urban Solutions honors local entrepreneurs » PAGE 11

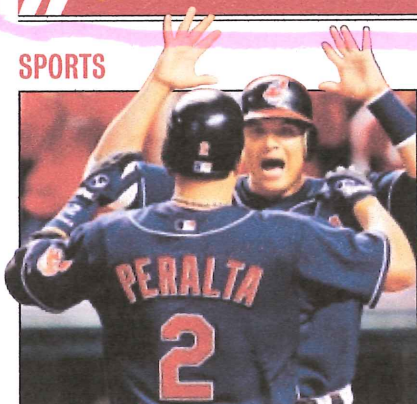
## ALL THAT JAZZ

Bridgewater and other festival faves lined up » PAGE 19



» **OPINION: KUDOS FOR TRUANCY PROGRAM** » PAGE 16

### SPORTS



## Lake Erie boils as Boston roils

Indians top Red Sox again, moving within one win of first World Series berth since '97. » Page 41

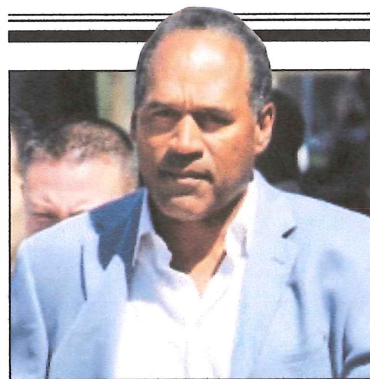


## Salomon focused on making team better

Defending S.F. champion leads Wallenberg girls' tennis team by example. » Page 39

# City can't scare up anti-party PR for Halloween

Promise of large effort, but not much is produced. » Page 4



### CALIFORNIA

## Man, could it get any worse for this guy?

O.J. among celebrities on state's list of biggest tax delinquents, as are many Bay Area residents. » Page 8

### The City

62° 54°



Partly sunny, chance of morning showers  
» Page 14



Field Entertainment® and Kenny Ortega Present

**THE ICE TOUR**

Act One

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**

Act Two

**HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2**

**OPENS TOMORROW!**

OCT. 18 - 20 **ORACLE ARENA**

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# BUSINESS

For breaking business news, visit [examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com)

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

examiner.com

SF 11

## IN THE NEWS

### STOCKS RETREAT

Wall Street sank for a second straight session Tuesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the slumping housing market remains a "significant drag" on the economy. Bernanke's speech Monday night in New York elevated concerns that the summer's credit tightness might persist into the winter. — AP



### WELLS FARGO

The San Francisco bank's earnings grew at its slowest pace in more than six years in the third quarter, dragged down by deteriorating home loans likely to cause more trouble in months ahead. Despite the real estate market's rocky conditions, Wells Fargo & Co. (WFC) said Tuesday that its profit edged up by 4 percent to \$2.28 billion, or 68 cents per share, in the three months ended in September.

### LEOPARD

Apple Inc.'s (AAPL) next-generation operating system, Mac OS X Leopard, will be available Oct. 26 for \$129, and Apple's online store is taking preorders, the company said Tuesday. Leopard was originally due in June, but Apple said in April that it needed to divert resources so it could launch the much-anticipated iPhone on time. Such product delays are rare for the Cupertino company.



### HOT STOCKS

#### NYSE

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
Citigroup	62,731,600	44.79	-1.45
FordMot	49,641,521	8.78	-21
Pfizer	43,021,914	24.63	-37
EMC Corp	34,144,392	22.27	-29
WellsFargo	33,508,500	34.55	-1.40

#### AMEX

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
SP DR	153,592,898	153.77	-1.24
SPInd	67,703,093	34.06	-76
iShRus2K nra	57,659,706	81.94	-91
ProUIshQQQ	27,931,493	36.53	+04
SP Energy	19,975,900	78.05	+25

#### NASDAQ

Name	Volume	Last	Chg.
PwShts QQQ	176,729,643	52.87	-25
Intel	84,750,249	25.48	-27
SunMicro	52,901,57	65.96	-15
Microsoft	52,266,059	30.32	+28
Cisco	48,931,313	32.29	-50

▲ DOW JONES  
-71.86 / 13,912.94

▲ NASDAQ  
-16.14 / 2,763.91

▲ S&P 500  
-10.18 / 1,538.53

▲ 10-YR. T-NOTE  
-0.04 / 4.64%

▲ DOLLAR/YEN  
-0.49 / ¥116.92

▲ DOLLAR/EURO  
+0.0017 / €0.7056

## SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS AWARDS

# Entrepreneurial exemplars honored

San Francisco-based Urban Solutions is a nonprofit organization that helps small businesses obtain loans, create business plans and perform other tasks necessary for their survival. The group annually honors small, nonformula retail businesses that make a difference in their neighborhoods. Stories by Examiner Staff Writer Kate Williamson.

### FIRST PLACE

#### Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center 371 Fifth St.

When Steve Rapport purchased a Korean martial-arts school from tae kwon do master Dong Kie Shin in 2001, he dreamed of turning it into a center of learning that embraced different teachers and created a community. Today, the nonprofit group Urban Solutions will honor Rapport as a pillar of his South of Market neighborhood, with first prize in its San Francisco Neighborhood Business Awards.

"These awards honor people who are neighborhood heroes in their little corner of The City ... whether it is opening their doors for community groups, cleaning up the neighborhood or helping kids in the area," Urban Solutions representative Maureen Futtner said.

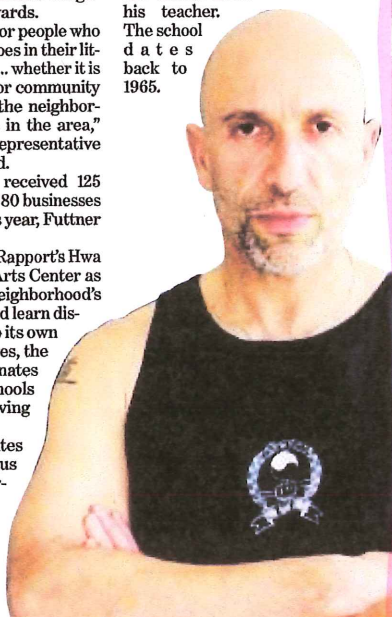
The organization received 125 nominations for some 80 businesses to receive awards this year, Futtner said.

Nominators hailed Rapport's Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center as a place where the neighborhood's teenagers hang out and learn discipline. In addition to its own adult and youth classes, the studio rents and donates space to outside schools and to two youth-serving nonprofit groups.

Rapport also donates proceeds from various tournaments to charity.

"I work six days a week here ... so getting some recognition is hugely gratifying," Rapport, 51, said.

Rapport, a 4th dan master of tae kwon do, came to studio ownership unconventionally. A rock 'n' roll photographer, his work will be featured this month in an exhibition of Bruce Springsteen pictures in London's Proud Galleries. He moved to the United States from the United Kingdom in 1992, and worked for several technology startups before buying the school from his teacher. The school dates back to 1965.



### SECOND PLACE

#### Marcus Books 1712 Fillmore St.

Dr. Raye Richardson's Marcus Books has been an important cultural icon for nearly 50 years because of its focus on titles about black people in America and around the world, according to state Assemblymember Mark Leno, its nominator.

"There is a kind of pride in the black community that we exist," Richardson said.

Richardson and her late husband, Julian Richardson, founded the shop around 1960, Richardson said, because it was too expensive to order rare volumes and lend them to "well-meaning friends" who never returned them. The shop had to move frequently because of redevelopment projects in the Western

Addition, she added. The business is still run by the couple's daughters and grandchildren.

In addition to supporting important black writing, the shop was a meeting place for African-American organizations.



### THIRD PLACE

#### Marlena's 488 Hayes St.

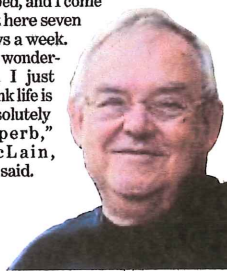
Garry McLain, co-owner of the nightclub Marlena's, credits the Imperial Court with introducing him to the joy of good works. The court, a gay organization that elected him 25th Emperor one year, does extensive fundraising and charity work. And in the midst of that world, so does McLain.

"His work goes without fanfare or hoopla — he just does it!" nominator Michael Patton said.

The eclectic nightclub, with its drag queens and "Star Wars" memorabilia, has had many names in the past: the Valley Club, David's House, the Overpass. For McLain, a retired Carnation supervisor who worked at The Mint and Kimo's, it

was a chance to go into business for himself.

"I could retire tomorrow ... but we have a reason to get out of bed, and I come out here seven days a week. It's wonderful. I just think life is absolutely superb," McLain, 67, said.



— All: Courtesy photos

### MARKET MOVERS

Stocks that moved substantially or traded heavily Tuesday:

#### NYSE

##### State Street Corp. +\$5.75 at \$74.68

The financial services firm fared much better than most of its rivals in the third quarter, posting a profit rise of 29 percent on strong revenue from servicing fees and trading services.

##### General Motors Corp.

##### -\$1.70 at \$39.41

A Bear Stearns analyst downgraded the automaker after GM and the United Auto Workers agreed to set up a retiree health care fund.

#### NASDAQ

##### China Precision Steel Inc.

##### +\$0.91 at \$10.14

The Shanghai-based steel producer said Tuesday that fiscal 2007 earnings slipped 1 percent, but its revenue jumped 55 percent.

##### ValueClick Inc.

##### -\$3.23 at \$24.55

The online-advertising company said it expects Q3 sales to come in at the low end of expectations, and it reduced its yearly sales prediction.

### COMING TODAY

► **Reports:** Labor Department on consumer price index for September; Commerce Department on housing starts for September; Federal Reserve releases survey of regional economic conditions.

► **Earnings:** Allstate Corp., Altria Group Inc., AMR Corp., Coca-Cola Co., eBay Inc., eTrade Financial Corp., Gannett Co., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Manpower Inc., Sovereign Bancorp Inc., United Technologies Corp., Washington Mutual Inc.

### HONORABLE MENTION

#### Hotel des Arts 447 Bush St.



Singer

The Hotel des Arts pays artists to create long-term full-room murals in its rooms, giving them a unique form of exposure. "It's more of a budget hip, cool hotel," said Richard Singer, president of the hotel's owner, Prize Hotels. The nominator lauded it for helping artists through the hotel and the Web site, [www.sfhoteledesarts.com](http://www.sfhoteledesarts.com).

#### Original Joe's 144 Taylor St.



Burns

Some businesses survive so long that they help define a neighborhood. In San Francisco's Tenderloin, 70-year-old Original Joe's serves that function, according to its nominator. Recently damaged by a fire, the eatery — run by General Manager Dan Burns — provides needed commercial activity in a tough neighborhood.

#### Drewes Bros. Meats 1706 Church St.



Josh Epple

An institution dating back to 1889 in a rapidly developing gourmet gulch on Church Street, under its new owners Drewes Bros. Meats is a traditional butcher shop that serves in-demand naturally-raised meats. Brothers Josh and Isaac Epple and a partner own the shop, which keeps a refrigerator used by the sisters of St. Paul's Church for food donations.



SAN FRANCISCO HWA RANG KWAN

2014

Very popular  
KOREAN WEB TOON created by a HWA RANG KWAN  
BLACK BELT student MYE WON CHANG ('DOLBAE')

어쩌면 프로보다 낫다? 추천 아마추어 웹툰 3선

감성을 만지고/직장인 특 2013.09.05 08:52

Like 19K people like this. Be the first of your friends.



웹툰 좋아하시나요? PC, 태블릿, 스마트폰 등을 통해 간편하게 접하고 즐길 수 있는 웹툰, 어느새 일상생활 깊숙하게 들어오게 되었습니다. 지금은 출판물로도 접할 수 있고, 인기를 끄는 작품 중에서는 영화로 만들어지는 경우도 있죠. 영화 '은밀하게 위대하게'는 웹툰 원작으로 제작되어 엄청난 인기를 끌기도 했고요.



To impart it to others  
and protect the weak.  
(다른 사람과 공유하고  
약자를 보호하며)

**HWA RANG KWAN**

respect and  
love for humanity.  
(인류에 대한  
존경심과 애정을 갖고)

To strive for  
a better world  
(더 나은 세상을  
위해 노력하며)

And  
to lead my life  
as an example  
(그리고 앞으로  
화랑의 자긍심을  
통한 삶을 살아갈 것을)

of  
Hwa Rang pride  
(다짐합니다)



## 샌프란시스코 화랑관 (SAN FRANCISCO HWARANGGWAN)

### 샌프란시스코 화랑관



글/그림 돌배

Ending in 2016, this webtoon showcases the lives of a diverse group of taekwondo members. It's set in San Francisco, and the main character is a young video game engineer who moved to the U.S. for a different life. This webtoon seems like a good read for a Korean's perspective on American culture. The vocabulary can be technical or specialized at times, but it would be good reading practice for intermediate or above.



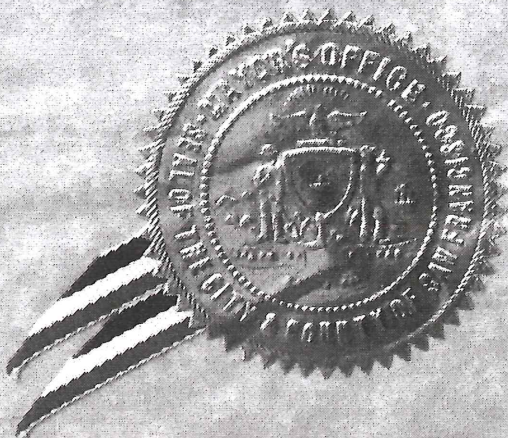
1983

## Greetings

On behalf of the people of the City and County of San Francisco, I am very pleased to extend our heartfelt GREETINGS to the distinguished members and guests of the HWA RANG KWAN ASSOCIATION on the gala occasion of the 1983 SAN FRANCISCO MARTIAL ARTS EXPO & CHAMPIONSHIP.

San Francisco is proud to have this very special event held here in our City, and deeply honored to join with the other members of our community in commending everyone involved in making this popular sport available to local residents and visitors.

As Mayor of San Francisco, I am delighted to convey our sincere appreciation for the invaluable public services rendered by your fine organization to our entire community and wish your participants a most enjoyable and successful MARTIAL ARTS EXPO & CHAMPIONSHIP.



Dianne Feinstein  
Mayor



1994



## Certificate of Recognition

On behalf of the people of the  
City and County of San Francisco  
I am pleased to commend and thank  
**D.K. Shin**

*In appreciation of D.K. Shin's work to present the 29th Anniversary Tournament and Grand Master's Exposition at San Francisco State University. As President of the Hwa Rang Kwan Association, D.K. Shin has helped foster the development of over 30,000 students through Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco.*

April 23, 1994



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand and caused the Seal of the City and  
County of San Francisco to be affixed.

*Frank M. Jordan*  
Frank M. Jordan  
Mayor



# 1995 Proclamation

City and County of San Francisco



*Whereas the City and County of San Francisco is extremely proud to recognize the Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary Tournament and Grand Masters' Exposition at San Francisco State University; and*

*Whereas Hwa Rang Kwan is an ancient martial art introduced into Korea by the Buddhist priest Won Kwang Popsa over 1800 years ago; and*

*Whereas these arts were preserved and handed down by monks and later taught to members of a small royal family in the Kingdom of Silla from which the Hwa Rang Kwan developed; and*

*Whereas since 1965, Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco has fostered the development of more than 30,000 students; now*

*Therefore Be It Resolved That I, Frank M. Jordan, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, congratulate the Hwa Rang Kwan San Francisco for its 30 years of success and do hereby proclaim April 11, 1995 as...*

**Hwa Rang Kwan Day  
in San Francisco**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

Frank M. Jordan  
Mayor



# 1997 Proclamation

City and County of San Francisco

**WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco is proud to honor **Hwa Rang Kwan** on the occasion of its 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and Grand Opening of its new school; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Opening of its new school on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1997, will make **Hwa Rang Kwan** the largest martial arts school in San Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, Grand Master D.K. Shin has devoted the past 23 years to building an ever-growing network of martial arts studios in the Bay Area, the last ten years to developing the Ellis Street school into one of the most vibrant dojangs in the City, not to mention perfecting his world famous flying spread kick along the way; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 3,500 students in San Francisco alone train in **Hwa Rang's** traditional karate and ninjitsu art forms, **Tae Kwan Do** and **Hap Ki Do**; and

**WHEREAS**, **Tai Kwan Do** has been admitted as one of the official Olympic events in the year 2000 in Sydney, memorializing the ancient art form as a recognized force in the world of athletics; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Willie L. Brown, Jr., Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, recognize and appreciate **Hwa Rang Kwan's** efforts to teach and promote martial arts in our City, and do hereby declare July 26, 1997 as...

**HWA RANG KWAN DAY**  
**in San Francisco!**



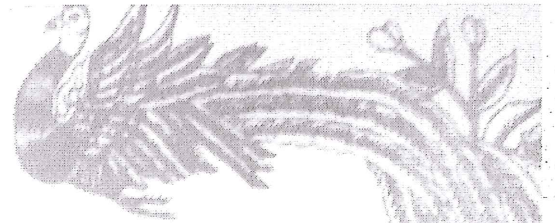
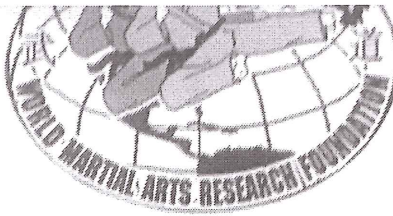
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Willie Lewis Brown, Jr.".

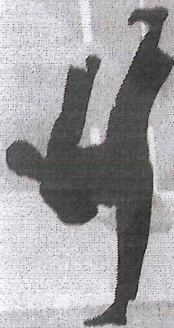
Willie Lewis Brown, Jr.  
Mayor



1998



# TOP TEN MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS in the U.S.A.



## HWA RANG KWAN MARTIAL ARTS CENTER

*has been selected as one of the Top Ten Martial Arts Schools in the U.S.A.  
in the year 1998 by the World Martial Arts Research Foundation for:*



GRANDMASTER  
DONG KI SHIN

- ❖ Outstanding Leadership
- ❖ Outstanding Instruction
- ❖ Outstanding Public Service
- ❖ Promotion of Martial Arts

*Y. K. Kim*  
GRANDMASTER Y. K. KIM  
Chairman and Founder



2001



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Presented To

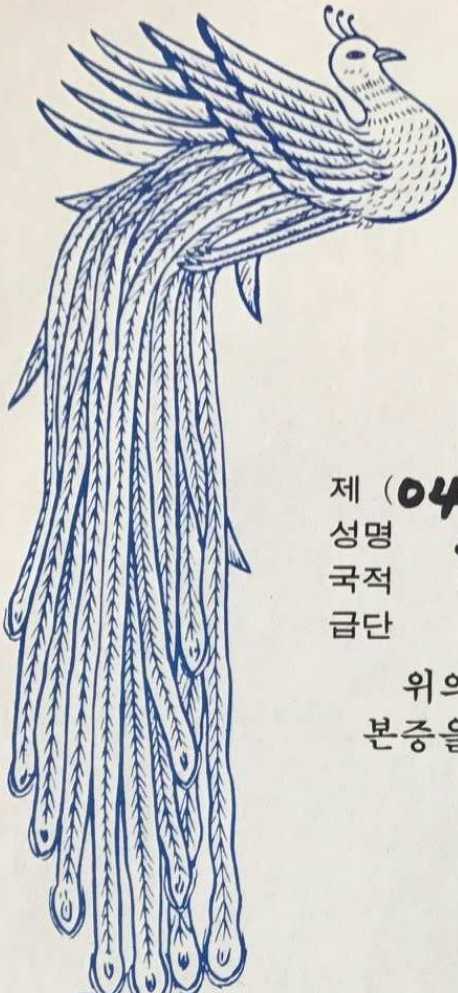
MR. STEVE RAPPORT

In acknowledgment and appreciation of  
your spirit and dedication to the students of  
HWA RANG KWAN

*WE THANK YOU*

July 2001





# 태 권 도 증

제 (04) 1004호  
성명 스티브 라포트  
국적 미국  
급단 4단

위의 사람은 본회 규정에 의한 심사결과  
본증을 수여함

2003년 8월 16일

세계 화랑 관 협 회  
회 장 신 동 기

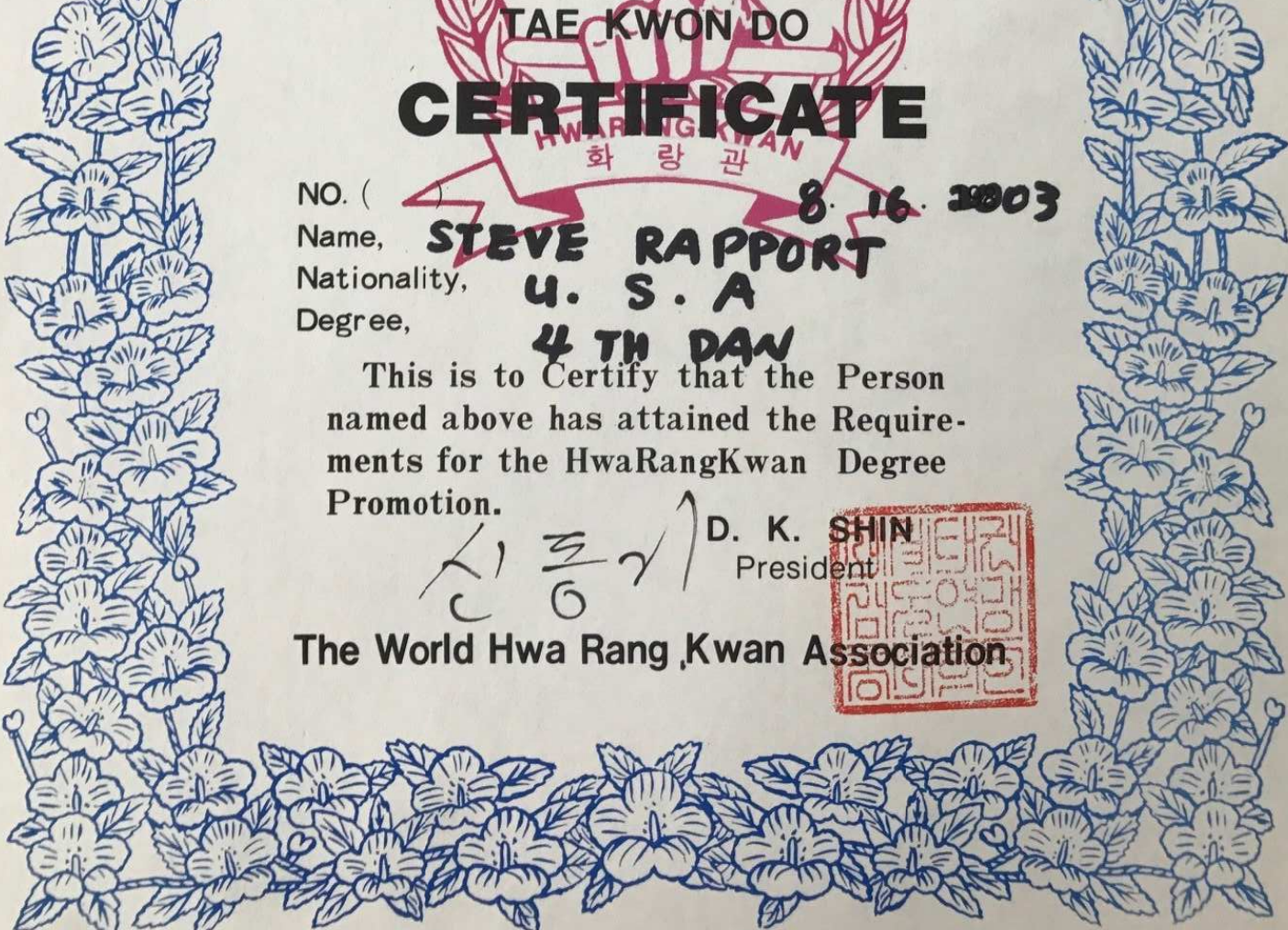
TAE KWON DO  
**CERTIFICATE**  
HWA RANG KWAN  
화랑관

NO. ( ) 8. 16. 2003  
Name, **STEVE RAPPORT**  
Nationality, **U. S. A**  
Degree, **4 TH DAN**

This is to Certify that the Person  
named above has attained the Require-  
ments for the HwaRangKwan Degree  
Promotion.

신동기 D. K. SHIN  
President

The World Hwa Rang ,Kwan Association







2006

## Hwa Rang Kwan Headquarters

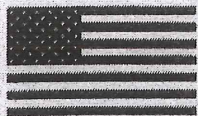


표 창 장



### Hwa Rang Kwan 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Championship

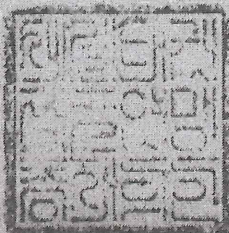
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006

# AWARD

*presented to*

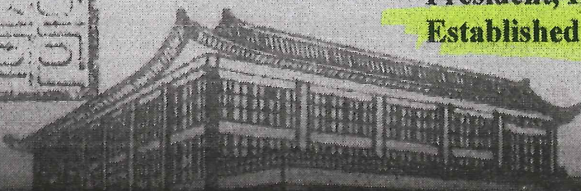
***Steve Rapport***

*In recognition of your devotion in participating in  
HwaRangKwan 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Championship  
Tournament and Taekwondo's development,  
HwaRangKwan celebrates and honors your self  
sacrifice and service by presenting you with this award.*



*D. K. Shin*

GRANDMASTER D. K. SHIN  
9<sup>th</sup> Dan Kukkiwon Taekwondo  
President, Hwa Rang Kwan  
Established 1965





CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

# Assembly

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

***Hwa Rang Kwan  
Tae Kwon Do***

*Congratulations on the occasion of being honored with a 2007 San Francisco Neighborhood Business Award from Urban Solutions. I commend your commitment and dedication to teaching martial arts and self-defense practices, the development of mind and body harmony as well as personal safety skills. Your contributions are valuable and appreciated. Congratulations on your acknowledgment and thank you for all you do!*



A blue ink signature of Mark Leno, written in a cursive style.

MARKLENO

Assemblyman, 13<sup>th</sup> District  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

NUMBER  
40113

WATER BOND

NUMBER  
40113

*For value received, the City and County of San Francisco, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, hereby acknowledges itself indebted*

## Hwa Rang Kwan Tae Kwon Do

*In recognition and celebration of your service to the City and County of San Francisco through your dedication to establishing a traditional martial arts studio that focuses on creating a safe space for the community.*

*Treasurer José Cisneros congratulates and commends you for your selection by Urban Solutions and The Examiner for the South of Market Neighborhood Business Award.*

*Presented on October 17, 2007*

By:

*José Cisneros, Treasurer*

*John F. [Signature]*  
[Signature]  
[Signature]

*[Signature]*  
*John F. [Signature]*





# *Certificate of Honor*

## **City and County of San Francisco Office of the Assessor-Recorder**

*The Office of Assessor-Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues and authorizes the execution of the Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:*

### **Hwa Rang Kwan Tae Kwon Do Studio**

On the auspicious occasion of the 2007 San Francisco Neighborhood Business Awards, I am pleased to congratulate the Hwa Rang Kwan Tae Kwon Do Studio on receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Place. In honor of this achievement and in recognition of your being a model local business, The Office of the Assessor-Recorder conveys its highest appreciation and extends best wishes on all future endeavors.

**Phil Ting**  
*Assessor-Recorder of San Francisco*  
October 17, 2007





## Hwa Rang Kwan Headquarters



공로상



위 사람은 태권도 보급 및 발전에  
헌신적인 노력을 경주함으로서  
태권도 문화의 창달에 기여하신  
공을 높이 평가 이에 공로상을 수여함

# AWARD

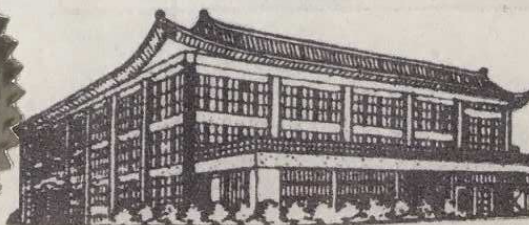
*Hwa Rang Kwan 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary 2008 San Francisco  
Peninsula TaeKwonDo Championship*

*Presented to: Master, Steve Rapport*

*In recognition of your devotion in participating in  
HwaRangKwan 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Championship and  
Taekwondo's development, HwaRangKwan celebrates  
and honors your self sacrifice and service by presenting  
you with this award.*

*D.K. Shin*

GRANDMASTER D.K. Shin  
9<sup>th</sup> Dan Kukkiwon Taekwondo  
President, Hwa Rang Kwan





2013



*In Grateful Appreciation*

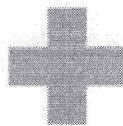
*of*

*Students of Hwa Rang Kwan  
Martial Arts Center*

for collecting donations benefiting the American Red  
Cross response to Hurricane Sandy

Friday, January 11, 2013

Harold W. Brooks  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter



**American Red Cross**



June 28, 2017

Elaine McChesney

San Francisco, CA 94158

To Whom it May Concern:

It's been almost a year since I joined the Hwa Rang Kwan school in San Francisco, and it changed my life – I feel safer, stronger and happier. I feel so blessed to be part of this community, I am eternally grateful to have found this school.

Prior to joining the school, I had no sense of hand-eye coordination, was very out-of-shape, my doctor told me I had borderline type 2 diabetes if I don't start exercising, and I was so ashamed of my physical condition that I didn't want to exercise with friends. Growing up I was never athletic, was always picked last in PE class for teams and had a "D" for my PE class (was straight A student otherwise). I was resigned to the fact that I was simply not good at exercise or sports. One morning in 2016, at a local gas station, a guy came up to me and asked for cash which I didn't have with me at the time. He got upset and threatened to hurt me. I was shocked and scared but did not know what to do. That night, I was not able to sleep because for the first time in my life I didn't feel safe anymore and I realized I am not capable of defending myself. I knew I needed to do something about it. I searched online for self-defense / martial art classes and found Hwa Rang Kwan. I reached out to the school the next day – that was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life.

Everyone at the school is extremely supportive, friendly and they are the reason why I have benefited so much during my time here. All the instructors including Master Steve are so patient with me, they are supportive, and they believe in me. They don't just teach me how to practice Taekwondo, they also help me build up my confidence – these are the best gifts in life one can ever receive and I am so grateful for them. All the classmates are supportive, helpful and encouraging. When I am at the school, I know I am at a safe environment with no judgment - just love and kindness. Some of the classmates have been at the school for a really long time, there is so much history and camaraderie. This is the only place in the world where everyone is kind, accepting, encouraging and supportive, it is a safe haven, it is the foundation of the community. I came to the school to get stronger and I got so much more – I feel better about myself, I feel healthier, I feel calmer, I have more confidence and I have made wonderful friends. I know I have a long way to go in my practice but I can already feel the improvement, both mentally and physically – something I have never experience in my entire life up until now. This is the single most transformative experience in my life and I owe it all to Hwa Rang Kwan.

The school embodies history, friendship and community. It is the soul of our neighborhood and it changed my life. I am sure it has changed many others and will change many more to come.

Kind regards,

*Elaine McChesney*

Elaine McChesney

Henry Lyne - East-West Wing Chun Kung Fu  
Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center

San Francisco  
CA 94107

To whom it concerns,

Our San Francisco Wing Chun Kung Fu school recently began renting space from Hwa Rang Kwan, starting June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. We were previously located in SF's Chinatown for 17 years. We had moved twice before and managed to stay near the same location, but this time around our options were limited and Hwa Rang Kwan was our refuge. Without it we may have had to close the SF branch of our school. Please consider Hwa Rang Kwan for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Thank you,

Henry Lyne  
<http://wingchun-sf.com/>





J. Scott Smith

San Francisco CA, 94109

To whom it may concern,

I am a 24 year resident of San Francisco, and first joined Hwa Rang Kwan in 1998 when it was located at Sutter Street, San Francisco. Over the many years, this taekwondo school has been a positive force of change while asking for nothing in return. I have seen its original founder, Grand Master Dong Ki Shin, and its current owner, Master Steve Rapport, struggle to keep the doors open to service the public and its students – all while commercial rents have skyrocketed. Their perseverance and commitment to help others in the face of adversity is unparalleled.

Hwa Rang Kwan is more than a business or an institution; it's a family. We're a martial arts school built and serviced literally by the students that attend it. We are belts of all colors, and are individuals of all ages, races, genders, orientations and religions.

As a black belt and instructor at the school, I am grateful to be in a position that serves to guide and help the children that I teach there. Many of whom have become exceptional teenagers as they continue to attend the school.

Our family and school is rooted in the SOMA neighborhood, and thereby benefits and serves the surrounding business and residents. Many of our students live nearby, and thus, their daily routines to and from the school directly support local establishments. Furthermore, Hwa Rang Kwan's influence extends beyond SOMA, as many of us have incorporated the school's teachings into our work and everyday lives. We are taught and reminded to show respect and love for humanity, and to strive for a better world. I myself have done this with my position at a local volunteer organization where we maintain neighborhood safety for children on their way home after school.

At Hwa Rang Kwan, our family is diverse, and our students and instructors are exceptional role models for future generations. From its humble beginnings, Hwa Rang Kwan is truly a San Francisco legacy and treasure.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Smith



# JOE OKIES

## Bujinkan Bay Area

PO Box 965

El Granada, CA 94018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**May 20th, 2017**

Small Business Assistance Center  
City Hall Room 110  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

### **To Whom It May Concern:**


I am writing this letter on behalf of Steve Rapport and Hwa Rang Kwan's application as a Legacy Business with the City of San Francisco.

I have practiced martial arts with a group that rents space at the Hwa Rang Kwan facilities for approximately 10 years. During that time, I have transitioned from being a student to instructing my own martial arts training group.

Hwa Rang Kwan has created a diverse community of martial arts enthusiasts who practice a variety of different styles. Participants range from children to adults and include people whose backgrounds and life experiences are as diverse as the City itself. Over the years I have watched students in my classes and others offered at Hwa Rang Kwan improve their martial arts skills, experience personal growth, develop confidence, and physical fitness; ultimately improving the quality of life of community members and those with whom they interact.

One of the ways that Hwa Rang Kwan and its partner instructors have been able to build this community is by charging relatively low rates for classes and training space. This allows many





who could not otherwise afford classes, or don't have the ability to drive to far away locations to participate in martial arts and derive the previously described benefits.

Granting Hwa Rang Kwan's application for a legacy business is the only way that they can remain at their current location in the SOMA community. Simply put, if this is not granted they, and all the artists they support will be priced out of the area.

Labeling Hwa Rang Kwan as a Legacy Business will allow it to continue to remain a positive influence in the SOMA neighborhood that provides affordable martial arts classes and support other martial arts traditions by providing a safe, clean, local training environment at affordable and sustainable prices.

Sincerely,

**Joe Okies**

From: Jpch1 1 [REDACTED]@gmail.com  
Subject: Letter to the Landlord  
Date: June 24, 2017 at 7:22 PM  
To: Master Steve Rapport [REDACTED]

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I've been in Hwa Rang Kwan(HRK) for about 3 months and I've loved it. It's super convenient for me because it's only a 5 minute walk from my apartment, and I don't have to worry to be late if it's 10 minutes until class! In JUST 3 months, I've already learned a lot about taekwondo, and soon enough, I might even get my next belt! If HRK were to close, I'd have to go to the second nearest taekwondo dojo, which is 3 miles away from there. I don't want HRK to close because it's already got a great location, a great environment, and the staff is amazing. Please don't raise the rent for the area. It wouldn't be fair to other people.

Sincerely,  
Juan Pablo Calvo (age 12)



To whom it may concern,

Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center of San Francisco has played a significant role in my life and my development as a young man. I have been training at HRKSF since I was 9, and today I am a sophomore in college still a proud (lifetime) member of the community. This place holds a special place in my heart, as I did much of my growing here. My dad threw me into the children's taekwondo program for me to learn self defense, but this place is so much more than that. The school had provided me with the tools needed to approach and succeed in new obstacles in life. I have been provided with opportunities to strengthen my mind, body, and soul contributing to who I am as an athlete, a member of society, and most importantly who I am as an overall human being. I also got my first job here, working the front desk, helping teach classes, all while playing sports in high school and carrying a heavy academic workload; instilling within me aspects that would overall continue to help me become a balanced man. HRK is a gem waiting to be found by others who are hungry for character development and a loving community. It has truly been a second home for me and don't count on it not being one for me anytime soon. I really would not be the person I am today without this place. Forever grateful.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth Bautista, a proud HRKer

To Whom it May Concern,

Hwa Rang Kwan has impacted my life in positive ways. I first started working at Hwa Rang Kwan in January of 2016. I was informed of the front desk position's availability from my older brother who was learning Taekwondo at the dojang at the time. My family is very low income and Master Steve was offering my older brother free classes in exchange for volunteer work; an accommodation my brother greatly appreciated. Martial Arts has always been something my brother and I took interest in because it connected us to our father who was not around often due to our parent's divorce that occurred when we were both still very young. My brothers and I live with our mother and grew up in Canon Barcus Community House, a permanent housing solution provided by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) for severely low income families. My brother learned about Hwa Rang Kwan because they had previously worked with ECS to provide some of the teens in my community the opportunity to participate in a kickboxing class free of charge. The opening of the position for Assistant to the General Manager came at a good time because I was going through a rough time in my life when I applied for the job. The transition to adulthood was beginning to weigh down on me mentally and I was recovering from the loss of a four year relationship with my best friend. I needed a positive outlet aside from my full time college schedule to occupy my free time; while at the same time earning some money to keep myself afloat financially. Also, as an employee at Hwa Rang Kwan I have been allowed to take kickboxing, fitness classes, and utilize open gym hours for free which has helped me release a lot of the pent up frustration that builds up when you're a low income first generation university student trying to keep afloat financially in a city as expensive as San Francisco. Aside from my financial aid, I depend upon this facility to take care of expenses for myself and my family.

Working at Hwa Rang Kwan has been a rewarding experience. When I first started working here my little brother and my niece, who also live with me, were taking Pee Wee and Tiger Tot classes at a discounted rate because Master Steve was gracious enough to take into account the magnitude of my family's poor financial circumstances. Children of other low income families have also been accommodated with discount memberships which is a clear sign of the businesses commitment to include members of the large underserved community of youth in San Francisco. This place has managed to impact and positively influence my entire family which is why I am taking my personal time to advocate for the necessity of the dojang. The location of the space is ideal because it's close to my building, so it cuts the cost of commuting from my heavy financial burden. Also, Micah and Master Steve have been very flexible when it comes to accommodating my changing time availability. Micah and Master Steve have worked to improve my administrative skills by providing effective feedback and alternative ways to handle sensitive situations that arise when dealing with difficult customers and/or membership contract issues; skills of which I'm sure I will utilize in pursuit of my career as an industrial organizational psychologist. They trust in my abilities to handle the happenings at the front desk, while also allowing me to work freely on my school assignments when business at the dojang is slow.

The people who work and train at Hwa Rang Kwan are welcoming, and from my observation it's clear that they all share a passion for the martial arts that we provide. Hwa Rang



Kwan brings together people from various backgrounds and cultures and creates a diverse space. It's a great place to learn and improve both mental and physical well being for its members and employees. If Hwa Rang Kwan managed to stay at it's current location then it would be possible for it to continue to serve as a beacon of positivity and means of connection within both the SOMA district's underserved and wealthy community of men, women, and children alike. I hope that this letter creates a clear perspective of my experience at Hwa Rang Kwan, and the magnitude of its influence on myself personally as well as to the community where I've grown up. Thank you for taking the time to gauge my account.

Sincerely,

Keonna Lopez, Age 21

[REDACTED]

San Francisco CA 94103

Dr. Martin Reddy  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
[REDACTED]

June 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

**In Support of Hwa Rang Kwan's Continued Service to the Bay Area Community**

I started training in martial arts over 30 years ago, have lived in San Francisco for close to 20 years, and started my own company that employs 38 people here in San Francisco.

I have been training and teaching at the Hwa Rang Kwan martial arts school for a couple of years and it is without a doubt the most outstanding school I have been part of over the years. From the top down, Master Steve leads with a message of respect, tolerance, and inclusiveness toward everyone. The school includes practitioners from many martial arts styles, ages, genders, races, and walks of life, who all come together in the melting pot of shared respect, focus, and achievement that underpins Hwa Rang Kwan.

The atmosphere of fun and camaraderie is second to none that I have experienced elsewhere, with many of the students regularly spending time together outside of the school for dinner, drinks, hikes, and even trips to Korea to learn more about the country and culture that created Taekwondo. Importantly though, this sense of community is focused not only inward but also extends beyond the walls of the school and into the wider San Francisco and Bay Area communities, with various efforts to participate in and contribute toward events around the city.

A unique aspect in my experience is that the school has a total of 5 teachers who have gained the title of "Master" (requiring the advanced rank of 4<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt or higher) and who have dedicated decades of their own lives to training future generations in the culture of respect that Hwa Rang Kwan is founded upon. This is evidenced in the school being one of the most popular choices for black belts from other states and countries around the world to train with while they are visiting San Francisco.

My own teaching experience at Hwa Rang Kwan is that I help to train young children (4-6 years old) in Taekwondo. Seeing how these "Tiger Tots" grow and improve over time, both physically and mentally, is an amazing gift and one that I've found to be my own personal way to give back to the community.

In summary, the San Francisco Hwa Rang Kwan school has a long history of contributing to and developing lasting community here in the city, and I hope that it will be allowed to continue this tradition for many years to come.

Yours truly,



Martin Reddy, Ph.D.



To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts. I've trained at Hwa Rang Kwan for 19 years. As a young woman entering Martial Arts, I was warned by older women from other schools to expect unfair treatment as woman. Some women had formed their own associations because they were not allowed to advance in some schools. This was never my experience at Hwa Rang. At Hwa Rang, all people are respected and welcome.

I started training as an unathletic twenty-four year old. Over the years, I've advanced to the rank of fourth degree black belt. I never could have achieved my rank without all the supportive students, instructors, and Master Steve Rapport. I was encouraged to take leadership and start teaching a beginners' class over ten years ago.

I've also seen many kids discover their leadership potential as they train. Since every student helps teach others as they advance, everyone gets a chance to lead in small and larger groups.

In a time where many fitness business are catering to fads and customers with a lot of money to spend, Hwa Rang is a traditional school that is affordable for children and adults at many different income levels and has been a stable presence in San Francisco. We need Hwa Rang Kwan in the city.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Erickson

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Melissa McPeters

[REDACTED]  
Oakland, CA 94602  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

20th June 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great love for Hwa Rang Martial Arts Center that I write this letter of support to bolster the application to join San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry. I am a long-term student and instructor there, and this school was my first family when I moved to San Francisco.

I moved to San Francisco in 1999. The only person I knew was my partner. We both had decided that we wanted to join a martial arts school. After shopping around, we settled on Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center. It was so fun. I met so many amazing people, and I learned so much. A few months later when we broke up, I was very grateful for my community at Hwa Rang Kwan for I had no one else in San Francisco to encourage me or listen to me. Coming to class boosted my spirits, and it gave me the strength I needed to survive in a new city with no other support group.

Years later, I got my 5th degree black belt. I cannot believe I have been able to achieve so much. Not only has Hwa Rang Kwan given so much to me, but we have also helped our community. We have held a number of fundraisers, most notably for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Hwa Rang Kwan has given me courage and strength in my personal life, and it has provided a sanctuary and haven for many students who have fallen on hard times. Hwa Rang Kwan's commitment to the community is why this business is crucial to the culture of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

*Melissa McPeters*

Melissa McPeters



To whom it may concern,

I would like to share my experience with the Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center. I'm originally from New York City, but moved out to San Francisco for Graduate School. It was my first time really living so far away from my home town, so it took some time for me to adjust. Fortunately, the Hwa Rang Kwan Center helped make me feel at home and the members became like family to me.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I had a fairly rough day at school. Now, I'm really happy about that day, because it was the same day I walked into the center and signed myself up for Tae Kwon Do classes, which I hadn't done since I left New York. It did not take long for me to feel comfortable, thanks to the amazing staff and members of the school. After spending about a month as a member, I was asked to become an assistant instructor for the kid's Tae Kwon Do class. After about six months, I began helping with the adult classes as well.

The Hwa Rang Kwan Martial Arts Center has really done a lot for me. It's been a home away from home, a place for exercise, but most importantly are the values they help instill with both the kids and adults. No matter your age, gender, race, or religion, you are welcome as a member of Hwa Rang Kwan. It really is a wonderful school and I truly thank everyone there for helping make such a great experience.

Sincerely,

Michael Williams.

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Michael Williams.

Nathan D. Lee

San Francisco, California 94103

June 20, 2017

San Francisco Legacy Business Register

To whom it may concern,

I am student and instructor at the Hwa Rang Kwan (HRK) Martial Arts Center in San Francisco. I attended this school as a student for over 10 years and have taught kickboxing classes for almost 4 years. HRK is a wonderful institution and bedrock for the San Francisco martial arts community. As a kickboxing enthusiast, HRK provides a safe place for anyone to train, regardless of level or background.

In my 10 years of kickboxing training at HRK, I have made lifelong friendships and met many people that I would not have normally met in my daily life. HRK prides itself as the "friendly place to condition your mind, body and soul" and I have learned that first hand training and teaching with the HRK community.

On a personal note, HRK is a second family to me. 10 years ago, I moved here from Chicago with no close family or friends in the bay area. I loved kickboxing, but I had terrible form and was self-conscious about my technique. Master Steve and his instructors pushed me to work harder and smarter at my craft, and now I teach advanced kickboxing classes to others who want to hone their skills. HRK taught me to see the potential in every student regardless of where they are. To me, HRK isn't a school for great martial artists, it's a school that MAKES great martial artists.

As I close out this letter, I'd like you to know, that this school has seen hardships before. We have lost our space before, more sadly, we've lost people in the HRK family before their time. We've cried and mourned together. Despite these hardships, we've always come together to lift each other up and become stronger in the end. With this, I hope that HRK can join the San Francisco Legacy Business Register so we can continue to show San Francisco how a strong unified community can overcome anything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan D. Lee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Nathan D. Lee



June 29th 2017

To whom it may concern,

I re-located to the US in January 2017 from the UK, and joined Hwa Rang Kwan shortly after arriving.

At the time, I was struggling to increase my fitness, which was at an all-time low after an injury led to knee surgery in 2015. I was also really worried about making new friends, and feeling at home in a new country - it's the first time anyone in my family has lived abroad.

Joining Hwa Rang Kwan was the best thing I did. It is run to a very high standard with excellent instructors. The people are all friendly, it's a great package. Nearly six months in, it's encouraged me to exercise 4 times a week, the classes have built up my strength, and helped me lose weight and be healthier than I've been for 2 years.

Things I really like about Hwa Rang Kwan and what it means to me:

- It's close to my work and central San Francisco, this is a huge factor to regularly attending and participating.
- It's such a welcoming community of people. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I was worried about fitting in. From the welcoming posters at the entrance, to the instructors, and people at the school, I have felt comfortable.
- The school is unique - it's a great mix of everything, being strict, being relaxed, practicing all the elements of Taekwondo, like sparring and poomsae. No other school in San Francisco offers such a good blend.
- It's really good value for money. The price means it's accessible to all members of the community and the fitness classes means it can be my primary fitness go-to.
- The School cares about people, and the community. It means a lot to me that the Instructors attend many events, run not-for-profit classes, and that the school has ran so many fundraisers in the past.
- I like the history of the school. It has been around for a long time and you can tell by the classes that are taught. They are well thought out, and come from years of experience.

I really enjoy it here, and hope to continue my classes throughout this year to convert my Black Belt to a Hwa Rang Khan one, wearing it with pride.

Thanks  
Rachel Sweeney

June 27, 2017

Ryan McChesney

San Francisco, CA 94158

To Whom it May Concern:

I joined Hwa Rang Kwan almost a year ago and feel blessed and privileged to be part of this amazing community. Walking past the sign to the school every day on the way to work and class for years, I always felt intrigued but never found the opportunity to stop by and see what it was about. That changed though when my wife came home and told me she had joined the martial arts school down the street. After a few months of hearing how great the people were and seeing her become more physically fit I finally decided this was something I absolutely needed to try.

What I found turned out to be such a neighborhood gem. Immediately I felt at home under the tutelage of Master Steve and surrounded by helpful and friendly peers. Since I have joined, I have felt so much stronger, flexible, and healthy. One of favorite parts of the day is when I leave work with my gym bag and head over for an evening of exercise and camaraderie. Some of my wife's and my most proud moments from the past year have been our achievements at Hwa Rang Kwan. Being able to see how we have grown more coordinated and skilled over time is so fulfilling. To see the results of that hard work paying off in the belt test just feels like such an accomplishment for both of us.

Hwa Rang Kwan is definitely one of San Francisco's treasures and has been helping students grow for so many years. It's really difficult to find something that provides both the opportunity for personal growth and is filled with such an amazing group of people.

I look forward to creating many more wonderful memories and personal growth with Hwa Rang Kwan. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Ryan McChesney*

Ryan McChesney



6/27/2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Hwa Rang Kwan is a community treasure, providing a constructive, healthy outlet to children and adults alike, where they train to better their mind, body, and spirit. If Hwa Rang Kwan were to be displaced due to a significant rent increase, the impact would not just simply be another business being forced to relocate its operations; instead, the lives and well-being of countless people who rely on Hwa Rang Kwan will be negatively impacted.

While I can appreciate that one would want to maximize what they believe they can get for their property, I think it is shortsighted to believe the economy will continue in the same manner that it has for much longer; a cursory search on Google of the stock market or SF real estate will reveal as such. It is evident, based upon the numerous vacant commercial real estate outlets, that San Francisco real estate is out of touch, and is beginning to economically cannibalize itself. Please don't echo the actions of the other greed mongers in this city and let monetary gain be your only compass, without respect for morality, community, and culture.

Thank you for considering what impact attempting to raise the rent on this property will have beyond the scope of the speculative future financial gain and taking the time to contemplate how your actions impact the lives of the affected children, adults, and the community at-large.

Respectfully,  
Steve Rozzo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Rozzo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.