



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary Administrative Code Text Amendment

HEARING DATE: MAY 1, 2019, 2018

30-DAY DEADLINE: MAY 16, 2019

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Project Name: **Establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District**

Case Number: **2019-005451PCA** [Board File No. 190389]

Initiated by: Supervisor Mandelman / Introduced April 9, 2019

Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone, Cultural Heritage Specialist
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Reviewed by: Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs
aaron.starr@sfgov.org, 415-558-6362
Tim Frye, Historic Preservation Officer
tim.frye@sfgov.org, 415-575-6822

Recommendation: **Approval of the Ordinance**

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AMENDMENT

The proposed Ordinance amends the Administrative Code to establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Cultural District (the "District") in and around the Castro neighborhood and to require the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District and proposing strategies to acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District.

The Way It Was:

1. A Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District in and around the Castro neighborhood does not currently exist.

The Way It Will Be:

1. The Ordinance establishes the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District in and around the Castro neighborhood.

BACKGROUND

Cultural District Designation Process

This Ordinance relies on the Cultural District designation process outlined in Section 107.3 of the Administrative Code, which was adopted on May 22, 2018. Prior to adoption of this process the Board of Supervisors (BoS) adopted each cultural district and its process separately; however, there was no codified process directing City departments to provide an assessment a Cultural District's assets and needs, or provide recommendations on programs, policies and funding sources benefitting the Cultural District, as well as other recommendations to advance Cultural District goals.

Per the Cultural District designation process, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, with assistance from a community-based organization and City Departments, will prepare a Cultural, History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategy (CHHESS) Report within one year of the effective date of the ordinance, unless the BoS extends the deadline by resolution, for submittal to the BoS for approval, modification, rejection, or request for further information or analysis. MOHCD will provide progress reports on the strategies outlined in the CHHESS report every three (3) years.

ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco

The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission in November 2015. The document provides a foundation for identifying, interpreting, and, in some instances, landmarking historic places. The overarching theme of the context statement is the formation and development of the city's LGBTQ communities from their roots in the 19th century through the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The statement outlines the historical significance of the Castro neighborhood and describes many of the cultural assets that are housed there. Moreover, the report recommends that the Castro be considered as a potential historic district due to the concentration of extant historic resources in the area.

Draft LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy

The Draft LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy (Strategy) is a community-driven effort to honor the legacy, ensure the longevity, and nurture the well-being of San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community. It will be before the BoS in June 2019 for endorsement. The Strategy effort was initiated by a unanimous resolution of the Board of Supervisors in October 2016 that authorized the formation of a community-based Working Group and provided City support to help develop the Strategy. Strategy planning has occurred alongside the development of several related cultural districts, including Compton's Transgender Cultural District, the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District, and the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District.

The draft Strategy currently recommends fourteen (14) actions to support the well-being, culture and economic opportunities of the LGBTQ+ community. It is expected that the work will bolster the LGBTQ cultural districts in the development of their individual CHHESS reports. The Strategy recommends continued and increased funding and staffing support to the cultural districts, encourages collaboration amongst the LGBTQ+ associated districts, and calls for culturally-appropriate development that will sustain the districts. Endorsement of the Strategy by the BoS in June would also result in the formation of an LGBTQ+ Historic Preservation Advisory Group and an LGBTQ+ Arts, Culture and Heritage Task Force, which, among other tasks, could assist the District in historical research and CHHESS development.

Mandated Timeline

Given the breadth of required information, it is the Department's experience that the identification and assessment of cultural heritage resources through a community-led inventory typically takes between nine (9) and eighteen (18) months to complete; however, given how well-documented the history of the Castro and the City's LGBTQ history are, it is likely that this process can be completed within eighteen (18) months. Therefore, the proposed CHHESS report deadline of June 30, 2021 is practical and feasible. The Department also notes that the proposed District ordinance would provide a more generous timeframe for development of the CHHESS report than as suggested in the Cultural District program ordinance.

Community-Based Organization

The Cultural District program relies on the integral participation of a community group to ensure a responsive and grassroots plan that can be implemented in partnership with the City. The ordinance recommends a process by which MOHCD will select a community-based organization to act as spokesperson, advisor, facilitator, and navigator of the CHHESS development and implementation. The Department supports this approach to partnering with the community.

General Plan Compliance

The proposed ordinance would comply with the General Plan, specifically with the Commerce and Industry Element, which calls for the City to “maintain and enhance a sound and diverse economic base and fiscal structure for the City.” Creating the new cultural district will help efforts to preserve and enhance the City’s remaining ethnic and cultural enclaves. Preservation and enhancement of these districts serves the City’s interest as an abundance of cultural and recreational activities lends San Francisco a comparative advantage over other municipalities.

Implementation

The Department has determined that this Ordinance will not impact our current implementation procedures for permit review or their costs as it does not amend the Planning Code. The Department has determined that the Ordinance will require staff time for collaboration and assistance with the CHHESS report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Commission recommend *approve* the proposed Ordinance and adopt the attached Draft Resolution to that effect.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department is supportive of the proposed Ordinance and anticipates working collaboratively with the designated community-based organization and MOHCD to support the community stabilization and cultural heritage conservation goals of the community.

- The Ordinance would fulfill one of the recommendations of the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, which identifies the Castro neighborhood as an historically significant area that may be eligible for listing on local, state, or federal registries of historic resources.
- Formal recognition of the Castro as an important cultural district aligns with the goals and objectives of the Draft LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy and will further ensure that the programs, tools, and resources created by that initiative are effectively employed in the Castro.
- The Ordinance recommends a feasible timeframe for the development of the required CHHESS report and doubles the suggested timeframe described on the Cultural District program ordinance.
- The Ordinance proactively recommends a process for identifying an appropriate community partner to act as spokesperson, advisor, facilitator, and navigator of the CHHESS development and

implementation, which should ensure that the work of MOHCD is responsive to community concerns and existing neighborhood conditions.

- The Ordinance complies with the City's General Plan.
- The Ordinance, while having an incremental impact to Department staff time dedicated to supporting the cultural district program, would not impact our current permit review procedures or costs.

REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

The Ordinance is before the Commission so that it may recommend amendments to the Board of Supervisors.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed amendments are not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) and 15378 because they do not result in a physical change in the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As of the date of this report, the Planning Department has not received any public comment regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Attachments:

- Exhibit A: Draft Planning Commission Resolution
Exhibit B: Board of Supervisors File No. 190389



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: MAY 1, 2018

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San Francisco,
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Project Name: **Establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District**

Case Number: **2019-005451PCA [Board File No. 190389]**

Initiated by: Supervisor Mandelman / Introduced April 9, 2019
Referred to HPC April 16, 2018

Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone, Cultural Heritage Specialist
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RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE AN ORDINANCE THAT ESTABLISHES THE CASTRO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CULTURAL DISTRICT IN AND AROUND THE CASTRO NEIGHBORHOOD; REQUIRES THE MAYOR’S OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (MOHCD) TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE MAYOR DESCRIBING THE CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE DISTRICT AND PROPOSING STRATEGIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND PRESERVE THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF THE DISTRICT; AND, AFFIRMS THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT’S DETERMINATION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2019, Supervisor Mandelman introduced an Ordinance under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter “Board”) File Number 190389, which would establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Cultural District (hereinafter “District”) in and around the Castro neighborhood and require the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development to report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor regarding the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board referred the proposed ordinance to the Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) on April 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a specially scheduled meeting to consider the Ordinance on May 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance has been determined to be Categorically Exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15060(c)(2) and 15378; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

MOVED, that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the Ordinance.

FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. San Francisco is a place where diverse peoples have come to settle and live. This cultural diversity is integral to the City fabric and is what helps make San Francisco a desirable location for living, working and recreating.
2. Cultural heritage is the expression of a way of living. It is developed by a community through objects, beliefs, traditions, practices, artistic interpretation, and significant places. It manifests itself in tangible and intangible elements passed through generations. Examples of these elements include buildings, plazas, crafts, art, festivals, processions, protests, businesses, and other institutions. Losing any of these elements diminishes a community's cultural integrity. Preserving these elements pose preservation challenges requiring distinct strategies according to each community's needs. Often these involve collaboration with partners in local government.
3. During rapid change impacted ethnic and cultural communities need a clear process for establishing cultural districts that help preserve and enhance the indispensable elements of the City's fabric.
4. The City should plan for adequate City resources to support the CHHESS report development for the District.
5. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Ordinance is consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT

OBJECTIVE 2

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A SOUND AND DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE AND FISCAL STRUCTURE FOR THE CITY.

Policy 2.3

Maintain a Favorable Social and Cultural Climate in the City in order to Enhance its Attractiveness as a Firm Location

Creating the Cultural District will help efforts to preserve and enhance the City's remaining ethnic and cultural enclaves. Their preservation and enhancement also serve the City's interest as an abundance of cultural and recreational activities lends San Francisco a comparative advantage over other municipalities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board APPROVE the Ordinance.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on May 1, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

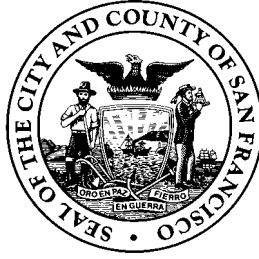
AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jonas Ionin, Director of Commission Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee *Victor Young*

DATE: April 16, 2019

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Rules Committee

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following legislation, which is being referred to the Historic Preservation Commission, pursuant to Charter, Section 4.135, for comment and recommendation.

File No. 190389

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Cultural District in and around the Castro neighborhood; to require the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District and proposing strategies to acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: John Rahaim, Planning Department
Scott Sanchez, Planning Department
Lisa Gibson, Planning Department
AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department
Tim Frye, Planning Department
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Planning Department
Joy Navarrete, Planning Department
Georgia Powell, Planning Department

1 [Administrative Code - Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ)
2 Cultural District]

3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Castro Lesbian, Gay,
4 Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Cultural District in and around the Castro
5 neighborhood; to require the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
6 to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the
7 Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District and proposing strategies to
8 acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District; and affirming the
9 Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

10 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
11 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
12 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*striketrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
13 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
14 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~striketrough Arial font~~.
15 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
16 subsections or parts of tables.

17 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

18 Section 1. Findings.

19 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
20 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
21 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
22 Supervisors in File No. ___ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this
23 determination.

24 (b) On _____, the Historic Preservation Commission held a duly
25 noticed hearing regarding the effects of this ordinance upon historic or cultural resources, and

1 submitted a written report to the Board of Supervisors as required under Charter Section
2 4.135. The report is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ____.

3
4 Section 2. Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising
5 Section 107.3, to read as follows:

6 **SEC. 107.3. LIST OF ESTABLISHED CULTURAL DISTRICTS.**

7 The Cultural Districts of the City and County of San Francisco are:

8 (a) **Japantown.** The Cultural District shall include the area bound by California Street
9 to the north, Steiner Street to the west, Gough Street to the east, and Geary Boulevard, Ellis
10 Street and O'Farrell Street to the south.

11 (b) **Calle 24 (Veinticuatro) Latino Cultural District.** The Cultural District shall
12 include the area bound by Mission Street to the west, Potrero Street to the east, 22nd Street
13 to the north, and Cesar Chavez Street to the south, as well as the commercial corridor on 24th
14 Street extending west from Bartlett Street to Potrero Avenue, and the Mission Cultural Center
15 at 2868 Mission Street.

16 (c) **SoMa Pilipinas – Filipino Cultural Heritage District.** The Cultural District shall
17 include the area bounded by 2nd Street to the east, 11th Street to the west, Market Street to
18 the north, and Brannan Street to the south, as well as the International Hotel (also known as
19 the I-Hotel, at 848 Kearny Street), the Gran Oriente Filipino Masonic Temple (106 South Park
20 Street), Rizal Apartments, the Iloilo Circle Building, Rizal Street, and Lapu Street.

21 (d) **Compton's Transgender Cultural District.** The Cultural District shall include the
22 area defined as the north side of Market Street between Taylor Street and Jones Street, the
23 south side of Ellis Street between Mason Street and Taylor Street, the north side of Ellis
24 Street between Taylor Street and Jones Street, and 6th Street (on both sides) between
25 Market Street and Howard Street.

1 (e) **Leather and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Cultural District.**

2 The Cultural District shall include the area bounded by Howard Street to the northwest, 7th
3 Street to the northeast, Highway 101 to the south between Howard Street and Bryant Street,
4 Division Street to the south between Bryant Street and Interstate 80, and Interstate 80 to the
5 east, as well as the south side of Harrison Street between 7th Street and Morris Street.

6 (f) **African American Arts and Cultural District.** The Cultural District shall include
7 the area bounded by Cesar Chavez Street projected through Pier 80 to the north, San
8 Francisco Bay to the east and to the south until Harney Way reaches Highway 101, and
9 Highway 101 to the west.

10 (g) **Castro Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Cultural District.** The
11 Cultural District shall include the following areas:

12 (1) The area bounded by Market Street to the north and west, Grand View Avenue to
13 the west; 22nd Street to the south between Grand View Avenue and Noe Street; Noe Street to the east
14 between 22nd Street and 19th Street; 19th Street to the south between Noe Street and Sanchez Street;
15 and Sanchez Street to the east between 19th Street and Market;

16 (2) The lots along the north side of Market Street between Castro Street and Octavia
17 Boulevard, including the Market Street public right-of-way and bookended by Block 0871, Lot 014
18 (occupied by the San Francisco LGBT Center as of 2019) and by Block 3562, Lot 015;

19 (3) Laguna Street between Market Street and Waller Street, including the public
20 right-of-way only;

21 (4) The footprint of the 65 Laguna Street building (historically known as Richardson
22 Hall, San Francisco Landmark No. 256) and the footprint of 95 Laguna Street (known as Marcy
23 Adelman & Jeanette Gurevitch Openhouse Community building as of 2019), both located at the
24 northwest corner of Laguna and Hermann Streets in the southeast portion of Block 0857, Lot 002;

1 The District embodies a diverse and layered fabric of historical and contemporary LGBTQ
2 experiences, serving as a colorful and dynamic epicenter of queer culture for local residents; a
3 destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world; and a globally recognized
4 source of inspiration for resistance, freedom, and respect for LGBTQ people. The Castro has deep
5 roots that are embedded in neighborhood sites, institutions, businesses, nonprofits, customs, events,
6 and experiences that reflect local, national, and international LGBTQ communities. Two recent
7 historic context statements—the 2016 Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San
8 Francisco and the 2017 Eureka Valley Historic Context Statement—identify many LGBTQ structures
9 and sites of local, national, and international historic significance in the Castro area, while also
10 recognizing the long history of the area going back over 2,500 years to the Yalamu tribe of Native
11 Californians. A report by the United States National Park Service titled “LGBTQ America: A Theme
12 Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer History” (2016) likewise identifies numerous
13 LGBTQ historic sites of importance in the Castro neighborhood.

14 The Castro has historically been a destination for LGBTQ youth from throughout the San
15 Francisco Bay Area, the United States, and the world; they arrive with the hope of finding the love,
16 acceptance, and even safety that has too often been denied in their communities of origin. These youth
17 advance the social justice legacy of the LGBTQ community to promote safe and accessible spaces for
18 all and to ensure the existence of critical social services and leadership development opportunities for
19 youth, such as exists at the Lavender Youth and Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), located in
20 the Castro. The attraction of young people to the Castro is a forceful reminder that youth, in particular
21 youth of color and transgender and gender nonconforming youth, are an important part of our
22 community deserving of our support and respect.

23 The Castro neighborhood has been a center of LGBTQ-owned and LGBTQ-friendly small
24 businesses starting as early as the 1950s with Maurice Gerry’s beauty salon at 587 Castro Street and
25 staking an unmistakable public claim in 1963 with the opening of the neighborhood’s first gay bar, The

1 Missouri Mule, at 2348 Market Street. Such small businesses created public spaces, economic
2 resources, employment opportunities, and cultural assets that enabled the LGBTQ population to grow,
3 thrive, create community, and organize for positive social and political change.

4 The San Francisco Legacy Business Registry, which recognizes businesses over 30 years old
5 that have made a significant impact on neighborhood history or culture, as of 2019 lists twelve legacy
6 businesses within or near the District's boundaries, including the Castro Country Club, Cliff's Variety,
7 Moby Dick, Anchor Oyster Bar, Cove on Castro Cafe, Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery, For Your Eyes
8 Only Optometry, IXIA, Dog Eared Books, Beck's Motor Lodge, Rolo San Francisco, Cafe Du Nord,
9 and Eros. Many additional LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly businesses in the Castro neighborhood are
10 not yet, as of 2019, listed in this registry but are qualified for recognition.

11 The Castro has been the focal point of San Francisco's LGBTQ political activism since the
12 1970s, with the Castro Muni station, Harvey Milk Plaza, Jane Warner Plaza, Market Street, and Castro
13 Street serving as gathering places for celebrations, marches, protests, and memorials, including both
14 the candlelight vigil that took place after the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor
15 Harvey Milk in 1978 and the march in 1979 that resulted in the White Night Riot, which occurred after
16 the assassin, Dan White, received a lenient sentence.

17 Supervisor Harvey Milk, the owner of Castro Camera, began his political career on the
18 proverbial soapbox at Castro and Market streets in 1973 and became the first openly gay elected
19 official in California in 1978 and the first Supervisor to represent the Castro after the voters created a
20 system of Supervisorial district elections. During his short time in office, he authored the City's gay
21 rights ordinance as well as the country's first pooper-scooper law, which required dog owners to pick
22 up after their pets. Following Milk's assassination in November 1978, the LGBTQ community
23 consolidated its power by renaming the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club to honor Harvey Milk, by
24 working to elect further openly LGBTQ public officials, and by fighting back against anti-LGBTQ
25

1 practices. Such activism in the Castro neighborhood helped advance respect for the LGBTQ
2 community in San Francisco and beyond.

3 The LGBTQ community banded together to find safety in the Castro, because elsewhere they
4 faced violence at the hands of the police, the general public, and numerous hate groups, thus making
5 preservation of LGBTQ culture in the Castro an important part of further lowering the levels of
6 violence, homelessness, addiction, and other disparities that the LGBTQ population faces.

7 The Castro is an international center for LGBTQ cinema, being home to the art-deco
8 masterpiece Castro Theater, which annually hosts numerous LGBTQ film showings including events
9 for Frameline and the Transgender Film Festival. The Frameline festival traces its roots to informal
10 showings of gay super 8 films projected onto a bedsheet at the apartment of queer filmmaker and
11 impresario Marc Huestis and others at 527 Castro Street in the mid-1970s.

12 In addition, the Castro neighborhood is an internationally known center of LGBTQ street life
13 and nightlife, including a large number of historic and long-running bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and
14 retail establishments that provide the neighborhood a unique character. Together, this street life and
15 nightlife scene have made the Castro a significant space for a diversity of gender and sexual minorities
16 for many decades even as neighborhood activists confronted racism by organizing movements
17 including the “And Castro For All” campaign of the mid-2000s.

18 The Castro also has been a neighborhood where different groups within the LGBTQ community
19 have struggled for space, yet came together when faced with the necessity of unity during the AIDS
20 crisis, when many cisgender and transgender women, including many lesbians, came forward to care
21 for sick gay men. Although not historically a neighborhood strongly welcoming to transgender people,
22 the Castro has seen trans activists work to create visibility, including the efforts of Veronika Fimbres
23 and others who successfully fought to have the transgender flag flown at Harvey Milk Plaza.

1 The Castro has embodied a commitment to creating a greater welcome for all by offering a
2 public space for such events as the Castro Street Fair, San Francisco Pride, the Dyke March, and
3 numerous other cultural events.

4 Many forms of art have been cultivated in the Castro by the LGBTQ population, giving rise to
5 notable artistic organizations such as the Names Project and its AIDS Memorial Quilt, the San
6 Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, which has found a permanent home near the Castro on Valencia Street,
7 and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. The art form of drag has long flourished in the
8 Castro neighborhood, home to many groundbreaking and celebrated drag shows such as Peaches
9 Christ's Midnight Mass and Cookie Dough's Monster Show, as well as groups such as the Cockettes,
10 which launched the career of disco superstar Sylvester.

11 Books and literature by LGBTQ authors have long found a home in the Castro, the location of
12 such establishments as the Walt Whitman Bookstore (1982–1987), A Different Light Books (1986–
13 2011), and Dog Eared Books, as well as being the setting of much of Armistead Maupin's Tales of the
14 City series, and long-time home to the author.

15 LGBTQ history has long been celebrated in the Castro, with the neighborhood providing the
16 first home to the GLBT Historical Society archives (1985-1990), serving as the home for the GLBT
17 Historical Society Museum since 2011, and projected as the future space for a full-scale, world-class
18 museum of LGBTQ history and culture. The neighborhood brings together additional LGBTQ history
19 resources and monuments such as the Rainbow Honor Walk and numerous other historical plaques;
20 Pink Triangle Park; the annual pink triangle installation on Twin Peaks to fight against homophobia
21 and intolerance; the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, an elementary school with an LGBTQ-
22 inclusive curriculum; and the Gilbert Baker rainbow flag at the corner of Castro and Market streets.

23 Numerous activists and political organizations have formed in and operated out of the Castro,
24 demonstrating the neighborhood's importance as a territory for queer political activism and direct
25 action over the decades since the early 1970s, including such pioneering and influential groups as the

1 Butterfly Brigade, the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic
2 Club, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP/San Francisco and ACT UP/Golden
3 Gate/Survive AIDS), Queer Nation, and Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action
4 (LGADDA).

5 Numerous LGBTQ-focused and LGBTQ-led nonprofit organizations have thrived in the Castro,
6 including the Shanti Project, LYRIC, and the SF LGBTQ Speakers Bureau. In addition, the Castro has
7 become home to a number of LGBTQ-welcoming religious and spiritual groups and institutions,
8 including the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Night Ministry, the Metropolitan Community Church,
9 Most Holy Redeemer, the Hartford Street Zen Center, and the Grand Central Faerie House among
10 other Radical Faerie centers and houses.

11 The neighborhood has fostered LGBTQ athletics, including gay softball leagues at Rikki
12 Streicher Field and the world's largest LGBTQ athletic organization, the Federation of Gay Games,
13 which started in and still operates out of the Castro neighborhood.

14 The Castro has been home at various times to numerous LGBTQ-focused and LGBTQ-owned
15 newspapers, periodicals, and news sources, including the Castro Village Other (1972); Coming Up/San
16 Francisco Bay Times (founded 1978); OUT/LOOK (1988–1992); Electric City TV (1991–1995); and
17 Frontiers Newsmagazine (1994–2005).

18 The Castro was one of the first neighborhoods in the world to bear the full brunt of the AIDS
19 crisis in the 1980s and was one of the first neighborhoods in the world to organize an effective and sex-
20 positive response to the epidemic, thereby making it an internationally important site of homage and
21 commemoration. The AIDS epidemic inspired activist responses in the Castro neighborhood in the
22 1980s and 1990s led by groups such as Citizens for Medical Justice, the AIDS Action Pledge, and ACT
23 UP/San Francisco, while the federal government ignored the massive health crisis caused by HIV.

24 The Castro has been home to numerous pioneering HIV/AIDS healthcare, social services,
25 prevention, education, advocacy, and fundraising organizations. These groups helped elaborate the

1 world-renowned San Francisco model of care that marshaled volunteer, nonprofit, foundation, and
2 City resources to respond to the epidemic.

3 The Castro's beautiful and varied housing stock, including many Victorian homes, provided
4 affordable housing from the 1950s into the 1970s, yet the neighborhood subsequently became a hotbed
5 of real estate speculation and its residents have increasingly fought evictions and economic
6 displacement. The neighborhood has supported many kinds of living situations, from large cooperative
7 homes, to homes for LGBTQ-led families with children, to community-wide land investment by
8 organizations such as the Queer Land Trust that work to fight displacement.

9 The Castro neighborhood was one of the first places modern medical marijuana activism
10 emerged in the United States, with Dennis Peron, the architect behind Proposition 64 that made
11 medical marijuana legal in California, organizing and operating out of the Castro for many years and
12 writing the introduction to Brownie Mary's famous marijuana cookbook in the Castro, as well as
13 hosting meetings of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club in his home to expand political force
14 behind cannabis reform.

15 The sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s found a place in the Castro, which became home
16 to sex clubs, bathhouses, and other erotic gathering spaces for gay and bisexual men including the
17 Jaguar adult bookstore (1971-2005); the Eros sex club, founded in 1992 as a groundbreaking business
18 promoting safer sex and sex-positive education during the AIDS epidemic; and AutoErotica/Mercury
19 Mail Order founded in 1996 to sell vintage gay erotica.

20 Community-based health organizations such as the Castro Country Club, the San Francisco
21 AIDS Foundation and its brick-and-mortar health centers Strut and Magnet, the SF Therapy Collective,
22 API Wellness, the UCSF Alliance Health Project (formerly the AIDS Health Project), and Lyon-Martin
23 Health Services provide specialized health services to the LGBTQ community in the Castro.

24 The boundaries of the District extend into parts of the immediately adjacent Hayes Valley
25 neighborhood. This extension recognizes the significance of the LGBTQ heritage of Hayes Valley and

1 of existing LGBTQ cultural organizations in the area such as Openhouse and the San Francisco LGBT
2 Community Center, two vital institutions that contribute to the neighborhood in which they're located,
3 and to the nearby Castro, and that provide critical services to the broader LGBTQ community.

4 Although the Castro emerged as a gay neighborhood in the 1960s, the support it provided to
5 LGBTQ people often was qualified by such limitations as socioeconomic status, race, age, and gender
6 identity. Because Hayes Valley largely escaped the forces of gentrification into the 2000s, it offered
7 less expensive housing and commercial spaces and retained a vibrant culture accessible to an LGBTQ
8 population of lesser means and greater diversity.

9 As a result, by the mid-1970s, a sizable contingent of gay people had moved into Hayes Valley,
10 where they began developing local LGBTQ cultural practices and institutions. This visible presence
11 occasionally produced tensions with other residents, yet gay people worked to negotiate a respectful
12 place within the area's diverse populations by forming personal ties with their neighbors and by
13 contributing to the communal life of the neighborhood.

14 As early as 1966–1967, Hayes Valley already was home to the short-lived Sirporium, a second-
15 hand fundraising shop at 525 Hayes Street run by the Society for Individual Rights, San Francisco's
16 major gay-rights organization of the 1960s. The 1970s saw the opening of such establishments as
17 Dottie's Stardust Lounge, a gay bar at the corner of Hayes and Laguna Streets.

18 A particularly striking example of LGBTQ community engagement in Hayes Valley was the Lily
19 Street Fair, held on a four-block long alley in the neighborhood from 1981 to 1990, a period coinciding
20 with some of the darkest years of the AIDS crisis. Part block party, part potluck, and part Easter
21 parade, the fair was both a display of fabulous drag and a festive celebration of the community created
22 by residents of the street and their friends.

23 One of the organizers of the fair was the drag performer known as Lily Street, who was active in
24 the San Francisco Imperial Court, a drag fundraising organization founded in San Francisco in 1965.

1 She became the court's Absolute Empress XXIII in 1988. Her Hayes Valley neighbor Simeon Traw,
2 who performed at the fair, became Emperor XVIII A.N. in 1990.

3 One of the longest lived and most significant sites for LGBTQ enterprise in Hayes Valley is 488
4 Hayes Street, where the gay bar David's House and its adjacent restaurant, David's Garden Café,
5 opened in 1984. The bar became the Overpass in 1986, in turn becoming Marlina's in 1990. For
6 almost 25 years, Absolute Empress XXV Marlina held court there, providing a particular welcome for
7 older gay men and for drag culture. Marlina's was a bastion of the Imperial Court, hosting events that
8 raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity.

9 Hayes Valley also was home to an important institution of the local LGBTQ media during an
10 era when print publications remained a primary means of information exchange and community
11 building: The editorial and business offices of The Sentinel, one of San Francisco's major weekly gay
12 newspapers published from 1974 to 1995, were located at 500 Hayes Street for more than half of the
13 periodical's existence (1983–1992).

14 The neighborhood likewise supported one of San Francisco's renowned queer photographers:
15 From 1990 to 2000, Daniel Nicoletta created his work in a studio at 320 Fell Street. He not only
16 produced portraits of LGBTQ luminaries there, he also opened his doors for salons, fundraisers, and
17 memorial services. Nicoletta's work during this period notably portrayed activists, drag queens, the
18 transgender and genderqueer community, punks, former prisoners, and others often marginalized by
19 society and even by parts of the LGBTQ community.

20 In addition to creating uniquely queer cultural and commercial institutions, LGBTQ inhabitants
21 of Hayes Valley have actively joined forces with non-LGBTQ residents to sustain and develop the
22 neighborhood as a home for those whose experience reflects intersectionalities and inequalities due to
23 their social and economic standing and their race, sexual orientation, gender, and age.

24 Notably, the former Oak Hill Neighborhood Association, and the larger and ongoing Hayes
25 Valley Neighborhood Association ("HVNA") included significant LGBTQ leadership since their

1 formation. The HVNA took a groundbreaking position by stating a commitment to maintaining
2 neighborhood diversity in its bylaws. LGBTQ people also had prominent roles in the campaign to
3 demolish the Central Freeway after the 1989 earthquake and in the subsequent creation of Octavia
4 Boulevard and Patricia's Green, as well as in advocating development of at least 50% affordable
5 housing on parcels cleared by the freeway removal.

6 The boundaries of the District encompass only a portion of Hayes Valley, but this inclusion
7 enables organizations throughout the neighborhood to participate in the benefits of the District. This
8 Chapter 107B recognizes the historic importance of LGBTQ people's contribution to Hayes Valley and
9 honors the neighborhood's contributions to LGBTQ culture that have likewise benefitted the adjacent
10 Castro neighborhood, the City at large and society as a whole.

11 The boundaries of the District also include 170 Valencia Street, home of the San Francisco Gay
12 Men's Chorus ("SFGMC") and the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts. SFGMC was founded in
13 1978 and sparked a nationwide and international LGBTQ choral movement after its first public
14 performance at a vigil on the steps of City Hall following the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk
15 and Mayor George Moscone. Since then SFGMC has been embedded in the fabric of San Francisco.
16 It has soothed souls in pain and lifted spirits in triumph, and has remained a steadfast beacon of hope.
17 In January 2019, SFGMC announced the establishment of the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts.
18 The Center will create space for LGBTQ artists, composers, librettists, and choreographers to produce,
19 practice, and perform in state of the art facilities. Recording and broadcast studios will allow for
20 filming and live streaming master classes, interviews, lectures, clinics, and symposia to be shared
21 throughout the world.

22 The story of the Castro neighborhood and the adjacent areas included in the District continues
23 to unfold. At the same time, San Francisco must recognize and honor the contributions of those who
24 transformed the neighborhood in the past, laying the foundations for its current and future importance
25 to LGBTQ culture.

1
2 **SEC. 107B.2. MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
3 **RESPONSIBILITIES; CULTURAL, HISTORY, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC**
4 **SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT.**

5 **(a) Cultural, History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report.**

6 **(1) Preparation of Report.** *By no later than June 30, 2021, the Mayor's Office of*
7 *Housing and Community Development ("MOHCD") shall prepare and submit to the Board of*
8 *Supervisors and the Mayor a Cultural, History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report*
9 *("CHHESS Report") for the District. The CHHESS Report shall include a demographic and economic*
10 *profile of the District, including past, current, and future trends; analyze and record the tangible and*
11 *intangible elements of the District's cultural heritage; identify areas of concern that could inhibit the*
12 *preservation of the District's unique culture; and propose as appropriate legislative, economic, and*
13 *other solutions and strategies to support the District.*

14 **(2) Assistance from City Departments.** *In preparing the CHHESS Report, MOHCD*
15 *may request assistance from any City department, office, or other part of City government, which shall*
16 *upon request provide to MOHCD an assessment of relevant assets and needs in the District,*
17 *recommendations on programs, policies, and funding sources that could benefit the District, and other*
18 *recommendations that could serve the District to advance its goals.*

19 **(3) Community Outreach and Engagement.** *In preparing the CHHESS Report,*
20 *MOHCD shall facilitate a community outreach and engagement process with the District's residents,*
21 *businesses, workers, and other individuals who regularly spend time in the District, in order to develop*
22 *the strategies and plans that will preserve and enhance the culture of the District.*

23 **(b) Board of Supervisors Consideration.** *Following receipt of the CHHESS Report from*
24 *MOHCD, the Board of Supervisors may take any action by resolution that the Board deems*
25 *appropriate regarding the report, including approving the report, modifying the report, rejecting the*

1 report, or requesting additional information or analysis from MOHCD or any other City department or
2 agency.

3 (c) **Progress Reports.** MOHCD shall provide a progress report on the strategies outlined in
4 the CHHESS Report at least once every three years following enactment of a resolution approving or
5 modifying the CHHESS Report.

6 (d) **Assistance from Community-Based Organization.** Subject to the budgetary, fiscal, and
7 civil service provisions of the Charter, MOHCD shall issue a competitive solicitation for a community-
8 based organization to (1) assist MOHCD with planning, organizing, and facilitating the community
9 outreach and engagement process under subsection (a)(3); (2) provide input and advice to MOHCD
10 regarding the contents of the CHHESS Report and regarding strategies to support and preserve the
11 unique culture and heritage of the District; (3) provide additional advice and assistance to MOHCD
12 after the issuance of the CHHESS Report to implement the City's strategies to support and preserve the
13 culture of the District; (4) assist MOHCD with progress reports required under subsection (c); and (5)
14 fulfill any other responsibilities that MOHCD determines would help the City to support the District.


15
16 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
17 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
18 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
19 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

20
21 Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
22 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
23 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
24 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
25

1 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
2 the official title of the ordinance.

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: 

JON GIVNER
Deputy City Attorney

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