



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Legacy Business Registry Case Report

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

**\* This report provides recommendations for five (5) Legacy Business applications. \***

*Filing Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Case No.:* 2019-002369LBR  
*Business Name:* Benkyodo Company  
*Business Address:* 1747 Buchanan Street  
*Zoning:* NCD (Japantown Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District  
50-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0685/001  
*Applicant:* Ricky Okamura, Co-Owner  
1747 Buchanan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Vallie Brown, District 5  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org  
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### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Benkyodo Company ("Benkyodo") is a Japanese confectionery facility and shop established in 1906, and it is the oldest Japanese American family-owned business in San Francisco's Japantown. It is also the last remaining manufacturer of mochi and manju (Japanese desserts) using traditional methods with dedicated facilities on site. Up until the late 1990s, there were four companies in San Francisco making manju, and only a few in all of California. Today, Benkyodo is the only one left in San Francisco.

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice, which is ground, steamed, pounded and rolled into a sticky ball, or molded into different shapes. It is sometimes filled with beans or used in various dishes, such as ozoni (Japanese New Year's soup), or toasted and eaten mixed with some sweets. Manju is a traditional Japanese confection or pastry, made of rice flour and filled with sweet beans (red adzuki or white lima) or other ingredients like chestnuts, strawberry, blueberry or mango.

Benkyodo has been operated by three generations of the Okamura family. Suyechi Okamura first opened the shop in 1906. Then in 1951, Suyechi's son Hirofumi ("Hippo") Okamura and his wife (Sue) took over. In 1990, Hirofumi passed the shop to his sons, Ricky and Bobby Okamura. The business was founded at its original location at 1533B Geary Boulevard in 1906 and operated its business there until it moved down the block to 1638 Geary from 1939-1959. The store was temporarily forced to fold when the family was interned during World War II, part of the evacuation of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast. When the Okamura's returned after the war in 1946, they were fortunate that they had neighbors that watched over their space and were able to return and re-open their shop. In 1959, the business then

relocated to its current location at 1747 Buchanan Street, where it currently operates as a manju/mochi-making facility, manju confectionery shop and lunch counter serving the local Japantown community. The manju shop and lunch counter have been the "go-to" place for locals, and persons of all generations and tourists visiting Japantown seeking an affordable bite to eat and for an authentic Japanese American experience with local information on the goings-on in the community.

The property is located at the southwest corner of Sutter and Buchanan streets in the Japantown neighborhood. It is within an NCD (Japantown Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District and a 50-X Height and Bulk District.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1906.

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

Yes. Benkyodo Company qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Benkyodo Company has operated continuously in San Francisco for 113 years, with the exception of 1942 to 1948. From 1942 to 1946, the Okamura family was held in concentration camps as part of the US government program to incarcerate people of Japanese ancestry after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The Okamura's were one of the few fortunate families to have neighbors that watched over their space while they were interned, and after some time, they were able to eventually open up their shop again.
- ii. Benkyodo Company has contributed to the history and identity of the Japantown neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. Benkyodo Company is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

Yes. The business is associated with the craft of making mochi and manju, traditional Japanese confections. In Japanese tradition, manju and mochi are a part of traditional and contemporary celebrations for the Bay Area's Japanese American community, where the desserts are an essential part of the celebration.

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

#### *Events*

Yes. The business is associated with three periods of significance as identified in the Japantown Historic Context Statement, prepared May 2011. They are: Early Japantown History, particularly Japanese Settlement in the Western Addition (1906-1920); Japanese Resettlement and Renewal, Nikkei Return to Japantown (1945-1954); and, Redevelopment in the Western Addition (1955-1990).



### ***Persons***

The current owners' (Ricky and Bobby Okamura's) grandfather, Suyechi Okamura, an immigrant from Japan, started Benkyodo in 1906, which was one of the first businesses in San Francisco's Japantown. He was an entrepreneur in the community and was also very innovative. Not only did he make his mochi and manju, he is one of the claimants to making the first fortune cookies.

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

No. However, the property is listed in the community-prepared inventory of cultural assets published in the Japantown Cultural Heritage and Economic Sustainability Strategy and it is located within the Japantown Cultural District. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) due to the age of the building, which was constructed in 1956, for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act review.

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

Yes. Benkyodo and its historical association with Japantown is referred to in the Japantown Historic Context Statement prepared by Donna Graves and Page & Turnbull, May 2011.

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

Yes. Benkyodo Company has been featured in many newspapers, magazines and local TV stations (KPIX-5, FOX-2). Some of the examples in which Benkyodo has been featured:

- San Francisco tourism walking tours, such as Voicemaps Audio Tours and Edible Excursions (2019).
- San Francisco Bay Guardian 2007 – Best of the Bay, Best Japanese Treats.
- San Francisco Chronicle (4/2/2006) – Businesses That Weathered the 1906 Earthquake.
- San Francisco Magazine (4/2006) – 125 Best Things to Eat.
- Sunset Magazine (12/2003 – Mad about mochi: celebrate the Japanese New Year with a traditional treat.
- San Francisco Chronicle (2/8/001) – Manju Handmade Perfection.

On May 28, 2008, Benkyodo was chosen by Assemblyman Mark Leno of the 13th Assembly District as the recipient of the California Small Business of the Year award. Benkyodo was one of 80 recipients to get the statewide recognition of the California Small Business of the Year award.

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

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

- 1747 Buchanan Street

#### **Recommended by Applicant**

- Freshly made manju and mochi from traditional recipes and methods
- Original 1959 sign
- Original lunch counter and pastry display showcase

#### **Additional Recommended by Staff**

- None

*Filing Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Case No.:* 2019-002396LBR  
*Business Name:* Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation  
*Business Address:* 330 Ellis Street  
*Zoning:* RC-4 (Residential-Commercial, High Density) Zoning District  
80-T-130-T Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0324/027  
*Applicant:* Karen Hanrahan, President and CEO  
330 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney, District 6  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
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*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
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## BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

In 1929, San Francisco philanthropist Lizzie Glide founded the Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation (“Glide Foundation” or “GLIDE”) and purchased the land at 330 Ellis Street to house its programs. GLIDE provides the local community with programs and services that range from feeding the homeless and providing shelter to hosting Sunday Celebrations for all walks of life without concern for race, creed, economic and social status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

In 1963, a young African-American leader named Cecil Williams joined the organization, creating new programs and overseeing Sunday Celebrations. Williams created a unique vision of building a community rooted in unconditional love and radical inclusivity that has guided GLIDE’s programs and services for over 55 years and continues to shape GLIDE’s future. In 1968, GLIDE helped lead demonstrations to demand ethnic studies and affirmative action at San Francisco State College, establishing the foundation as a home for political change. They offered a safe space to groups ranging from the Hookers Convention to the American Indian Movement and the Black Panthers. Poet and dancer Janice Mirikitani was appointed Coordinator of programs for the Glide Foundation at this time.

Guided by Williams and Mirikitani, GLIDE programs increased in size and scope. By 1980, they were feeding the hungry three times a day. In the mid-1980s, GLIDE board and staff created a recovery program for people affected by the crack cocaine crisis. GLIDE also placed itself at the heart of the AIDS epidemic, raising awareness and creating the GLIDE-Goodlett HIV/AIDS prevention, education and counseling program in 1989. In 1997, GLIDE opened its free Health Clinic, which offered advice and healing to those accustomed to being turned away from other treatment facilities. The Cecil Williams Community House and the Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center (FYCC) were opened in 1999 to fill the growing need for housing and childcare.

The property is located on the north side of Ellis Street between Jones and Taylor streets in the Downtown/Civic Center neighborhood. It is within a RC-4 (Residential-Commercial, High Density) Zoning District and an 80-T-130-T Height and Bulk District.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1929.

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

Yes. The Glide Foundation qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The Glide Foundation has operated continuously in San Francisco for 90 years.
- ii. The Glide Foundation has contributed to the history and identity of the Japantown neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. The Glide Foundation is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

No.

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

#### *Events*

Yes. Glide is significant for its many and lasting contributions to the social history of San Francisco, notably: beginning in the early 1930s, it provided a safe and affordable home to San Francisco's working women, many of whom were single, when such places were rare; and beginning in the 1960s, the Glide Urban Center developed pioneering programs that supported, stabilized, and sustained underrepresented minority communities in San Francisco, including people of color, LGBTQ people, the homeless, low-income seniors, and people suffering from addiction. The period of significance begins in 1931, when construction was completed on the building, and ends in 1989.

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

Yes. The property is a contributor to the Upper Tenderloin Historic District, listed on the National Register. The property is also located within the Compton's Transgender Cultural District. Lastly, the Department is managing a National Park Service grant to nominate the property as an individual listing on the National Register. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "A" (Known Historic Resource) for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act review.

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

Yes. The Glide Foundation is mentioned several times in the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco, prepared by Donna Graves and Shayne Watson, October 2015.

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

Yes. The Glide Foundation has made its way into local and national media throughout its history. Below is not a comprehensive list, as GLIDE's existence began in 1929, but includes many of the

important appearances in the news and culture over the years.

**Books:**

- The Tenderloin: Sex, Crime, and Resistance in the Heart of San Francisco by Randy Shaw.
- Beyond the Possible: 50 Years of Creating Radical Change in a Community Called Glide by Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani.
- I'm Listening as Fast as I Can: The Night Ministry in San Francisco by Donald E Stuart.
- Shredding Silence: Poetry and Prose by Janice Mirikitani.

**Culture:**

- The Tenderloin Museum features Glide as an integral piece of Tenderloin history.
- Pursuit of Happyness, starring Will Smith, is based on the true story of a formerly homeless GLIDE client who became a millionaire entrepreneur.
- Vibrations for a New People, CBS series hosted by Cecil Williams for 20 years; episode interviewing Angela Davis.

**Print, Television, Radio, and Online Media:**

California Healthline, CBS San Francisco; Hoodline, KGO-TV, KPFA (Berkeley public radio station), KQED, LIFE Magazine, NBC Bay Area, Newsweek, PBS Television, Philadelphia Inquirer, Politico, San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Magazine, SF Weekly, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, TIME Magazine, USA Today, Wired and World Outlook Magazine.

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

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

- 330 Ellis Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Programming, including Daily Free Meals, Walk-In Center for immediate crisis intervention, Women's Center for women facing or healing from domestic violence, substance use recovery programs, HIV and Hep-C outreach and prevention, Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center, Workforce Development, Unconditional Legal Clinic, Center for Social Justice, and Monthly Senior Socials
- The stained-glass windows facing Ellis Street
- The main hall
- Grocery and toy giveaways at the holidays,
- Serving GLIDE's "Famous" Fried Chicken every Friday

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Sanctuary space
- Dining Area
- Exterior facades of church building

*Filing Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Case No.:* 2019-002399LBR  
*Business Name:* Picture Machine Tattoo  
*Business Address:* 5124 Geary Boulevard  
*Zoning:* NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale) Zoning District  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 1447/020A  
*Applicant:* Jennifer Wong, Co-Owner/Manager  
5124 Geary Boulevard  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, District 1  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
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*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
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## BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Picture Machine Tattoo (“Picture Machine”) was founded in 1976 by Pat Martynuik and is the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco. Martynuik immigrated to San Francisco from Canada in 1970 and began working at Lyle Tuttle Sr.’s shop on 7th Street. He brought new life to that location and built up a loyal clientele. During this period, Martynuik taught the trade to his own son, Guy Martynuik, as well as Lyle Tuttle Jr. He also earned his nickname “Picture Machine” for the long hours he worked and his constant productivity. In 1976, he decided to part ways with Lyle Sr. and opened his own tattoo shop at 3940 Geary Blvd. between 3rd and 4th avenues, Picture Machine Tattoo, where he resumed the habits that earned him his nickname. In 1989 Pat died suddenly in the shop while in the middle of a tattoo.

When Pat Martynuik passed away, his son inherited the business. Picture Machine Tattoo became the property of Guy Martynuik who by this time also owned his own shop, Body Graphics, in Reno, Nevada. In 2001, Guy took on Jason Storey. In 2005, Lyle Jr. bought Picture Machine and moved it 12 blocks west to 5124 Geary Boulevard, where it is today. Later in 2014, due to deteriorating health, Lyle Tuttle Jr. sold Picture Machine Tattoo to his most trusted and loyal employee Jason Storey, who is the current owner and operator and senior artist.

San Francisco has been known internationally for its tattoo culture since the 1960s, and Picture Machine has contributed greatly to that recognition. During its years of operation, Picture Machine’s reputation as a no-nonsense street shop producing high quality tattoos in an unpretentious environment attracted some of the best, young up-and-coming artists to seek employment there. The list of artists who have worked at Picture Machine includes many, if not most, of the tattooers who during the 1990s became household names for tattoo fans, and who today are considered to be responsible for breathing new life into the world of tattooing. Today Picture Machine Tattoo maintains its reputation for quality tattoos applied in a bustling street shop environment, long hours of availability to customers, as well as high end custom work made to order for discriminating tattoo collectors. Tattoo artists and tattoo collectors from all around the world visit Picture Machine Tattoo.

The property is located on the north side of Geary Boulevard between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> avenues in the Richmond

neighborhood. It is within an NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1976.

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

Yes. Picture Machine Tattoo qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Picture Machine Tattoo has operated continuously in San Francisco for 43 years.
- ii. Picture Machine Tattoo has contributed to the history and identity of the Richmond neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. Picture Machine Tattoo is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

Yes. The business is associated with the art and tradition of tattooing.

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

#### ***Persons***

Yes. Pat Martynuik, the founder of Picture Machine Tattoo, is widely known in the industry. He is the shop's namesake, receiving his nickname (Picture Machine) because of the speed at which he worked and the long hours that he put in. Pat would work noon to midnight, 7 days a week. When he wasn't tattooing, he would paint. While keeping such long hours, he accumulated upwards of 500 paintings which have been published internationally and are widely known, highly regarded and invaluable to the tattoo industry. He died in 1989 and is known globally as the founder of the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco.

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

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) due to the age of the building, which was constructed in 1922, for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act review.

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. Picture Machine Tattoo was mentioned in a book by Hunter S. Thompson's titled, "Generation of Swine, Gonzo Papers, Volume 2, Tales of Shame and Degradation in the 80's." Mr. Thompson gives an account of visiting Picture Machine Tattoo with a friend who was being tattooed. Picture

Machine Tattoo has been mentioned in other articles, included in this Legacy Business application and is featured in Expertise as a top 10 shop in San Francisco.

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

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

- 5124 Geary Boulevard

**Recommended by Applicant**

- Original paintings and signs created by Pat Martynuik
- Interactive mural featuring Pat Martynuik's original artwork
- Pat Martynnuik tattoo designs and “flash”
- Original business hours (noon to midnight, 7 days per week)

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- None

*Filing Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Case No.:* 2019-002404LBR  
*Business Name:* Randy's Place  
*Business Address:* 1101 Ocean Avenue  
*Zoning:* NCT (Ocean Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Transit) Zoning District  
45-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 6944/001  
*Applicant:* Sue Castle, Owner  
1101 Ocean Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Norman Yee, District 7  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
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## **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

Sue Castle opened the bar, Randy's Place, in the Ingleside neighborhood in 1975. Castle holds the record in San Francisco for longest-serving bartender at one location and will mark 50 years on April 4, 2019. A bar called Prosek's preceded Randy's Place and appears to have opened around 1915. Born in Italy on August 15, 1939, Castle immigrated to New York with her family when she was a child. She became a U.S. citizen 1957 and enlisted in the U.S. Army two months later. She served in the Women's Army Corps for six years and then 23 years in the Army Reserve.

From 1965 to 1969, Castle owned and operated Gene's Cocktails in the Lower Haight neighborhood at 488 Haight Street. From 1971 to 1974, she managed the bar at the Gaylord Hotel. On April 4, 1969, Castle bought Prosek's, a longstanding bar in Ingleside, when its longtime owner/operator Lou Dapelo retired. Dapelo had bought the bar and building from the Prosek family after working for them for 15 years. In 1971, Castle executed her two-year option to buy the building. When she purchased the business, women were not allowed to bartend unless named on the liquor licenses. In 1975, she renamed the bar "Randy's Place" after her late son Randy.

Randy's Place may be the second oldest continuously operated bar in San Francisco's west side. The first is Little Shamrock, which began operation around 1890. The building housing Randy's Place was constructed prior to 1900. Insurance maps show it was there in the 1890s. In 1906, the San Francisco Call printed an article with the headline, "Saloon-Keepers Happy; the following licenses to conduct saloons were granted." William and Edward Prosek were listed as grantees of licenses to operate a saloon at Ocean and Lee avenues. The bar was called Prosek's and later Prosek's Bar.

The property is located on the southwest corner of Lee and Ocean avenues in the Ocean View neighborhood. It is within an NCT (Ocean Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Transit) Zoning District and a 45-X Height and Bulk District.



## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1975.

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

Yes. Randy's Place qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Randy's Place has operated continuously in San Francisco for 44 years.
- ii. Randy's Place has contributed to the history and identity of the Ingleside neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. Randy's Place is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

No.

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

No.

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

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) due to the age of the building, which was constructed in 1908, for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act review.

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. Randy's Place has been featured in several news articles:

- The San Francisco Chronicle in an article by Stephanie Wright Hession on August 13, 2013, titled, "Ocean Avenue, San Francisco."
- The Bold Italic in an article by Molly Sanchez on Oct 19, 2014, titled, "Why I Love Living in Ingleside."
- The neighborhood newspaper the Ingleside-Excelsior Light in an article by Anthony Myers on June 16, 2016, titled, "Randy's Place Owner Sue Castle Celebrates 45 Years Serving Drinks on Ocean Avenue."
- SF Weekly in an article by Dylan Goldberger on September 14, 2016, titled, "Top 50 Dive Bars in San Francisco."
- BayNewsNow.com in an article by Adelyna Tirado on May 18, 2017, titled, "Susan Castle of Randy's Place."

Randy's Place has also been featured in a video:

- Susan Castle of Randy's Place on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/213147860>.

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

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

- 1101 Ocean Avenue

**Recommended by Applicant**

- The sign
- Large storefront windows and corner entrance
- Original flooring near entrance
- High ceilings
- L-shaped bar
- Television, juke box, a pool table, and décor that denotes all major holidays
- Affordable prices

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- None

*Filing Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Case No.:* 2019-002485LBR  
*Business Name:* Wah Mei School  
*Business Address:* 1400 Judah Street  
*Zoning:* RH-3 (Residential-House, Three Family) Zoning District  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 1774/021  
*Applicant:* Kelly Ng, Development Manager  
1400 Judah Street  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Gordon mar, District 4  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
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*Reviewed By:* Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822  
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## BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Established in 1974, Wah Mei School is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to providing affordable Chinese-English bilingual multicultural education and early care programs for children and youth in San Francisco. Wah Mei means “Chinese-American” and holds historic significance as the first and longest serving bilingual preschool in the city. Wah Mei School was borne out of a growing Chinese immigrant experience and as part of California’s Chinese American civil rights movement. Formed by a group of parents, bilingual educators and community activists, Wah Mei paved a way for bicultural education after the landmark Supreme Court decision in Lau vs. Nichols of 1974 that legalized bilingual education in public schools.

Originally conceived as a private elementary school, it opened with 14 kindergarten children at the corner of Lake Street and Arguello at St. John’s Presbyterian Church. However, when it was apparent that the more pressing need was for quality preschool education, Wah Mei modified its program to that of a bilingual preschool. Wah Mei moved to the Campfire Girls Building at 325 Arguello Boulevard in 1976, and to its present site in 1978.

Wah Mei maintains programming that promotes the integration of Chinese and American cultures. Initially started to serve the education needs of children recently immigrated to the United States, Wah Mei evolved to be an inclusive and supportive community for all, helping to bridge language and literacy development among students from a diverse range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as diverse cognitive and linguistic abilities. Their programs support and nurture language literacy in English, Cantonese and Mandarin. In order to meet the needs of every section of the community, 50% of enrollment is reserved for children of low-income families with subsidized tuition. Presently, Wah Mei operates four programs for children and youth aged 2 years 9 months to 14 years old: Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School Program and Summer Camp. They serve more than 260 families each year.

The property is located on the northwest corner of Judah Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Outer Sunset neighborhood. It is within a RH-3 (Residential-House, Three Family) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District.

## STAFF ANALYSIS

### *Review Criteria*

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1974.

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

Yes. Wah Mei School qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Wah Mei School has operated continuously in San Francisco for 45 years.
- ii. Wah Mei School has contributed to the history and identity of the Outer Sunset neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. Wah Mei School is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

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

Yes. The school is associated with Chinese languages and culture.

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

Yes. Wah Mei School is associated with the landmark Supreme Court decision in Lau vs. Nichols of 1974 that legalized bilingual education in public schools. Wah Mei School was founded by a group of prominent Chinese American parents, bilingual educators, and community activists.

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

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status of "B" (Properties Requiring Further Consultation and Review) due to the age of the building, which was constructed in 1908, for the purposes of California Environmental Quality Act review.

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. Throughout its 45-year history, Wah Mei School has been featured in a number of articles, publications and documents including, but not limited to, the following:

- Wah Mei Director Irene Dea Collier and Head Teachers interviewed on KSFJ Radio Community Hour "What is Bilingual Education?" February 1980
- "Wah Mei Seeks Funds For Permanent Site." East/West, June 17, 1981
- "Wah Mei School: Growing Up Bilingually." Asia Week, August 13, 1981
- "Wah Mei School Began to Provide Both Remedial and Enriched Classes." East/West, November 28, 1984
- "Wah Mei Preschoolers, Aged 3 to 5, Learn English and Chinese Together." East/West, December 11, 1985

- “Community Involvement in the ‘80s.” The Catalyst, Fall 1985
- Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee published A Bilingual Manual for Preschool Parents. 1985
- The Wah Mei School Songbook published by Ms. Dorena Lee and Chinese Teachers Betty Nascimento and Grace Lam. 1985
- Head Teacher Ms. Helen Yee published her children’s picture book My Grandfather and Me. 1985
- Chinese Teacher Betty Nascimento was interviewed about bilingual education and Wah Mei School on “Chinese Journal” KTSF Channel 26. March 1991
- Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee was interviewed about bilingual education on “Dupont Gai” KFRC Radio. March 1991
- “City’s Oldest Chinese American School Enriches Local Kids: Sunset Preschool A Success Story.” Sunset Beacon, April 1995
- “Parents Fight to Stop Antenna Over Preschool.” San Francisco Examiner, February 6, 1997.
- “Bilingual Preschool Featured in Parade.” Asian Week, February 22, 1997.
- Wah Mei Director Irene Dea Collier published her young adult books Chinese Mythology 2001 and Chinese Mythology Rocks! 2011
- Wah Mei School featured in the Chinese Historical Society of America’s traveling exhibit Chinese in the Sunset. November 2017–November 2018
- “迎學習熱潮 華美周末中文班擴張” [Welcome Expanded Weekend Chinese Learning]. World Journal, September 2018.
- “華美中文學校日落區開課” [Wah Mei School Expands in the Sunset]. Sing Tao Daily, September 2018.

Wah Mei School has been recognized and honored numerous times by the California State Assembly and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for its contributions to the city, having received certificates of honor and letters of commendation from Barbara Boxer, London Breed, Willie Brown, Ed Lee, Carmen Chu, Fiona Ma, Bill Maher, Eric Mar, Kevin Shelley, Katy Tang, Philip Ting, Scott Wiener and Norman Yee. The Board of Supervisors declared March 19, 1994, and May 9, 2014, Wah Mei School Day in San Francisco.

Wah Mei School was nominated in 1982 as an exemplary bilingual program to the U.S. Department of Education by its local branch. That same year, Director Irene Dea Collier was an honoree at an “Outstanding Women” reception sponsored by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee has been well recognized with receipt of the First 5 San Francisco Excellence in Teaching Award 2017, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award Honoree 2017, Ernest M. Pon Memorial Award 2006, San Francisco Childcare Providers Award 2003, and The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) Teacher of the Year Award 1983.

This year, Wah Mei teacher, Ms. Lee, was honored for 40 years of service and dedication to bilingual education and teaching excellence. Weekend Chinese School Director Ms. Lori Liao is a three-time recipient of the Association of Northern California Chinese School Exceptional Educator Award in 2008, 2011 and 2016.

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

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

- 1400 Judah Street

**Recommended by Applicant**

- A bilingual and multicultural learning environment
- A mission to serve the needs of the community and provide quality education opportunities and access to all students
- Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School, and Summer Camp programs
- Commitment to serving low-income students
- Signage

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- None



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No. ###

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

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

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2019-002369LBR  
*Business Name:* Benkyodo Company  
*Business Address:* 1747 Buchanan Street  
*Zoning:* NCD (Japantown Neighborhood Commercial) Zoning District  
50-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0685/001  
*Applicant:* Ricky Okamura, Co-Owner  
1747 Buchanan Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Vallie Brown, District 5  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@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 BENKYODO COMPANY  
CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1747 BUCHANAN STREET, (BLOCK/LOT 0685/001).**

**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 City's history and identity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2019, 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 Benkyodo Company 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 Benkyodo Company.

***Location(s):***

- *1747 Buchanan Street*

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

- *Freshly made manju and mochi from traditional recipes and methods*
- *Original 1959 sign*
- *Original lunch counter and pastry display showcase*

**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 2019-002369LBR to the Office of Small Business March 20, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:





# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No. ###

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

*Case No.:* 2019-002396LBR  
*Business Name:* Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation  
*Business Address:* 330 Ellis Street  
*Zoning:* RC-4 (Residential-Commercial, High Density) Zoning District  
80-T-130-T Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0324/027  
*Applicant:* Karen Hanrahan, President and CEO  
330 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney, District 6  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@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**

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GLIDE FOUNDATION CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 330 ELLIS STREET, (BLOCK/LOT 0324/027).**

**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 City's history and identity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2019, 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 the Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation 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 the Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation.

***Location(s):***

- 330 Ellis Street

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

- *Programming, including Daily Free Meals, Walk-In Center for immediate crisis intervention, Women's Center for women facing or healing from domestic violence, substance use recovery programs, HIV and Hep-C outreach and prevention, Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center, Workforce Development, Unconditional Legal Clinic, Center for Social Justice, and Monthly Senior Socials*
- *The stained-glass windows facing Ellis Street*
- *The main hall*
- *Grocery and toy giveaways at the holidays,*
- *Serving GLIDE's "Famous" Fried Chicken every Friday*
- *Sanctuary space*
- *Dining Area*
- *Exterior facades of church building*

**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 2019-002396LBR to the Office of Small Business March 20, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

**Resolution No. ###**  
**March 20, 2019**

**CASE NO. 2019-002396LBR**  
**330 Ellis Street**

ADOPTED:



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No. ###

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

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

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2019-002399LBR  
*Business Name:* Picture Machine Tattoo  
*Business Address:* 5124 Geary Boulevard  
*Zoning:* NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Scale) Zoning District  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 1447/020A  
*Applicant:* Jennifer Wong, Co-Owner/Manager  
5124 Geary Boulevard  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer, District 1  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@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 PICTURE MACHINE TATTOO CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 5124 GEARY BOULEVARD, (BLOCK/LOT 1447/020A).**

**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 City's history and identity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2019, 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 Picture Machine Tattoo 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 Picture Machine Tattoo.

***Location(s):***

- *5124 Geary Boulevard*

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

- *Original paintings and signs created by Pat Martynuik*
- *Interactive mural featuring Pat Martynuik's original artwork*
- *Pat Martynnuik tattoo designs and "flash"*
- *Original business hours (noon to midnight, 7 days per week)*

**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 2019-002399LBR to the Office of Small Business March 20, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No. ###

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

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

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2019-002404LBR  
*Business Name:* Randy's Place  
*Business Address:* 1101 Ocean Avenue  
*Zoning:* NCT (Ocean Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Transit) Zoning District  
45-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 6944/001  
*Applicant:* Sue Castle, Owner  
1101 Ocean Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Norman Yee, District 7  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@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 RANDY'S PLACE CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1101 OCEAN AVENUE, (BLOCK/LOT 6944/001).**

**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 City's history and identity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2019, 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 Randy's Place 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 Randy's Place.

***Location(s):***

- 1101 Ocean Avenue

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

- The sign
- Large storefront windows and corner entrance
- Original flooring near entrance
- High ceilings
- L-shaped bar
- Television, juke box, a pool table, and décor that denotes all major holidays
- Affordable prices

**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 2019-002404LBR to the Office of Small Business March 20, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No. ###

HEARING DATE: MARCH 20, 2019

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

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

*Case No.:* 2019-002485LBR  
*Business Name:* Wah Mei School  
*Business Address:* 1400 Judah Street  
*Zoning:* RH-3 (Residential-House, Three Family) Zoning District  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 1774/021  
*Applicant:* Kelly Ng, Development Manager  
1400 Judah Street  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Gordon mar, District 4  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625  
shelley.caltagirone@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 WAH MEI SCHOOL CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1400 JUDAH STREET, (BLOCK/LOT 1774/021).**

**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 City's history and identity; and

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

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 20, 2019, 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 Wah Mei School 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 Wah Mei School.

***Location(s):***

- 1400 Judah Street

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

- A bilingual and multicultural learning environment
- A mission to serve the needs of the community and provide quality education opportunities and access to all students
- Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School, and Summer Camp programs
- Commitment to serving low-income students
- Signage

**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 2019-002485LBR to the Office of Small Business March 20, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin

Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:



SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2018-19-028  
*Business Name:* Benkyodo Company  
*Business Address:* 1747 Buchanan St.  
*District:* District 5  
*Applicant:* Ricky Okamura, Co-Owner  
*Nomination Date:* February 8, 2019  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Vallie Brown

**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? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1533B Geary Blvd. from 1906 to 1939 (33 years)  
1638 Geary Blvd. from 1939 to 1959 (20 years)  
1747 Buchanan Street from 1959 to Present (60 years)

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

**NOTES:** N/A

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** February 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo  
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program



**Member, Board of Supervisor  
District 5**



**City and County of San Francisco**

**Vallie Brown**

Friday, February 8, 2019

Office of Small Business  
Small Business Commission  
City Hall, Suite 110  
San Francisco, CA 94102

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to nominate Benkyodo Company, located at 1747 Buchanan Street, for the Legacy Business Registry Program.

Established by Suyechi Okamura in 1906, Benkyodo Company has offered San Franciscans a selection of authentic manju and mochi confections for over 113 years. As the last standing manufacturer of the Japanese desserts in San Francisco, Benkyodo Company continues to be a symbol of cultural pride and artisan Japanese dessert making serving neighbors and visitors of Japantown.

During the Japanese internment of World War II, the Okamura family was forced to close Benkyodo Company. In 1948, after the war ended, Benkyodo reopened, demonstrating their resilience and commitment to doing business in San Francisco. Eventually relocating to Japantown in 1959, the shop has remained a family owned business for over three generations. Spanning several periods of significance in the Japantown neighborhood's history, Benkyodo remains an active and engaged member of the community, with their desserts being the celebratory treat at countless birthdays, holidays and other milestones within the Bay Area's Japanese American community. In addition to manufacturing and selling manju and mochi, Benkyodo Company offers a dining counter offering an affordable bite to eat. Benkyodo Company is a business that gives Japantown its characters and makes the neighborhood what it is today.

It is for these reasons that I elect to nominate Benkyodo Company for the Legacy Business Registry Program. For any additional questions about Benkyodo Company, Nikki Yoshikawa of the Japantown Task Force can be contacted at: (415) 269-4765.

Should you have any further questions related to this letter, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (415) 554-7630 or [BrownStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:BrownStaff@sfgov.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vallie Brown".

Vallie Brown

Supervisor, District 5  
City and County of San Francisco

# 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.

<b>NAME OF BUSINESS:</b>		
Benkyodo Company		
<b>BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)</b>		
Ricky Okamura Robert (Bobby) Okamura		
<b>CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:</b>		<b>TELEPHONE:</b>
1747 Buchanan Street San Francisco, CA 94115		(415) 922-1244
		<b>EMAIL:</b>
		rick@benkyodocompany.com
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<b>FACEBOOK PAGE:</b>	<b>YELP PAGE</b>
http://www.benkyodocompany.com	https://www.facebook.com/Benkyodo-116302388385478/	https://www.yelp.com/biz/benkyodo-co-san-francisco

<b>APPLICANT'S NAME</b>	
Ricky Okamura	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
<b>APPLICANT'S TITLE</b>	
Co-owner	
<b>APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:</b>	<b>TELEPHONE:</b>
1747 Buchanan Street San Francisco, CA 94115	(415) 922-1244
	<b>EMAIL:</b>
	rick@benkyodocompany.com

<b>SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:</b>	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):</b>
94-1357960	N/A

<b>OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff</b>	
<b>NAME OF NOMINATOR:</b>	<b>DATE OF NOMINATION:</b>

## 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
1533B Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA	94115	1906
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	1906 – 1939	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1638 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA	94115	Start: 1939
		End: 1959

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1747 Buchanan Street San Francisco, CA	94115	Start: 1959
		End: present

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

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

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

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
N/A		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.

Ricky Okamura

Name (Print):

1-25-2019

Date:



Signature:

## **BENKYODO COMPANY**

### **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.**

Benkyodo Company ("Benkyodo") is a Japanese confectionery facility and shop located at 1747 Buchanan Street. It was established in 1906, and is the oldest Japanese American family-owned business in San Francisco's Japantown. It is also the last remaining manufacturer of mochi and manju (Japanese desserts) using traditional methods with dedicated facilities on site. Up until the late 1990s, there were four companies in San Francisco making manju, and only a few in all of California. Today, Benkyodo is the only one left in San Francisco.

Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice, which is ground, steamed, pounded and rolled into a sticky ball, or molded into different shapes. It is sometimes filled with beans or used in various dishes, such as ozoni (Japanese New Year's soup), or toasted and eaten mixed with some sweets. Manju is a traditional Japanese confection or pastry, made of rice flour and filled with sweet beans (red adzuki or white lima) or other ingredients like chestnuts, strawberry, blueberry or mango.

Benkyodo has been operated by three generations of the Okamura family. Suyechi Okamura first opened up the shop in 1906. Then in 1951, Suyechi's son Hirofumi ("Hippo") Okamura and his wife (Sue) took over. In 1990, Hirofumi passed the shop to his sons, Ricky and Bobby Okamura.

The business was founded at its original location at 1533B Geary Boulevard in 1906 and operated its business there until it moved down the block to 1638 Geary from 1939-1959. The store was temporarily forced to fold when the family was interned during World War II, part of the evacuation of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast. When the Okamura's returned after the war in 1946, they were fortunate enough that they had kind neighbors that watched over their space and were able to return to opening up their shop. In 1959, the business then relocated to its current location at 1747 Buchanan Street, where it currently operates as a manju/mochi-making facility, manju confectionery shop and lunch counter serving the local Japantown community.

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

Benkyodo Company's operations were interrupted by the events of World War II, pursuant to the Executive Order 9066. President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and subsequent proclamations issued by General John L. DeWitt led to the closure of operations and the eventual forced eviction of the Okamura family from March 1942 to 1946. The family reopened Benkyodo in 1948 and resumed operations after the war when Japanese Americans were released from the internment camps, and were permitted to return to their cities. However everyone had to start all over again. The Okamura's were one of the few fortunate ones to have good, kind neighbors that watched over their space while they were interned, and after some time, they were able to eventually open up their shop again. Other than the closure during the WWII internment years, Benkyodo has remained open for business to the present day.

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

Yes, Benkyodo Company is a family owned business. The business was first established by Suyeichi Okamura in 1906 – one of the original businesses in Japantown – on San Francisco's Geary Street (now Geary Boulevard). When the family was interned during World War II, Benkyodo Company was forced to close temporarily. After the war ended, the shop reopened in 1948, and in 1951 Suyeichi's son, Hirofumi ("Hippo") and his wife (Sue) took over. In 1959, the shop moved to its present-day location at Sutter and Buchanan Street. In 1990, Hirofumi passed the shop to his sons, Ricky and Bobby Okamura. Continuing a family legacy, the two brothers still own and operate the business, bringing the sweet confections to customers daily. Ricky has 3 children (Erica, Jenna and RJ) who they hope will continue with the business someday.

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

The original family of Benkyodo remain as the current owners, and has operated as the same family business for three generations of Okamura's. The ownership history of Benkyodo Company is as follows:

1906 to 1951:	Suyeichi Okamura
1951 to 1990:	Hirofumi Okamura and Sue Okamura
1990 to Present:	Ricky Okamura and Bobby Okamura

**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 of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this 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 historic resource status of the building at 1745-1747 Buchanan Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

In 2007-08, San Francisco Planning Department commissioned Page & Turnbull to conduct a historic resource survey (a Social Heritage Inventory Record filed in November 5, 2012) for existing businesses and establishments in San Francisco's Japantown. This was proceeded by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's issuance of the Japan Town Community Plan in 2002. The Page & Turnbull survey suggested that Benkyodo Co. at 1745-1747 Buchanan Street appears eligible for listing in the National Register and therefore for listing in the California Register (Japantown Cultural Preservation Strategy Report, pp. 4,17). As of this application, Benkyodo has not applied for listing in the National or California Registers just yet.

Benkyodo's existence has also spanned several periods of significance. They are: Early Japantown History, particularly Japanese Settlement in the Western Addition (1906-1920); Japanese Resettlement and Renewal, Nikkei Return to Japantown (1945-1954); and Redevelopment in the Western Addition (1955-1990).

## **CRITERION 2**

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

Benkyodo is the last major manufacturer of mochi and manju in San Francisco and one of only two in the Bay Area that create the traditional desserts. The other, in San Jose, is only half as old as Benkyodo. Authentic manju making is an extremely exhausting and tedious process, but it's also an art. Although you can find boxed mochi in stores from Japantown to Trader Joe's, Benkyodo doesn't use preservatives, so their products stay fresh for only a few days. The homemade freshness and taste of their manju/mochi is a huge, distinguishing part of what sets Benkyodo aside from any others.

In Japanese tradition, manju and mochi are a part of traditional and contemporary celebrations for the Bay Area's Japanese American community, where the desserts are an essential part of the celebration. Benkyodo has helped mark countless birthdays, weddings, funerals, sports tournaments, tea ceremonies, business openings, popular Japanese holidays such as New Year's Day and Girls Day and Boy's Day, and religious institutions in Japantown and the surrounding Bay Area. Benkyodo Company is identified as part of a list of institutions and organizations, businesses and places that begins to identify those elements that give Japantown its character and make the neighborhood what it is today.

The manju shop and lunch counter have been the "go-to" place for locals, and persons of all generations and tourists visiting Japantown seeking an affordable bite to eat and for an authentic Japanese American experience with local information on the goings-on in the community.

The manju is also distributed to a half-dozen Japanese grocery stores in the East Bay, San Francisco and Peninsula. While manju is a traditional Japanese dessert, it has been embraced not only by many Bay Area residents of every ethnicity, but by tourists from all over the world.

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

Benkyodo Company is an active participant in the local community and provides the manju/mochi for many of the traditional and contemporary Japanese celebrations in which these desserts are typically an essential part of the celebration. Without their manju/mochi, many of these traditional celebrations would be like birthdays without cake, Thanksgiving without turkey, etc.

Benkyodo Company has also provided its specialty mochi-gashi (traditional Japanese confectionery in various forms) for significant events such as in 2010 for the welcoming of the 150th Anniversary of the "Kanrin Maru" (first Japanese ship to cross the Pacific), the Emperor and Empress of Japan's San Francisco visit in 1994, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration dinner of Japantown (2006), the traditional "okasane" Mikoshi purification ceremonies at the start of each Cherry Blossom Festival for over 50 years, for every VIP reception held at San Francisco's Japan Consulate General residence, to countless memorial services for prominent members of Japantown, as well as many, many other celebrations and holidays.

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

Benkyodo Company has been featured in many newspapers, magazines and local TV stations (KPIX-5, FOX-2). Some of the examples in which Benkyodo has been featured:

- San Francisco tourism walking tours, such as Voicemaps Audio Tours and Edible Excursions (2019).
- San Francisco Bay Guardian 2007 – Best of the Bay, Best Japanese Treats.
- San Francisco Chronicle (4/2/2006) – Businesses That Weathered the 1906 Earthquake.
- San Francisco Magazine (4/2006) – 125 Best Things to Eat.
- Sunset Magazine (12/2003 – Mad about mochi: celebrate the Japanese New Year with a traditional treat.
- San Francisco Chronicle (2/8/001) – Manju Handmade Perfection.

On May 28, 2008, Benkyodo was chosen by Assemblyman Mark Leno of the 13th Assembly District as the recipient of the California Small Business of the Year award. Benkyodo was one of 80 recipients to get the statewide recognition of the California Small Business of the Year award.

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

The current owners' (Ricky and Bobby Okamura's) grandfather, Suyechi Okamura, an immigrant from Japan, started Benkyodo in 1906, which was one of the first businesses in San Francisco's Japantown. He was an entrepreneur in the community, and was also very innovative. Not only did he make his mochi and manju, he is one of the claimants to making the first fortune cookies. Makoto Hagiwara, concessionaire of the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park served similar type cookies at the Tea Garden in 1914, but it was not received well due to its taste. Hagiwara then consulted with Suyechi Okamura who advised Hagiwara to sweeten the cookie, using vanilla and butter, which is typically how fortune cookies are still made today. Hagiwara arranged to have the fortune cookies and senbei (Japanese rice crackers) made at Benkyodo from then on, to be served at the Japanese Tea Garden as a regular treat, until the outbreak of the World War II. Soon after, the Chinese restaurants picked up on these treats, and started serving the fortune cookies after meals. Who knew that some of the first fortune cookies were actually produced at Benkyodo in San Francisco's Japantown?

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

"It's a business, but we serve the community," said Bobby Okamura. "Being in Japantown, it's important and meaningful." The family's manju and mochi, made of pounded rice, have helped mark countless birthdays, holidays and milestones within the Bay Area's Japanese American community, where the desserts are an essential part of the celebration. And the Okamuras' products have helped define and anchor an increasingly diverse community – from recent immigrants to third, fourth and now fifth generation Japanese Americans.

Throughout its existence, Benkyodo Company has prided itself in serving the community with their very affordable prices for lunches, coffee service and manju/mochi confectionery. "The family has always valued affordability and service over profit," according to Bobby Okamura. "Our dad always believed that we should sell our products at a reasonable and affordable price to the neighborhood residents, and that we should never gouge." In fact, the word "Benkyodo" actually translates to the meaning of "bargain" or "reasonably priced."

Often Benkyodo's owners donate hundreds of mochi-gashi a year to churches and nonprofit organizations, and for community celebrations. In their busiest season, winter, they make and donate Japanese New Year's specialty "okasane" mochi for ceremonial offerings to nonprofit organizations and groups throughout Japantown. The okasane mochi is used to place at the Buddhist and Konko altars as offerings. They are often business sponsors for basketball tournaments, openings and special celebrations. They always welcome drop-in visitors to

Japantown and greet numerous school groups and walking tour groups led by the National Japanese American Historical Society and others.

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

Whenever San Francisco's Japantown is mentioned to anyone unfamiliar to the community, Benkyodo is always associated with Japantown, and mentioned as the top “place to go.”

San Francisco's Japantown is the oldest and one of three remaining Japantowns in the United States. Established in the Western Addition from ethnic enclaves from South Park, Chinatown and the Mission, right after the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, Japantown remains at the same location within the blocks bordering Octavia, Fillmore, Laguna and Geary Boulevard.

What was once about 40 blocks of Japantown is now about about 4 blocks. Benkyodo is located in the historic center of San Francisco's Japantown within the Buchanan Mall, at a key corner at Buchanan and Sutter Streets, next to the modern torii gate. San Francisco's Japantown has undergone several redevelopments over the past decades, and now serves not only the Japanese community, but also to many of the diverse population of San Francisco.

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

The current Benkyodo Company building was built in 1959. The building is considered mid-century modern, though not a product of redevelopment. (source: Japantown Traditional Cultural Property Evaluation).

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

Benkyodo Company remains the oldest family-owned business and only Japanese confectionery establishment of its kind in San Francisco's Japantown. If the business were to be diminished, sold, relocated or shut down, there would be no more Japantown pre-redevelopment traditional Japanese craft businesses as we know it. The ceremonial mochi for Japanese traditional, locally handcrafted offerings used for New Year's celebrations, births, memorial services, Cherry Blossom festivals, VIP receptions and many more would no longer be supplied. It would be a significant blow as Japantown's local attraction and destination for out-of-town families, as thousands of sports teams, tourists, etc. journey to Benkyodo for their visits. Many out-of-town folks actually plan their trips to San Francisco around a visit to Benkyodo to ensure they are able to come by and get some of their fresh, delicious treats to bring home as gifts to themselves or others.

Just take a look at Benkyodo's Yelp reviews, and you'll see what kind of love and enthusiasm that the business draws. Here are just a few of the Yelp comments:

- "Benkyodo makes the best mochi in the Bay Area, maybe even the entire state."
- "There's such an amazing feeling when you walk in and see the counter where locals and regulars go for coffee, breakfast, and great conversations."
- "There's a great local neighborhood vibe, you can pick out your favorites and sit by the really cute diner counter."
- "This is a little gem!"
- "Benkyodo has some of the best mochi I've ever had!"
- "Definitely worthy of a pit stop in J-town!"
- "The place is so authentic and cute."

It is literally unthinkable of how and where the community would go if Benkyodo were to close. It would be a true travesty.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

Benkyodo has been run by the same family for over 3 generations, and the Okamura's and the business are very well known in the Japanese community, not only in San Francisco, but in other areas around the country as well. Benkyodo has been popular for over 113 years because of their freshly made manju/mochi. Yes, you can buy the prepackaged type manju/mochi at most Japanese markets, but they lack the softness and true taste of the homemade rice cakes. Benkyodo still makes the traditional types, but has also added newer flavors over the years like peanut butter, strawberry and mango, which have become newer favorites.

People in the community have been going to Benkyodo forever, it seems, and know that it's the place to go whenever you need to pick up manju/mochi for any special occasions and events, holidays and gifts. Japanese Americans as well as other ethnicities from other cities and states even make it a point to stop by Benkyodo for their manju fix, or to bring it home as souvenirs. Benkyodo has become synonymous with Japantown.

#### **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 handmade mochi and manju at Benkyodo is made today with the same recipe and same method as it first did 113-years ago! While Benkyodo has added new types and flavors of manju and mochi over the years, their traditional types are still their main staple and best sellers. Yes, there is some machinery used now that helps "pound" and soften the rice, but it is still hand formed and made without preservatives. While there are easier methods to make manju, the Okamura brothers don't want to change their methods and plan on keeping to their traditional handmade manju as they have always made. These methods used at Benkyodo are as authentic

and "old school" as you can get for a business. These methods are what clearly defines and makes Benkyodo stand out from the rest.

**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.).**

Since its move to its current location at 1747 Buchanan in 1959, Benkyodo has kept a lot of the internal and exterior features of the business. Other than service updates, Benkyodo still has its original sign from 1959 hanging outside. They still have the original lunch counter and pastry display showcase, all which add to its comfortable 1950s/60s retro look. It's a very cool, classic diner look that is harder to come by these days in gentrified San Francisco. The wooden logo of Benkyodo is decades old and adds to their signature trademark that they are known by.

The community loves the "old school" vibe of Benkyodo, and it is part of what has kept its charm and authenticity all these years. The "regulars" (customers) are almost as big a part of their fixtures at the lunch counter, as the physical aspects are!

**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.**

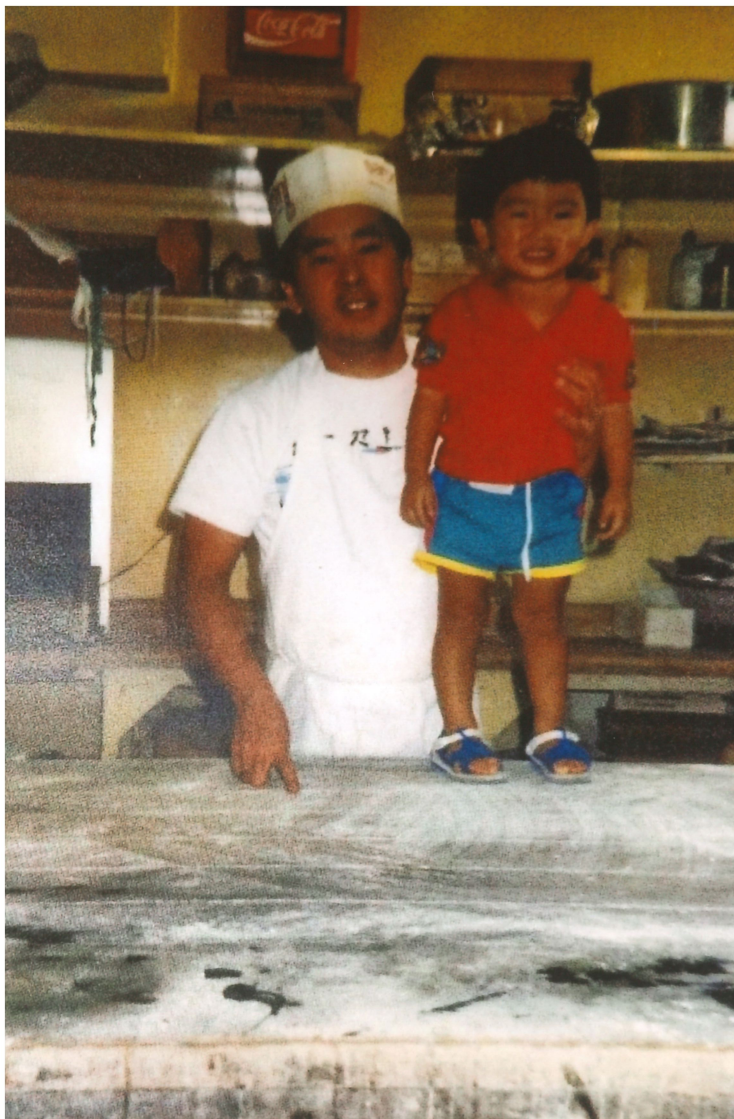
Not applicable.

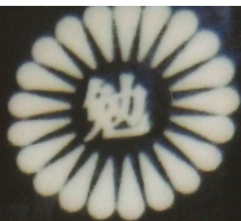
BENKYODO CANDY FACT  
菓子調進處











' SINCE 1906 '

**BENKYODO CO.**









OSAKA WAY  
(BUCHANAN)

大阪通

勉強堂

BENKYO-DO



" SINCE 1906 "

BENKYODO CO.



OUTLET

神戸一橋





**BENKYODO CO.**



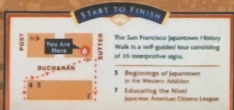


# BENKYODO CANDY FACTORY · 1906

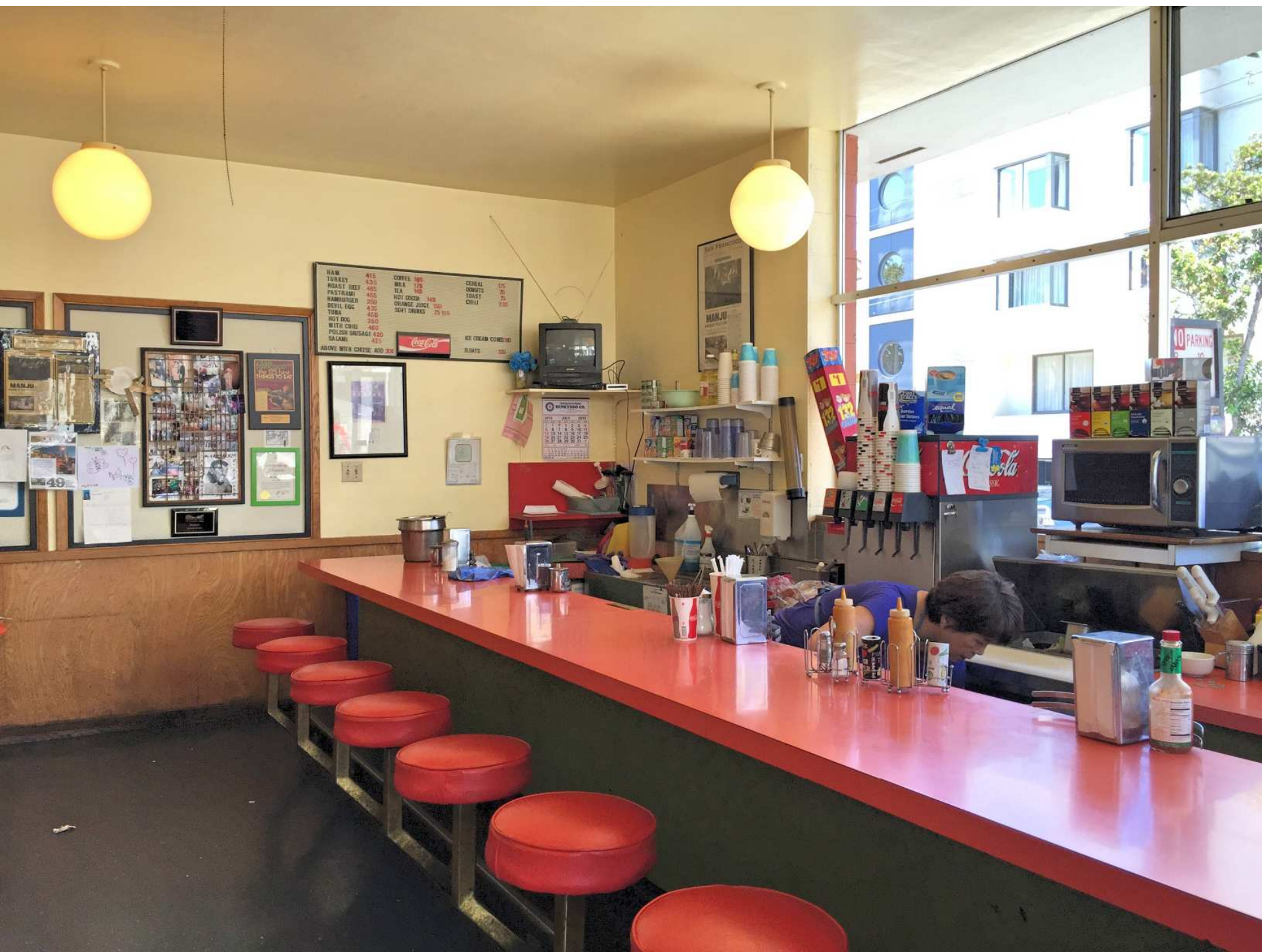


As the Issei established their new community in the Western Addition, they made an effort to maintain their cultural traditions. For over 100 years, Benkyodo has provided generations of Japanese Americans with manju, tea cakes filled with sweetened bean paste. Manju are presented as *omiyage* (a gift to take to a host), served at tea ceremonies, or placed as memorial offerings on Buddhist shrines and altars. The New Year is ushered in with special round *hagami mochi* (pounded sweet rice cakes), a symbol of prosperity, and the cherry blossoms of spring are greeted with delicate *sakura manju*.

Benkyodo was one of the first businesses founded in the new Nihonjin Machi (Japanese Town) after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Founder Suyeichi Okamura handed down recipes and traditions to his son Hirofumi and to grandsons Ricky and Bobby. Today, Benkyodo is Japantown's last original manju-ya (Japanese pastry shop), where over 300 pieces of mochi and manju are made by hand each day. The shop remains an important community gathering place, filled with sweet memories and neighborhood camaraderie.

























KINAKO (MOCHI WITH RED BEAN PASTE SPRINKLED WITH SOYBEAN POWDER)







# San Francisco Chronicle

## MANJU / HANDMADE PERFECTION / Since 1906, Benkyodo confections have topped off S.F. celebrations

Ryan Kim, Chronicle Staff Writer

Published 4:00 am PST, Thursday, February 8, 2001



Chronicle / Frederic Larson

Bobby (left) and Ricky say they are the last in their family to take an interest in the hard work required of manju-making. Chronicle photo by Frederic Larson

Each day, Ricky Okamura and his brother, Bobby, make 1,500 pieces of manju, a small Japanese dessert filled with sweet beans. And although he gets to work by 5 every morning, puts in 10-hour days and creates the treats by hand, Ricky can't quite articulate the appeal of his wares.

"You know, I don't know why people like them," he said with a laugh.

But people do, and they've been turning to Benkyodo -- the Okamuras' family business in Japantown -- for their confections since 1906.

The family's manju and mochi, made of pounded rice, have helped mark countless birthdays, holidays and milestones within the Bay Area's Japanese American community, where the desserts are an essential part of the celebration.

And the Okamuras' products have helped define and anchor an increasingly diverse community -- from recent immigrants to third- and fourth-generation Japanese Americans.

Benkyodo is the last major manufacturer in San Francisco and one of only two in the Bay Area that create the traditional desserts. The other, Shuei-Do Manju Shop in San Jose, is 50 years old.

Two Japanese confectionery shops in San Francisco closed within the past five years -- Nakata Co. in 1996 and Yamada Seika Confectionery in 1999 -- because of slowing sales and retirement.

The loss of competing manufacturers made the recent New Year's holiday especially busy for Benkyodo.

"This last year was a killer, the biggest I could remember," said Ricky, who made about 5,300 pounds of New Year's mochi. "When two people close, the demand goes up a lot."

Steve Nakajo, executive director of Kimochi Inc., a senior service program based in Japantown, said: "If there's no Benkyodo, there's no mochi, and then it wouldn't be New Year's. I'm gratified that these guys are still committed to this thing."

When the Okamuras' grandfather, Suyeichi Okamura, opened the shop on Geary Boulevard, near Buchanan Street, almost a century ago, it was one of the original businesses in Japantown. The store was temporarily forced to fold when the family was interned during World War II, part of the evacuation of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast.

After the war, the shop reopened and then moved to its current location at Post Street and Buchanan in 1959 during redevelopment in Japantown. Ownership passed to Ricky and Bobby's father, Hirofumi Okamura, before the brothers took over in 1990.

The Okamura brothers, while not shy, are quick to deflect attention from their family's work and its significance. Slowly, however, they make it clear that they appreciate the chance to play an enduring role in so many lives.



"It's a business, but we serve the community," said Bobby. "Being in Japantown, it's important and meaningful."

But like many stories in Japantown, which has lost numerous Japanese American residents and businesses over the years, there is a sense of uncertainty surrounding the shop.

Ricky, 49, said he can't retire until the youngest of his three children finishes college in a little more than 10 years. Bobby, 47, who has three stepchildren living abroad, said he's prepared to call it quits when his brother does.

Like the old rural family farms that closed when the parents retired, the shop probably will not be passed on to the next generation, said Ricky. Just as his father didn't require it of him, he said he won't force it on his children. And he said he would be surprised if they choose this type of manual labor over a professional career.

"I would like to see it go one more generation, but I doubt it," said Ricky.

"My son sees me do it, and he doesn't want to do it. It's hard work."

And therein lies the truth about authentic manju-making: It's exhausting and it's tedious. Tom Kumamura, owner of Shuei-Do in San Jose, said it's not for everyone.

"You spend a lot of time here," said Kumamura. "If you do it by hand, it's tiring. But it's an art."

Ricky Okamura is the first to arrive at Benkyodo in the morning. He must form the outer shell of the manju, made with mochi or baked flour, and then fill it with sweet bean paste cooked by his brother.

The mochi is created by steaming rice flour, sugar and water until it becomes a gelatinous mass. Then the mochi is cut into circles before Ricky Okamura shovels the bean paste in with a wooden spoon.

It's the way he learned how to make manju in 1973, when he graduated from San Francisco City College and began working for his dad. He said he studiously watched his father and, to this day, doesn't have an actual recipe.

"I never wrote anything down," he said. "It's all in my head."

His brother starts later in the morning and spends his time preparing three kinds of bean paste, or anko, from sweetened adzuki or lima beans. The beans are cleaned, compressed and turned into a fine powder, then cooked with sugar in a giant kettle.

These days, the brothers say, they don't eat much manju.

"You see it every day, you just get tired of it," said Bobby.

But their customers aren't so jaded. Paul Yamamoto has been a longtime fan but had to cut back because he was diagnosed as a diabetic last year.

"I never realized how much I missed manju until I couldn't eat it," said Yamamoto, 46, of San Francisco. "It's cultural and it's something you can relate to."

Benkyodo puts out more than 15 colorful treats each day that go on sale at the store's front counter. The manju is also distributed to a half-dozen Japanese grocery stores in the East Bay, San Francisco and Peninsula.

While manju is a traditional Japanese dessert, it has been embraced by many Bay Area residents. Ricky Okamura estimates that half of his customers are not Japanese.

In an interesting twist, he said Japanese tourists in San Francisco are often among their biggest fans because desserts in Japan are shifting away from handmade manju toward more Western fare.

Although the brothers have no plans to close anytime soon, the idea is a sobering thought -- both for its impact on the family's history and for the community.

"It'll be sad, really sad," said Ricky Okamura. "There will be no one left to make manju."



Chronicle / Frederic Larson

The family-run Benkyodo company is the last large manufacturer in the Japanese confectionery business in San Francisco. Chronicle photo by Frederic Larson



**Chronicle/Frederic Larson**

Ricky Okamura learned how to make manju, a sweet bean and rice dessert, in 1973, when he graduated from San Francisco City College and began working for his father. Chronicle photo by Frederic Larson

<https://www.sfgate.com/business/article/THE-GREAT-QUAKE-1906-2006-Businesses-weather-a-2500486.php#photo-2669389>

# San Francisco Chronicle

## **THE GREAT QUAKE 1906-2006 / Businesses weather a century / The small companies that survive adapt but stay true to their roots**

Ilana DeBare, Chronicle Staff Writer  
Published Sunday, April 2, 2006



Chronicle / Michael Maloney

White Brothers Lumber, founded in 1868 is one of a few bay area businesses that is over 100 years old. White was the one lumber yard left standing in SF after the 1906 earthquake. Today it is located in Oakland and run by Don White, the fourth generation of the family to run the business. It specializes in fine hardwoods and moulding. Photo by Michael Maloney / San Francisco Chronicle on 3/24/06 in Oakland, CA

Don White's lumber company is so old that he occasionally goes to renovate a 90-year-old home and discovers that the original timbers came from his own mill.

John Caito's fish processing business is so old that it has a government security pass allowing entry to the San Francisco waterfront area dating back to World War I.

Gary Guittard's chocolate company is so old that it was listed in the first San Francisco telephone directory in 1878.

White Bros. mill in Oakland, Caito Fisheries in San Francisco, Guittard Chocolate in Burlingame are but three out of dozens of small Bay Area businesses that are more than a century old.

With the 100-year anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake this month, big companies like Wells Fargo Bank and Fireman's Fund will be talking up their long histories in the Bay Area.

But numerous small companies -- many of them family-owned, few of them household names -- are also as old or even older than the quake.

Who are they? What do they have in common? And what does it take for a small business to survive for 100 years?

The stories of these companies -- neighborhood hardware stores, Japanese groceries, a Chinese laundry, Italian and German restaurants, a roofing company and a mattress company, to name just a few -- reflect the ups and downs and changing world of the Bay Area over the past 100 years.

## **Immigrant roots**

Many of the oldest businesses in the Bay Area have immigrant roots -- which is only logical because the Gold Rush years of the 1850s and '60s attracted immigrants from around the world.

-- A 22-year-old French chocolate-maker named Etienne Guittard arrived in San Francisco in 1860 and spent three years in Gold Country before starting Guittard Chocolate on Sansome Street.

-- Jacob Gundlach came to San Francisco from Bavaria in 1850, and by 1857 had bought land in Sonoma for a vineyard that today is run by his great-great-great-grandson as the Gundlach-Bundschu winery.

-- Japanese immigrant Tokutaro Takahashi started a market in San Mateo in 1906, when Japanese weren't allowed to own property. He served the local Japanese community as well as Anglo fishermen, taking a horse and buggy on two-day trips to sell bait to fishermen in Pescadero.

## **Affected by the quake**

Like everyone else in the San Francisco area, these businesses felt the effects of the 1906 earthquake.

For many, the quake was an unmitigated disaster. Charles Bundschu, the son of that German brewer/winemaker, saw both his wine store and his home destroyed in the fires that swept through San Francisco after the quake.

Bundschu recounted in a letter that he lost 1 million gallons of wine in oak barrels as his store was reduced to "a steaming, smoldering pile of rubble."

"Our building fell at 5 o'clock on the first day," Bundschu wrote. "When (my son) Carl carried the news to our home my tears flowed incessantly and I shall never forget the thunderbolt of wrath smashing the last hope of my life forever. ... It meant the labor and struggle of two generations and we had just emerged from its many critical confusions and trials apparently victorious and confident of success. Our future was bright for everyone interested. Never held a better assortment of wines -- never a larger stock -- good orders -- efficient salesmen ... and now -- and now? It means despair."

Yet other businesses found opportunities in the post-quake rebuilding.

White Bros., which today sells fine hardwood and molding in Oakland, was the only lumber yard left standing in San Francisco after the fires. "They had huge stockpiles but didn't raise their prices after the earthquake, although believe me, otherwise they would raise prices any chance they got," said Don White, great-grandson of the company's founder.

MG West -- which today is an office furniture company in San Francisco -- was at the time a dealer in vaults and safes. Those vaults were sometimes the only thing left from a burned-out bank office.

"Being one of the only people with keys and combinations to the safes, Monroe West's services became invaluable to clients like Wells Fargo and Crocker banks," said Drew Sullivan, whose family bought the company from the founding West family in 1980. "He made a living going through rubble and rebuilding."

## **Survival factors**

John Ward, a business professor at Northwestern University, has studied what it takes for family-owned business to survive over several generations. He concludes that long-lived small businesses tend to have:

-- A simple ownership structure -- one person passes the business on to another person, or maybe two people.

- A geographic or business niche that is hard for other businesses to enter.
- A commitment to continuity, not just to profit.
- Adaptability.
- Prudence. "They never really take huge risks -- they never bet the farm, never go deeply into debt," Ward said. "They are guardians of their reputation."

Some Bay Area centenarian businesses occupy the kind of protected niches described by Ward.

MG West, the furniture distributor, has survived partly by being in an industry that hasn't been taken over by national chains. And the Oaks Card Club in Emeryville -- founded in the 1890s -- has continued to thrive partly because most cities prohibit cardrooms. "We have been blessed by having a very unique type of business," said John Tibbetts, whose grandfather bought the card club in the 1930s. "It's a real niche business."

Other 100-year-old businesses find themselves the lone survivor in a shrinking industry, like the last person seated in a game of musical chairs.

Ten years ago, there were four companies in San Francisco making manju, a Japanese dessert. Today, the only one is Benkyodo, a Japantown bakery that opened in 1906 and now is run by the grandsons of its founder.

Similarly, there used to be 33 mattress manufacturers in San Francisco. Now, the only one is McRoskey Mattress, founded in 1899, which survived by focusing on a niche market of high-quality, high-priced mattresses.

## **Adapting to change**

Businesses that have managed to last for a century have adapted to big changes in the world around them -- from the Great Depression of the 1930s to wars, technological changes and population shifts.

Wineries had to survive the 13-year hammer of Prohibition. Gundlach-Bundschu, for instance, maintained its vineyards and grape sales but stopped making wine. When the family resumed winemaking in the 1970s, they reinvented themselves as a small estate winery producing 35,000 cases a year rather than the 200,000 they made before Prohibition.

Meanwhile, Takahashi Market responded to changing demographics in the 1960s by expanding to sell all kinds of Asian groceries, not just Japanese items. But the 1980s brought the arrival of large supermarkets that cater to the Asian population like Ranch 99. So Gene Takahashi -- grandson of the founder -- re-honed his focus on the Japanese and Hawaiian communities.

"Because the big markets are able to buy in bulk, they're able to get a lot of things cheaper than us," Takahashi said. "So we've really made an effort to service our



Hawaiian clientele. We carry a lot of things that are hard to find, like fresh poi and fresh Kailua pork. It's definitely a challenge."

### **Fortunate families**

Many of the Bay Area's century-old businesses share a survival factor that wasn't mentioned by Ward -- genetic luck.

These family-owned companies were fortunate enough to have children who wanted to carry on the enterprise. Their competitors didn't and vanished.

Martin Durante, whose grandfather started Ratto's delicatessen in Oakland in 1896, happened to be on strike from his job as a car salesman when his father asked him to join the business in the 1950s. A competing Italian deli down the street wasn't as lucky and went out of business. "They didn't have anyone to take over," Durante recalled.

Some owners knew from childhood that they would take over the family business. For others, it came as a midlife revelation.

As a young woman, Robin Azevedo never thought about taking over her family's business, the McRoskey Mattress Co. When her son entered preschool, she looked for a job that would fill two afternoons a week and was hired by her father. "With grown-up eyes, I got engaged in the business and what we did," Azevedo said. "My dad really had no exit strategy. It was that work ethic of, 'You just keep working till you drop dead.' After about 10 years, I approached my dad about taking over the business, and he was ecstatic."

At least one Bay Area centenarian business was sold by its founding family and then repurchased by a later generation.

The Fredericksen family opened a hardware store on Fillmore Street in 1896 and sold it in the 1940s. A half-century later, in 2000, Fredericksen's was bought back by Dennis Drobisch, grandson of the founder. "In the hardware business, we're considered third generation: We just skipped the second," said Dennis' wife, Mary Drobisch.

### **Does history matter?**

Some companies use their long history as a deliberate part of their marketing strategy.

McRoskey Mattress prominently states on its Web site that it has been a "manufacturer of superior mattresses and box springs since 1899."

And Boudin Bakery, which makes sourdough bread, proudly showcases its Gold Rush roots in its visitors center at Fisherman's Wharf.



But other companies say that their longevity doesn't matter much to customers. "Customers don't care about the hundred years, but they do care about the past 20 or 30 years, which is their lifespan at the store," said Stephen Cornell, owner of Brownie's Hardware, which opened in 1905 in San Francisco.

Some business owners even worry that longevity can be a marketing liability. Sullivan of MG West said his company is leery of promoting its 101-year history too aggressively.

"I don't want to have it connote the image that we're petrified," Sullivan said. "We want to promote an image that we are strong and stable, yet current and flexible. It's a fine balance."

Some owners, particularly those of multi-generational family businesses, say the history is always at the back of their minds. Several used the word legacy to describe this feeling.

"When you are talking four or five generations, it's almost like 'You have the watch,' " said Don White. "It's a historic entity, 100-plus years old, so you have to make it work, no options, unless you want the old boys rolling in their graves."

While a long history can inspire owners to persevere through tough times, it can also limit their business options.

Jeff Gundschu, president of the winery and great-great-great-great-grandson of its founder, said the family history rules out some expansion strategies taken by other small wineries, such as seeking outside investors or selling out to a bigger wine business.

"Our estate vineyard is the spiritual center of our family, but also our biggest asset," Gundschu said. "The way we'd choose to leverage that asset is more limited than it would be for a regular business. The traditional bottom line isn't always applicable because these assets have an intrinsic value that is unique to us."

## **The next century**

Having been around for a century, these firms know what it takes to run a successful day-to-day business. But many of them quietly worry about societal changes that could make it hard for them to reach the next century mark.

Each business has unique concerns. John Caito, who runs the oldest fish processing company in San Francisco, worries that his salmon supply will vanish if the state continues diverting Klamath River water to farmers.

Bobby Okamura, owner of the Benkyodo bakery, wonders what will happen to his customer base with the pending sale of the Japan Center mall. "If they turn it into

condos, it would hurt the whole area," he said. "There would be no reason for people to come to Japantown."

Meanwhile, White worries that the Bay Area's sky-high land prices will put his lumber mill out of business. Recently, the city of Oakland rezoned the property around his mill for high-density residential use.

"If we've got to move the mill, it would cost me \$1 million just to move it," he said. "Should I have to give up my business so some great big company can come in and build high-density housing?"

There is also the perennial roulette wheel of succession. Will the children or proteges of today's owners choose to maintain the history?

Jeff Bundschu is looking toward a day when the eighth generation of his family will run the winery.

"My goal, as crazy as it sounds, is to create something that doesn't necessitate my own kids getting into it, but maybe their kids," he said. "If I can keep it alive so my grandkids have a shot at it, that's my goal."

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Courtesy White Bros. Lumber

Load of Ebony lumber from the early 1900's on a truck with solid rubber tires, no pneumatics and no shocks in those days. White Brothers Lumber historical photos

Photo: Eric Luse The Chronicle



Courtesy of McRoskey Mattress Company

COPY PHOTO dating from 1909 of Edward McRoskey (far LEFT) with his employees at the original company site at 16th and Harrison Sts. in San Francisco; COPY PHOTO of the pillow bin; Story about Bay Area businesses that are over one hundred years old. This is the McRoskey Mattress Company, founded in 1899. Photo taken on 3/27/06, in San Francisco, CA. Courtesy McRoskey Mattress Company



Chronicle / Katy Raddatz

Robin McRoskey Azevedo, the present owner of the McRoskey Mattress Company, granddaughter of the original owner, Edward McRoskey. Story about Bay Area businesses that are over one hundred years old. This is the McRoskey Mattress Company, founded in 1899. Photo taken on 3/27/06, in San Francisco, CA. By Katy Raddatz/The San Francisco Chronicle



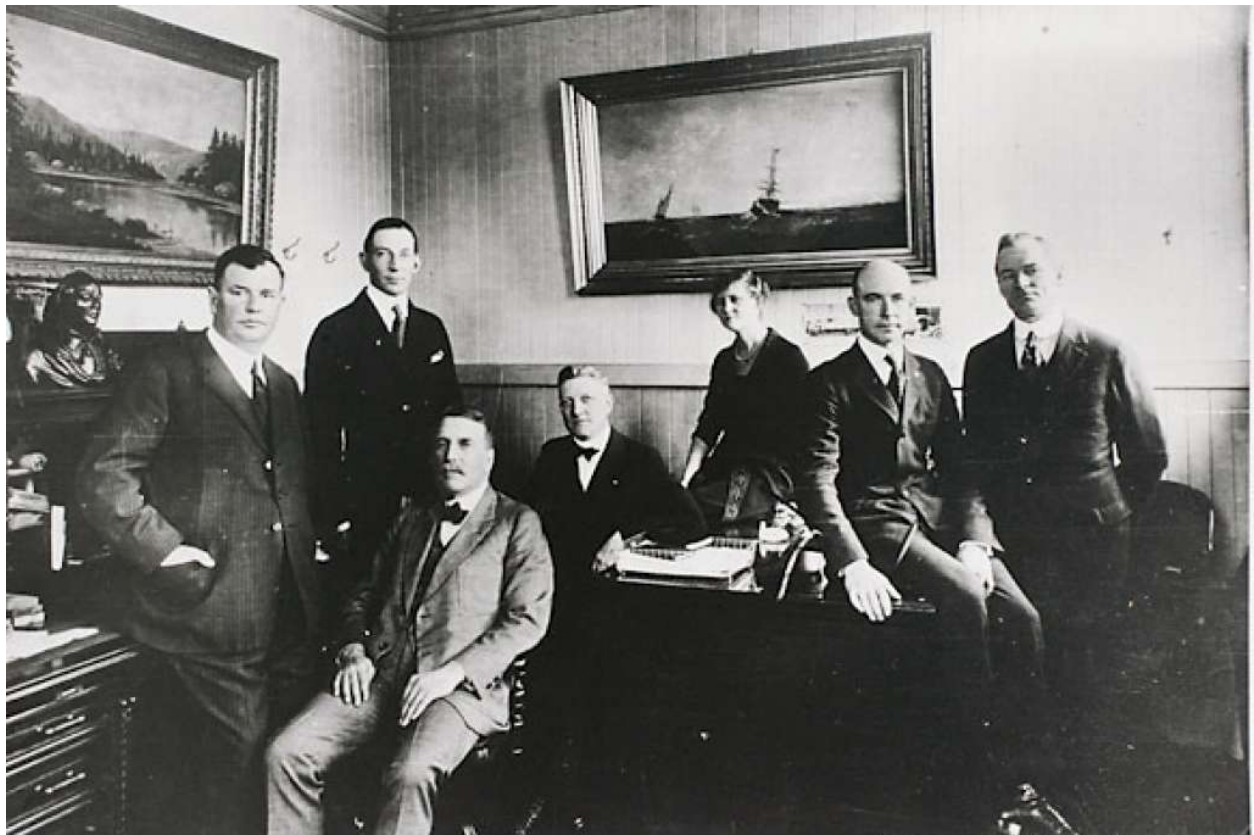
Courtesy of Bobby and Ricky Okamura





Chronicle / Eric Luse

Bobby Okamura holds an old photo of his grandfather, Suyeichi Okamura, (in the middle) in front to the bakery. Ricky Okamura is making Mushi Manju (Steamed Tea Cake) in the backroom of Benkyoda Bakery Story is on Bay Area businesses that are over 100 years old. Benkyodo is a Japanese bakery (making mochi and manju desserts) that was started in 1906. It is still run by the same family, the Okamura brothers. Bobby & Ricky Okamura are grandsons of the founder. During the internment of Japanese Americans in WW2, neighbors kept an eye on the shuttered store and the family was able to reopen it when they returned. Today it is one of the few remaining mochi bakeries in the Bay Area. Suggest a photo of Bobby & Ricky (or at least Bobby - he's the one quoted in the story) making mochi. We will be pairing this with a historic photo that shows the grandfather standing outside the store in 1906. Photographer: Eric Luse / SFChronicle



Courtesy of White Brothers Lumber



Courtesy of White Brothers Lumber



Courtesy of McRoskey Mattress Company



# Last Manju Standing



The Bold Italic

Mar 14, 2010



**By Sarah Han**

*Sometimes a TV show theme song best sums up a situation. When a friend of mine got caught smoking at boarding school, her punishment included writing a letter to her parents about the incident. Her mom was deeply touched by her poignant words, that is until she discovered years later that the letter was composed of the lyrics of the “Facts of Life” theme song.*

*I thought about my friend and her letter when I sat down to write this backstory about Benkyodo Company, a Japanese confectionary/coffee shop in Japantown, because the most fitting words for this story might be the lyrics of the song from “Cheers.”*



## **Trade Secrets**

Benkyodo is an institution in Japantown, not unlike the titular (if imaginary) Cheers bar. It started selling its traditional handmade manju and mochi (confections made with flour, rice powder, or buckwheat, and filled with sweet bean pastes) in 1906 when Suyeichi Okamura opened the shop, originally on Geary Boulevard. The neighborhood had just been established by Japanese immigrants who settled in the yet-undeveloped six block area of the Western Addition—a part of town that was untouched by the great quake and fire that had just rocked the city.

And the area and the business thrived for years. But then World War II happened, and the Okamura family—along with more than 100,000 Japanese Americans living on the Pacific Coast—was relocated to an internment camp. After the war, the shop reopened, and in 1959, moved to its current location at the corner of Buchanan and Sutter streets.

Today, it's one of the three remaining oldest family owned and operated Japanese businesses in Japantown (the other two—Soko Hardware and Uoki Sakai Market—are less than a block away) and is the last remaining manufacturer of manju in San Francisco. Suyeichi's grandsons, Ricky and Bobby Okamura, now run the shop.

Originally, I had contacted the brothers to see if they'd show me how to make their family's sweets, but they were hesitant to share the secrets of their trade, and said they were too busy to talk to me. I respected their wishes, and decided to visit the shop as a customer. Once there I realized that the manju is only half the story.

More than the confections, the experience of visiting the store is what's key to this longtime business. It hit me that Benkyodo pretty much epitomizes this ever-evolving neighborhood. It's a paradoxical mixture of old and new, traditional and pop culture, and Japanese and American influences. It also happens to be a hopping meeting grounds for the Japanese American seniors of the community.

## **Counter Culture**

Located on the other side of Osaka Way, the quaintly cobblestoned area across from the iconic Peace Pagoda and Japantown Center, Benkyodo is somewhat off the beaten track. The store sign is in both Kanji and English, but if you didn't notice it, you might enter Benkyodo and assume

it's an all-American countertop diner. An orange-red formica counter, like one you'd find in an old-time soda fountain, dotted with 12 round vinyl-upholstered stools takes up the right half of the store.

A letter board spells out menu items like ham and “Devil Egg” sandwiches, hamburgers, soda, shakes, and floats. It's not trying to be a throwback diner, but Benkyodo manages to capture a feeling of nostalgia so much better than Mel's or any other cheesy imitation of the past; its authenticity is as pervasive and unapologetic as the savory and beefy odor that filled the air—what I'm assuming is the \$2.50 chili, also available on the menu.

Benkyodo is a no frills sort of joint. A large sign at the back strongly announces “NO RESTROOM.” And no, you're not going to find artisan coffee here. Standard drip is made in an industrial coffee maker; you can get your Blue Bottle down the street at the brand new New People cafe. On this right side of the store, you might think you were in Middle America at some old greasy spoon if you didn't notice that almost everyone around you is of Japanese descent.

But if you were to turn your head to the left side of the store, you'd find yourself staring at the other dead giveaway that you are, indeed, not in Kansas. Sitting neatly lined up on trays behind the glass counters are what defines Benkyodo: their delicate and colorful handmade manju.



### **Service with a Bow**

On my first visit to Benkyodo, I headed straight for the manju counter. An older Japanese American man with stark white hair was ordering a plate of mochi, and as he waited for his package to be wrapped, I sidled up to him and asked what his favorites were. He completely ignored me. I'm not sure if it's because he couldn't hear me, or if he just decided not to be bothered, but I took it as a sign to leave him be.

In any case, I didn't really need help picking out my batch. I chose six manju, which included domyoji (a pink coarsely ground mochi rice dough filled with smooth red bean and wrapped in a salty and earthy cherry blossom leaf), Age (sugared donut ball with red beans), Kinako (a green mochi dusted with soybean flour and filled with smooth red beans), blueberry mochi, and a chocolate mochi filled with marshmallow and white bean.

When I asked the woman behind the counter if the goods were made fresh every morning, she said “Of course!” as if I were crazy to assume otherwise. She laid my manju on a Styrofoam

meat tray and methodically wrapped it in white paper tied with a pink plastic string. She bowed slightly as she handed me my package and told me to be sure to eat my purchases within three days. I got a laugh when I told her not to worry, I planned on eating all of them in one sitting in the next few minutes.

## **Senior Moments**

I ordered a coffee and sat at the one table in the front of the store. While I ate my manju, I took in my surroundings and watched the clientele. A gray-haired woman in a black baseball cap sat at the formica counter and played a game with the middle-aged waitress behind the counter—they were tossing a balled up paper napkin back and forth to each other. It was a strange but touching moment between friends.

Towards the back of the store a couple of old men hunkered together, one of which was my favorite customer—an older Japanese-American man who was probably a looker back in the '50s. His hair was in style of someone from the era: gray but slicked back in a lazy pomp. Most of the customers knew each other and chatted, sometimes in Japanese, other times in English, and sometimes a mixture of both. At one point co-owner Bobby Okamura appeared from out of the back and made a few jokes with a couple of his favorite long-time customers.

On my second visit to Benkyodo, three of the five customers were ones I saw the week before, including my old man crush and the woman in the black cap. By 3:52 p.m., about an hour before closing time, the place was packed with 13 people. The automatic doorbell chimed every time people entered.

Many customers came in and out of Benkyodo with the sole purpose of buying manju, but most of the regulars sitting around the coffee shop weren't eating traditional Japanese snacks, instead sipping tea and coffee, eating potato chips, and American style donuts which were sold out of a pink take-out box on the diner top counter. It might seem strange given we were in a traditional Japanese sweet shop, but we were in San Francisco, after all, and not Osaka.

Right before I began to gather my things to finally leave, I saw an aged regular pushing a few bills to the woman behind the diner counter. He shrugged, motioned to the manju counter, and whispered that the money was for the order of manju that the woman at the counter apparently would not take from him.

As I sat and watched the senior social scene over those two afternoons, my mind would involuntarily queue up that “Cheers” theme song, but come to think of it, maybe it should've been the one from “Golden Girls”—“Thank You For Being a Friend.”



### **Do It Yourself**

Visit Benkyodo to buy a single manju for about a buck each, or buy a plate or box to take home to enjoy. Or hang out, get a cup of coffee, and enjoy the company of the locs. Benkyodo is cash or check only, and is closed on Sundays. Go to their website for their featured manju list and descriptions.

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*Design by Indhira Rojas*



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Origins of a fortune cookie

By Cedric S. Yeh and Noriko Sanefuji, July 8, 2010



Earlier this year we invited Jennifer 8 Lee, author of *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, to meet with our staff and share her insights into the mysteries of Chinese food. One topic that really caught our attention was the origin of the fortune cookie. You might be surprised to discover that fortune cookies are not a Chinese creation but rather an American one by way of Japan. I know I was surprised and I grew up around fortune cookies, although I always preferred almond cookies.

Excited about this revelation, research specialist Noriko Sanefuji went out to investigate. Armed with information from Ms. Lee, Noriko contacted Gary Ono, whose grandfather, Suyeichi Okamura, an immigrant from Japan, is one of the claimants to the original fortune cookie in the U.S.

In 1906, Suyeichi started Benkyodo, a Japanese confectionery store in San Francisco. The store supplied fortune cookies (Japanese fortune cookies are a regional delicacy and much larger than the ones we know) to Makoto Hagiwara, who ran the Japanese Tea Garden at the Golden Gate Park.

Mr. Ono showed Noriko a selection of antique sembei iron kata (hand skillet mold), which were used in the Japanese Tea Garden to make the fortune cookies one at a time. Although some of the katas were plain, others had engraved initials (M.H. for Makoto Hagiwara) or had logos for the Tea Garden (Mount Fuji with "Japan Tea"). Mr. Ono was kind enough to donate three katas to the Smithsonian.



Noriko Sanefuji (left) and Gary Ono (right).



Senbei irons. Gift of Suyeichi & Owai Okamura family, Benkyodo Co., San Francisco. Photo credit: Gary Ono.



(Left) Senbei iron with engraved initials, M.H. for Makoto Hagiwara. (Right) Senbei Iron with Japan Tea logo. Gifts of Suyeichi & Owai Okamura family, Benkyodo Co., San Francisco. Photo credits: Gary Ono.

Benkyodo continued to be the Japanese Tea Garden's sole supplier of fortune cookies until the outbreak of World War II, when Japanese Americans in California were sent to internment camps. Chinese businessmen used the opportunity and started to produce their own fortune cookies, selling them to Chinese restaurants, and setting in motion an association between cookie and restaurant that continues today.

So what do you think? Did you know that about fortune cookies? I didn't even get to the fortune part of the cookie. So I'll leave you with this question, what is the best fortune you've ever gotten? And for those wondering, Gary says his grandfather resumed making fortune cookies after the war ended.

*Cedric Yeh is Deputy Chair and Associate Curator in the Division of Armed Forces History and Noriko Sanefuji is a research specialist in the Division of Work and Industry at the National Museum of American History.*



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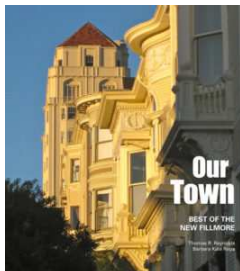
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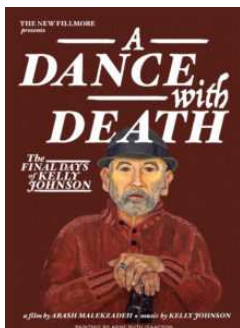
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## A gathering place in Japantown

Posted on **October 6, 2017** by editors

Photo illustration of Benkyodo by Frank Wing

BENKYODO, with its colorful counter and corner tables, for a century has been a gathering place in Japantown for local business people, tourists and generations of Japanese Americans who love mochi and manju.

### FOR 110 YEARS, BENKYODO A FIXTURE IN JAPANTOWN

By FRAN MORELAND JOHNS

After turning out more than 800 dessert treats a day for more than three decades, some people might lose their sweet tooth.

But not Bobby Okamura, co-owner with his brother Ricky of Benkyodo, the Japantown fixture at the corner of Sutter and Buchanan.

"Well, I have to taste the beans while I'm cooking to make sure the flavor's right," he says, admitting that his favorite is Shiro an, or white bean. The beans eventually become filling for either mochi, a molded sweet and soft treat, or manju, a bean-filled delicacy with a baked outer shell.

Bobby Okamura was in the back bakery of the popular Japantown spot recently, taking a rare brief break from his chores. At the front counter, two teenagers were deliberating between blueberry and mango mochi, while a no-nonsense mother with a toddler in tow quickly pointed out her selections. Two elderly men sipped tea and chatted in Japanese at a corner table and other customers of all ages — these days a 50-50 mix of Asians and non-Asians — wandered in and out selecting mochi, manju and other treats.

**Benkyodo was founded more than a century ago, in 1906**, by Ricky and Bobby's grandfather, Suyeichi Okamura. It was originally located on Geary Boulevard near Buchanan, where it remained until the store was forced to close during World War II. The senior Okamuras and their children were interned during the war at Camp Amache in Colorado. It was there that Ricky and Bobby's parents met.

## Current Issue



## STREET TALK

### LA BOULANGE TURNING INTO A NEW PIZZERIA

Workers are hammering and sawing away inside the long-shuttered La Boulange storefront on Fillmore. A sign promises it will be the new home of **Apizza**, serving up "a pizza for everyone" that is fast and affordable — complete with organic dough and sauce.

Details are scant, but the quintessentially French Pierre Lauga, in charge for owner Pascal Rigo, promises pizzas will be priced reasonably, starting at \$2.75 for a 10-inch. There's speculation the ovens will be fired up and serving in late March.

In addition to pizza, beer and frozen yogurt will also be on the menu.

### ANOTHER "ONLY IN THE FILLMORE" FAREWELL

For six years, the helpful staff has offered hundreds of tastes at **Spice Ace**, the





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"I think it was hardest on the older generation," Bobby says. "The kids just wanted to get on with their lives."

During redevelopment, Benkyodo was relocated to its present site on the Buchanan Mall. Ownership soon passed to Ricky and Bobby's father, Hirofumi Okamura. The two brothers took over in 1990.



Bobby Okamura with mochi and manju at Benkyodo, started by his grandfather in 1906.

Benkyodo, with its colorful counter and corner tables, has been a gathering place for local business people, tourists and generations of Japanese Americans.

Warren Eijima, 96 and semi-retired from his career in finance, still occasionally goes there for coffee with his son. Of the group of men who met often for breakfast at Benkyodo throughout the last half of the 20th century, he says: "They were a stick-together bunch."

Riyo Kunisawa was a breakfast regular while she worked at nearby Kimochi. "I would come in early and go to Benkyodo," she says. "The regulars now are most often the shop owners, merchants and other business people of Japantown."

**A fourth-generation family ownership seems unlikely.** Bobby has stepchildren who live abroad; Ricky's three children are grown and pursuing other careers. With the closing of two other Japanese confectionaries in the 1990s, Benkyodo became one of the few remaining sources of mochi and manju in the Bay area.

Asked if he might consider training a few young people in the art of creating mochi and manju so the tradition won't die, Bobby says, "I'm not thinking that far ahead."

For now, the shop is a family affair in ownership, management and atmosphere. Bobby's wife Terri runs the front counter, where coffee, tea, deli fare and conversation are regularly served. Across from her, longtime family friend Benh Nakajo greets customers seeking treats to go.

Ricky starts the days off at 5 a.m. Bobby joins him later, and the others are there to open at 8 a.m. Benkyodo is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for the first and third Monday of each month.

Bobby and Terri close up together, but then stay out of the kitchen. As for dinner, Bobby says, "We get take out."

Filed under: [Food, Drink & Lodging](#), [Neighborhood History](#)

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culinary boutique at 1821 Steiner named one of the world's best spice shops.

But the flavor of the month in January was bittersweet. Early in the new year, owners and neighborhood residents Olivia Dillan and Ben Balzer announced they would be closing the shop. Then came an outpouring of appreciation from fans who swarmed the shop to stock their spice racks.

"It was our biggest month ever — even with a 30 percent discount," says Dillan. "It was a customer success and a culinary success, if not a financial success. That means a lot."

## POPPING UP AND STICKING AROUND

Lots of new pop-ups are showing up on Fillmore, and some of them stick around.

**Zuri**, the three-month one-dress shop at 2029 Fillmore, has now moved into a long-term home at 1902 Fillmore, where **Narumi** Japanese antiques shuttered last fall after 37 years.

And **Sweet & Spark**, which first popped up inside **Mudpie**, has taken over the former hair salon at 2412 Fillmore.

"The state of retail has changed dramatically," said Vasilios Kiriis, executive director of Fillmore's merchants and a citywide merchant leader, who sees "many advantages" to pop-ups. "Business owners can dip their feet into a commercial community and see if their product or service is a good fit."

## A BUFFETT'S BACK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Investor Warren Buffett's late wife Susie lived in Pacific Heights for a time, and his son Peter owned a home on Scott Street.

Now his **Berkshire Hathaway** branded

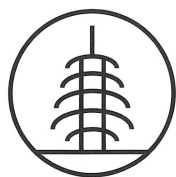
# San Francisco TRAVELER

A Guide for Visitors



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# Japantown



The Peace Pagoda in Japantown

San Francisco's Japantown is the oldest of only three Japantowns remaining in the United States. Bordered roughly by Geary Boulevard between Laguna Street and Fillmore Street, look for the bright red banners adorned with cherry blossoms and the Peace Pagoda.

**HOW TO GET HERE** The 2, 3, 22, 24, 38 and 38R buses will bring you to this distinctive neighborhood.

**WHAT TO SEE & DO** The Japan Center, a shopping complex on the north side of Geary, is anchored at both ends by the Hotel Kabuki and Sundance Kabuki cinema. Drop by Pika Pika and discover photo booth heaven to snap a unique souvenir. The Kabuki Springs & Spa offers Japanese-style bathing followed by another relaxing art of Japan: Shiatsu massage.

**WHERE TO EAT** Cultural menu offerings range from sushi; manju, a rice confection still being hand-made by family-owned Benkyodo; ramen, a noodle soup dish; matcha, a green tea beverage; and shabu-shabu, a meat-and-vegetable combo simmered in a tableside hot pot.

**WHEN TO VISIT** A great place to visit any time, Japantown also offers a number of festivals throughout the year, including the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival; "Kodomo No Hi" or Children's Day in May; and the Nihonmachi Street Fair in August.

## MUST SEES

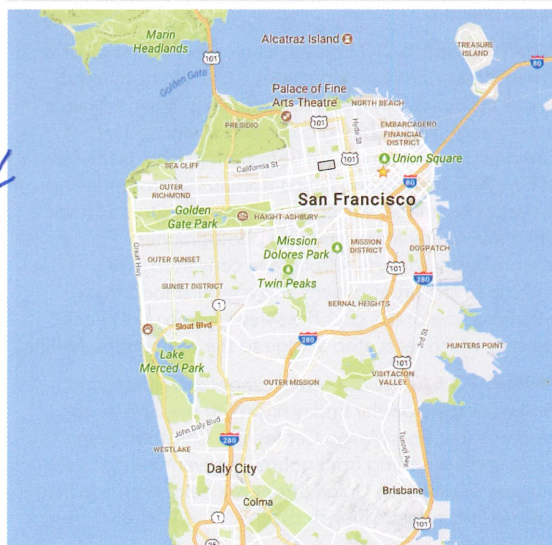
HOTEL KABUKI [hotelkabuki.com](http://hotelkabuki.com)

BENKYODO [benkyodocompany.com](http://benkyodocompany.com)

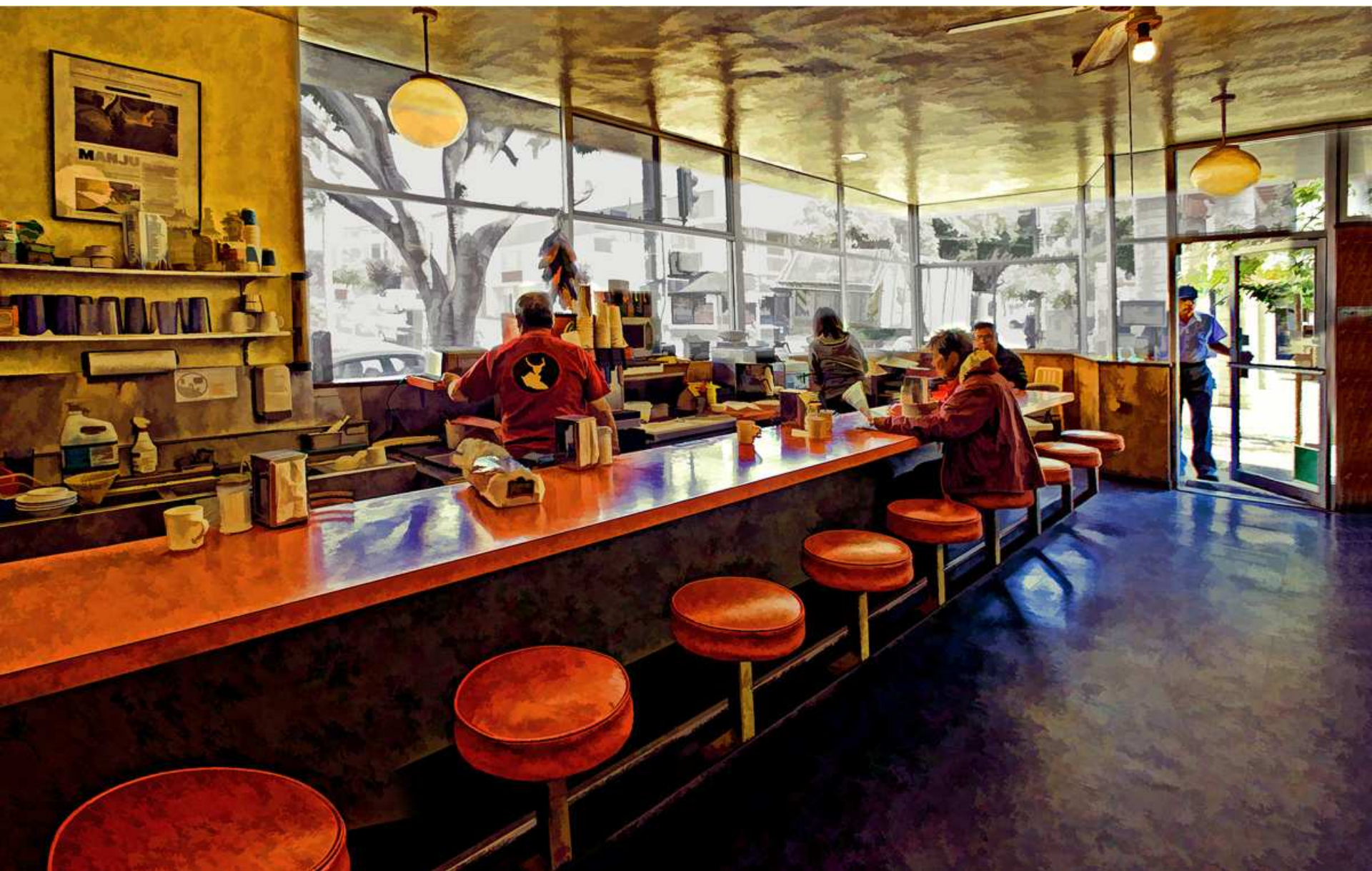
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL [nccbf.org](http://nccbf.org)

JAPANTOWN [sfjapantown.org](http://sfjapantown.org)

NIHONMACHI STREET FAIR [nihonmachistreetfair.org](http://nihonmachistreetfair.org)







**Legacy  
Business  
Registry**

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2018-19-029  
*Business Name:* Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation  
*Business Address:* 330 Ellis St.  
*District:* District 6  
*Applicant:* Karen Hanrahan, President and CEO  
*Nomination Date:* February 11, 2019  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney

**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

330 Ellis Street from 1929 to Present (90 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:** N/A

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** February 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo  
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program





Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

**MATT HANEY**

February 11, 2019

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director  
San Francisco Small Business Commission  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi,

I am honored to have the privilege of nominating and supporting the Glide Foundation for San Francisco's Legacy Business Program.

As I'm sure you know, GLIDE has a long and proud history as a center-piece of San Francisco culture. Originally established in 1929 to promote religion, charity and education, it was amidst the many social movements of the 1960's that GLIDE became the institution it is today. Under the leadership of Rev. Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani, the Glide Foundation has taken an aggressively progressive stance, challenging inequities and standing with the poor, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and others facing oppression, isolation and stigma.

Today, the Glide Foundation remains the spiritual heart of San Francisco. Located in the Tenderloin within the boundaries of the Compton's Transgender Cultural District, GLIDE has transformed the lives of countless San Franciscans and upholds some of San Francisco's most sacred values. The Glide Foundation is a beacon of hope, an agent for social change, and continues to serve as a refuge for those who come here in search of freedom, safety, community, and support.

San Francisco is a better city because of the Glide Foundation, and GLIDE deserves all the recognition and protections that the Legacy Business Program and City of San Francisco have to offer.

Sincerely,

Matt Haney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Haney", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

## 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.

<b>NAME OF BUSINESS:</b>		
The Glide Foundation		
<b>BUSINESS OWNER(S)</b> (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
The Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation		
<b>CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:</b>		<b>TELEPHONE:</b>
330 Ellis Street San Francisco, CA 94102		[REDACTED]
		<b>EMAIL:</b>
		[REDACTED]
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<b>FACEBOOK PAGE:</b>	<b>YELP PAGE</b>
www.Glide.org	https://www.facebook.com/glidesf	

<b>APPLICANT'S NAME</b>	
Karen J. Hanrahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
<b>APPLICANT'S TITLE</b>	
President and CEO	
<b>APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:</b>	<b>TELEPHONE:</b>
The Glide Foundation 330 Ellis Street San Francisco, CA 94102	[REDACTED]
	<b>EMAIL:</b>
	[REDACTED]

<b>SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:</b>	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):</b>
0377995	C0136653

<b>OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff</b>	
<b>NAME OF NOMINATOR:</b>	<b>DATE OF NOMINATION:</b>

## 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
330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA	94102	November 5, 1929
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
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		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.

Karen J. Hanrahan 10/11/2018

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature: 



October 11, 2018

Richard Kurylo  
Legacy Business Program  
City and County of San Francisco  
Office of Small Business  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110  
San Francisco, CA 94102



Re: The Glide Foundation's Legacy Business Application

Dear Mr. Kurylo,

It's my pleasure to submit this Legacy Business Registry application for the GLIDE Foundation. The Glide Foundation's role in our city is multifaceted – and absolutely essential – as the moral conscience, voice of the voiceless and safety-net social-service provider for the most vulnerable members of our community. The Legacy Business designation will greatly assist us in our critical work.

The Glide Foundation is known across the Bay Area and beyond for its record of service to the Tenderloin as a beloved institution anchoring the corner of Ellis and Taylor. Since its founding in 1929 and its transformation in the 1960s with the passionate advocacy of Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani, GLIDE has worked to make its ethos of radical inclusivity and unconditional love a reality for citizens living on our city's margins, whether they are homeless or living in extreme poverty.

The Glide Foundation has been instrumental in preserving the Tenderloin's unique culture and history, as well as its status as one of the only working-class neighborhoods left in the city. It is also a key center for the city's endangered African-American population. As the current president, I have taken up the mantle to ensure continuity with a rich legacy and transform the organization for its next 50 years of alleviating suffering and stabilizing lives.

Over the past five decades in the organization's long history, our work has grown and evolved to address client needs with deep cultural competence and the utmost respect for the dignity of each individual. Through our core Daily Free Meals program, Walk-In-Center for shelter-bed reservations and other services, our Family Youth and Childcare Program, and our pioneering, sector leading harm reduction work, GLIDE addresses all aspects of well-being across the cultural and age spectrum.

The Glide Foundation's record of service and longevity in San Francisco are worthy of a Legacy Business designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Hanrahan", with a long, sweeping underline.

Karen J. Hanrahan  
President and CEO



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GLIDE FOUNDATION**

### **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.**

In 1929, San Francisco philanthropist Lizzie Glide founded the Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation ("Glide Foundation" or "GLIDE") and purchased the land at Ellis and Taylor Streets at 330 Ellis Street in San Francisco, where the foundation still sits today.

The Glide Foundation and its suite of programs began in 1929. The building that also included an open space for a sanctuary on the second floor was built in 1931. Moreover, for nearly 90 years, the Glide Foundation has provided the local community with uninterrupted programs and services that range from feeding the homeless and providing shelter to hosting Sunday Celebrations for all walks of life without concern for race, creed, economic and social status, sexual orientation or gender identity. All and anyone is welcome at GLIDE.

By the early 1960s, the winds of change were blowing mightily through San Francisco, and nowhere were these forces of transformation more visible than in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. In 1963, a young African-American leader named Cecil Williams came to San Francisco determined to bring life back into the marginalized and neglected Tenderloin community. He did this by creating programs that were funded and housed by the Glide Foundation and he oversaw Sunday Celebrations. Cecil created a unique vision of building a beloved community rooted in unconditional love and radical inclusivity that have guided GLIDE's programs and services for over 55 years, and that continue to shape GLIDE's future.

Glide Foundation welcomed San Francisco's diverse communities of hippies, outcasts, the poor and the marginalized. By 1968, the energetic, jazz-filled celebrations were packed with people of all classes, hues and lifestyles. That year, San Francisco State College erupted in protests over demands for ethnic studies and affirmative action. Cecil Williams and the GLIDE community helped lead the demonstrations as GLIDE became a home for political change and offered a safe space to groups ranging from the Hookers Convention to the American Indian Movement and the Black Panthers. The meals program, launched in the 1960s, started with serving one free dinner a week. As a decade of clamoring change came to a close, poet and dancer Janice Mirikitani had also just been appointed Coordinator of programs for the Glide Foundation.

As the Vietnam War continued to escalate in the early 1970s, Glide Foundation quickly became known as the counter-culture rallying point in San Francisco. Everyone from music promoter Bill Graham to Angela Davis came to GLIDE to speak out. The Glide Foundation's importance as a

meeting ground for all people was underlined in 1974 when William Randolph Hearst turned to Cecil Williams to help secure the release of his daughter, Patty Hearst, from the Symbionese Liberation Army. When gay activist and City Supervisor Harvey Milk was killed in 1978, Cecil and the GLIDE community provided comfort and healing to those who were frightened, grieving and potentially violent. Time and again, San Francisco looked to GLIDE for moral guidance.

Guided by Janice's leadership as Coordinator for GLIDE's programs and Cecil's steady vision, GLIDE programs increased in size and scope. The flagship Free Meals Program kicked into overdrive in 1980, feeding the hungry and homeless three times a day. In the mid-1980s, crack cocaine swept through the Tenderloin, hitting African-American communities especially hard. GLIDE board and staff listened to the people affected and began slowly piecing together a program for recovery. As the AIDS crisis raged on, GLIDE placed itself at the heart of the epidemic, raising awareness and creating the GLIDE-Goodlett HIV/AIDS prevention, education and counseling program in 1989. In 1990, with the War on Drugs was failing communities across the nation, over a thousand activists and community members accompanied Cecil Williams into San Francisco's Valencia Gardens to call people out to recovery. GLIDE walked the walk.

In 1997, GLIDE opened its free Health Clinic. Staffed by volunteer and paid nurse practitioners, doctors, psychiatrists and UCSF graduate nursing students, the free clinic offered advice and healing to those accustomed to being turned away from other treatment facilities. The Cecil Williams Community House and the Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center (FYCC) were opened in 1999 to fill the growing need for housing and childcare.

Today, San Francisco and the Bay Area are at a crossroads, roiled by a historic economic boom that has also highlighted an ever-widening gap between those with means and those left behind. Historic racial-ethnic enclaves are disappearing, and as the African-American population of San Francisco declines, Glide Foundation's building remains a historical gathering place. Even GLIDE's own Tenderloin neighborhood—long a “safe space” for people down on their luck (and the organizations that house, feed and support them)—is now part of the fierce citywide competition over limited space and resources.

For more than 50 years and counting, the Glide Foundation remains a place where old, destructive patterns are thrown out and new, healing ones are created; where the power of love is mobilized for personal and social betterment and growth; and where a simple call goes out to all colors, classes, genders, ages and sexual orientations: It's time to love unconditionally.

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

There have not been circumstances which have caused GLIDE to cease operations for six months or more.

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

GLIDE is not a family-owned business.

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

The Board of Trustees of Glide Foundation has owned the site at 330 Ellis Street since Lizzie Glide purchased the land in 1929.

**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.**

Not applicable.

**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.**

GLIDE currently has formal recognition as a historic site, as listed in the California registry. In addition, the Planning Department classifies Glide Memorial Church as "Category A" (Historic Resource Present) with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The building has major importance, and GLIDE is mentioned as a key historical institution in the Compton's Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (TLGB) Cultural District.

## **CRITERION 2**

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

The Glide Foundation community has always actively participated in San Francisco's history. Sometimes controversial, but always driven by love, here are some of the highlights of GLIDE's history and activism that has helped shape San Francisco's history:

- Created the Council on Religion and Homosexuality, a pioneer organization in the LGBT movement in San Francisco.
- Supported Vanguard, a program serving male prostitutes in the Tenderloin.
- Initiated Citizens Alert, a group investigating police brutality.
- Opened the Free Medical Clinic, a joint project with the Black People's Free Store.
- Established Huckleberry's, a sanctuary for runaway teens.

- Hosted the National Sex and Drug Forum offering courses to help professionals in basic sex and drug education.
- Created the Prisoners Employment Service to find jobs for men and women being released from prison.
- Performed gay covenants at GLIDE in the 1960s.
- Provided a location for the first annual Hookers Convention.
- Operated GLIDE's Center for Self Determination.
- Began distributing bags of groceries to the poor.
- Launched the current model of Daily Free Meals, offering 3 meals per day, 7 days per week.
- Created the New Moral Minority, in direct response to Representative Newt Gingrich's Moral Majority.
- Hosted three national crack cocaine conferences in 1989, 1990 and 1992.
- Established a women's center.
- Created the First San Francisco Safer Consumption Site Demonstration.
- Serves as the largest Shelter Reservation Referral Site.

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

From the Civil Rights Movement and the Summer of Love to Black Lives Matter and March for Our Lives, the Glide Foundation has been part of the push for change in San Francisco – and across the nation. GLIDE's participation includes:

- Boycott of San Francisco Public Schools over de facto segregation.
- Memorial at Glide for George Moscone, Harvey Milk and the victims of Jonestown.
- Glide hosted a San Francisco breakfast gathering for Coretta Scott King.
- Services, support and comfort to Loma Prieta Earthquake victims.
- Movie Pursuit of Happyness starring Will Smith tells the story of a former homeless GLIDE client who went on to become a millionaire entrepreneur; Cecil Williams appears as himself in the movie.
- GLIDE's Family, Youth, and Childcare Center participated in the National School Walkout.
- The only memorial service in the West Coast for GLIDE member, Maya Angelou.

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

The Glide Foundation has made its way into local and national media throughout its history. Below is not a comprehensive list, as GLIDE's existence began in 1929, but includes many of the important appearances in the news and culture over the years.

#### Books:

- The Tenderloin: Sex, Crime, and Resistance in the Heart of San Francisco by Randy Shaw.
- Beyond the Possible: 50 Years of Creating Radical Change in a Community Called Glide by Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani.
- I'm Listening as Fast as I Can: The Night Ministry in San Francisco by Donald E Stuart.
- Shredding Silence: Poetry and Prose by Janice Mirikitani.

#### Culture:

- The Tenderloin Museum features Glide as an integral piece of Tenderloin history.
- Pursuit of Happyness, starring Will Smith, is based on the true story of a formerly homeless GLIDE client who became a millionaire entrepreneur.
- Vibrations for a New People, CBS series hosted by Cecil Williams for 20 years; episode interviewing Angela Davis.

#### Print, Television, Radio, and Online Media:

California Healthline, CBS San Francisco; Hoodline, KGO-TV, KPFA (Berkeley public radio station), KQED, LIFE Magazine, NBC Bay Area, Newsweek, PBS Television, Philadelphia Inquirer, Politico, San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Magazine, SF Weekly, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, TIME Magazine, USA Today, Wired and World Outlook Magazine.

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

Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani are San Francisco icons—they were featured on Muni signage during the Summer of Love 50th anniversary, and several years ago lovingly made into bobble-head statues distributed to San Francisco Giants fans.

Other significant figures associated with the Glide Foundation include: Warren Buffett, Susan Thompson Buffet (former volunteer), Mayor Willie Brown, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sammy Davis Jr. (frequent performer and volunteer), Coretta Scott King; Joan Baez, Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, Angela Davis, Robin Williams, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, mayors of San Francisco (since Mayor Shelly), members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Governor Jerry Brown.

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

The Glide Foundation provides the most vulnerable and historically underserved members of our community with sustenance, security and opportunities for both immediate and long-term stabilization.

GLIDE serves a diverse cross-section of homeless, low-income and marginalized people with a comprehensive suite of programs. GLIDE's long-running Daily Free Meals program is the only program in San Francisco that serves three free, nutritious meals per day, 364 days per year, to anyone in need of a hot meal. The first-floor Walk-In Center provides immediate crisis



intervention and safety net services to anyone walking through its doors. For the largely homeless and low-income individuals and families that it serves, GLIDE is a crucial ally on the path to self-sufficiency.

GLIDE's Women's Center offers direct support services to help mitigate the harm for women facing domestic violence and for those seeking to heal from past traumas. This safe and supportive community empowers survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, abuse and stalking by providing culturally-sensitive education, prevention and intervention. The Harm Reduction team serves approximately 4,500 people annually.

Targeted HIV and Hep-C counseling, testing, navigation and linkage to care, as well as syringe access services, drug overdose prevention and education training and Narcan distribution make up major components of our program, as are street and community outreach.

The Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center (FYCC) provides much-needed support to working families through opportunities for children to learn and develop while allowing their parents to maintain employment. The Licensed Childcare program provides high-quality, full-day, year-round, licensed childcare in a safe, nurturing environment for up to 38 children. For school-age children, FYCC runs year-round after-school programming. FYCC's Family Resource Center (FRC) offers culturally sensitive services to families including family case management, parenting, literacy and family engagement training, parenting workshops, family events and field trips. Services are available in Spanish, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Arabic.

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

The Glide Foundation is located in the heart of the Tenderloin, a diverse San Francisco neighborhood with a rich culture and history, surrounded by great wealth—yet most clients are struggling to afford housing and food. More than a quarter of the Tenderloin neighborhood's residents live at or below the federal poverty guideline, which is itself less than San Francisco's Self-Sufficiency Standard. The median household income in San Francisco is \$81,294; the median income in the Tenderloin is \$25,362, which is less than half of the city's Self-Sufficiency Standard of \$59,652 for a family of three. With so little to live on, people are faced with a choice between hygiene supplies and food—and, not surprisingly, most people choose food. Our clients face complex challenges including substance use, mental illness, homelessness and previous incarceration, which sometimes cause other community organizations to turn them away. We anticipate continued strong demand for GLIDE's services.

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

The Glide Memorial Church at the corner of Ellis and Taylor streets is a building of major significance, culturally and architecturally. The corner has been a sanctuary and place of refuge for thousands of San Francisco residents in need. The colorful stained-glass windows on the Ellis Street side of the building are iconic to Glide Foundation and its services. The windows are of

bright square designs and do not have any religious symbols or saintly images. In fact, the main hall is non-described. There are seats and a large stage in the front. There are many programs and events that are held in this open space: community meetings, yoga, social justice film screenings, music rehearsals and performances, Sunday Celebrations, plays, classes and workshops, political rallies, community organizing and poetry sessions.

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

Not only does GLIDE serve as a landmark representing hope and love for our community at the corner of Ellis and Taylor, but the services we provide onsite are essential to the neighborhood that surrounds us. If we were to move from this location or close down altogether, it would leave roughly 10,000 people per year without basic necessities such as food and the wrap-around support they need to stabilize their lives.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

From the early-20th century vision of Lizzie Glide, through the chaotic 60s and 70s, and into the new millennium, unconditional love and radical inclusivity guide everything GLIDE does.

The Glide Foundation operates an efficient, welcoming suite of programs that serve as a lifeline to so many San Franciscans living in extreme poverty. Daily Free Meals provides three meals per day, 364 days per year, to anyone in need of a hot meal. Other programs address the complex, interconnected needs of our clients, including housing assistance through our Walk-in Center; intimate partner violence counseling and prevention; substance use recovery; childcare, afterschool and summer programs for K-5; a family resource center; HIV/Hepatitis C outreach and prevention; a drop-in legal clinic (in partnership with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights); remedial education; a newly launched internal Workforce Development program; and on-site access to primary and mental health care. GLIDE is also focusing more deeply on women and families of color, who are at risk of homelessness, as well as women emerging from incarceration. In all these programs, through every client interaction, on every day of the year, GLIDE manifests unconditional love and radical inclusivity. While our programs may shift and adapt to the changing needs of the times, without these values we would not be GLIDE.

**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)**

Commitment to our clients and meeting them 'where they are' will always be the hallmark of GLIDE's services. At GLIDE, we honor the small traditions such as grocery bag and toy giveaways

during the holidays and serving our GLIDE “Famous” Fried Chicken every Thursday without fail. These traditions lend a sense of stability to our clients’ lives.

GLIDE has always advocated for marginalized peoples including people who identify as LGBTQ+, people of color, people who use drugs, seniors, homeless people and other marginalized groups whose voices are not heard. Current programs such as the Unconditional Legal Clinic; Center for Social Justice; Rabbi at GLIDE; Harm Reduction outreach, testing, and distribution of clean supplies; Daily Free Meals; and monthly Senior Socials continue what GLIDE has been up to for more than 50 years. Our renowned weekly celebrations bring out the beautiful diversity of San Francisco.

**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.).**

The most notable feature is certainly the stained glass facing Ellis and Taylor streets.

**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.**

Not applicable.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GLIDE FOUNDATION**

### **Office of Small Business Staff Report and Supplemental Narrative**

#### **The Glide Foundation**

The Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation (“Glide Foundation” or “GLIDE”) was established in 1929 as “a benevolent and religious corporation” in accordance with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Per the Articles of Incorporation, the specific purposes of the Glide Foundation were the following:

“(a) To promote religion, charity and education ... according to the doctrines accepted and adopted by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....

“(b) To build, establish, own, maintain, and support churches, place[s] of public worship, parsonages, schools, and colleges, and to administer the temporalities and to manage the property and estate of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....

“(c) To build, establish, own, maintain, conduct and support an evangelistic center or evangelistic centers, a place or places of public worship, parsonages, bible schools, schools for the training of men and women for the various forms of Christian work, and community houses, gymnasiums, and social halls or other activities in connection with said evangelistic centers and places of public worship ... in accordance with the ... Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....”

#### **The Methodist Episcopal Church, South**

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South was a Methodist denomination resulting from the 19th-century split over the issue of slavery in the Methodist Episcopal Church (“MEC”). Disagreement on this issue had been increasing in strength for decades between churches of the North and South; in 1844 it resulted in a schism at the General Conference of the MEC held in Louisville, Kentucky. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South maintained its own polity for nearly 100 years, until 1939.<sup>1</sup>

The MEC was the oldest and largest Methodist denomination in the United States from its founding in 1784 until 1939. It was also the first religious denomination in the U.S. to organize itself on a national basis. In 1939, the MEC reunited with two breakaway Methodist denominations (the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) to form the Methodist Church. In 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church, today one of the largest and most widely spread religious denominations in America.<sup>2</sup>

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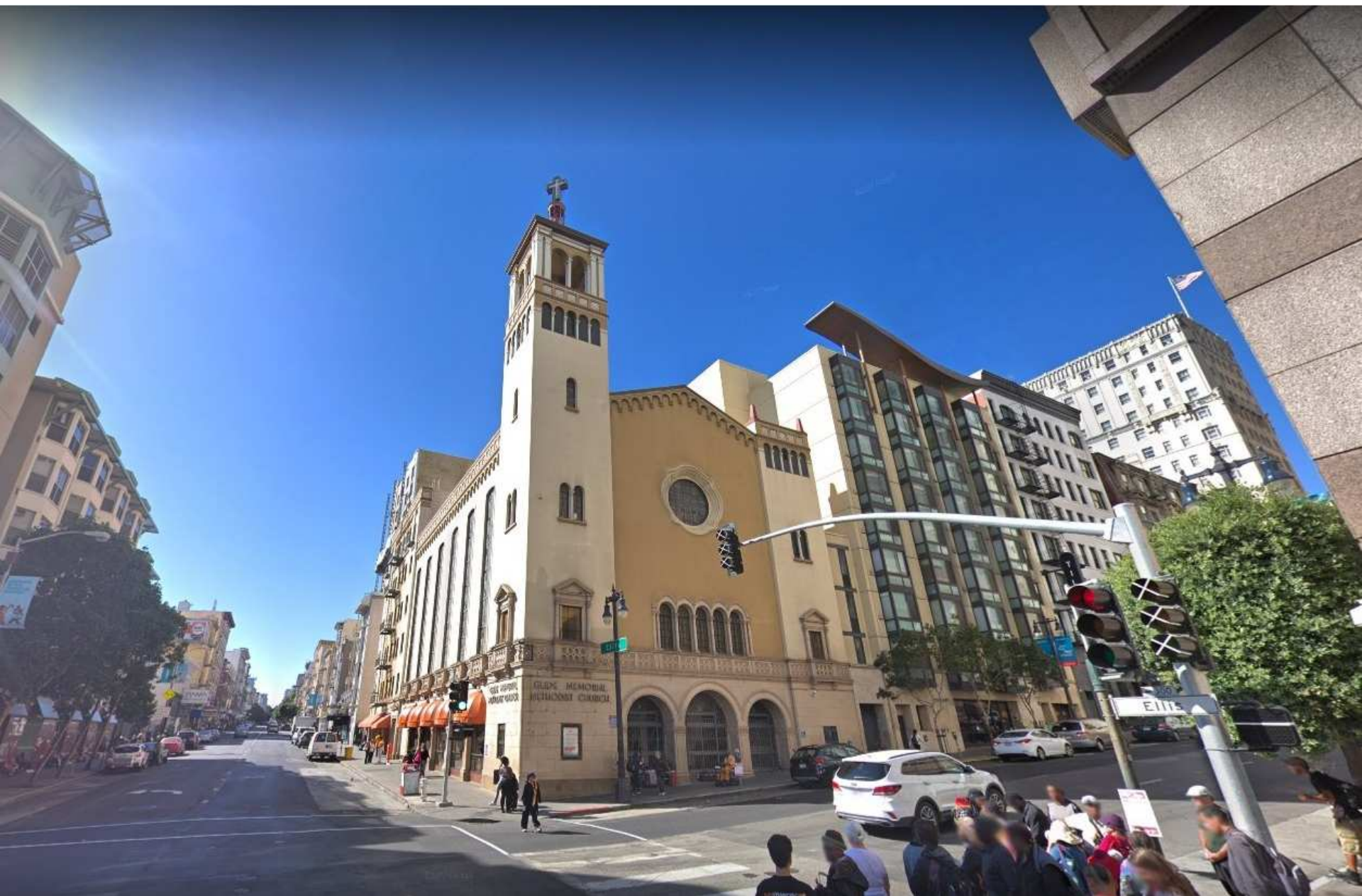
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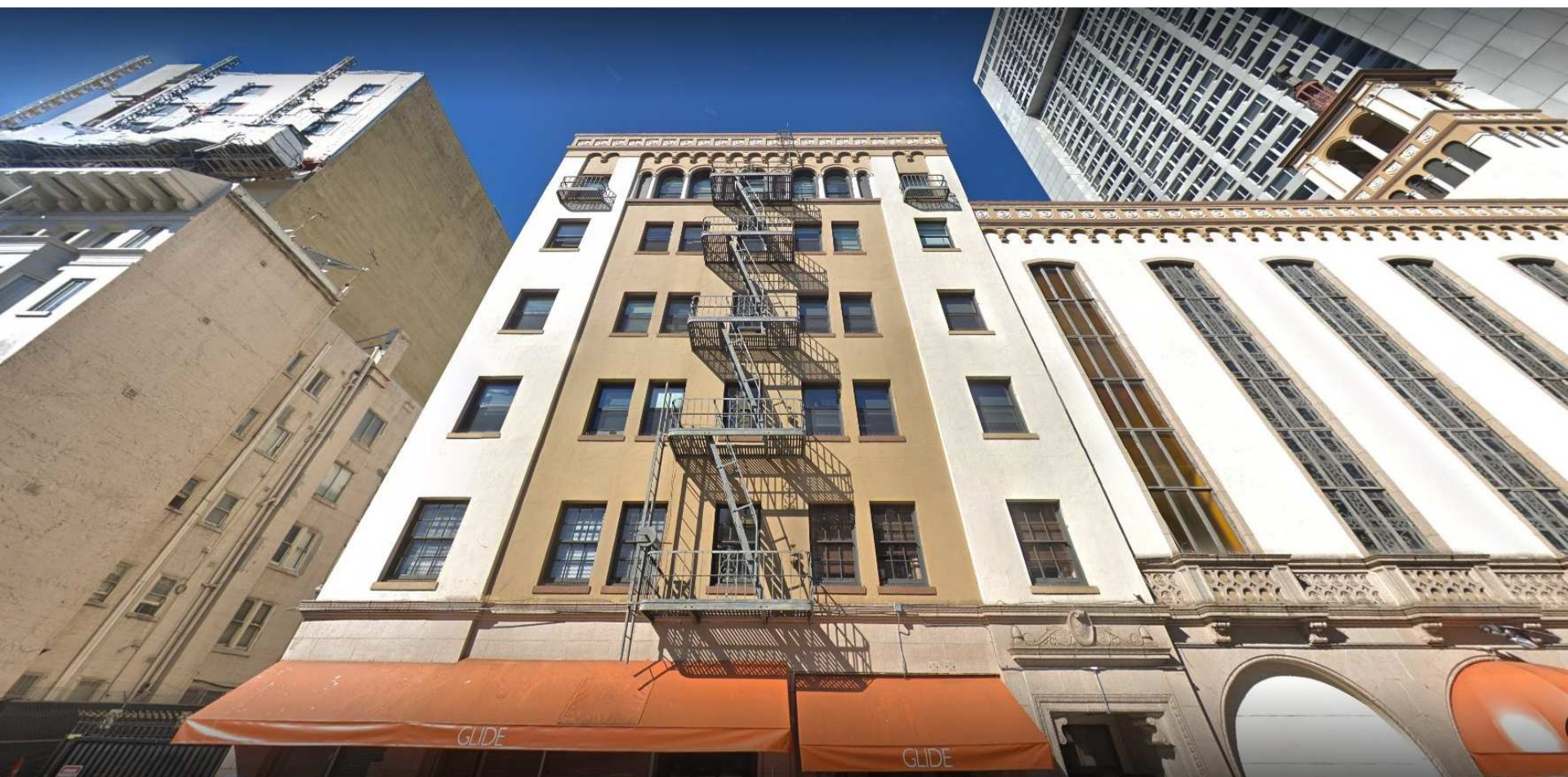
<sup>4</sup> Ibid.







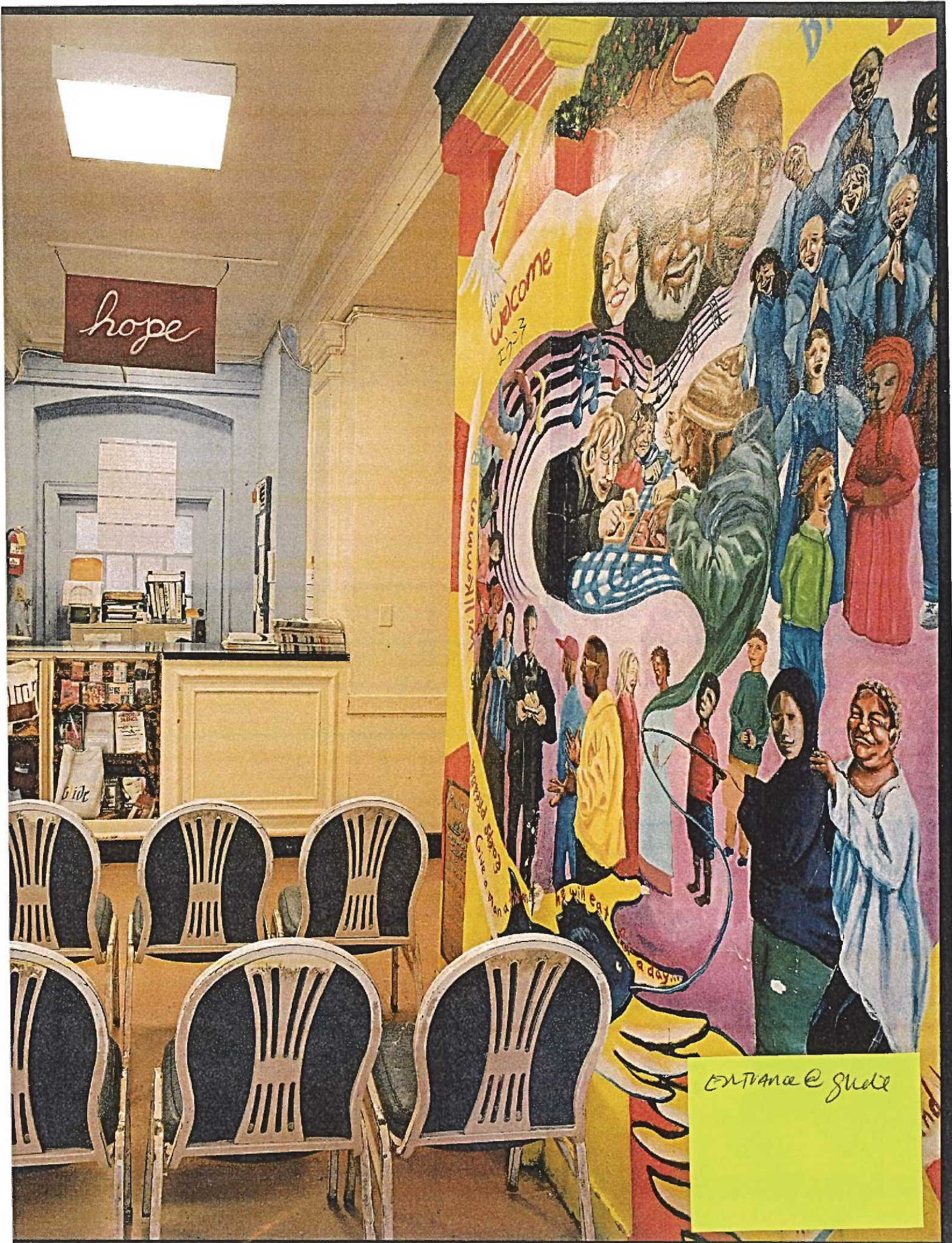












Entrance @ globe



1

Restrooms

Safety  
Office

Volunteers

Walk-In  
Center

Creative  
Space

Freedom Hall

Elevator

Stairs

Restrooms

B

Coffee  
House

Dining Room

Kitchen

Restrooms

4

Communications  
Conference  
Room 418

Data, Strategy  
& Evaluation

Finance

Fund  
Development

Special  
Events

3

Administration

Conference  
Room 300

Human  
Resources

IT Department

2

Church  
Office

Conference  
Room 206

Mail Room

Maya Angelou  
Room 201

Sanctuary

Women's  
Center







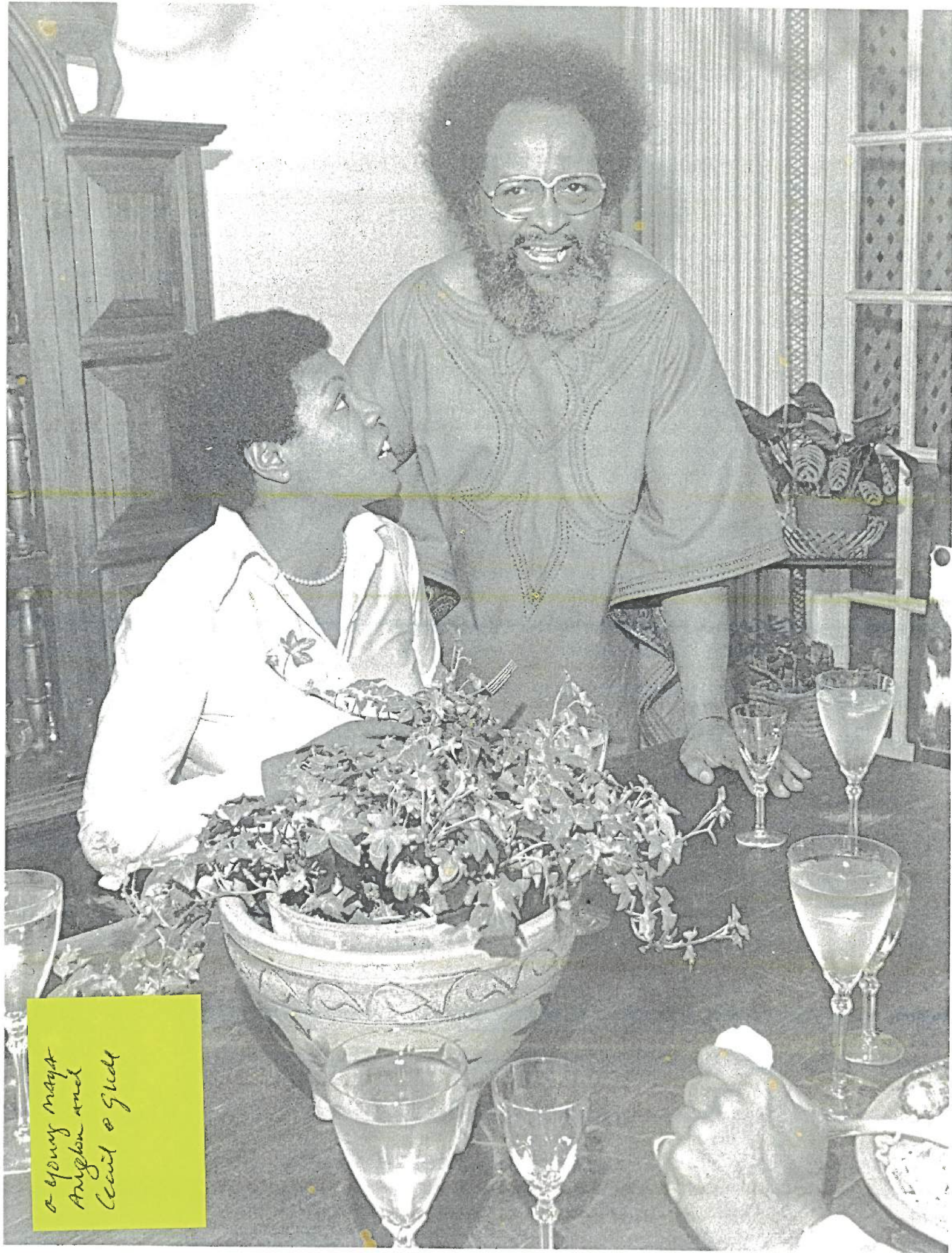
UNCONDITIONALLY





Cecil Williams  
getting arrested  
by SFPS. protest





a young man  
Angela and  
Cecil & Glade





Cecil, Bobby Seal,  
Sammy Davis, Jr.  
at glide.

1970s

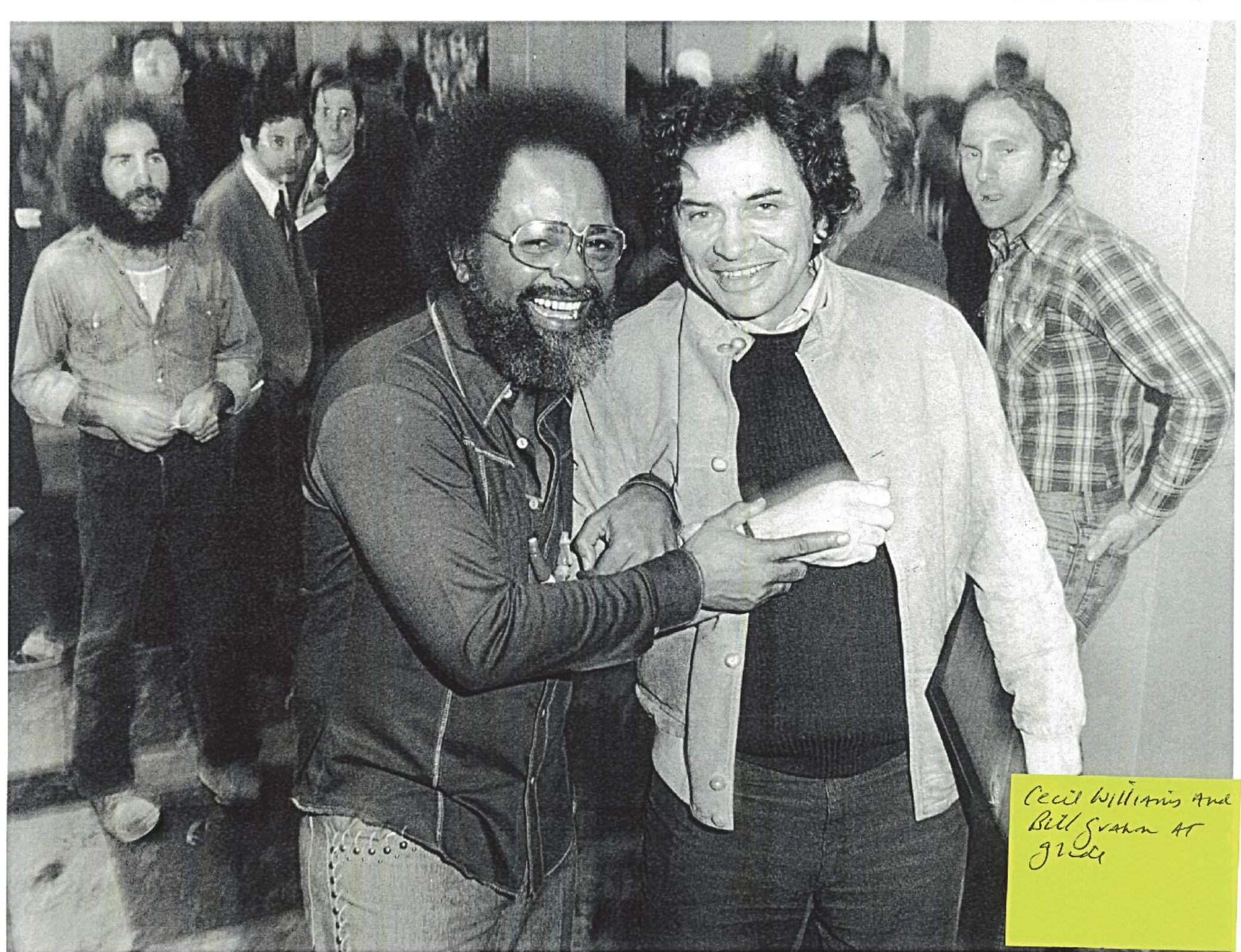


Angela Davis and  
Dr. Carlton Goodlett  
c. 1970

NOTE: Maya Angelou  
standing behind Angela  
Davis





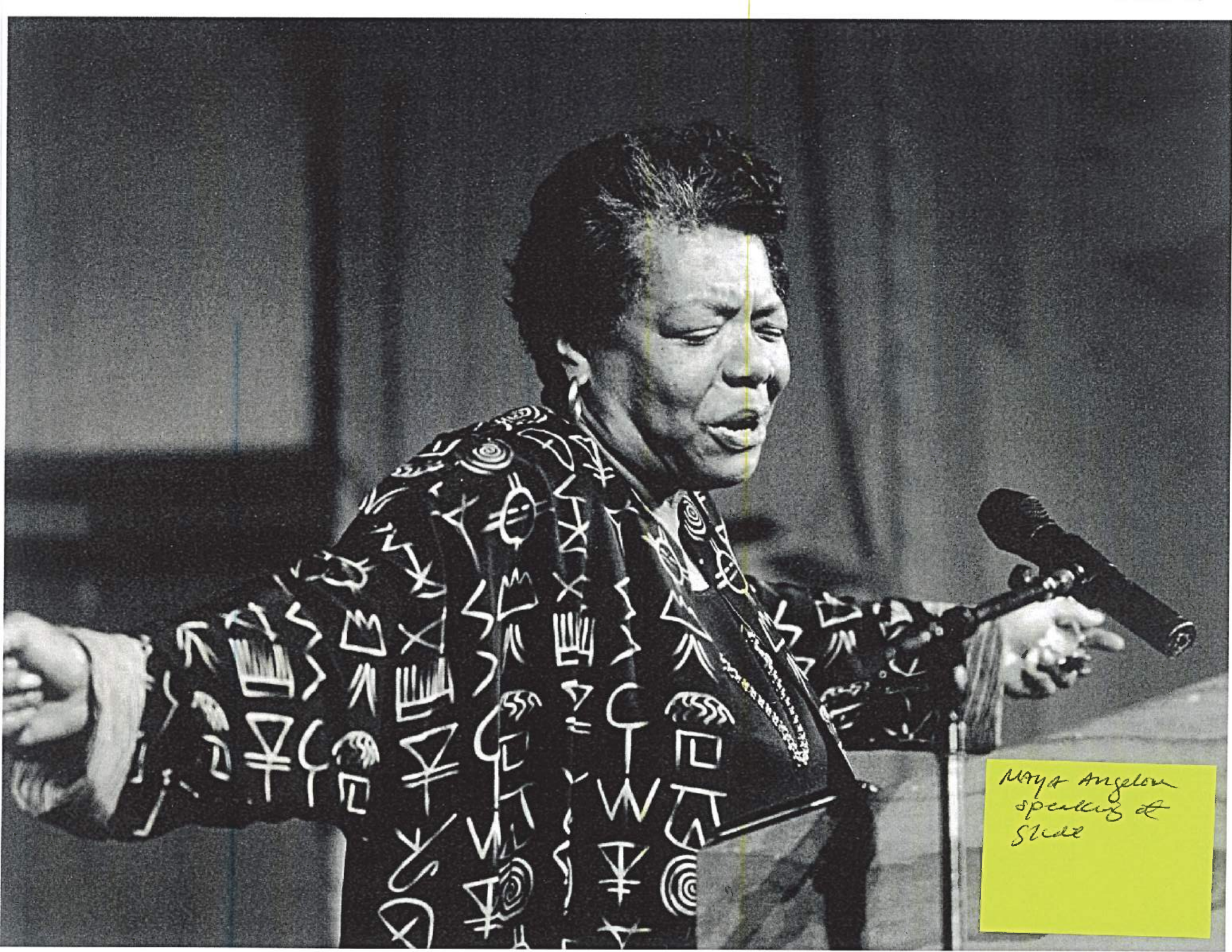


Cecil Williams and  
Bill Graham at  
gathering









Maya Angelou  
speaking at  
SLU





Janice, Mary, and  
Isabel Allende  
at SLICE





Dedication of the  
Maya Angelou  
Room at GHSU.





VERNON JORDAN,  
NAT'L URBAN  
LEAGUE at Glue  
1970s

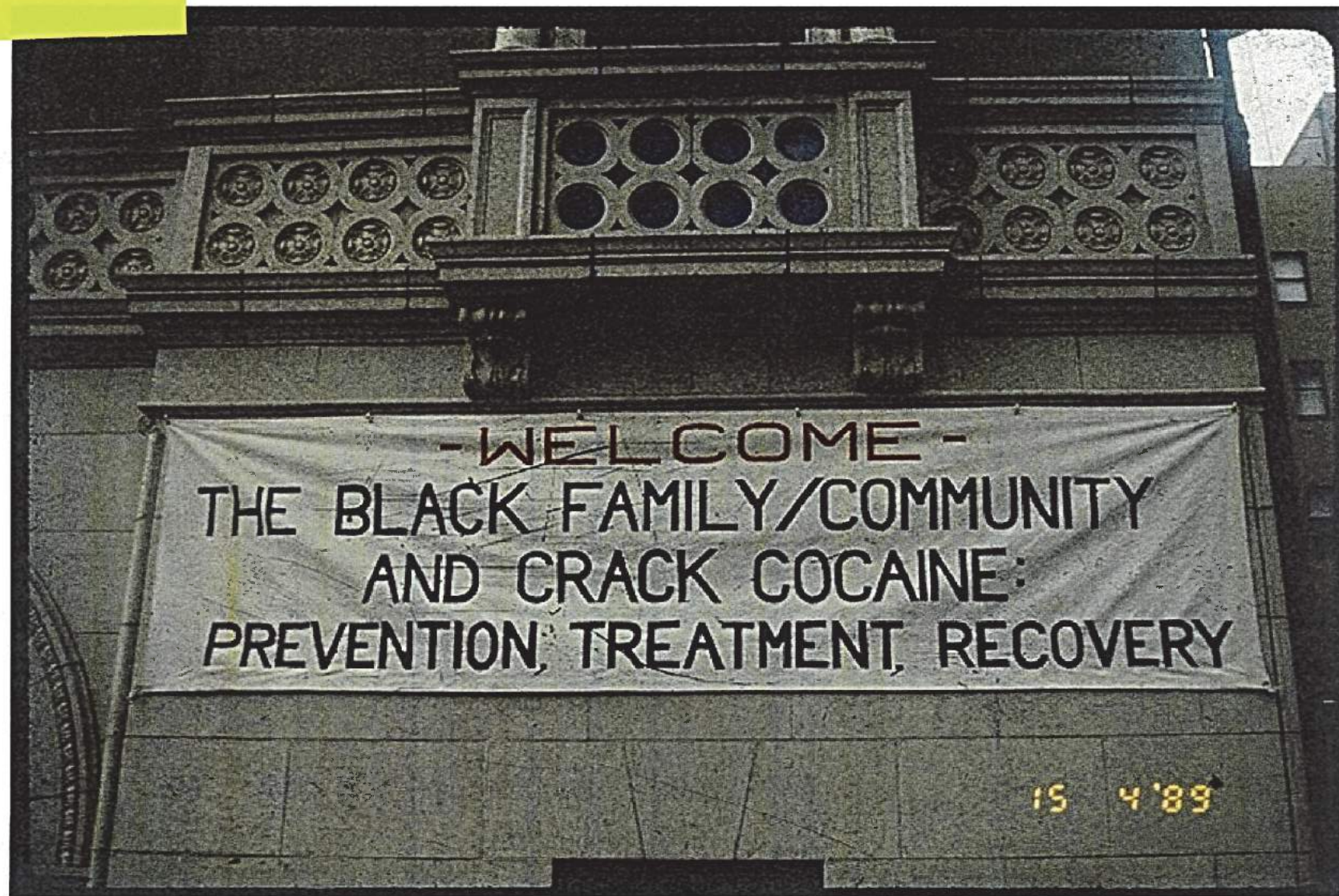




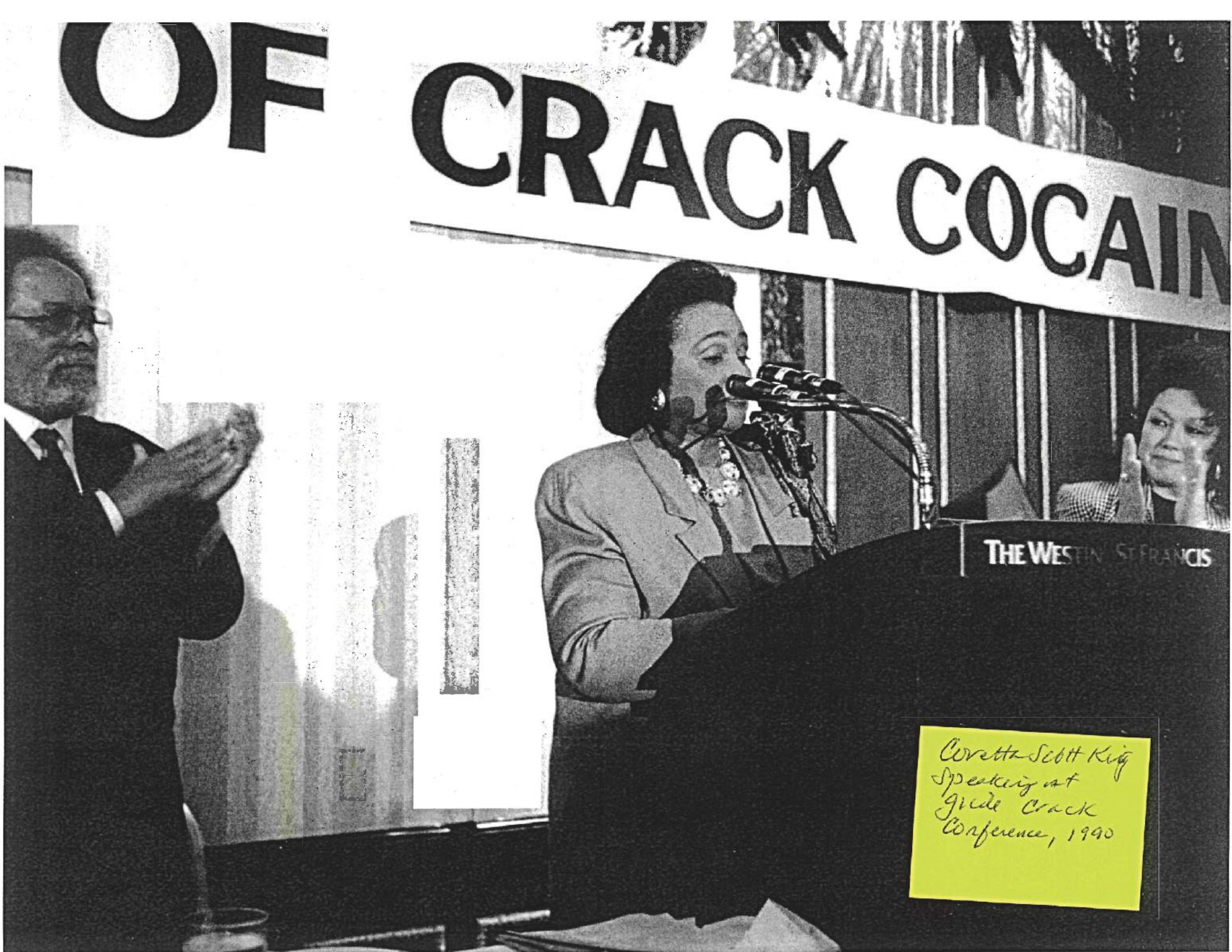
BONO AT GUIDE  
1980s



outside sign  
of state.  
1989

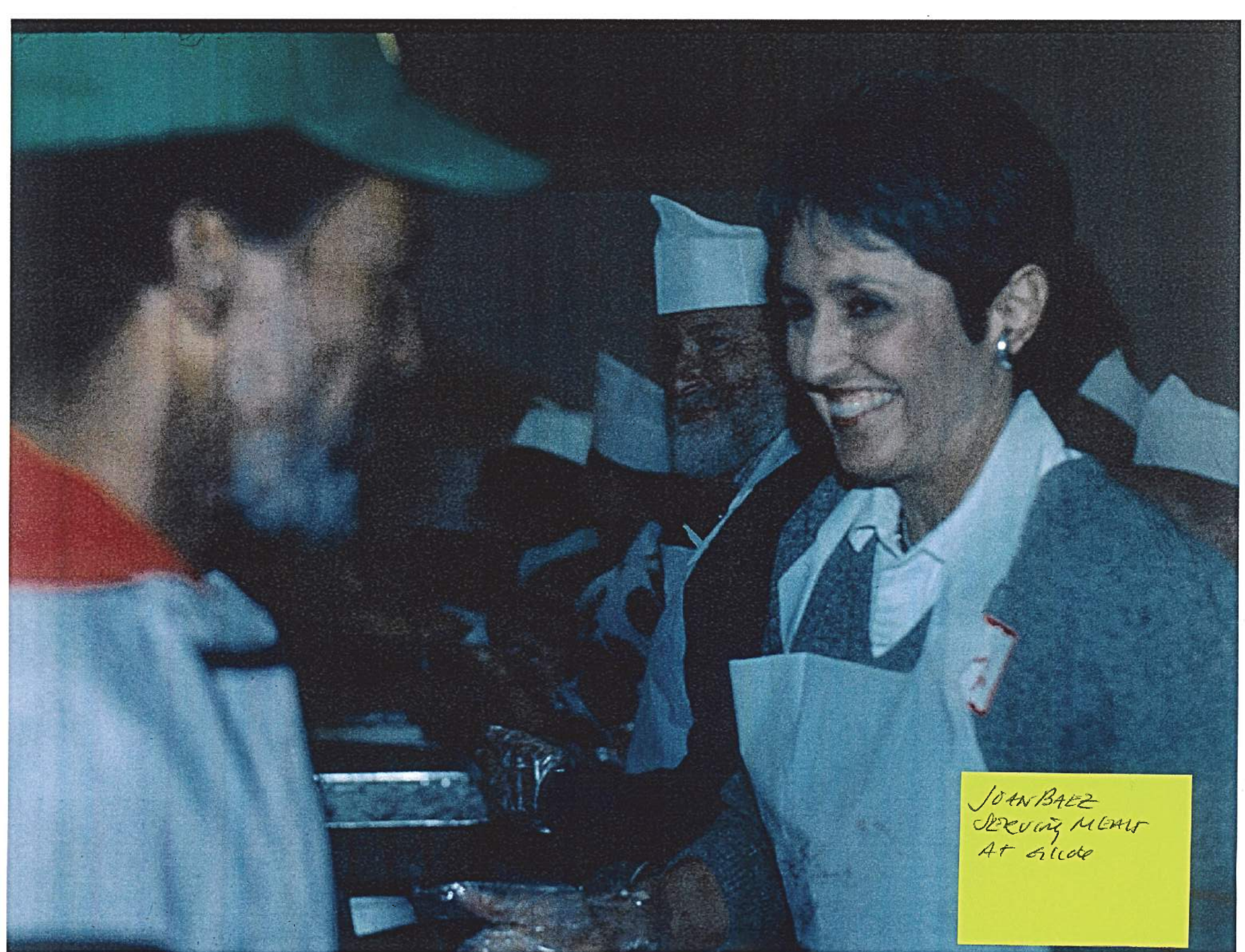






Coretta Scott King  
Speaking at  
Anti Crack  
Conference, 1990





JOAN BAEZ  
SERVING MEALS  
AT GILDED





Suzy BURRITT,  
WARNER BURRITT'S  
WIFE. SHE WAS  
A REGULAR  
VOLUNTEER @ SLUKE





DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KAMALA HARRIS  
AT SLIDE





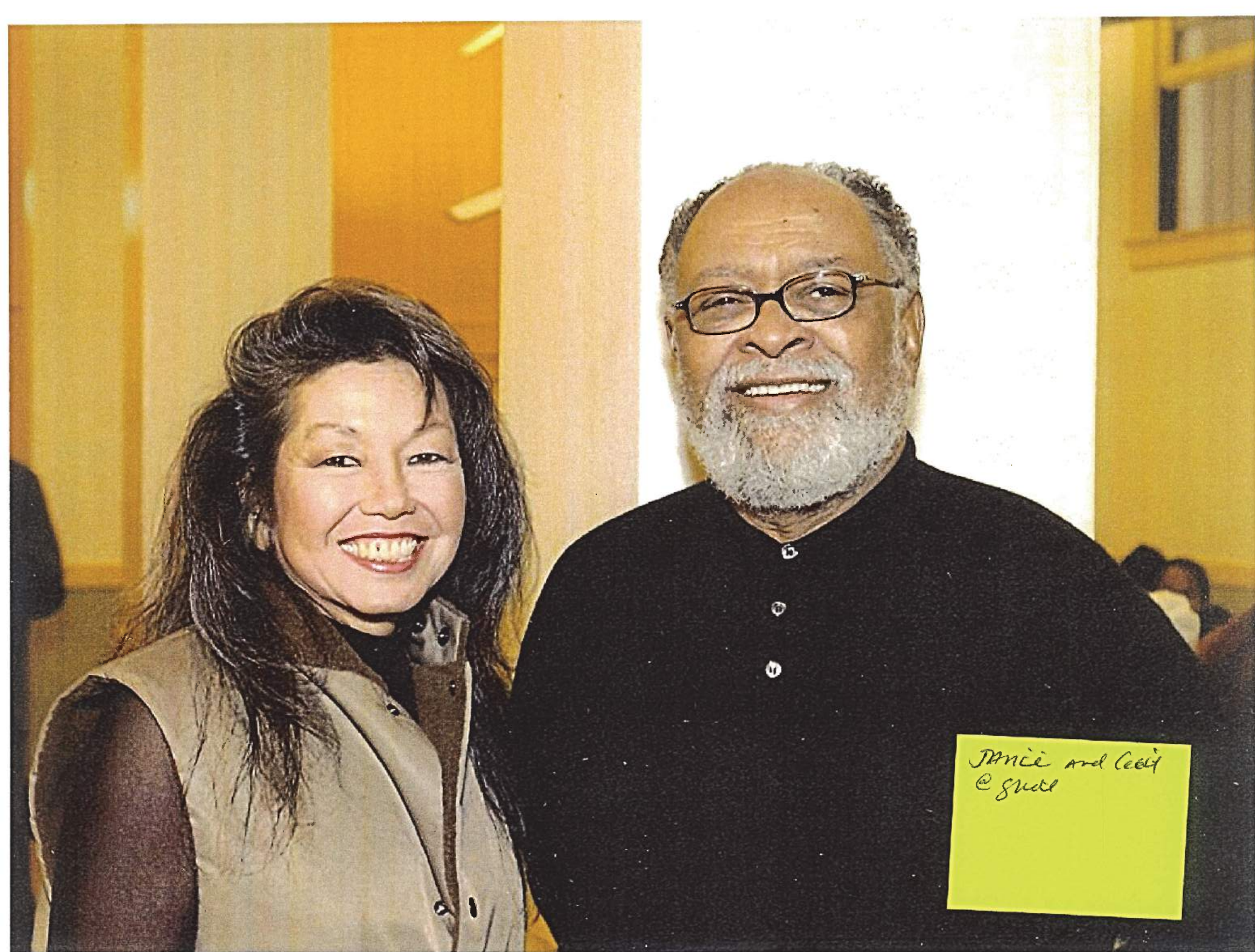
Sikh Volunteers  
From Muslim  
Community at  
Grace 2001





Janice and Cecil  
outside of guide





Dance and Cecil  
@ gnu



OPINION // OPEN FORUM

# Glide must remain true to its mission

By Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani

June 20, 2018 | Updated: June 20, 2018 6:59 p.m.



Glide provides critical services and nonjudgmental support for thousands of in-need families and individuals.

Photo: D. Ross Cameron / Special to The Chronicle

San Franciscans know Glide as more than a church. It's a welcoming community, a refuge of hope for people living on the edge, a friend to the poor, disadvantaged and oppressed. Glide is a foundation that not only holds a church but more importantly provides critical services and nonjudgmental support for thousands of in-need families and individuals, including the most abandoned and brutalized people in our city. Glide is a mission of love and a movement for change.

When we took the cross off our wall in 1967, it was an act of imagination and vision, to open up the doors for everyone to enter. Ever since then we've been a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycle of poverty and marginalization. You don't have to be sober, clean, or religious to be part of Glide. Come as you are.

At Glide, our Sunday celebrations are where a true cross section of the world comes together as equals to celebrate. For 50 years, the Glide foundation has built an innovative array of programs by listening directly to the needs of the people as they have expressed them.

When Glide was founded by Lizzie Glide 90 years ago, it was a donation to the United Methodist Church and she communicated her desire that Glide become "a house of prayer for all people." Today the church is run by a foundation. The Glide board of trustees controls the foundation's resources, of which 95 percent support social programming, and 5 percent go toward church activities. The United Methodist Church bishop for this region controls pastoral appointments and can reassign pastors as he or she sees fit, but the board has fiduciary responsibility over the entire budget.

Today Glide provides education, recovery support, access to primary and mental health care, job training, child care, shelter access and help with permanent housing, HIV and hepatitis C testing and harm reduction outreach services to thousands of the poorest San Franciscans. Our kitchen serves 750,000 free meals annually with the help of 12,000 volunteers. In this collective effort, we are privileged to have the leadership of our foundation president and CEO, Karen Hanrahan.



Yet today the things we've worked hardest for are under threat. The United Methodist Church is attempting to make Glide more traditional and conservative. It is our concern that this would undermine the radically inclusive nature of our community and divert resources from our progressive mission and social services, and many other vital programs. We are determined to stay the course.

We feel Glide is a model for real community in San Francisco. It's why we've repeatedly been referred to as "the conscience of the city," because we fight for social justice for all people. San Francisco, and the whole country, is going through a crisis of divisiveness and despair stoked by levels of inequality not seen before in our lifetimes. You can see it in every neighborhood in San Francisco. Glide is needed now more than ever.

Our mission of love, radical inclusivity and care are the ingredients that make Glide a bridge between people of all backgrounds and perspectives, expanding compassion, understanding and respect for one another.

San Francisco needs Glide, and Glide needs your support. Join us at 11 a.m., Thursday, on the City Hall steps at a rally to save Glide as a safe space for all San Franciscans. We are calling on our community of all colors, faiths, and walks of life to show the world how we come together, shine and move forward together as a people. That's #GLIDEunconditionally.

*Cecil Williams and Janice Mirikitani are co-founders of the Glide Foundation.*

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HEARST newspapers

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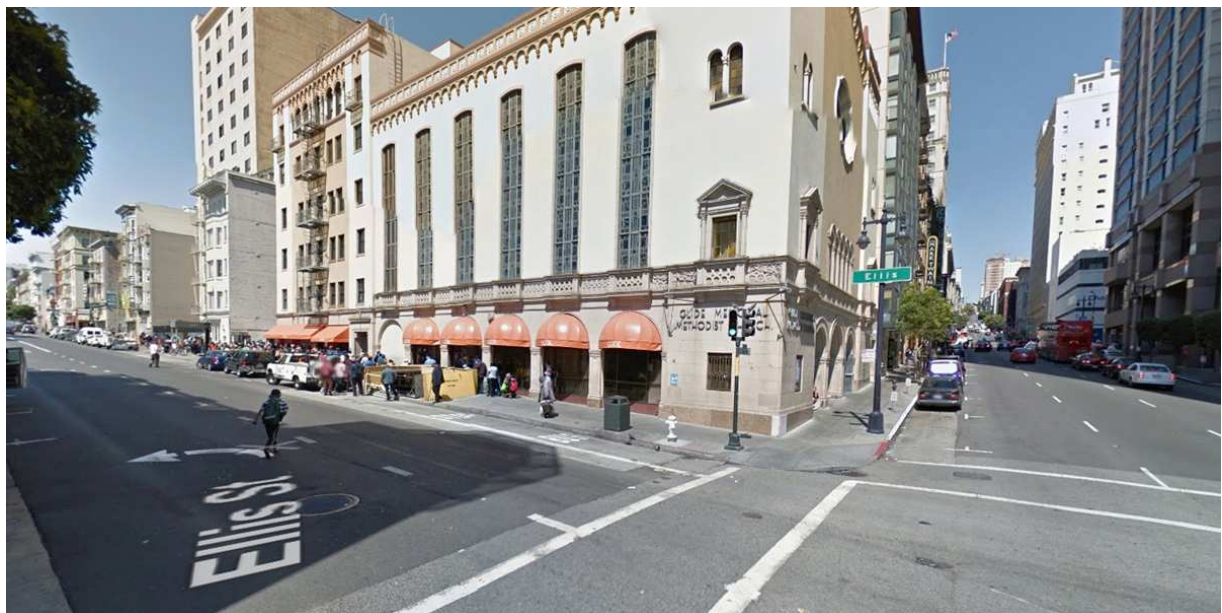
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/conference-bishop-sue-for-control-of-glide>



## Updated: Conference, bishop sue for control of Glide

By Sam Hodges

Dec. 12, 2018 | UMNS



Exterior of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of Google street view.

The California-Nevada Conference and Bishop Minerva Carcaño have sued the Glide Foundation board of trustees, escalating the battle for control of San Francisco's famed Glide Memorial United Methodist Church.

The [lawsuit](#), filed Dec. 11 in San Francisco County's Superior Court, seeks a court order preserving The United Methodist Church's control over trust property.

Carcaño oversees the California-Nevada Conference. She said in [a note posted on the conference website](#) that she and the conference sued because the foundation board engaged in "blatant violation of the trust clauses that govern the life of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church."

She added: "Please know that we do so with heavy hearts, but with the commitment to be good stewards of our United Methodist churches, ministries, and our witness."

A conference press release about the lawsuit asserted that the foundation board violated explicit terms of the trust "by attempting to sever ties with the UMC and wrongfully assert control over the trust property."

Glide Foundation leaders released a statement saying they had hoped to settle the dispute through negotiations.

"We are deeply concerned that the California-Nevada Annual Conference and Bishop Carcaño are willing to jeopardize the important work we do in what appears to be an attempted hostile takeover," Karen Hanrahan, chief executive of the Glide Foundation, said. "Glide has, and will always be, about serving the underserved and bridging gaps, not widening them."

Glide Memorial United Methodist is one of the denomination's largest churches, with average weekly attendance of more than 1,800.

It's a San Francisco landmark, known for joyous and unconventional Sunday services, as well for community outreach through a range of ministries.

But [conflicts became apparent earlier this year](#), when the Rev. Jay Williams resigned as senior pastor.

"While I love Glide, I do not love its organizational structure," he said on April 15. "Dynamics in the current configuration prohibited me from leading fully as a trained Christian theologian called to ordained ministry as an elder in the United Methodist church."

Carcaño, [in a June 23 open letter](#) to the conference, said she had serious concerns about governance and financial administration of the church. She also said the Rev. Cecil Williams, longtime pastor of the church but now in retirement status, continues to be in charge.

"No pastor has been allowed to exercise their rightful authority or responsibilities while serving at Glide," Carcaño said. "To this day, Cecil Williams and his wife, Janice Mirikitani, make all decisions in the background at Glide."

Mountain Sky Area Bishop Karen Oliveto was senior pastor at Glide before her 2016 election to the episcopacy.

Carcaño also said in her letter that the "great majority" of those attending Glide's services were from non-Christian faiths or were atheists or agnostics, and that the services themselves "lack the fundamentals of Christian worship."



The bishop added: “We seek to be in good and loving relationship with persons of other faiths and beliefs, and those who claim no faith. However, this should never cause us to lose our own faith.”

Williams and Mirikitani, [in a June 20 column for the San Francisco Chronicle](#), said, “The United Methodist Church is attempting to make Glide more traditional and conservative. It is our concern that this would undermine the radically inclusive nature of our community and divert resources from our progressive mission and social services, and many other vital programs. We are determined to stay the course.”

In announcing the lawsuit, Carcaño said she and other conference leaders would not comment further “as the matter is before the court.”

According to the lawsuit, Lizzie Glide of San Francisco sought in 1929 to honor her late husband by donating property and other assets to further Methodist Church religious and educational work. The property was used to construct an evangelistic center, known first as Glide Memorial Methodist Church and later as Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, the suit says.

The Glide Foundation and its board were established in 1929 to oversee the trust, with the understanding that “the property and work of the Glide Foundation would always remain under the jurisdiction and control of the Annual Conference,” the suit says.

The lawsuit claims that in May of this year the foundation rejected Carcaño’s appointment of a new pastor for Glide and prohibited the bishop from attending the church to make an announcement about the appointment.

On June 21, the suit says, the foundation sought to delete references to the denomination from its articles and bylaws. The suit says foundation leaders met again on July 9, without giving notice to the conference, to form a new corporation called Glide Community Church.

“The Glide Foundation’s attempt, in direct violation of Lizzie Glide’s expressed written intent and the Methodist Church Trust Clause, to wrest control of property held forever in trust for the Methodist Church simply cannot be countenanced,” the suit says.

In addition to asking for a judicial declaration of the church’s control, the lawsuit contends the California-Nevada Conference has the right to appoint all Glide Foundation board members and replace current members. It says the conference also is entitled to a full accounting of the foundation’s books and other records.

The foundation’s leaders, in an Oct. 21 message posted online, said they had established a nonprofit to “track funding to important social service programs and further strengthen our protection of donor intent.”

They also said they had created an “alternative structure” called Glide Community Church, “which we currently do not plan to use, but which is available if it ever becomes necessary to ensure continuity of Glide’s iconic Sunday celebrations, which continue to thrive.”

The Glide Foundation’s board of trustees includes Mary Glide, and a comment from her was included in the statement released after the suit was filed.

“My great-great-grandmother Lizzie Glide felt a strong call to serve others with compassion when she founded Glide almost 90 years ago,” she said. “As a Methodist, I believe Lizzie would be proud of the inclusive, loving work we’re doing today, and saddened by the actions of the California-Nevada Annual Conference.”

*Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News Service. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org). To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests](#).*

# Glide Foundation Videos



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UluTyOP80Pk>

## Glide Foundation: Real People Real Stories Real Help

Published on Mar 3, 2009

Learn more about the programs and services of the Glide Foundation by viewing our stories. Please visit us online at [www.glide.org](http://www.glide.org).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJTe-AMokcs>

## Warren Buffett Says Glide Foundation Transforms Lives

Published on Aug 30, 2017

Aug.30 -- Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Warren Buffett discusses the Glide Foundation with Bloomberg's David Westin at the Smith & Wollensky restaurant in New York on "Bloomberg Markets."



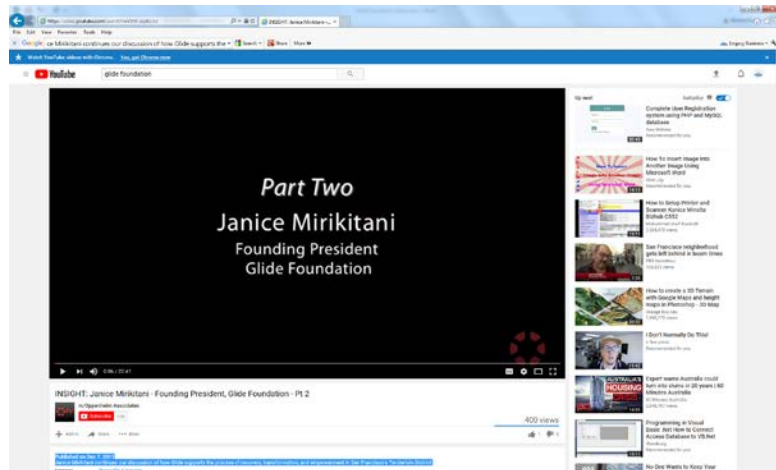


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ttsbv8Gk3fo>

## **INSIGHT: Janice Mirikitani - Founding President, Glide Foundation - Pt 1**

Published on Dec 7, 2011

Janice Mirikitani discusses her own personal journey from abused child to Founding President of the Glide Foundation, emphasizing how Glide supports the process of recovery, transformation, and empowerment. Of Japanese descent and born in Stockton, California, Mirikitani was interned with her family in a concentration camp during the second World War. She rose above subsequent family dissolution, poverty and sexual abuse to help many others undertake their own journeys to dignity and self-reliance. An accomplished artist and author, Mirikitani is a producing director of Glide Dance Ensemble, and is San Francisco's second Poet Laureate. She has authored four books of poetry, and is the editor of nine anthologies of literature by writers of color, women, youth and children. Glide has served the poor and disenfranchised for over 40 years and has been at the forefront of anti-poverty, civil rights, HIV/AIDS, recovery, gender equality, tolerance, and other battles. With diverse programs, including meals, health, family services, training and employment, recovery, supportive housing, among others. Glide has been a major force for social justice.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWR-aqdiusM>

## **INSIGHT: Janice Mirikitani - Founding President, Glide Foundation - Pt 2**

Published on Dec 7, 2011

Janice Mirikitani continues our discussion of how Glide supports the process of recovery, transformation, and empowerment in San Francisco's Tenderloin District.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69ZYPrrtils>

## **Supporters Rally At San Francisco City Hall To Show Support For Glide**

Published on Jun 21, 2018

Emily Turner reports on Glide Memorial Church holding a rally in the face of United Methodist Church plans to remove pastors (6-20-2018)

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GLIDE FOUNDATION**

### **Office of Small Business Staff Report and Supplemental Narrative**

#### **The Glide Foundation**

The Board of Trustees of the Glide Foundation (“Glide Foundation” or “GLIDE”) was established in 1929 as “a benevolent and religious corporation” in accordance with the doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Per the Articles of Incorporation, the specific purposes of the Glide Foundation were the following:

“(a) To promote religion, charity and education ... according to the doctrines accepted and adopted by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....

“(b) To build, establish, own, maintain, and support churches, place[s] of public worship, parsonages, schools, and colleges, and to administer the temporalities and to manage the property and estate of the said Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....

“(c) To build, establish, own, maintain, conduct and support an evangelistic center or evangelistic centers, a place or places of public worship, parsonages, bible schools, schools for the training of men and women for the various forms of Christian work, and community houses, gymnasiums, and social halls or other activities in connection with said evangelistic centers and places of public worship ... in accordance with the ... Methodist Episcopal Church, South ....”

#### **The Methodist Episcopal Church, South**

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South was a Methodist denomination resulting from the 19th-century split over the issue of slavery in the Methodist Episcopal Church (“MEC”). Disagreement on this issue had been increasing in strength for decades between churches of the North and South; in 1844 it resulted in a schism at the General Conference of the MEC held in Louisville, Kentucky. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South maintained its own polity for nearly 100 years, until 1939.<sup>1</sup>

The MEC was the oldest and largest Methodist denomination in the United States from its founding in 1784 until 1939. It was also the first religious denomination in the U.S. to organize itself on a national basis. In 1939, the MEC reunited with two breakaway Methodist denominations (the Methodist Protestant Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South) to form the Methodist Church. In 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church to form the United Methodist Church, today one the largest and most widely spread religious denominations in America.<sup>2</sup>

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SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2018-19-032  
*Business Name:* Picture Machine Tattoo  
*Business Address:* 5124 Geary Blvd.  
*District:* District 1  
*Applicant:* Jennifer Wong, Co-Owner/Manager  
*Nomination Date:* February 20, 2019  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer

**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? ☒ Yes ☐ No

3940 Geary Blvd. from 1976 to 2005 (29 years)  
5124 Geary Blvd. from 2005 to Present (14 years)

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

**NOTES:** N/A

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** February 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo  
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program





Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 1



City and County of San Francisco

**SANDRA LEE FEWER**

李麗嫦 市參事

February 20, 2019

Dear Director Regina Dick - Endrizzzi:

I hereby nominate Picture Machine Tattoo to the Legacy Business Registry. Founded in 1976 by Pat Martynuik, Picture Machine Tattoo is the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco. Tattoos have long since been a part of SF Bay Area history, from sailors and immigrants arriving in hoards since the mid-20th century, to the Bohemian hippie scenes of the 70's. Janis Joplin famously got a tattoo done by Lyle Tuttle, and Lyle Tuttle Jr. not only apprenticed under both his father and Martynuik, but also obtained ownership of Picture Machine Tattoo later on, before passing the business down to his own apprentice, Jason Storey.

Located in the heart of the Central Richmond, Picture Machine Tattoo has had to move once in 2005, but persevered to stay in the Richmond, the neighborhood it's always called home. Its lineage of owner-employees have always been adamant about maintaining tradition: displaying and tattooing Martynuik's historic artwork, keeping Martynuik's original hours (noon - midnight) and work ethic, and preserving the culture of a street style tattoo shop, where prices are kept affordable and the staff mindset is "anything goes". The business has legend, appearing in publications like Hunter S. Thompson's *Generation of Swine*. The building facade itself is iconic, muraled with Martynuik's original paintings that have distinguished its presence on the block.

Picture Machine Tattoo is a local gem of international acclaim, an attraction for tattoo aficionados visiting San Francisco while also being a longstanding part of fabric of the Richmond District. Its dedication to cultural history and the local community would make it a wonderful addition to the Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Lee Fewer*

City Hall • 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place • Room 244 • San Francisco, California 94102-4689 • (415)  
554-7410 Fax(415) 554-7415 • TDD/TTY(415) 554-5227 • E-mail: [Sandra.Fewer@sfgov.org](mailto:Sandra.Fewer@sfgov.org)

## 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:		
Picture Machine Tattoo		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Jason Storey (owner) Jenniger Wang (lease holder)		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
5124 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118		(415) 648-7377
WEBSITE:		EMAIL:
SFTATTOO.COM		[REDACTED]
FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE	
APPLICANT'S NAME		
Jenniger Wang		<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE		
Co owner / manager		
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
		EMAIL:
		[REDACTED]
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:		SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
FORMAL 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
3940 Geary Blvd.	94118	6/18/1974
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	1974 - 2005	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
5124 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118	94118	Start 2005 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.

Jenniger Wong 1/3/19

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

## **PICTURE MACHINE TATTOO**

### **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.**

Picture Machine Tattoo ("Picture Machine"), presently located at 5124 Geary Blvd., was founded in 1976 by Pat Martynuik and is the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco.

Pat was a native of Vancouver, Canada. He started tattooing as a hobby, picking up pointers from the resident Vancouver tattooist Doc Forbes and friend of many years Huck Spaulding. In the 1960s, Pat was working further north than any known tattooist in North America. He set up in the inland town of Edmonton, Alberta, and turned his hobby into a booming business. This shop was a big success so he opened a branch in Calgary. In 1970, Pat immigrated to San Francisco. Upon his arrival, Pat began working at Lyle Tuttle Sr.'s shop on 7th Street next to the bus station, just south of Market Street. Pat brought new life to that location and built up a loyal clientele.

During this period, Pat taught the trade to his own son, Guy Martynuik, as well as Lyle Tuttle Jr. He also earned his nickname "Picture Machine" for the long hours he worked and his constant productivity – Pat was at the shop 7 days a week, and at any given moment he was either tattooing or drawing flash (tattoo designs printed or drawn on paper or cardboard and typically displayed on the walls of tattoo parlors and in binders to give walk-in customers ideas for tattoos.) In 1976, he decided to part ways with Lyle Sr. and opened his own tattoo shop at 3940 Geary Blvd. between 3rd and 4th avenues, Picture Machine Tattoo, where he resumed the habits that earned him his nickname.

In 1989 Pat died suddenly in the shop while in the middle of a tattoo. He was tattooing – of all things – a Grim Reaper.

When Pat passed away, his son inherited the business. Picture Machine Tattoo became the property of Guy who by this time also owned his own shop, Body Graphics, in Reno, Nevada. Guy maintained operation of Picture Machine and his Reno shop and taught his own son Jesse, who now owns Body Graphics, to tattoo as well. While under Guy's possession, Lyle Tuttle Jr. no longer worked there. Instead, Lyle Jr. pursued work as a crane operator.

Lyle Jr. had been born and raised around tattooing. He had done his first tattoo at the age of 12 and started working under the supervision of Pat Martynuik at his father's shop while Lyle Sr. was globetrotting to promote tattooing (and himself). Lyle Jr. lived at the tattoo shop and

essentially worked 16 hour days, 7 days a week, preparing the shop in the morning, cleaning up at night and doing anything else that was required after hours. He worked at the 7th Street location for two years, after which he moved to Hollywood to open another Lyle Tuttle tattoo shop on Sunset Blvd. One-and-a-half years later, his father sold the Hollywood shop to Cliff Raven, and Lyle Jr. returned to San Francisco, did a short stint back at 7th Street, and then moved to Vallejo across the bay to open yet another Lyle Tuttle tattoo shop. Lyle Jr. purchased this shop from his father shortly thereafter. He worked and ran the Vallejo shop for 10 to 12 years until the local naval base was closed and business dropped off, at which time Lyle Jr. sold the shop to "Fuzzy," who maintained it for a short time (less than a year), before it finally closed. Lyle Jr., for all intents and purposes, retired from tattooing at this point and went on to work in construction, as well as a number of other shady enterprises.

Meanwhile in 2001, Guy decided against his better judgment to take on a thoughtful yet absent minded tattooer named Jason Storey.

In 2005, Lyle Jr. stopped by the old Picture Machine location to say hello, and a month or so later realized that he had somehow managed to buy it. By this time the Picture Machine building, the building that had at one time housed the tattoo shop, the suicide prevention center upstairs and a Korean video store, was sold by the owner, and Picture Machine Tattoo moved 12 blocks west to 5124 Geary Blvd. at 15th Avenue, where it is today. Jason Storey continued to work there, and Guy moved to Reno.

Later in 2014, due to deteriorating health, Lyle Tuttle Jr. sold Picture Machine Tattoo to his most trusted and loyal employee Jason Storey. Jason grew up in Berkeley. Both his parents were hippies, and he spent many days attending concerts featuring the luminaries of the San Francisco rock scene such as the Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana and Joan Baez. These influences, in particular the psychedelic rock and roll posters of the San Francisco music scene, led to his interest in the visual arts, particularly flyers, t-shirts and album covers. Jason majored in art at UC Santa Cruz before starting to tattoo in 1991. He got a job at Picture Machine Tattoo in 2001. After coming and going a few times, Jason finally purchased the shop in 2014. Jason Storey, is the current owner and operator and senior artist.

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

Picture Machine Tattoo has not ceased operations in San Francisco since it was founded in 1976.

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

Picture Machine Tattoo is not a family-owned business, defined here as any business in which two or more family members are involved and the majority of ownership or control lies within a family.



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

Pat Martynuik was the founder and operator of Picture Machine Tattoo. He apprenticed his son, Guy Martynuik, as well as Lyle Tuttle Jr. When Pat passed away in 1989, Guy inherited the business. In 2005, Guy sold the business to Lyle Tuttle Jr. In 2014, Lyle Jr. sold Picture Machine Tattoo to Jason Storey who is the current owner and operator.

The ownership history of (the business) is as follows:

1976 to 1989:	Pat Martynuik
1989 to 2005:	Guy Martynuik
2005 to 2014:	Lyle Tuttle Jr.
2014 to Present:	Jason Storey

**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 of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this 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 historic resource status of the building at 5120-5124 Geary Blvd. is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

## **CRITERION 2**

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

Picture Machine Tattoo is the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco. The city has been known internationally for its tattoo culture since the 1960s, and Picture Machine has contributed greatly to that recognition. During its years of operation, Picture Machine's reputation as a no nonsense street shop producing high quality tattoos in an unpretentious environment attracted some of the best, young up-and-coming artists to seek employment there. The list of artists who have worked at Picture Machine includes many, if not most, of the tattooers who during the 1990s became household names for tattoo fans, and who today are considered to be responsible for breathing new life into the world of tattooing.

Today Picture Machine Tattoo maintains its reputation for quality tattoos applied in a bustling street shop environment, long hours of availability to customers, as well as high end custom work made to order for discriminating tattoo collectors. Tattoo artists and tattoo collectors from all around the world visit Picture Machine Tattoo.

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

Picture Machine Tattoo hosts Holiday Pop-Up Events that include tattooing holiday related designs at a deep discount. This draws large crowds of visitors who spend most of the day celebrating with us. Friday the 13th has been one of the most fun and unlikely days to spend at Picture Machine Tattoo as we collectively try to ward off bad energy!

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

Picture Machine Tattoo was mentioned in a book by Hunter S. Thompson's titled, "Generation of Swine, Gonzo Papers, Volume 2, Tales of Shame and Degradation in the 80's." Mr. Thompson gives an account of visiting Picture Machine Tattoo with a friend who was being tattooed. That would be the most interesting publication and widely known. However Picture Machine Tattoo has been mentioned in other articles, which are included in this Legacy Business application. We're also featured in Expertise as a top 10 shop in San Francisco.

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

Pat Martynuik, the founder of Picture Machine Tattoo, is widely known in the industry. He is the shop's namesake, receiving his nickname (Picture Machine) because of the speed at which he worked and the long hours that he put in. The first letter of the words also match his initials. Pat would work noon to midnight, 7 days a week. When he wasn't tattooing, he would paint. While keeping such long hours, he accumulated upwards of 500 paintings which have been published internationally and are widely known, highly regarded and invaluable to the tattoo industry. Even after his sudden passing in 1989, he is the standard that is set for the generations to follow. His tattoos are still on clients we meet. They still wear them proudly. Pat "Picture Machine" Martynuik is known globally as the founder of the longest running tattoo shop in San Francisco.

Other noteworthy people associated with Picture Machine Tattoo include tattooers Karen Rose, Jef Whitehead, Jen Lee (Gallagher), Lucky Bastard, Greg Rojas, and of course Terry Tweed. Well-known clients include Bay Area favorite John Sasaki as well as band members of Tony Toni Tone and a few Oakland Raiders.

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

The current staff of Picture Machine maintains the same business hours and perspective Pat Martynuik had toward tattooing. They provide a safe, clean environment that allows for a wide variety of styles at an affordable price. The clientele spans generations and lifestyles.

Picture Machine Tattoo donates our services to a fundraiser held by the Asian Law Caucus. It uses our services as part of an auction it holds to help raise money to help people with legal representation who may not be able to afford it.

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

Picture Machine Tattoo is dedicated to serving both residents and those visiting the Richmond District. The neighborhood has a wide variety of people of all ages. Some are looking for a very specific design; others are just curious. Picture Machine Tattoo accommodates all people.

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

There are several signs originally created by Pat Martynuik on display in the windows of the shop that date back to the 1970s. We've also painted an interactive mural using Pat Martynuik's original artwork that the community can be photographed with, including butterfly wings that visitors can pose in front of – dogs included!

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

If the business were to close, San Francisco would lose its longest running tattoo shop. Picture Machine Tattoo has developed trust within the community, creating quality tattoos across many generations. Parents and grandparents bring their adult children to our shop because that is where they've received their tattoos and know they can trust us to take care of them. Picture Machine Tattoo also provides full and part time employment to local and visiting artist who know of the shop because of its notoriety and long history which they learn from and use to build on their own careers.

It is important for Picture Machine Tattoo to remain in the Richmond District. This neighborhood has always been home to the business, and is often overlooked compared to other neighborhoods such as the Mission or North Beach concerning art. The business owner and employees were adamant about remaining in the Richmond District when the original location was sold. We wanted to remain loyal to the neighborhood they called home and still do. We also encourage our visitors to explore the neighborhood's restaurants and stores while they wait for their designs to be drafted. They especially love the wide selection of boba tea!

Picture Machine Tattoo pays special attention to displaying original art by the founder and maintaining the same hours and business practices. The business has carried on the traditions of Picture Machine Tattoo, and it's still known and visited by tattooers and collectors from all



around the world. They seek out Picture Machine Tattoo but discover the Richmond District. As San Francisco rapidly changes, Picture Machine Tattoo works very hard to be a beacon of familiarity and comfort.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

Picture Machine Tattoo is a street style tattoo shop. The staff works long hours, and the business is open every day. Anything goes. You want a tattoo as a souvenir? You want a large, custom tattoo? You want to act on impulse and express your feelings through said imagery? You want to commemorate an achievement or loss of a loved one? Did you simply lose a bet? We are here to help you create your tattoo in a way that is unique to you. We are qualified, capable and happy to do so. Just like Pat Martynuik was when he opened the shop in 1976.

**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 staff at Picture Machine tattoo work diligently to maintain similar work ethic and upbeat attitude we use to reassure our clients and community of our commitment to them. Although we are able to tattoo all styles of art, we enjoy tattooing our founder Pat Martynuik's original designs the most. Some of which are displayed throughout the shop.

**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.).**

We have all the original paintings and signage Pat Martynuik displayed since the shop first opened. We continue to tattoo designs Pat Martynuik created back in 1976. We've also taken those designs and painted a mural on the exterior of the building which is photographed by passersby on a daily basis.

**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.**

Documentation that demonstrates the business has been a tattoo shop for 30+ years is included in this Legacy Business Registry application.

# PERMIT TO OPERATE

## AND CERTIFICATE OF SANITARY INSPECTION

Issued according to provisions of the San Francisco Health Code

BDC# 5

AUTHORIZING conduct of the following class of TATTOO PARLOR

ISSUED June 18, 1976

Business: "Picture Machine"

Name and Address below: 3940 Geary Blvd., San Francisco

Pat Martynuik  
3940 Geary Blvd.  
San Francisco, California

THIS PERMIT TO OPERATE MAY BE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED FOR CAUSE AND IS NOT TRANSFERABLE. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP must be reported immediately.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
City and County of San Francisco.

*Erwin H. Braff*  
Erwin H. Braff, M.D. ~~Branch Chief~~

Francis J. Curry, M.D. ~~Director of Public Health~~

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH—101 GROVE STREET—SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102



## PICTURES IN THE FLESH: THE LATEST SOCIETY CRAZE

'T o many people the desire to be tattooed, which seems to be specially prevalent amongst wealthy people nowadays, is looked upon as a craze, and by some, as a barbarous one. To those who have been tattooed however, the rapidly manipulated electric needles of the tattoo artist have an undoubted fascination, and to lay on a design as it appears on some portion of one's anatomy quite counterbalances the slight inconvenience caused by the tiny puncture of the little whirring machine.'

*Black and White magazine article, 17 May, 1902.*





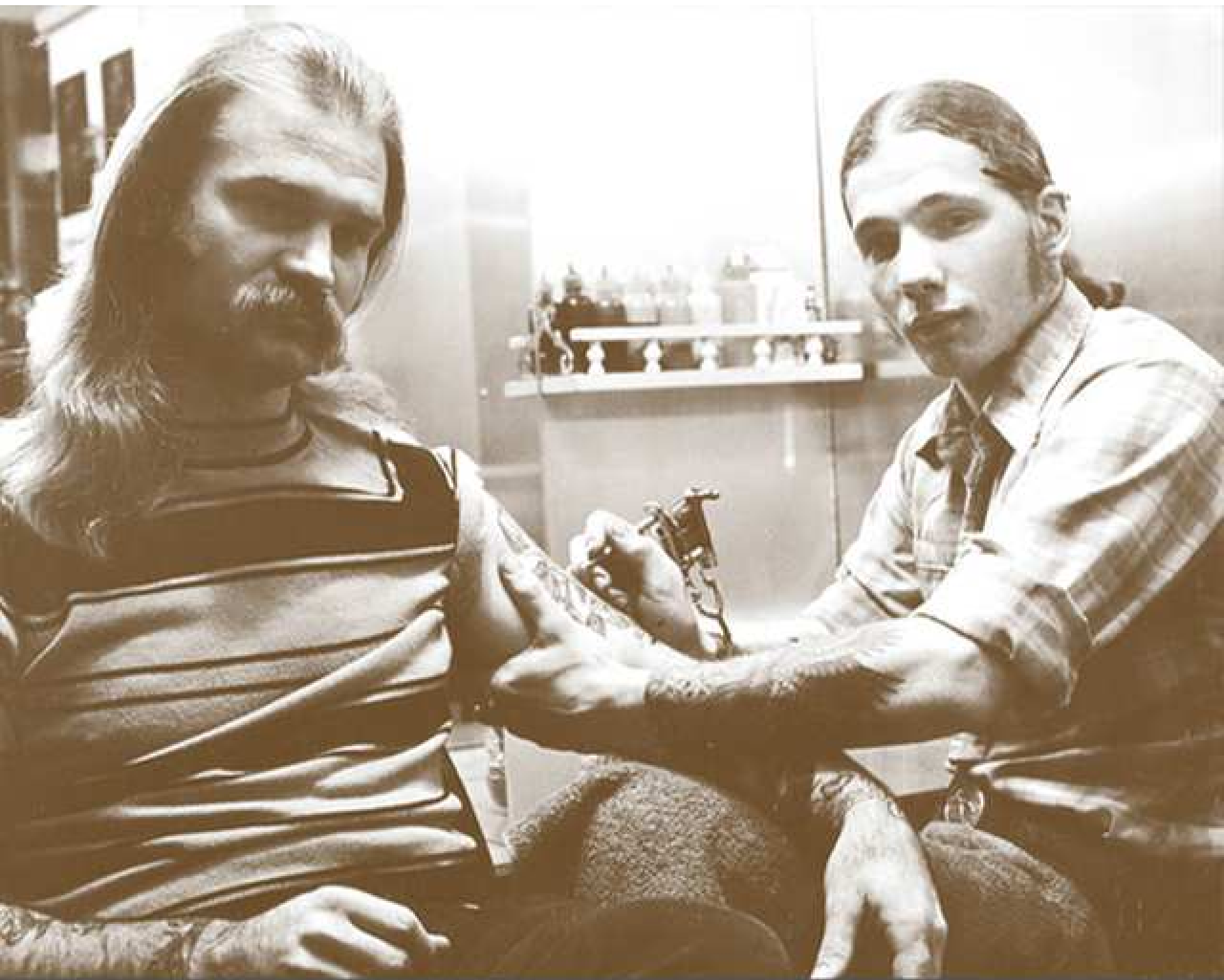


Photo: Smokey & Lyle Tuttle Jr. in the mid 1970's



Photo: Pat Martynuik in the late 1980's









# PICTURE MACHINE TATTOO

1976

san

# TAT

OPEN

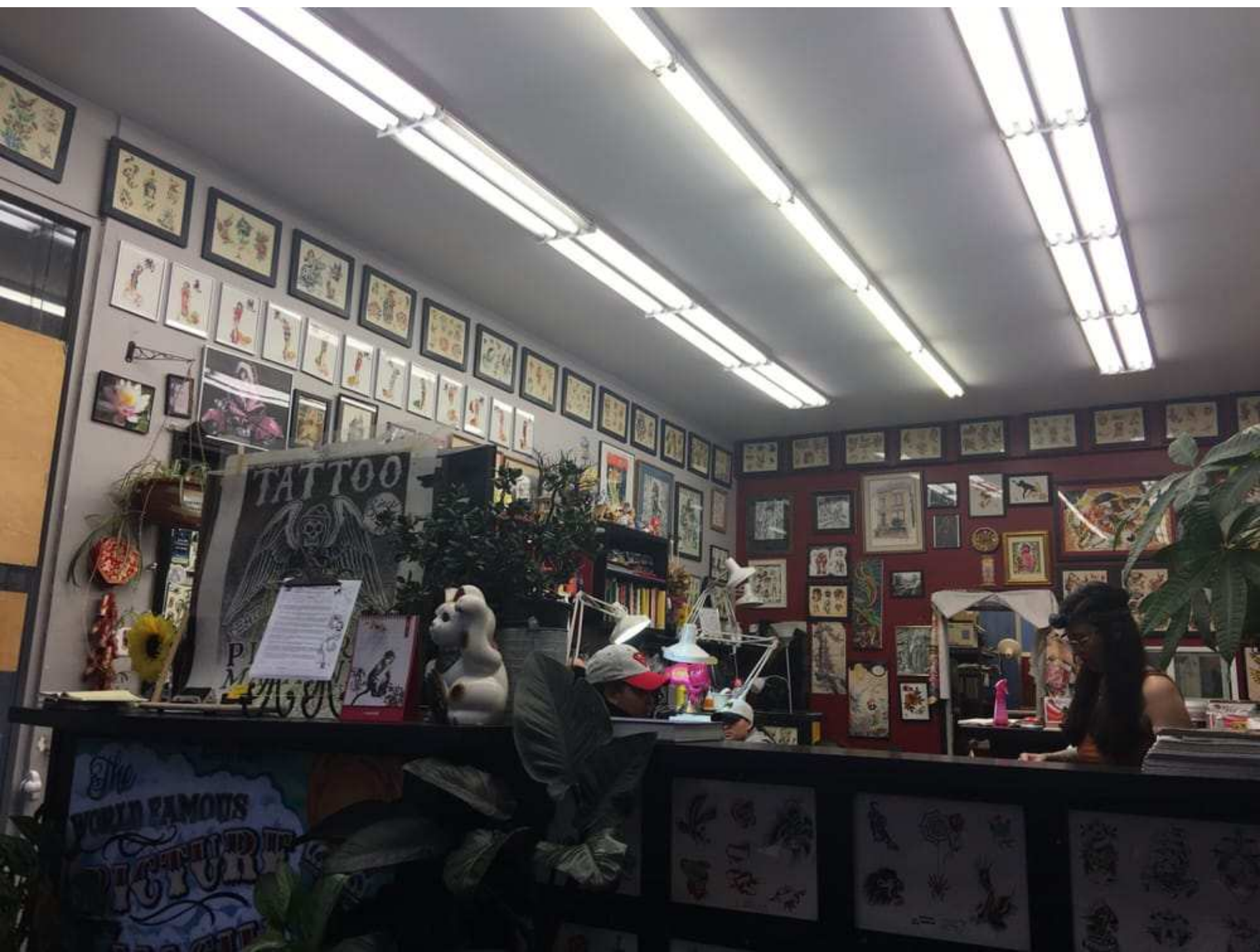


















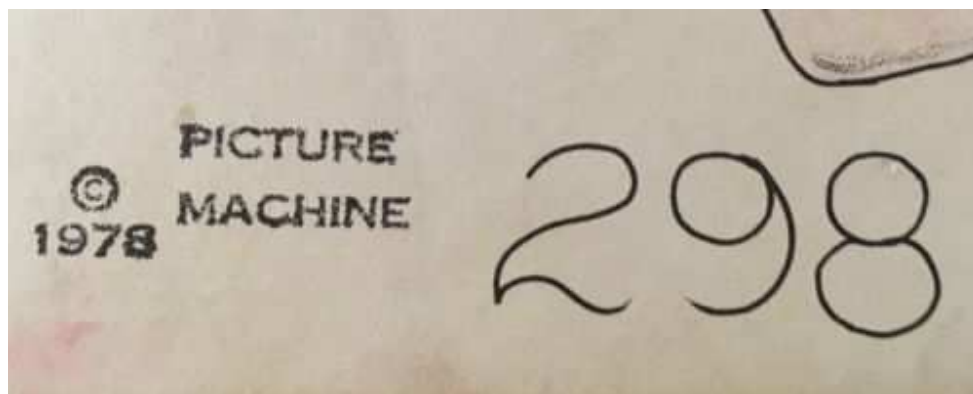




Flash created by Pat "picture machine" Martynuik is seen at Body Graphics Tattoo shop in Reno on March 18, 2015.

<https://www.rgj.com/story/life/2015/04/05/best-tattoo-parlors-lasting-shop-boom/25323091/>





### Original Vintage Pat 'Picture Machine' Martynuik Tattoo Flash Print Hand

What more could you ask for? This sheet is perfection. This is an original vintage shop used hand-colored Pat "Picture Machine" Tattoo Flash print. Originally from Canada, Pat Martynuik moved down to San Francisco in the 1970's to work for the infamous Lyle Tuttle. It was Tuttle who gave Pat his nickname "Picture Machine" because he was such an industrious illustrator of flash. Pat liked the nickname so much that when he struck out on his own and opened up his own shop in SF in 1976, he named the shop Picture Machine. Pat died of a heart attack many years later in that very shop while tattooing a client. The shop is still in operation and is currently the oldest running shop in San Francisco, which is known around the world for its rich Tattoo history. - [diacloonegenomeproject](https://picclick.com/Original-Vintage-Pat-%E2%80%98Picture-Machine%E2%80%99-Martynuik-Tattoo-Flash-232982898605.html)

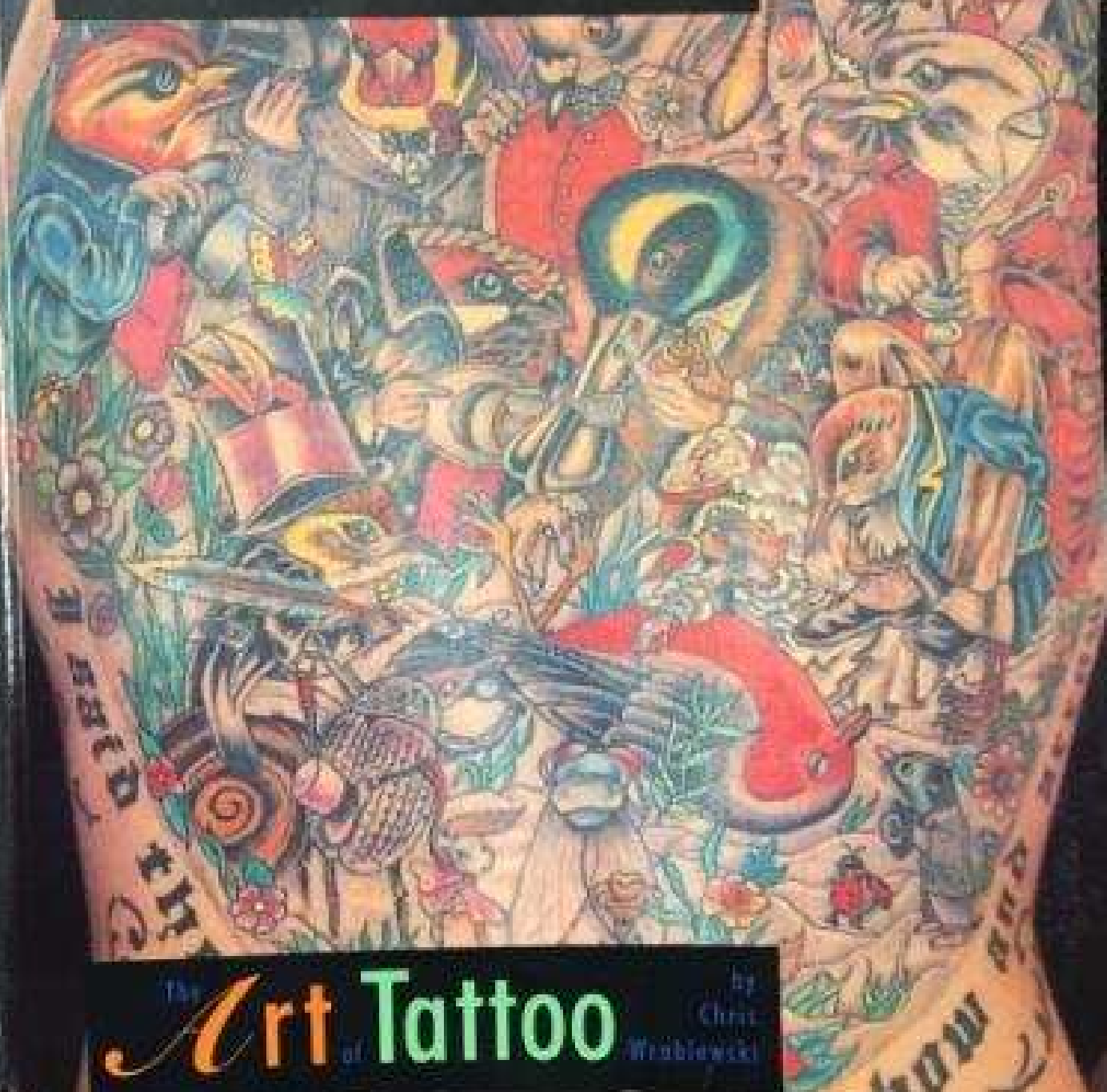
(<https://picclick.com/Original-Vintage-Pat-%E2%80%98Picture-Machine%E2%80%99-Martynuik-Tattoo-Flash-232982898605.html>)

# SKIN

SHOWS II

The Art of Tattoo

by  
Chris  
Wroblewski





# the **Richmond ReView**

May 2013

[www.sfrichmondreview.com](http://www.sfrichmondreview.com)

FREE

## *Tattoos not just for sailors*



## City holds first budget meeting in Richmond; deficits forecast

by Thomas K. Pendergast

It is not clear exactly if the good news balances out the bad when it comes to the City's new budget, as recently announced by Mayor Ed Lee.

On the one hand, last year San Francisco had a \$170 million deficit and a 7.6 percent unemployment rate. This year the deficit, which is the legally mandated amount that the City must cut from the budget, is down to \$123 million, which is not as bad as it sounds considering that a year ago the same deficit was predicted to be \$312 million. The unemployment rate is about 5 percent.

Photo: Philip Liborio Gangi



HUNTER S. THOMPSON

"His writing, ever feisty, proves again...that he is one of our most incisive, insightful, and hilarious social critics." —*The New York Times Book Review*

# Generation of Swine

Gonzo Papers, Volume 2

Tales of Shame and Degradation in the '80's



## Saturday Night in The City

I dropped Maria off in front of the tattoo parlor just before midnight. There was no place to park on the street, so I sent her inside and found a place on the sidewalk, in front of a house with no lights.

Why not? I figured. Black car, dark sidewalk, nothing but cranked Chinese teen-agers on the street . . . and we did, in fact, need the story. The week had been too long and fast for wise and considered reflection. I had lectured for something like 166 straight hours on morals and manners and politics, in addition to drugs and violence. I had been awake for too long.

We had located the Picture Machine Tattoo Parlor in the Yellow Pages, only an hour before it closed. It was time to get the story.

Fortunately, it was only a few blocks away from the hotel, on the corner of Third and Geary, in the same lonely doorway as Suicide Prevention Inc. The whole front of the building was shrouded by thick steel accordion screens, like the ones they have in Beirut.

The suicide clinic was closed, but Maria rang the bell to the tattoo parlor and then disappeared inside.

By the time I got there, she was already staring dolefully at a small white card from the Key and Cohn Dermatology Clinic. It said, "Tattoo Removals by Laser Surgery," prices and fees on request.

Another card, which the tattoo man had given her, said, "DO NOT PICK SCAB. . . . I WILL NOT THEREFORE BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TATTOO AFTER YOU LEAVE MY PREMISES. THANK YOU."



<https://goldengatepress.org/2015/09/22/students-share-tattoo-stories/>

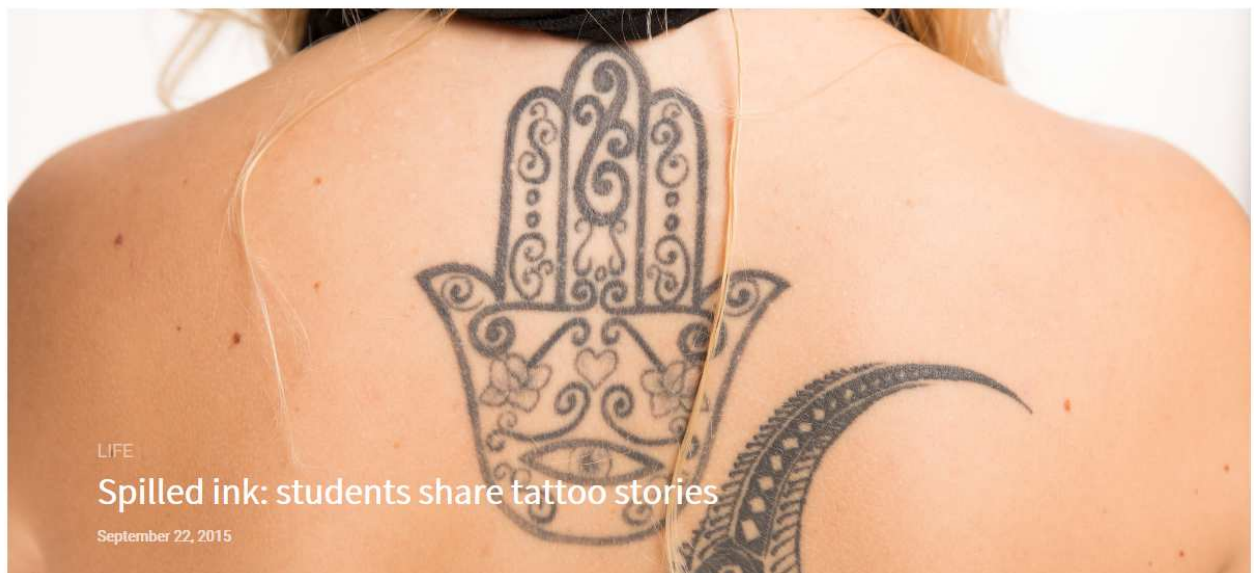


Life

## Spilled ink: students share tattoo stories

Author: [Samantha Lusignan](#)

September 22, 2015



Twisting lines of blue ink wrap around a pale thigh to form dark waves. Further down the tattooed leg lurks a hammerhead shark, peeping almost coyly out from the bottom of a current. A black octopus is tucked in the safety of a shadow. So far, this work of living art has taken Sara Lou Gordon, an SF State junior, more than 27 hours over a series of \$200 sessions.

"I really should insure my body," Gordon joked.

Gordon, 21, is majoring in environmental studies to become an environmental lawyer. According to Gordon, her family is against all forms of body modifications, including



tattoos. Gordon said her family is Jewish, and her religion prohibits the burial of any tattooed persons in a Jewish cemetery.

"My religious side of the family would be upset if I wasn't buried with them because they all have areas for their family members," Gordon said. "Trees guarantee life after death, not just your own, but to everything else around you."

Gordon is one of several SF State students who said that their tattoos represent and generate personal conflicts in their lives.

Gordon said religion is part of the reason why she keeps her tattoos a secret from her parents, who she said would "flip out" if they ever learned of her six large tattoos. Despite her family's reservations, Gordon got her first tattoo before she moved from her hometown of Los Angeles to San Francisco at age 19. Many of her tattoos stem from seeds and trees to represent her growth as a person, she said.

SF State alumnus Campbell Alexander, 23, is a tattoo artist who worked on the majority of Gordon's tattoos at Picture Machine Tattoo on Geary Boulevard. Alexander said Gordon's thigh tattoo is the largest piece he has done for a client.

"We get a wide variety of students, especially from San Francisco State," Alexander said. "For students' first tattoos, there isn't a huge trend that people follow. They usually get something sentimental because they want something that means a lot to them rather than getting something cool for the sake of looking cool."

Sean Followill, 21, is a senior studying art. According to Followill, he is the only one in his family with tattoos. He said it came as a shock to his parents when he showed them his tattoo, which starts from his shoulder and extends down to his wrist. He has a new addition covering his chest: an unfinished owl that he started last week.

Followill said he got his tattoos to express how he deals with his personal struggles, like his diabetes. As a child, he said he had to deal with being the "different kid" who didn't get to play as long as the other kids and constantly had to monitor his sugar levels.

"I was diabetic since I was four," Followill said. "The snake wrapped around the medical cross and my MLK quote represents my experience dealing with my diabetes. It shows that things can be bad, but you gotta just power through it."

Although the tattoos represent important aspects of her life, Gordon said they have caused some unwanted attention, especially the tattoo that runs from her hip to her knee.

"People have no form of etiquette for tattoos," Gordon said. "I have random men come up to me at bars saying 'oh my gosh, your tattoo,' and proceed to lift up my skirt to see more of it."

SF State student and business marketing major Samantha Kephart, 22, has experienced similar treatment because of her body art. One of her bigger pieces is a Hamsa symbol, an Arabic hand symbol used as an amulet to ward off evil.

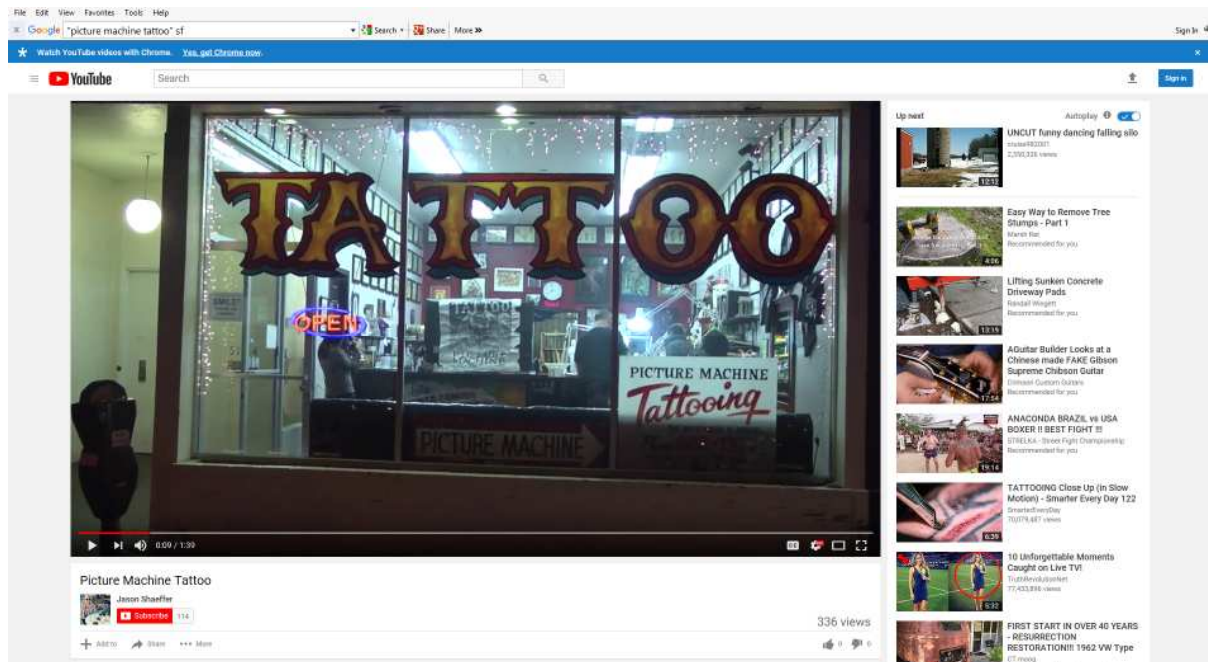
“People come up to me and treat me differently because of it,” Kephart said. “When I wear a shirt revealing the tattoo on my back, guys approach me thinking I am there for more than just a drink, but the worst that happens are men who randomly slap my back. How is that OK or acceptable?”

Despite mixed reactions from others, Gordon and other students said they aren’t deterred from getting tattooed.

“Honestly, I love my tattoos more everyday,” Gordon said. “I get to look at specific times of my life and see the inspiration and where I was at that time. When I look at my tattoos, it’s like the ultimate journaling.”

# Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSCasIGU8rk>



## Picture Machine Tattoo

Published on Sep 6, 2015



Jason Shaeffer



# PICTURE MACHINE



*Since  
1976*

*In  
Memory of  
Pat Martyniuk*

# SAN FRANCISCO



SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2018-19-031  
*Business Name:* Randy's Place  
*Business Address:* 1101 Ocean Avenue  
*District:* District 7  
*Applicant:* Sue Castle, Owner  
*Nomination Date:* February 15, 2019  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Norman Yee

**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

1101 Ocean Avenue from 1969 to Present (50 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:** N/A

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** February 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo  
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program





President, Board of Supervisors  
District 7

City and County of San Francisco

**NORMAN YEE**

February 15, 2019

Dear Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi:

I am writing to nominate Randy's Place (1101 Ocean Ave) to the Legacy Business Registry.

The owner, Sue Castle, has been the longest serving bartender in one location, 50 years on April 4, 2019. Randy's Place is also the second oldest continuously operating bar in San Francisco's west side and has operated in SF for over 43 years. Almost five decades ago, there were ten bars in the Ingleside neighborhood; now Randy's Place is one of two remaining bars in this neighborhood. The building is classified as Category B historic status. Randy's Place keeps their drinks affordably priced and primarily serves working class local residents and City College students. Randy's Place has often held fundraisers to support the Friends of the Geneva Car Barn and Powerhouse, SFFD Cancer Prevention Foundation and hosted other community events.

I am proud to nominate Randy's Place to the Legacy Business Registry and thank you for your serious consideration regarding their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman Yee".

Norman Yee



## 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.

<b>NAME OF BUSINESS:</b>		
Randy's Place		
<b>BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)</b>		
Sue Castle		
<b>CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:</b>		<b>TELEPHONE:</b>
1101 Ocean Ave.		((415) 584-7020
		<b>EMAIL:</b>
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<b>FACEBOOK PAGE:</b>	<b>YELP PAGE</b>
www.randysplacesf.com	N/A	https://www.yelp.com/biz/randys-place-san-francisco

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

<b>SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:</b>	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):</b>
0168590	

<b>OFFICIAL USE: Completed by OSB Staff</b>	
<b>NAME OF NOMINATOR:</b>	<b>DATE OF NOMINATION:</b>

## 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.

<b>ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>START DATE OF BUSINESS</b>
1101 Ocean Ave.	94112	April 4, 1969
<b>IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	4/4/1969 to present	

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		Start:
		End:

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		Start:
		End:

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		Start:
		End:

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		Start:
		End:

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		Start:
		End:

<b>OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):</b>	<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	<b>DATES OF OPERATION</b>
N/A		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.

SUSAN Castle

Name (Print):

19 Feb '19

Date:

Susan Castle

Signature:



## **RANDY'S PLACE**

### **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.**

Randy's Place is bar located at 1101 Ocean Avenue in the Ingleside neighborhood of San Francisco. It has been in business since 1975. It is considered a neighborhood institution, and harks back to the days when Ingleside was a neighborhood known as a destination for sporting men to gamble, drink, and hunt. Its owner/operator, Sue Castle, holds the record in San Francisco for longest-serving bartender at one location, and will mark 50 years on April 4, 2019.

Castle founded Randy's Place, which was previously called Prosek's for approximately 60 years. Born in Italy on August 15, 1939, Castle immigrated to New York with her family when she was a child. She became a U.S. citizen on Dec. 2, 1957, and enlisted in the U.S. Army on Feb. 3, 1958. She served in the Women's Army Corps for six years and then 23 years in the Army Reserve.

From 1965 to 1969, Castle owned and operated Gene's Cocktails in the Lower Haight neighborhood at 488 Haight Street. From 1971 to 1974, she managed the bar at the Gaylord Hotel.

On April 4, 1969, Castle bought Prosek's, a longstanding bar in Ingleside, when its longtime owner/operator Lou Dapelo retired. Dapelo had bought the bar and building from the Prosek family after working for them for 15 years.

In 1971, Castle executed her two-year option to buy the building. In 1975, she renamed the bar "Randy's Place" after her late son Randy.

Castle has run this bar with help from her family for nearly 50 years. When she purchased the business, women were not allowed to bartend unless named on the liquor licenses.

Randy's Place has operated in San Francisco for more than 43 years and should be considered for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

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

In 2008, Randy's Place was closed for eight months while the building underwent renovation and a two-story commercial building was built on its backyard.

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

Randy's Place is not considered a family-owned business, defined as any business in which two or more family members are involved and the majority of ownership or control lies within a family.

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

Not applicable. Sue Castle is the original owner.

**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.**

Not applicable.

**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 historic resource status of the building housing Randy's Place (1101-1103 Ocean Avenue and 295-299 Lee Avenue) is classified by the Planning Department as Category B (Unknown / Age Eligible) with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Randy's Place may be the second oldest continuously operated bar in San Francisco's west side. The first is Little Shamrock, which began operation around 1890. The building housing Randy's Place was constructed prior to 1900. Insurance maps show it was there in the 1890s. In 1906, the *San Francisco Call* printed an article with the headline, "Saloon-Keepers Happy; the following licenses to conduct saloons were granted." William and Edward Prosek were listed as grantees of licenses to operate a saloon at Ocean and Lee avenues. The bar was called Prosek's and later Prosek's Bar.

In 1935, according to an article from the *Oakland Tribune*, the State Board of Equalization voted to revoke Prosek's liquor license. No specific information is known about the incident.

## **CRITERION 2**

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

Randy's Place is an establishment that primarily serves the working class residents of Ingleside and the students of nearby City College of San Francisco. Castle strives to keep drinks affordable and maintain accommodating hours and a consistent level of service. Castle celebrates all major holidays and provides a buffet for customers. Regular customers often hold birthday parties and other celebrations at the bar.

Randy's Place is one of the last two liquor bars in Ingleside. In the 1970s, there had been 10 bars.

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

Since at least 1906, 1101 Ocean Avenue has housed a bar. It appears the bar was in operation during Prohibition.

Randy's Place has been part of several events in recent years along with Ocean Ale House and the Ave Bar & Lounge (a Legacy Business).

In June 2016, Randy's Place participated in the first Ocean Avenue Craft Beer Bar Crawl. The proceeds from the sale of wristbands that acted as tickets went to the nonprofit Friends of the Geneva Car Barn & Powerhouse. Later that year in October 2016, Randy's Place participated in an Oktoberfest-themed Ocean Avenue Craft Beer Bar Crawl. The proceeds from the sale of wristbands that acted as tickets went to the nonprofit Friends of the Geneva Car Barn & Powerhouse and the SFFD Cancer Prevention Foundation.

In 2018, Randy's Place participated in the Ocean Avenue Craft Beer Bar Crawl and History Walk which featured Western Neighborhoods Project Executive Director and San Francisco historian Woody LaBounty. LaBounty gave talks at each bar about Ingleside's history. Proceeds from sales of custom pint glasses that acted as tickets to the event went to the Ingleside Community Fund, the nonprofit arm of the Ocean Avenue Association Community Benefit District, to seed a Public Art Fund.

In February 2019, Randy's Place participated for the first time in San Francisco Beer Week, an annual event where brewers roll out their latest craft ales, stouts, and more.

Randy's Place will be participating in the October Craft Beer Bar Crawl and History Walk set for October 15, 2019.



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

Yes, Randy's Place has been featured in several news articles:

- The San Francisco Chronicle in an article by Stephanie Wright Hession on August 13, 2013, titled, "Ocean Avenue, San Francisco."
- The Bold Italic in an article by Molly Sanchez on Oct 19, 2014, titled, "Why I Love Living in Ingleside."
- The neighborhood newspaper the Ingleside-Excelsior Light in an article by Anthony Myers on June 16, 2016, titled, "Randy's Place Owner Sue Castle Celebrates 45 Years Serving Drinks on Ocean Avenue."
- SF Weekly in an article by Dylan Goldberger on September 14, 2016, titled, "Top 50 Dive Bars in San Francisco."
- BayNewsNow.com in an article by Adelyna Tirado on May 18, 2017, titled, "Susan Castle of Randy's Place."

Randy's Place has also been featured in a video:

- Susan Castle of Randy's Place on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/213147860>.

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

Sue Castle may hold the record in San Francisco for a bartender serving at one location. She certainly holds the record for the longest female bartender serving at one location. J.K. Dineen's book *High Spirit's* from 2015 notes that Jack Ryan was the owner/operator of the Old Homestead in the Mission for 49 years.

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

The business is open six days a week. Castle hosts holiday celebrations throughout the year. Castle has participated in fundraising events for the nonprofit Friends of Geneva Car Barn & Powerhouse, the Ocean Avenue Association Community Benefit District, SFFD Cancer Prevention Fund, and the Journalism Department and Athletics Department of City College of San Francisco.

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

The business serves the gamut from painters to retirees to nearby college instructors and students and grocery store clerks. Apart from the Excelsior, the Ingleside is one of the last remaining true blue collar neighborhoods in San Francisco.

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

1101-1103 Ocean Avenue is a corner parcel facing Ocean Avenue to the north and Lee Avenue to the east. A commercial Victorian in style, the two-story wood-framed structure has a modified mansard roof. The walls are clad in stucco at the first floor and vinyl siding at the second. The generous windows and doors have been outfitted with aluminum replacements.

The building's primary entrance, located at the northeast corner of the first floor, is recessed, angled diagonal to the facades, and consists of a single wood door. There are flower planters, a living unit on the second floor, and generous windows. There is no garage. Its sign, which protrudes at a diagonal angle from the building's outermost corner, features the business name and an illustration of a burlesque dancer bathing in a tipped Martini glass. Bubbles abound.

Randy's Place operates in one of the few remaining small-scale, mixed-use buildings in a neighborhood at risk of losing its street-level granularity.

Inside, the only remaining component of the original space is a portion of the floor by the front door. The barroom has high ceilings, a long L-shaped bar with shelves for liquor, a beer tap station, televisions, a juke box, two ADA-compliant bathrooms, an amusement machine tucked by the bar, a pool table, and other decorations.

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

Randy's Place is a quintessential neighborhood bar. If Randy's Place were to close, the Ocean Avenue corridor would lose one of two remaining liquor bars. It is one of the few nightlife establishments in Ingleside. It functions as an important meeting place.

Sue Castle told the Ingleside-Excelsior Light, "'There were 10 bars on Ocean Avenue when I opened.' Now there are only two. Three if Tropi-Gala, a night club on the other side of San Jose Avenue, is included. 'Before it was Randy's Place, 1101 Ocean Ave, was known as Papa Prozac's [sic],' she said. 'Women couldn't even get served there without a male escort.' On the same block was a bar called the Fallout that later became the Caribbean Rose. There was the House of Nick's, the Westwood Lounge, Red Roof (which was a restaurant that had a bar inside), Botts, Zanzibar, 100 Grand and the City Dump. 'I never really understood why, but as each one closed in turn, business for the rest got worse and worse,' Castle said. 'It's completely counter intuitive. You'd think if there were less bars there would be more business for each one.' Many of the regulars would go from bar to bar, and that's why when one closed, it hurt the rest. 'Bars also started shutting down in the 1980s when they began getting sued with more regularity,' Castle said. Insurance against such claims was astronomical, and coupled with rising rents, it may have helped cull the number of Ocean Avenue bars. Another possible cause was

the loss of some of the longtime businesses like Safeway across from Randy's Place, and nearby Grand Auto, a repair shop."<sup>1</sup>

### **CRITERION 3**

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

Randy's Place is a quintessential San Francisco neighborhood bar. It has the character that only a diverse and longstanding clientele and ownership can create.

Randy's Place's exterior has large windows. The front door is small and wooden and opens on a diagonal angle from the building's outermost corner.

Inside, there's a long bar with a full complement of liquor and eight beer taps, a pool table, televisions, a cash jukebox, and décor that denotes all major holidays. The ceilings are high and there are two ADA-accessible bathrooms.

Randy's Place is well positioned by both Muni bus and light rail stops and a few minutes walk from Balboa Park BART Station.

The business is open six days a week. Holiday celebrations such as the Super Bowl, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve are held at the bar. Castle has participated in fundraising events for the nonprofit Friends of Geneva Car Barn & Powerhouse, the Ocean Avenue Association Community Benefit District, SFFD Cancer Prevention Fund, and the Journalism Department and Athletics Department of City College of San Francisco.

#### **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)**

Randy's Place serves as the diverse neighborhood's living room and, for near 50 years, Sue Castle has served as hostess. The atmosphere is enhanced by a jukebox filled with hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Its pool table hosts many games every day. Castle strives to offer reasonably priced drinks. She has a warm rapport with regulars and newcomers alike. Keeping her prices low is a point of pride. A mixed drink costs \$3 - \$5.

#### **c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior**

---

<sup>1</sup> Ingleside-Excelsior Light, "Randy's Place Owner Sue Castle Celebrates 45 Years Serving Drinks on Ocean Avenue," Anthony Myers, June 16, 2016.



**physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).**

Despite the renovation in 2010, as much as possible of the original floor was retained, as well as much of the original layout. The exterior signage was also kept in the same orientation. The juke box, bar paraphernalia and amusement machines were all retained.

**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.**

Not applicable.

















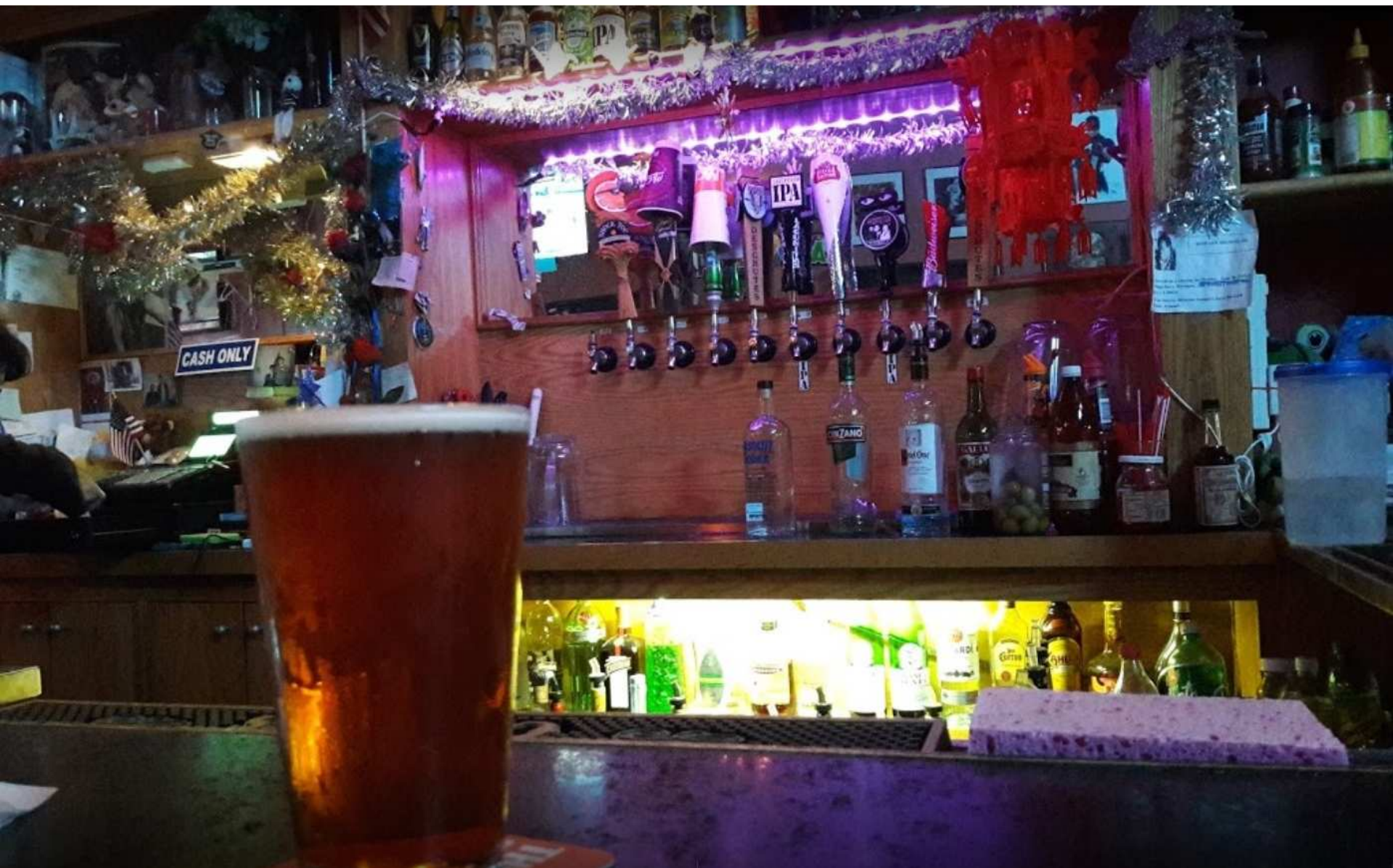


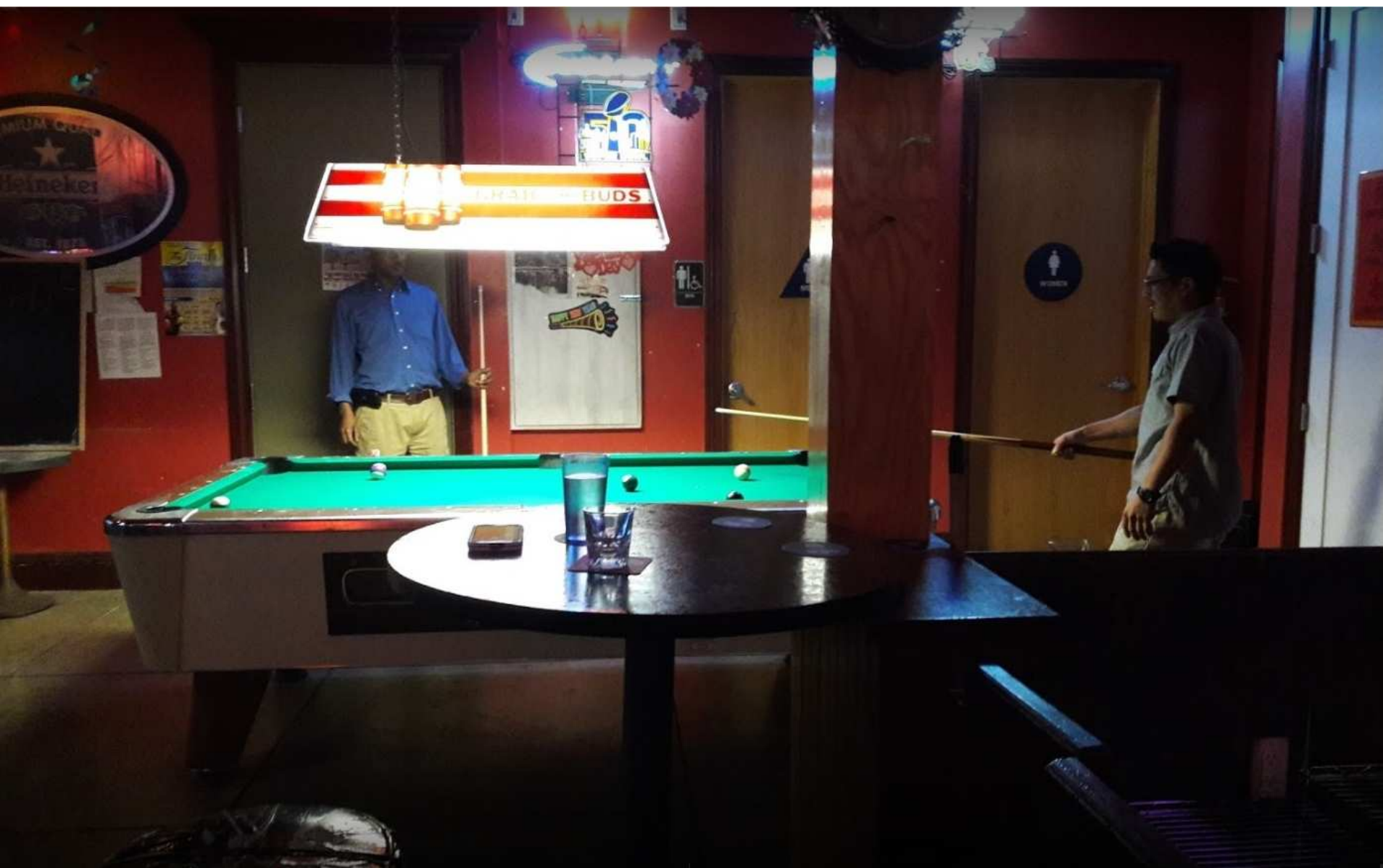














<https://www.sfgate.com/travel/streetdate/article/Ocean-Avenue-San-Francisco-4671189.php#photo-4908724>

# San Francisco Chronicle

## Ocean Avenue, San Francisco

**Stephanie Wright Hession**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2013**

Backpacked students from City College of San Francisco walk along Ocean Avenue passing by small businesses, auto shops and bustling traffic in the Ingleside and Westwood Park neighborhoods. In the residential area, fog drifts near windswept trees and homes ranging from stucco Mediterranean with red tiled roofs to wood-shingled Craftsman-style abodes.



San Francisco Fire Department Station 15 mural  
Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



## **1. San Francisco Fire Department Station 15 mural**

1000 Ocean Ave.: Andy Silvestri, the son of a retired firefighter, painted this history-themed mural on the upper front of the San Francisco Fire Department Station 15 in 1999. It features three horses pulling a steam fire engine and a firefighter carrying a ladder into a burning grocery store.

## **2. Beep's Burgers**

1051 Ocean Ave.: Beep's cooks juicy, made-to-order quarter- and half-pound hamburgers served with steak-cut fries for less than \$5, double hot dogs and fish sandwiches. Take in the old-school vibe by perching yourself on one of a few high stools outside. Cash only. (415) 584-2650.

## **3. Tea Me**

1125 Ocean Ave.: Students bring their laptops and settle in to study on the comfortable sofa or one of the cushioned chairs at tables inside this petite, congenial cafe, which specializes in savory and sweet crepes such as a Nutella and strawberry version, as well as bubble tea. It also offers free Wi-Fi. (415) 333-3771.

## **4. Randy's Place**

1101 Ocean Ave.: Stop at this bar to have a pint of beer or a potent drink at prices that won't bust your wallet, to converse with amiable locals, and to watch the boys of summer and other sports, all in an inviting and down-home atmosphere. (415) 584-7021.

## **5. Ingleside Branch Library**

1298 Ocean Ave.: At this San Francisco Public Library branch, children and adults can participate in "Summer Read S.F. 2013," which runs through Aug. 11. Those who complete the program receive a prize of either a book of their choice or a pair of passes to a museum. (415) 355-2898. [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org).

## **6. St. Emydius Catholic Church**

286 Ashton Ave.: Named after the patron saint for deliverance from earthquakes, designed after Mexico City's Basilica of our Lady of Guadalupe and dedicated in 1928, St. Emydius Catholic Church offers Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sundays and 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday. (415) 587-7066.

## **PARKING**

Two-hour metered parking on Ocean Avenue.

## **GETTING THERE**

**Public transit:** Exit Balboa Park BART Station and turn left onto Ocean Avenue. [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov), [www.sfmta.com](http://www.sfmta.com).

**By car from the East Bay:** Cross the Bay Bridge and continue on Highway 101 south, merging onto Interstate 280 south toward Daly City. Exit at Ocean Avenue and turn right on Ocean Avenue.

### GOOD TO KNOW

Don't miss the opportunity to see Diego Rivera's "Pan American Unity" mural. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday. (Public viewing after Friday is undetermined.) Diego Rivera Theatre at City College of San Francisco. (415) 239-3127. <http://bit.ly/JBbyVz>.

- Stephanie Wright Hession, [96hours@sfchronicle.com](mailto:96hours@sfchronicle.com)



Todd Trumbull / The Chronicle



Beep's Burgers

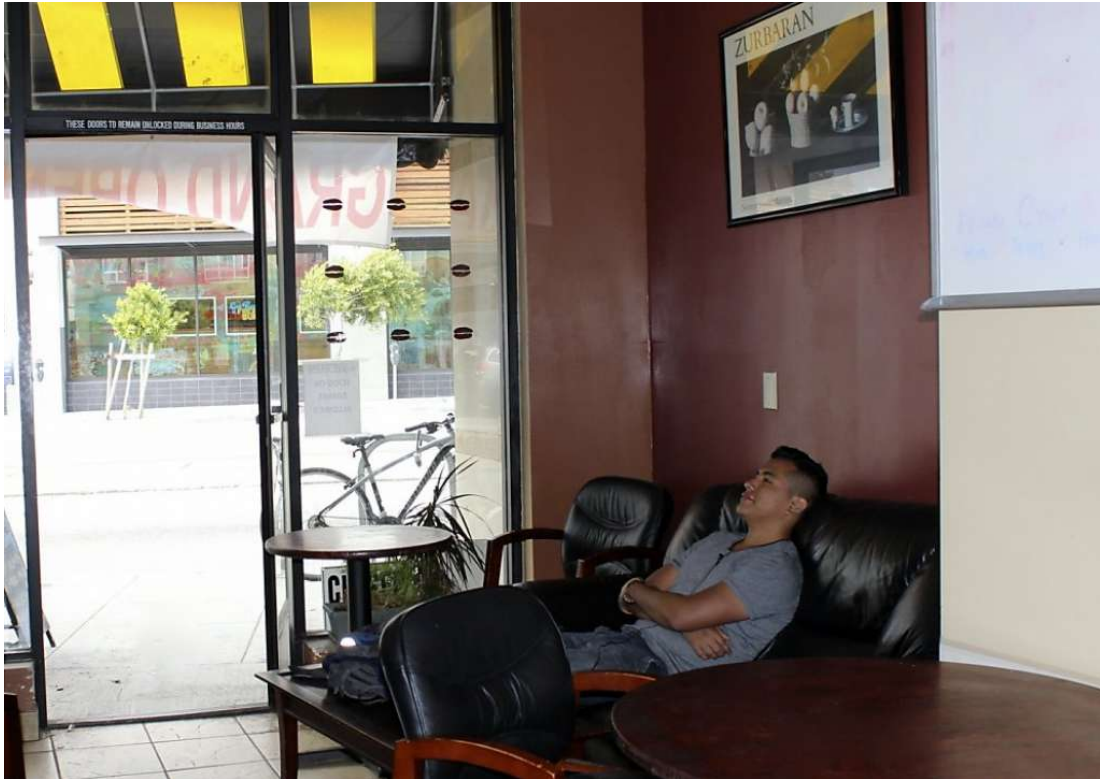
Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



Beep's Burgers cooks juicy, made to order and pound hamburgers served with steak cut fries for less than \$5.

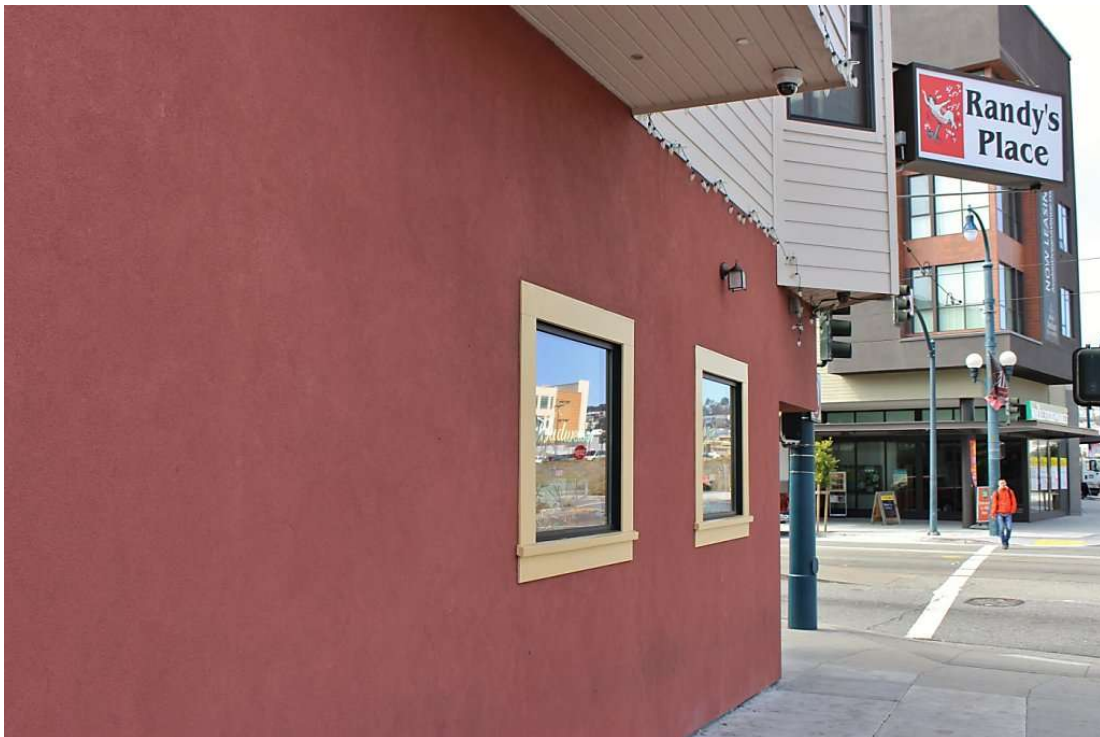
Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle





Tea Me

Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



Randy's Place

Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



Randy's Place sells a pint of beer or a potent drink at prices that won't bust your wallet.  
Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



Ingleside Branch Library  
Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle





Ingleside Branch Library is participating in the San Francisco Public Library's Summer Read 2013, which runs through August 11.

Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle



St. Emydius Catholic Church

Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle





St. Emydius Catholic Church is named after the patron saint for deliverances from earthquakes.

Photo: Stephanie Wright Hession, Special To The Chronicle

## Why I Love Living in Ingleside



The Bold Italic Editors [Follow](#)

Oct 19, 2014 · 6 min read



**By Molly Sanchez**

I'll admit, most people don't know where my neighborhood is. When they ask where I live, I have to explain, "up past State," "by Daly City, kind of," and "like Excelsior but not." Ingleside also gets left out of San Francisco roundups that characterize parts of the city. The houses here are cheap compared to other neighborhoods, liquor stores still stock illicit gems like Four Loko, and the media generally pays attention to the crime stats here more than anything else. Initially, my move to Ingleside was one of convenience, seeing as it was a short walk to San Francisco State. But over the five years I've lived here, I've found a great community that lacks pretension in a hipster-free zone that I am proud to call my hood.



*(Golden Zumba at IT Bookman Community Center)*

Ingleside's neighborhood networks are small but mighty. The IT Bookman Community Center is one of my favorite hubs. Its monthly

fish fries, crab boils, and pancake breakfasts would be my favorite events if not for one other thing that's offered: Golden Zumba. This free Zumba class happens at 10 a.m. every Monday, just one of the many programs the center provides—line dancing, bingo, and tai chi among them. In a recent time of fun employment, I wiped the crumbs off my exercise pants (which had been chiefly used as eat-Doritos-and-watch-wedding-shows pants) and headed over to a class. I was the youngest participant by about 30 years. Golden Zumba caters mainly to ladies in their 50s and 60s bedecked in workout clothes of the “World’s Best Grandma” variety.

Another of my favorite Ingleside fitness spots is the sundial. I found this gem when babysitting two kids in the Ingleside Terrace (read: more suburban) neighborhood. I suggest including a run around the sundial park in your workout routine. The more adventurous among us can include a climb up the steep surface of the dial as well. (Although I can’t recommend it for legal reasons, I can say a certain *Bold Italic* writer has successfully made it to the tippy top and slid down.)



The restaurants in Ingleside are mostly found along Ocean Avenue. But there is one dining option I can recommend on the Randolph Street drag: April Nine. When I first moved here, this place was a neglected pizza-burrito joint that my roommates and I were pretty sure was a front for a meth lab. About a year ago a new business took over, painted the whole place mint green, and started a delicious and cost-effective Thai restaurant that is a bright spot on the street.





*(April Nine)*

In my mind, though, Ingleside is the part of the city sandwiched between Alemany and Ocean Avenue, the latter of which is the only real entertainment strip in the neighborhood. It's a lively street where families and dazed city college kids meander daily. There's a plethora of delicious neighborhood food here too. The crown jewel is Beep's Burgers.



*(Beep's)*

Beep's is the name your hangover calls in the morning. The smell of sizzling meat pervades the air around it, and the McDonald's one block over shoots it a wicked side eye all day long. Beep's is a retro-tastic corner stand that serves up everything from burgers to teriyaki bowls. It's often inundated with high school kids who scrape dollars from the corners of their knapsacks to split crispy steak fries while trying out swear words at the counter. Old-timers park their cars out front and crank Temptations on the radio as they wait for their food. Like the neighborhood around it, a Beep's burger is straightforward and special. You will find no grass-fed bison here, no trendy brioche buns, nothing approaching an aioli. You will find a burger whose grease dots a white paper bag and whose orange tangy secret sauce mingles

perfectly with melted cheese and honest-to-goodness beef. And you will be reminded that simple tastes good.



Kitty-corner to Beep's is Randy's Place. Inside is always a holiday, and by that I mean every holiday at once. New Year's banners cloy with shamrock tinsel, and confusingly, happy-birthday pennants are draped around a whiteboard reading "R.I.P Nick." Like most of the bars in this neighborhood, the stools of Randy's Place are permanently filled by locals—usually pushing 60 and full of stories. Sit by any one of them, buy them a beer and a cup of ice to go with it, and they will tell you all about Ingleside and San Francisco, past and present.

A similar crowd convenes at The Ave Bar, the only other bar in the neighborhood. The old-timers mingle with the 20-somethings, sometimes sharing a dance to the blaring hip-hop beat from the jukebox. That is not a quaint word picture; I literally overheard a woman explaining "twerking" to an octogenarian. The bougie downtown bars that boast of "exposed wood" don't have anything on the Ave, whose walls are actually made of plywood. It's like drinking in a construction site, a hallmark of many a suburban childhood. No? I'm the only one?



*(The Ave Bar)*

The bartenders at the Ave can move a shaker with the best mixologists in the city. They deftly swirl vodka, soda, St. Germain, and fresh squeezed lime and lemon juice into a frosty mason jar to create the signature cocktail named, of course, “The Ave.” And I would be remiss as an amateur Bloody Mary researcher if I didn’t mention the Ave’s take on this cocktail. It starts, as all the best things do, with a squirt of Sriracha. That adds a lovely tang to the traditional Mary fixings and makes this cocktail really stand out. If you want a Mary with a leg of lamb or half a boar, this is not the place. Instead, you can enjoy the ample garnish of three pickled green beans and one olive that dives straight to the bottom.

Ingleside may be out of the way from the rest of the city, and often the weather is cold and gray. But I love that it’s bursting with families, regulars, and great stories. Plus, it smells like burgers on a windy day. It’s home.



. . .

**Photography by Andria Lo.**



<http://ielightsf.com/2016/06/16/randys-place-owner-sue-castle-celebrates-45-years-serving-drinks-on-ocean-avenue/>

# Ingleside-Excelsior Light

## **Randy's Place Owner Sue Castle Celebrates 45 Years Serving Drinks on Ocean Avenue**

By [Anthony Myers](#)

Posted on June 16, 2016



It's often said the city is a place of constant change. Despite being away from downtown, Ocean Avenue is no different.

Steadying the tide of new buildings and corporate shops, however, has been the presence of Randy's Place, a bar Sue Castle acquired and made her own forty-five years ago in April.

"I can always remember my anniversary opening here because it was Good Friday," Castle said. Fifty years bartending—45 of which at one location—is a lifetime, and to hear Castle tell it, it's the memories that make it worthwhile.

"There were 10 bars on Ocean Avenue when I opened," Castle said.

Now there are only two. Three if Tropi-Gala, a night club on the other side of San Jose Avenue, is included. So, what is Castle's secret? A love of people and the decades long relationships she has maintained over the years.

Named after Castle's now deceased son, Randy, her neighborhood bar was completely remodeled at the end of 2010, just in time to greet the revitalized Ocean Avenue. Students from City College drop in because of its close proximity, but there are plenty of regulars that give Randy's Place its unique atmosphere.

Every Wednesday around midday, Castle, 75 meets two of her pals, Jim Murphy and Geoffrey Bailey, both aged 81. Former bartenders themselves, all three used to frequent the many bars along Ocean Avenue, and both men ended up at Randy's Place after The Avenue (now The Ave) closed up.

Female bartenders were not common in the 1960's. In order to tend bar, a woman was required to be named on the permit. Before it was Randy's Place, 1101 Ocean Ave, was known as Papa Prozac's, Castle said. Women couldn't even get served there without a male escort, she said.

On the same block was a bar called the Fallout that later became the Caribbean Rose. Castle and her midday drinking buddies rattled off the other bars that had long since gone. There was the House of Nick's, the Westwood Lounge, Red Roof (which was a restaurant that had a bar inside), Botts, Zanzibar, 100 Grand and the City Dump.

"I never really understood why, but as each one closed in turn, business for the rest got worse and worse," Castle said. "It's completely counter intuitive. You'd think if there were less bars there would be more business for each one."

Many of the regulars would go from bar to bar, and that's why when one closed, it hurt the rest, Murphy suggested.

Bars started shutting down in the 1980's when they began getting sued with more regularity, Castle said. Insurance against such claims was astronomical, and coupled with rising rents, it may have helped cull the number of Ocean Avenue bars.

Another possible cause? Loss of some of the longtime businesses. There was a Safeway across from Randy's Place, and workers from there and nearby Grand Auto, a repair shop, would come in regularly. Employees from Anderson Roofing (now on San Jose Avenue near Sagamore Street) and some of the San Francisco Fire Department crew were also regular groups that would come in, Castle said.

Castle makes sure that Randy's Place still keeps drink prices where working people can afford them, even if all around its San Francisco looks more and more like a city where those same workers can't afford to live.

*This article first appeared in The Light's May 2014 print edition.*



# SF WEEKLY

## Top 50 Dive Bars in San Francisco



**Dylan Goldberger**  
**Wed Sep 14th, 2016**

In our vision of Hell, every surface is sticky, and every table needs a shim. Funny how that applies to more than a few dive bars, which we also consider to be the next best thing to paradise.

In spite of the massive changes the 21st century has wrought on San Francisco, there remains a bright constellation of grimy, crusty joints with inches-thick layers of character, like the tree rings of a sequoia that survived one fire after another. As with

the Supreme Court's you-know-it-when-you-see-it definition of pornography, the exact parameters of what constitutes a dive are contingent and fuzzy.

Some are like de facto private clubs, while others serve \$12 craft cocktails to keep the lights on. But many are barely known outside their immediate neighborhoods.

If you want standardization, predictability, and good lighting, go to Starbucks. If you want random adventure, affably cantankerous service, and (mostly) cheap beer, wade into S.F.'s glorious ecosystem of dives.

## **Randy's Place**

*1101 Ocean Ave.*

*Ingleside*

The faded old sign hanging over Randy's Place hints at how long the bar has been in the Ingleside — more than 45 years. The drinks are cheap, and the pool table is always in use. But perhaps its most redeeming feature is how close it is to Beep's Burgers — if you're not a jerk about it, you can even eat Beep's at the bar — allowing one to feed that constant cycle: Eat, get drunk, and eat again.

Owner Sue Castle has run the place for decades, naming it for her son, who is now deceased. But as long as Randy's Place stands, you can saunter in and raise a glass to him, and to a neighborhood that remembers its neighbors.

<https://www.baynewsnow.com/2017/05/18/susan-castle-of-randys-place/>



INGLESIDE

# Susan Castle of Randy's Place

May 18, 2017

atirado1



Susan Castle has owned and been the primary bartender of Randy's Place bar (originally Procecs) for the past 48 years. It's one of the few standing businesses that have lasted this long in the Ingleside District of San Francisco, California.

Castle is widely known in the Ingleside District for being such a down-to-earth, kind hearted lady, who treats her guests with her loving and motherly characteristics.



After her latest son, Randy, passed away, she renamed the business from Procecs to Randy's Place.

The bar is known for its affordable prices, laid-back atmosphere, and for Sue's wonderful hospitality.

In this video profile, she demonstrates women empowerment by explaining her story through creating the bar and maintaining it through her life struggle of losing her son; and growing up through harder times.

**Susan Castle of Randy's Place**

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/213147860>



Randy's Place is located at 1101 Ocean Ave, San Francisco, CA 94112.



SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS  
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

*Application No.:* LBR-2018-19-030  
*Business Name:* Wah Mei School  
*Business Address:* 1400 Judah Street  
*District:* District 4  
*Applicant:* Kelly Ng, Development Manager  
*Nomination Date:* February 14, 2019  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Gordon Mar

**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? ☒ Yes ☐ No

25 Lake Street from 1974 to 1976 (2 years)  
325 Arguello Blvd. from 1976 to 1978 (2 years)  
1400 Judah Street from 1978 to Present (41 years)

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

**NOTES:** N/A

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** February 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo  
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 4



City and County of San Francisco

**GORDON MAR**  
馬兆明

February 14, 2019

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director  
San Francisco Small Business Commission  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110

Dear Regina,

I would like to nominate Wah Mei School as a candidate for the Legacy Business Registry. Established in 1974 as part of the Chinese American civil rights movement, Wah Mei, which means "Chinese American", is a community based nonprofit, dedicated to providing affordable Chinese-English bilingual and multicultural youth education and early care programs.

Wah Mei is the first and longest serving bilingual preschool in San Francisco, whose mission is to serve the needs of the community and provide equal education opportunities and access to all students. Half of the families receive full or partial tuition subsidies.

Wah Mei is part of the rich Chinese cultural heritage in the Sunset, which developed after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act ending legalized racial segregation in San Francisco. Today, as cultural erosion and gentrification threatens the community, we need to preserve our anchor institutions, especially affordable early care and education providers like Wah Mei.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Gordon Mar".

Gordon Mar




## 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:		
Wah Mei School		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Maelig Morvan President, Wah Mei School Board of Directors		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:	
1400 Judah Street San Francisco, CA 94122	(415) 665-4212	
	EMAIL:	
	info@wahmei.org	
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
http://www.wahmei.org/	https://www.facebook.com/wahmeischool/	https://www.yelp.com/biz/wah-mei-school-san-francisco

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Kelly Ng	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
Development Manager	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
1400 Judah Street San Francisco, CA 94122	(415) 665-4212
	EMAIL:
	

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
C390377	C02696976

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
25 Lake Street (St. John's Presbyterian Church)	94118	Sept. 1974
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Sept. 1974 — Sept. 1976	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
325 Arguello Boulevard (Campfire Girls Buidling)	94118	Start: Sept. 1976 End: Sept. 1978

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1400 Judah Street (Calvary United Methodist Church)	94122	Start: Sept. 1978 End: Present

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.

KELLY NG

Name (Print):

2/1/19

Date:

Kelly Ng

Signature:



## **WAH MEI SCHOOL**

### **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.**

Established in 1974, Wah Mei School presently located at 1400 Judah Street is a 501(c)(3) community based nonprofit dedicated to providing affordable Chinese-English bilingual multicultural education and early care programs for children and youth in San Francisco. Wah Mei 華美 means “Chinese-American” and holds historic significance as the first and longest serving bilingual preschool in the city. Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing and high quality bilingual multicultural environment that promotes children’s development while building a supportive community for families.

Wah Mei School was borne out of a growing Chinese immigrant experience and as part of California’s Chinese American civil rights movement. Formed by a group of parents, bilingual educators and community activists, Wah Mei paved a way for bicultural education after the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Lau vs. Nichols* of 1974 that legalized bilingual education in public schools.

Originally conceived as a private elementary school, it opened with 14 kindergarten children at the corner of Lake Street and Arguello at St. John’s Presbyterian Church. However, when it was apparent that the more pressing need was for quality preschool education, Wah Mei modified its program to that of a bilingual preschool. Due to difficulties with the site, Wah Mei moved to the Campfire Girls Building at 325 Arguello Boulevard in 1976. The following year, Wah Mei received an eviction notice and moved to its present site at the corner of 19th Avenue and Judah Street in 1978.

Since its inception, Wah Mei has maintained programming that promotes the integration of Chinese and American cultures. Initially started to serve the education needs of children recently immigrated to the United States, Wah Mei evolved to be an inclusive and supportive community for all, helping to bridge language and literacy development among students from a diverse range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as diverse cognitive and linguistic abilities. Our programs support and nurture language literacy in English, Cantonese and Mandarin. Classes are conducted concurrently in both English and Chinese so the children develop proficiency in both languages. In order to meet the needs of every section of the community, we reserve 50% of enrollment for children of low-income families with subsidized

tuition funding from the California Department of Education and the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education.

As Wah Mei celebrates its 45th anniversary year, this same commitment to bilingual education in a multicultural setting exists today. Presently, Wah Mei operates four programs for children and youth aged 2 years 9 months to 14 years old: Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School Program and Summer Camp. Wah Mei's first year began by serving 14 students; today we serve more than 260 families each year.

Wah Mei School has operated continuously in San Francisco for 45 years and requests consideration for listing on the Legacy Business Registry. Wah Mei has been established at its current rental site for over 40 years and seeks permanency in the Sunset. We are pursuing the purchase of the property to stabilize our childcare space, preserve and protect our standing as a cultural anchor, and continue to serve our community of San Francisco families in need of high quality care. We have also been in search of additional preschool space to ensure programming is secure in the Sunset District. The Legacy Business Program would help Wah Mei School secure a fair term and price for a rental site and enable us to serve the community for another 45 years to come.

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

Wah Mei School has not ceased operations in San Francisco since its founding in 1974.

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

Wah Mei School is a nonprofit organization.

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

Wah Mei School is a 501(c)(3) community based nonprofit organization governed by a Board of Directors. Wah Mei Board members provide leadership and strategic guidance for our programs with fiduciary responsibility to uphold the highest standards of Wah Mei's mission and values. This includes its educators, care providers, parents and students at the Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School and Summer Camp programs. Our Board of Directors consist of community members and parents of present and past students of Wah Mei School. Board members serve three-year terms and may extend their years of service according to, and in recognition of, the agency by-laws.

**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 demonstrating the existence of Wah Mei School for 45 years is included 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.**

Wah Mei School's current location, 1400 Judah Street, is the site of the original Calvary United Methodist Church, built in 1908. The church closed its doors in 2013 due to a dwindling congregation. While the building remains, the church sanctuary and dining hall are underutilized resources. Since 1978, Wah Mei School has rented the basement space of the church and outdoor playground area to operate its preschool program with four classrooms and administrative space in the parsonage.

## **CRITERION 2**

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

Wah Mei School is proud to be the first and longest serving bilingual preschool in San Francisco. With the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, laws that required the segregation of Chinese in schools, public spaces and neighborhoods where Chinese could live were also abolished, ending more than 60 years of legalized racism and discrimination. The Sunset District became a new, affordable option for Chinese people wanting to move away from the crowded tenements of Chinatown.

Today, the Sunset has a rich culture and identity, which Wah Mei community members are active in preserving. The Sunset is a vital destination for Chinese heritage – one of three such neighborhoods in San Francisco, after Chinatown and the Richmond District. Wah Mei School, through its bilingual multicultural education programs ensures the long term viability of Chinese American cultural identity in the face of continued cultural erosion and gentrification in San Francisco. As Wah Mei strives to build on its inherent value and ongoing contributions to the community by expanding its child and youth development programs for more low-income and working families, it achieves stronger viability and creates the possibility of service to the community for years to come.

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

Wah Mei School has a history of participating in and supporting community events such as the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade in Chinatown, Sunday Streets Sunset/Golden Gate Park and the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japantown, as well as co-sponsoring a number of



educational and cultural events with other community groups such as the District 4 Supervisors Candidate Forum in September 2018 and Sunset Community Town Hall in January 2019; together with the Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center, Sunset Youth Services, Asian Women's Resource Center and the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco.

Wah Mei School was featured in the Chinese Historical Society of America's *Chinese In the Sunset* Exhibit that traveled through various parts of San Francisco from November 2017 to November 2018, showing at the Chinese Historical Society of America in Chinatown, Sunset Recreation Center, San Francisco Public Library at the Main Branch and Ortega and North Beach branches. The exhibit illuminated the history of racial restrictions preventing Chinese and other people of color from living in the Sunset, how the 1960s civil rights movement and subsequent legislation removed the restrictions, how social attitudes changed, and how different perspectives within the community has led the Sunset to become the vibrant community it is today.

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

Throughout its 45-year history, Wah Mei School has been featured in a number of articles, publications and documents including, but not limited to, the following:

- Wah Mei Director Irene Dea Collier and Head Teachers interviewed on KSFJ Radio Community Hour "What is Bilingual Education?" February 1980
- "Wah Mei Seeks Funds For Permanent Site." East/West, June 17, 1981
- "Wah Mei School: Growing Up Bilingually." Asia Week, August 13, 1981
- "Wah Mei School Began to Provide Both Remedial and Enriched Classes." East/West, November 28, 1984
- "Wah Mei Preschoolers, Aged 3 to 5, Learn English and Chinese Together." East/West, December 11, 1985
- "Community Involvement in the '80s." The Catalyst, Fall 1985
- Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee published *A Bilingual Manual for Preschool Parents*. 1985
- *The Wah Mei School Songbook* published by Ms. Dorena Lee and Chinese Teachers Betty Nascimento and Grace Lam. 1985
- Head Teacher Ms. Helen Yee published her children's picture book *My Grandfather and Me*. 1985
- Chinese Teacher Betty Nascimento was interviewed about bilingual education and Wah Mei School on "Chinese Journal" KTSF Channel 26. March 1991
- Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee was interviewed about bilingual education on "Dupont Gai" KFRC Radio. March 1991
- "City's Oldest Chinese American School Enriches Local Kids: Sunset Preschool A Success Story." Sunset Beacon, April 1995
- "Parents Fight to Stop Antenna Over Preschool." San Francisco Examiner, February 6, 1997.
- "Bilingual Preschool Featured in Parade." Asian Week, February 22, 1997.

- Wah Mei Director Irene Dea Collier published her young adult books *Chinese Mythology* 2001 and *Chinese Mythology Rocks!* 2011
- Wah Mei School featured in the Chinese Historical Society of America's traveling exhibit *Chinese in the Sunset*. November 2017–November 2018
- “迎學習熱潮 華美周末中文班擴張” [Welcome Expanded Weekend Chinese Learning]. World Journal, September 2018.
- “華美中文學校日落區開課” [Wah Mei School Expands in the Sunset]. Sing Tao Daily, September 2018.

Wah Mei School has been recognized and honored numerous times by the California State Assembly and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for its contributions to the city, having received certificates of honor and letters of commendation from Barbara Boxer, London Breed, Willie Brown, Ed Lee, Carmen Chu, Fiona Ma, Bill Maher, Eric Mar, Kevin Shelley, Katy Tang, Philip Ting, Scott Wiener and Norman Yee. The Board of Supervisors declared March 19, 1994, and May 9, 2014, Wah Mei School Day in San Francisco.

Wah Mei School was nominated in 1982 as an exemplary bilingual program to the U.S. Department of Education by its local branch. That same year, Director Irene Dea Collier was an honoree at an “Outstanding Women” reception sponsored by the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women. Head Teacher Ms. Dorena Lee has been well recognized with receipt of the First 5 San Francisco Excellence in Teaching Award 2017, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award Honoree 2017, Ernest M. Pon Memorial Award 2006, San Francisco Childcare Providers Award 2003, and The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) Teacher of the Year Award 1983. This year, Wah Mei is pleased to celebrate and honor Ms. Lee for 40 years of service and dedication to bilingual education and teaching excellence. Weekend Chinese School Director Ms. Lori Liao is a three time recipient of the Association of Northern California Chinese School Exceptional Educator Award in 2008, 2011 and 2016.

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

Wah Mei School was founded by a group of prominent Chinese American parents, bilingual educators, and community activists. Among them are:

- The Honorable Lillian Sing – retired Superior Court Judge and the first Chinese American female judge in California.
- The Honorable Julie Tang – retired Superior Court Judge of San Francisco.
- Ling-chi Wang – Civil rights activist and Professor Emeritus in Asian-American studies and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.
- Frances Lee – former Chinatown Community College Director.
- Lisa Tang Shek – retired school principal of the San Francisco Unified School District, at the Treasure Island K-8 School and the Chinese Education Center Elementary.
- Alan S. Wong – former YMCA Director.
- The Rev. Wesley Woo – Associate Pastor at St. John's Presbyterian Church, where Wah Mei School was first located in the Richmond District. He was also integrally involved in starting

the Richmond Max-Center (Richmond Area Multi-Services or RAMS). RAMS and Wah Mei were among the first services for the then-newer Chinese population moving into the Richmond District.

- Al Sing Yuen – retired lifelong educator, he served in the San Francisco Unified School District as Principal of Winfield Scott Elementary (now Claire B. Lilienthal School), Principal of Sutro Elementary, and also Vice Principal at A.P. Giannini Middle School.
- Jane Chang Tom – Asian Art Commission.

Former Wah Mei Director Irene Dea Collier was a member of the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Childcare in June 1982 and went on to establish the first Chinese Immersion Program at West Portal Elementary, and taught at Presidio Middle School. San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Norman Yee, Supervisor Gordon Mar and former Supervisor and Board of Education member Eric Mar graduated their children through Wah Mei’s preschool program. Also among our parent alumni are Rosina Tong, Executive Director SFUSD Enrollment Placement Center and former Principal at Chinese Immersion School at De Avila; Wendy Cheong, Principal at Chinese Immersion School at De Avila; and Liana Szeto, Principal at Alice Fong Yu Alternative School. Lenora Lee, Dancer, Choreographer and Artistic Director, is among Wah Mei School alumni. Over the years, our school has been visited by Jane Kim, Carmen Chu, Katy Tang, Jessica Ho, Norman Yee and Mark Leno.

Wah Mei School’s Annual Spring Gala brings together community members and Wah Mei key stakeholders including Wah Mei School founders, board members, parents, alumni, teachers, staff, elected officials and Bay Area business and community members. Attendees have included Ed Lee, Carmen Chu, Norman Yee, Eric Mar, Jasmine Lee and Crystal Lee, Miss Chinatown USA 2018 and 2010 respectively.

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

Wah Mei School is a deep part of the fabric and history of the local Sunset District community. Wah Mei is an anchor institution that has served generations of San Francisco families and has a commitment to serving all children, youth and families across a diverse socioeconomic and cultural spectrum. To ensure all families have access to our high quality bilingual programs, we enroll about 50% low-income families with full or partially subsidized tuition with funding from the CA Department of Education and the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education. We provide a universal lunch program to all students in our preschool as part of our total education program; providing children with access to food can help remove barriers toward school success and lead to improved learning and life outcomes. Recently, Wah Mei was awarded a preschool expansion grant from the CA Department of Education that will allow us to serve an additional 35 subsidized children, increasing access to high quality early care and education for low- to moderate-income families.

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



While we serve children, youth and families from across San Francisco, Wah Mei School has a commitment to serving low-income and working families. Sixty percent of the children we serve are Chinese, 21% mixed ethnicity, 16% other (including Filipino, Latino, African American), 2% are Caucasian. 70% of the families' home language is other than English. Wah Mei's play based curriculum emphasizes rich Chinese heritage, culture and traditions bolstered daily with core Chinese-English bilingual programs. We prepare our children to be school-ready global citizens, in a fun and developmentally appropriate environment. Our unique mix of language, culture and high quality early care and education keeps Wah Mei School thriving, with a consistently long wait list.

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

Wah Mei School's present location at 1400 Judah Street is the original Calvary United Methodist Church, built in 1908. The building is classified by the Planning Department as Category A (Historical Resource Present) with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

If relocated or shut down, the community would be impacted by losing the oldest and longest serving bilingual preschool in the city, with roots going back to 1974 and the Chinese American civil rights movement in San Francisco. The absence of Wah Mei School would result in the loss of a nonprofit organization that has served thousands of San Francisco families at all income levels and helped the Chinese American community across multiple generations. The longevity of our relationships with Wah Mei School families is evidenced by the intergenerational cycle of enrollment and participation; many parents themselves were Wah Mei graduates and their children are now sharing the same preschool experiences. A third of the teaching staff joined this community as parents, having graduated their children through the preschool or Weekend Chinese School programs. Wah Mei School is an anchor institution that has positively impacted generations of children, youth and families over four decades of high quality bilingual education and programs.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

Wah Mei School's mission has always been to serve the needs of the community and provide equal education opportunities and access to all students. Wah Mei accomplishes that by expanding our bilingual programs and offering affordable child and youth development opportunities for more San Francisco families including Preschool, Weekend Chinese School, After School Program and Summer Camp.

**Preschool:** Established in 1974, Wah Mei's Preschool serves 81 children aged 2.9–5 years old daily. Our program prepares children to be school-ready global citizens by providing a bilingual play-based curriculum that contributes to their growth in all areas of development: language, social, emotional, physical, creative, cognitive and nutrition. We operate year round, full-day and part-day programs to serve all working families and offer a mixed-income early care and education environment, reserving 50% of enrollment for children of low-income families.

**Weekend Chinese School:** Opened in 1981, the Weekend Chinese School provides Chinese language development and cultural appreciation for 3 to 14 year olds. Current enrollment is 140 students from San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. Held on Saturday mornings, students are exposed to and learn Mandarin and/or Cantonese in a youth development environment that introduces Chinese culture and history.

**After School Program:** Started in the 2018-19 school year, the After School Program currently serves 10 public school students (K-5th grade) primarily attending Jefferson Elementary School and Alice Fong Yu. The program provides homework assistance, creative and language arts, science/math, outdoor recreational activities and Chinese language development.

**Wah Mei Summer Camp:** Serves 50 K–5th graders using youth development principles and practices to provide a bilingual summer day camp experience that includes arts and crafts, outdoor recreation, sports, literacy and language development.

Our programs have economic and social benefits for children and families, and the community at large including helping narrow achievement gaps and providing critical development supports to help children succeed in school and beyond.

**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)**

Wah Mei School is committed to deepening its mission of bilingual multicultural education and extending its programs to serve more low-income students across a continuum of ages 2.9 –14 years old. Wah Mei's vision is a bilingual pathway for all students within a child and youth development framework. We offer a truly mixed-income (State/City subsidized tuition plus full tuition enrollment) bilingual and multicultural environment. Wah Mei School is proud to be chosen to receive funding from the CA Department of Education and the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education. We have received the highest ratings on the many program and administrative quality audits and reviews required by these funding sources on an annual and biannual basis.

**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.).**

The interior and exterior of Wah Mei School has changed very little in the past 45 years. Most people readily identify and associate Wah Mei School with its exterior signage and “the pink church on the corner of 19th and Judah.” As a licensed preschool, Wah Mei’s high quality program provides for the three basic needs all children have: (1) protection of their health and safety; (2) building positive relationships; and (3) opportunities for stimulation and learning from experience. Our child care environment is arranged per these factors of space both indoors and outdoors, with furnishings and materials that are developmentally and appropriately sized for children. We offer a universal lunch program made daily in-house; parents and visitors often warmly remark that Wah Mei “smells like home.”

**d. 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 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.**

Not applicable.



ENDORSED  
FILEDIn the office of the Secretary of State  
of the State of California

JAN 17 1974

EDMUND G. BROWN, Secretary of State  
By BILL HOLDEN  
DeputyARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
WAH MEI SCHOOL

696976

FIRST: The name of this Corporation shall be the WAH MEI SCHOOL.

SECOND: The purposes for which this corporation are:

(a) The Specific and primary purposes are to operate a bilingual and bicultural school for the education of elementary school age children within the educational, scientific, and charitable meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) The general purposes and powers are:

(1) To buy, lease, rent, or otherwise acquire, hold, or use, own, enjoy, sell exchange, lease as lessor, mortgage, deed in trust, pledge, encumber, transfer on trust, or otherwise dispose of any and all kinds of property, whether real, personal, or mixed and to receive property by devise or bequest;

(2) To borrow money and to contract debts, to issue bonds, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness, and to secure them by any or all of the property of this corporation, or to issue them unsecured;

(3) To enter into, make, perform, and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose and without limit on amount with any person, firm, or corporation; and

(4) To have and to exercise all the powers conferred by the California General Nonprofit Corporation Law on nonprofit corporations, as that law is now in effect or may at any time hereafter be amended.

Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this corporation shall not except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purposes of this corporation.

(c) No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

THIRD: This corporation is organized pursuant to the General

Non-profit Corporation Law of the State of California and does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof and it is organized for nonprofit purposes.

FOURTH: The county in the State of California where the principal office for the transaction of the activities of this corporation is located is San Francisco County.

FIFTH: The general management of the affairs of this corporation shall be under the control, supervision and direction of the board of directors. The names and addresses of persons who are to act in the capacity of directors until the selection of their successors are:

Name	Address
Alan S. Wong	1280 Ellis, #12 San Francisco, California 94109
Julie Tang	471 4th Avenue, #4 San Francisco, California 94118
Wesley Woo	25 Lake Street San Francisco, California 94118

SIXTH: The number and qualification of members of the corporation, the different classes of membership, if any, the voting, and other rights and the privileges of members and their liability to dues and assessments and the method of collection thereof, shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

SEVENTH: The property of this corporation is irrevocable dedicated to educational, scientific, and charitable purposes meeting the requirement of Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private individual. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment of, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or

corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious, hospital, scientific, or charitable purposes which meets the requirement of Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If this corporation holds any assets in trust, or a corporation is formed for charitable purposes, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the superior court of the county in which the corporation has its principal office, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by a person concerned in the liquidation, in a proceeding to which the Attorney General is a party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed these Articles of Incorporation, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1974.

Alan S. Wong  
Alan S. Wong

Julie Tang  
Julie Tang

Wesley Woo  
Wesley Woo

STATE OF CALIFORNIA           )  
COUNTY OF San Francisco    ) ss.

On this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1974, before me, Alfred L. Wong, a Notary Public for the State of California, with principal office in San Francisco County, personally appeared Alan S. Wong, Julie Tang, and Wesley Woo, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within Articles of Incorporation, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal on the day and year first above written.





A-4042 - 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, W. Side, N. of Judah St.      Methodist Church.













The Director of Wah Mei School, Irene Dea Collier, was sworn in as a member of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Childcare. Wah Mei School students were invited to attend and met Mayor Dianne Feinstein. 6/82



WAH MEE  
SCHOOL



**Now Enrolling  
Weekend Chinese Program**

Available in Mandarin or Cantonese  
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**現在招生**  
**華美學校週末中文班**  
國語班和粵語班  
上課時間星期六上午九時至十一時半

**WAH MEI**  
**PRESCHOOL**























2014 Southwest Airlines® Chinese New Year Parade  
Wah Mei School sponsored by PG&E  
President's Award











## ASIAN WEEK



LILLIAN SING

Lillian K. Sing, municipal court judge, was a founder of Wah Mei School. Also in the distinguished list of founders are: Julie Tang, Community College board, Frances Lee, Chinatown Community College Director, Alan S. Wong, YMCA Director, Wesley Woo, minister.

## Lillian to be sworn into muni bench

Lillian Sing, the first Asian-American woman to be appointed to San Francisco Municipal Court, will be sworn in to her new job on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the rotunda of City Hall.

Sing, a former member of the city Community College board of trustees and a member of the Chinese-American Democratic Club, was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown on Aug. 26 after a year of review.

A reception will follow the ceremony.





Dr. Joshua Fishman, the nation's foremost authority on bilingual education, visited our school in December 1978. His visit was announced in the Chinese papers.



← 附圖為博士與本學校教師、學生及家長合照。由左到右：鍾懷，劉婉儀（教師），郭光耀（家長），菲士文博士，謝潔芳（行政主任），李美倫（教務主任）。

## 雙語教育家訪華美學校

（本埠訊）菲士文博士（Dr. Joshua Fishman）。是美國著名的雙重語言文化教育學者。今次來三藩市參觀雙重語言學校。特別抽空訪問華美學校。因為華美是一間由公立及私立支持合辦的雙重語言學校之一。華美學校專為列治文區及日落區的兒童而辦。亦是首期中英雙重語言學校之一。

菲士文博士現正繼續研究不同種類語言的教導。他特別指出除英文之外。並希望保持他們本國之語言。





WAH MEI CHINESE BILINGUAL SCHOOL RAFFLE

華美學校籌款獎券

- 1st Prize: Round trip to Hong Kong, Orient Charter Tours, Dates Open  
2nd Prize: Weekend accommodations at Tahoe Donner  
3rd Prize: Jade earrings

頭獎：由海機構來回香港機票一張日期自擇  
貳獎：週末旅遊住宿於 Tahoe Donner  
叁獎：名貴玉耳環一對

Drawing, December 18, 1979, 8 P.M. 1391 19th Avenue, S.F. 94122  
You need not be present to win. \$1.00 Donation, tax deductible  
Many other prizes, list available. (415) 665-4212





# Wah Mei Seeks Funds For Permanent Site

By TRACY HARRIS

SAN FRANCISCO — The Wah Mei School, SF's first English/Cantonese bilingual preschool, will present a benefit showing of "The Art of the Muppets" Saturday, June 27 from 8-11 pm at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Funds from the benefit will be used toward establishing a permanent site for the school, which presently rents space in the Calvary United Methodist Church at 1400 Judah.

Wah Mei was founded in 1974 and has had three different locations since then, due to high rents and expanding programs. Today Wah Mei serves more than 60 students, aged 2-5, from all over SF.

## CAPACITY

"We're operating at our capacity," director Irene Dea Collier said. Wah Mei's students are broken into two groups, the half-day preschool classes and the full-day child care program. The students have diverse language and cultural backgrounds and come from all over SF, Collier said, adding that not all are Chinese or even Asian.

"Some have a strong Chinese background and come here to learn English. Others have a strong English background and come here to learn Chinese," Collier explained. "What we offer is truly bilingual education. The children learn from each other as much as from the teachers."

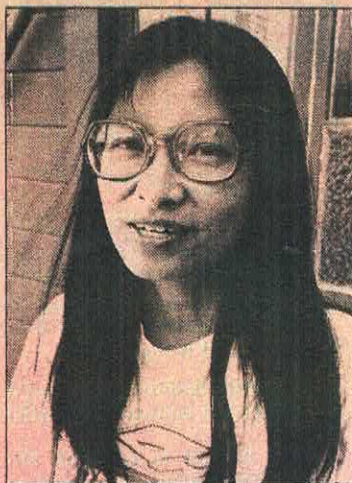
Like the students, Wah Mei's teachers are usually dominant in either English or Cantonese, though most are "fairly bilingual," according to Collier. Teachers use their dominant language in the classroom, so the students have a chance to refine skills, both their Chinese and English, and many of the English-speaking teaching aides learn Chinese from the children.

"It's good for the kids to see the English aides learning Chinese. It makes them feel Chinese is special," Collier said.

## BRIDGE

Part of Wah Mei's philosophy is to make the child's first school experience a bridge between the home and the public schools. Collier, who was born in China and came to the US when she was 5 years old, said she "went through the whole immigrant experience" herself.

The first day of school can be upsetting for any child, and Collier said these problems are compounded when the teacher does not speak the child's language or understand the child's culture, and if the child's parents have trouble communicating with the teachers.



Irene Dea Collier  
(Leland Wong photo)



Dorena Lee  
(Leland Wong photo)

At Wah Mei children are made to feel comfortable with their own bilingualism so that they will not be afraid to speak when they get to public schools, but also will not

forget their Chinese.

"In Europe, there's no problem being bilingual or even trilingual because the countries are all so close," head teacher Dorena Lee said.

"Our society is just getting used to bilingualism," Collier added.

Many children grow up ashamed that they or their parents speak Chinese, Lee continued, but she tries to encourage them to be proud of their Chinese language ability. On school field trips, she encourages the children to use English to ask questions or to talk to people at the place they're visiting.

## INSTRUCTION

A typical day at Wah Mei includes a gamut of activities. Singing, dancing and play activities are conducted in Chinese and English. Language basics such as numbers, the days of the week, and reading a calendar are taught in both languages. Older students also receive reading-readiness instruction in English to prepare them for public schools.

The students are broken down by age and ability—not language preference—into small groups for part of the day, and at other times the whole school joins in "family type" activities.

Cultural awareness is another part of Wah Mei's curriculum, but according to Lee includes more than merely acknowledging Chinese culture.

"A lot of times 'culture' centers around Chinese New Year. I don't like to emphasize that — that's not all there is to culture. We teach Chinese music and Chinese stories, but we try to expose the children to different cultures, not only Asian," she said.

One parent of a South American Wah Mei student visited the school in traditional costume and performed some native dances for the children, Lee said, adding that after the visit she stressed to the children that the visitor was after all, just another person, and didn't always wear native dress.

"Our program is academic but we stress socialization, communication, feeling good about themselves and being open to differences," Lee, born and raised in SF, said.

## NUTRITION

Though Wah Mei's students come from a variety of national and racial backgrounds they share at least one common interest — they all love to eat. Science and nutrition are an important part of Wah Mei's curriculum, and that includes teaching the children to cook (and eat) different types of food.

Only healthful, natural ingredients are used at Wah Mei, Collier said. The children have prepared pizza, tacos and salads as well as Chinese foods. Children cook in the classroom once a week, but breakfast, lunch and two snacks are served daily.

"If the children make the food themselves they're more likely to eat it," Collier said. "For example Chinese don't eat too many raw vegetables, and salads often end up on the floor when we serve them." If the children have the fun of "chopping, tearing and getting involved" in the preparation, she said, they will be more likely to eat the finished product.

Because of federal budget cuts Wah Mei will need at least \$3,000 to keep its nutrition program going next year, Collier said.

"The food program (including daily meals) is one of our most successful programs. We keep quality high and believe in cooking on site, but that takes money," Collier explained.

## SUBSIDIES

Wah Mei is funded through the state Department of Education, fund-raising, and tuition, which, including meals, costs \$120 a month for half-days, \$220 a month for the full-day program. Some state subsidies are available for low-income families. Wah Mei's budget this year totaled \$130,000.

Proceeds from the June 27 Muppets show will help continue Wah Mei's food program, and help finance establishing a permanent site for the school. Though Collier said the church in which they're presently located "has been very good" to them, they can never be sure of having a permanent home there.

A permanent site would also help Wah Mei expand its

programs, perhaps to include school-aged children, Collier said. This summer Wah Mei's is making its first attempt to program for older children with a bilingual science day camp that will run from June 29-Aug. 7, for children

aged 4-9.

Tickets for "The Art of the Muppets" may be obtained from Wah Mei, and cost \$25 for one adult, or \$35 for a family. For information on the fund-raiser or the summer science camp, call the school at 665-4212.



# Wah Mei School: growing

ASIAN WEEK

## English and Chinese taught at preschool

Edilberto G. Lim

At first glance, the cream-colored, immaculate-looking structure on the corner of the 19th Avenue and Judah Street strikes one as just another Methodist church. But the Calvary Methodist Church also houses in its basement a Chinese bilingual and bicultural preschool called the Wah Mei School.

As one enters the school's Judah Street entrance gate, children's laughter and outbursts of delight and excitement can be heard.

This preschool's history says that in 1973, the idea for Wah Mei School began to take shape in the minds of the Richmond Bilingual Committee, which consisted of community representatives and bilingual educators who were interested in promoting bilingual and bicultural education—Cantonese and English. Upon its establishment at its present site (the school pays rent to the church), Wah Mei became the first Chinese bilingual preschool in San Francisco, and has since drawn praise from parents for its academic curriculum balanced with a strong creative arts program.

Mrs. Irene Dea Collier, the school's director and a recent "Plumtree of the Year" award winner of The Association of Chinese Teachers, says: "Our student population is composed of children who come from homes that have either Chinese or English as their dominant language.

age.

"Through this school, we intend to create a learning environment that enhances both the home culture and that of the dominant society as well. We believe that in addition to academic skills, children need to be provided with situations at school that will enable them to achieve self-confidence, respect for others and skills of cooperation and sharing."

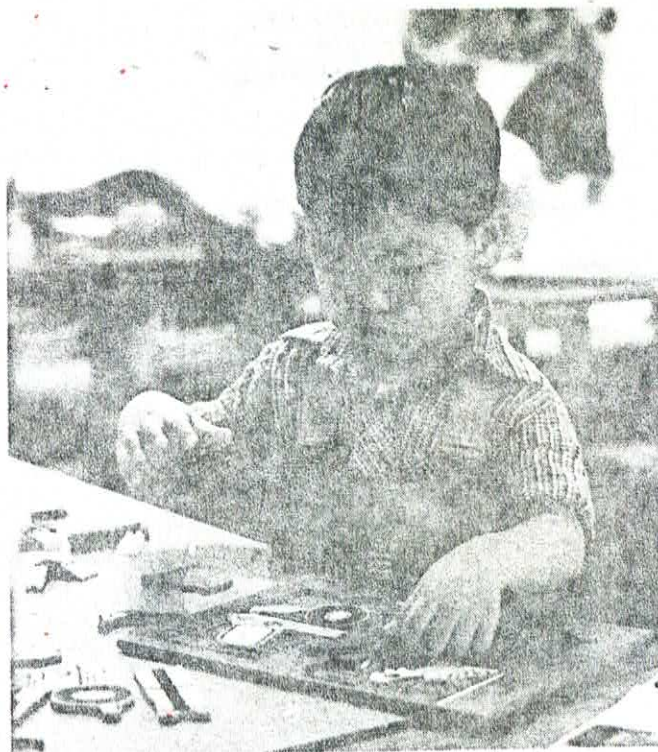
Many of the children at Wah Mei come from low-income families usually with both parents working full time, says Collier. "There is no one at home to take care of them."

"Around 60 percent are children of immigrants who have a limited knowledge of the English language. I'd say that linguistic concern is the primary reason for enrolling their children here. Parents want their kids to be bilingual. The Chinese-speaking parents want their children to learn how to speak in English because it is necessary, but at the same time not to neglect the family's Chinese heritage and culture, while the English-speaking parents are very much interested in having their children learn a foreign language."

At Wah Mei, the children, through their daily interaction with each other and with their teachers, are provided with a bilingual English-Cantonese experience."

### Three programs

Wah Mei serves children from



A Wah Mei preschooler assembles a puzzle.

Photo by Malcolm Collier

ages 3 to 5. It has three separate programs, two of which may be combined. These two are the State Preschool Program and the Private Program. Both programs offer the same educational emphasis; however, enrollment and eligibility requirements differ slightly.

The State Program is a free 3½-hour program funded by the California Preschool Program for children of low-income, non-English speaking backgrounds. Many children enrolled here come

from single-parent families. In this program, the parent(s) are strongly encouraged to be directly involved in their child's education by attending seven out of 10 parent workshops.

They also participate in the classroom two hours per month seven out of 10 months, as well as take part in fundraising events for the school.

The Private Program is a non-profit, half-day or full-day program that is funded through private tuition. Here, parents sign a contract with the school to respect school regulations regarding tuition payment, sign-in and sign-out procedures, and pick-up and drop-off schedules.

Like parents whose children are enrolled in the State Program, they also participate in the school's occasional fundraising activities like garage sales and movie showings. For the Private Program, the tuition fees are: \$120 for a half-day program, 8 a.m. to noon or 1-5 p.m., or \$220 for a full-day program, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The third program is the full-day Childcare Program, which is also state-funded and available for low-income families. Here,



Play at the beach with Wah Mei School.

Photo by Helen Lee

A teacher and two children assemble a puzzle.

Photo by Malcolm Collier



# up bilingually

August 13, 1981

parent participation is mandatory.

The preschool programs operate on a 10-month basis and follow the same calendar as the San Francisco Unified School District, while the childcare program is a year-round program, operating for 250 school days.

In addition to these programs, Wah Mei offers a tuition-funded Summer Science Day Camp, a bilingual, environmental approach to learning about the natural world for children ages 4-9.

For each of the six summer weeks, children explore a specific part of the natural world; for example, plants, trees and flowers (first week), insects (second week), bird life (third week), and so forth.

For these weeks, other activities are organized, involving science, Chinese language, art and music, plus, of course, field trips, which are clearly the most eagerly anticipated activity for the children.

"Through this program, we intend to make good use of summer as a fun-learning experience for these energetic kids," said Collier.

## Curriculum

Wah Mei's school curriculum and instructional program for preschool pupils consists of:

**Reading**—Learning the ABCs, writing their names, developing good listening habits, learning to recalling details in sequence, classifying objects and pictures.

**Mathematics**—Counting, recognizing and writing numbers, measurement, weights, shapes, time (calendar).

**Language Development**—Identifying common objects in both English and Chinese, finger plays, creative dramatics, rhymes and riddles, puppet plays, listening to stories and folk tales, and

A teacher reads a story to a small group. Photo by Malcolm Collier

encouraging the children to tell their own experiences and make up their own stories.

**Social Studies/Multi-cultural Education**—presenting books and toys from other cultures in a non-stereotyped framework and learning how to play and work together, thus accepting each other's differences.

**Physical Development**—developing muscles and training eye-hand coordination, incorporating a variety of games, relays, body movements set to music and free play.

**Science**—studying animals, birds, insects and plants with an ecological approach.

**Music**—teaching songs in



Field trips and free play are important parts of Wah Mei's program.







A Wah Mei class on a field trip to Strybing Arboretum in Golden

Gate Park.

Photo by Malcolm Collier

English and Cantonese, and exposing the children to a wide variety of music from classical to rock, from Chinese folk to contemporary music.

The Field Trip Program is believed to be important in the early years of the child in building concepts and knowledge of reality through which vocabulary is increased.

Field trips are scheduled once a week. At times, such trips are connected a unit under study; other times they provide the children outdoor play experiences in such places as Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach.

Wah Mei occupies 2,100 square feet and has four rooms for the half-day preschool programs, one spacious room for those enrolled in the childcare program

- equipped with individual sleeping cots for the kids to lie on during nap time, a long kitchen to prepare nutritious and well-balanced meals and snacks that the kids themselves help prepare, two bathrooms (four more will soon be added), and a good-sized cemented yard equipped with play structures designed and constructed by architecture students of UC Berkeley.

#### The first chance at school

"Not all of the kids adjust right away, though," says Collier. "Some kids who've lived in homes without other children find it strange and frightening to suddenly be taken here.

"Expectedly, they cry whenever their parents have to leave

them, and it takes the kids a week or a week and a half to get used to the new environment. Most view the school as another new experience to take part in."

Wah Mei tries to maintain a strict 1-6 adult to child ratio. The quality of this school's "personalized" educational program demands a small school enrollment of not more than 44 children on the site at any time. Ninety percent of the teaching staff are credentialed teachers with degrees in elementary or early childhood education.

The remaining teachers are those with either teaching credentials from Hong Kong, or are in the process of attaining their teaching credentials here. For the Summer Science Day Camp program, five dedicated, high school students from the CETA-funded Summer Youth Program serve as teachers' aides.

"Monetary rewards are not great for a preschool teacher," adds Mrs. Collier. "But our teachers are an extremely dedicated batch who find great satisfaction in being able to mold a child's intellectual and social development for the better.

"Preschoolers should be given varied opportunities to manipulate, experience and interact with learning activities provided by both teachers and aides. With a school environment such as this, children will not only be given a solid academic and social foundation, but they will also eventually leave the school with a yearning to learn further.

"It is important that a child's first learning experience away from home be a pleasant and enriching one."



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## in the '80s

### *A Model Preschool in Two Languages*

LIKE OTHER PRESCHOOLS, Wah Mei's two-classroom facility in San Francisco overflows with toys and books. Alphabet trains and bright crayon sketches cover the walls. But in this school, every object and toy has two names—one in Cantonese and one in English.

Wah Mei School was the first Chinese-American bilingual school in the city. It was founded as an elementary school in 1974 by a group of Chinese professionals who felt their American-born children were lacking exposure to the Cantonese language and culture. The institution's 10-year history has been highlighted by accolades, including a nomination as a national model program for bilingual education.

Steve Quan, a business analysis supervisor in Chevron Chemical Company (CCC) headquarters, became involved with Wah Mei when his oldest son began attending the school four years ago. Shortly thereafter, he was elected the school-board president, which involves volunteering time at the school for monthly board meetings, budget preparation, fund-raising and other activities.

As president, Quan's main job is making sure the non-profit preschool runs as a viable institution. Thanks to contributions from Chevron and other donors, they are able to keep the school "in the black."

"Although we began as an elementary school, lack of space forced us to

switch to a preschool and day-care program," said Irene Dea Collier, director for the past seven years. Finding an appropriate site has also been a problem. "As a preschool, we've resigned ourselves to years in church basements."

Space shortage hasn't affected the school's popularity. Wah Mei has a waiting list of 200 to 300 children for only 72 places each year. "Some people have tried to apply for the school before their kids were born," Quan said.

A place in Wah Mei is worth the wait. Its unique approach to multicultural education brings together students from different economic and cultural backgrounds. Their goals are

not only to prepare the children for elementary school, but also to teach the values of both the Chinese and American cultures.

"Accepting the language is key," Collier said. "We teach them words through songs, rhymes and activities. Three to five years old is the optimal age to become bilingual."

Although many parents support bilingual education, not all can afford the \$350-per-month tuition. State grants provide some assistance for specific programs; but when the school needs to purchase a major article, the leaders turn to the local community and the business world for support.

*Steve Quan, president of Wah Mei school board, and Irene Dea Collier, director.*



Bruce Smith



# Wah Mei Preschoolers, Aged 3 to 5, Learn English and Chinese Together

The school, whose name means "Chinese" and "American," was started 11 years ago by a group of Chinese American community leaders with help from the SF

Foundation and a women's Presbyterian group. It was the first Chinese bilingual school in the city. The school began as a kindergarten with the idea of becoming an elementary school.

"They never found a real good location, so it changed into a preschool the second year, said Collier.

Prior to joining Wah Mei, she worked as an administrative assistant and teacher's trainer both in SF and in a Navajo reservation school in Arizona.

Her own three children, now aged six to ten, went through Wah Mei School and "graduated" at age five. Collier herself will be leaving at the end of December, with plans of pursuing her Masters Degree and involving herself

more with community-based organizations, such as The Association for Chinese Teachers.

The school is open from 8 to 5, and the bilingual program is in effect from 9 to 4. Two-thirds of the children attend only the morning or afternoon session, and 24 stay all day.

There are four certified preschool teachers and aides in each of the classrooms -- a one-to-six ratio. The different ages are mixed together so that "the older ones can learn responsibility in looking after the younger ones. Half the schooltime is given to each language.

Among the activities, said Collier, are "ABC's, counting, writing their name, teaching them to sit still and listen to a story... to develop their observation and memory skills. A lot of art, a lot of science, a lot of field trips."

For about the first year, she said, the children "will only answer back in simple words.

"It seems to happen about mid-second year: they suddenly become fairly fluent. It's like a baby imitating sounds. There will be some children who become completely bilingual, but other children who never seem to progress beyond the songs they sing."

Success, she explained, "depends on the confidence of the children ... how willing are they to make mistakes.... I would say 75 percent of the children do gain fluency. When they enter a regular school, they're strong academically but they often lose their bilingual abilities unless it's kept up."

Wah Mei, said Collier, is "not just interested in language development, but supporting students' self-image.

Multicultural and cross-cultural education is important.

"For example, public speaking. Many of them do very well in academics, but as far as getting up in front of a group.... It's not emphasized in the schools. So we're trying to encourage schools to do that. We start off getting them in front of the class to sing a song that everybody knows... or to talk about something in front of the class."

Asked whether it's hard for the preschoolers to adjust to Wah Mei, she said, "I think it's hard for a preschooler to adjust anyway, because for many of them it's the first time they've been away from their family."

## Wah Mei School Produces Video, Text, Songbooks

SAN FRANCISCO - Wah Mei School will celebrate the completion of several curriculum projects produced by its staff on Dec. 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

The projects include Helen M. Lee's *My Grandfather and Me*, Dorena Lee's *A Bilingual Manual for Preschool Parents*, Royce Bruce's video tape *Playing Together*, Pak Yu Kong's video tapes *Chinese Calligraphy* and *Chinese Painting*, and *Wah Mei School Songbook* by Grace Lam, Dorena Lee and Betty Chung Nascimento.

The school is located at 1400 Judah Street. 12/11/85 E/W



# City's Oldest Chinese American School Enriches Local Kids

## Sunset Pre-School A Success Story

By Shawna McCoy.

Chloe Wong was always ready to leave when her Mom came to pick her up from her other preschool. But, now that she attends Wah Mei her mother has to practically drag her home.

This could be a problem because her mother Jane Chin sometimes double parks and says her daughter hardly acknowledges her when she arrives because she enjoys the school, the kids, and the teachers so much.

Located at 1400 Judah street, at 19th Ave, Wah Mei is in the two room basement of the Calvary Methodist Church. There is the smell of food cooking, in a room with little tables and chairs, children's drawings on the wall and two clocks, one with English characters, the other with Chinese characters.

Founded in 1974, Wah Mei, located in the Sunset, was the first bilingual preschool in the city, teaching in both English and Cantonese. Now 70 children strong, it still remains popular with at least three applications for every open spot.

Setting it apart from over a dozen bilingual preschools that have organized in the city since, the non-profit preschool incorporates Chinese and American culture along with immigrant inclusion programs.

"The founders did a great job of laying down the ground work for Wah Mei which makes it what it is today," said Chin, president of the board of directors.

## Surfriders

Continued from page 12

sue around Noriega and Quintara streets. "According to Army engineers and the City of San Francisco, the ocean is going to

Three programs are offered for different levels of income, two of which are state-subsidized, for the 50 percent of students who are low income.

But to get money means applying for grants and annual fundraising. On April 17, "The World of Make Believe ... Only a Dream Away," will be the school's annual fund-raiser where there will be lunch, a raffle and a student performance.

Lupita Yee sends her 5-year old son Jordan to Wah Mei to expose him to Chinese culture as well as get a well rounded preparation for public school. "I want my son to learn Chinese in a bilingual school," Yee said. "The teachers are very nice, very patient and they're very structured."

Most of the children who attend Wah Mei are Chinese, both immigrants and US born, but the school encourages children of all cultures to attend.

Students come from the Sunset District as well as from around the City and Chinatown to attend Wah Mei. Some of their parents have only recently immigrated to the United States.

According to Lisa Quan director of Wah Mei, the school helps with the transition to a new society. A four page booklet explaining the school is in both English and Chinese, a monthly newsletter sent to parents is also in Chinese.

Teachers visit the home of each child enrolled to see where they are coming from and get to

Surfrider believes the long-term solution to environmental problems is education. This year, the chapter started a lecture tour of local schools, giving students a brief but comprehensive overview of the natural and man-made forces which impact the

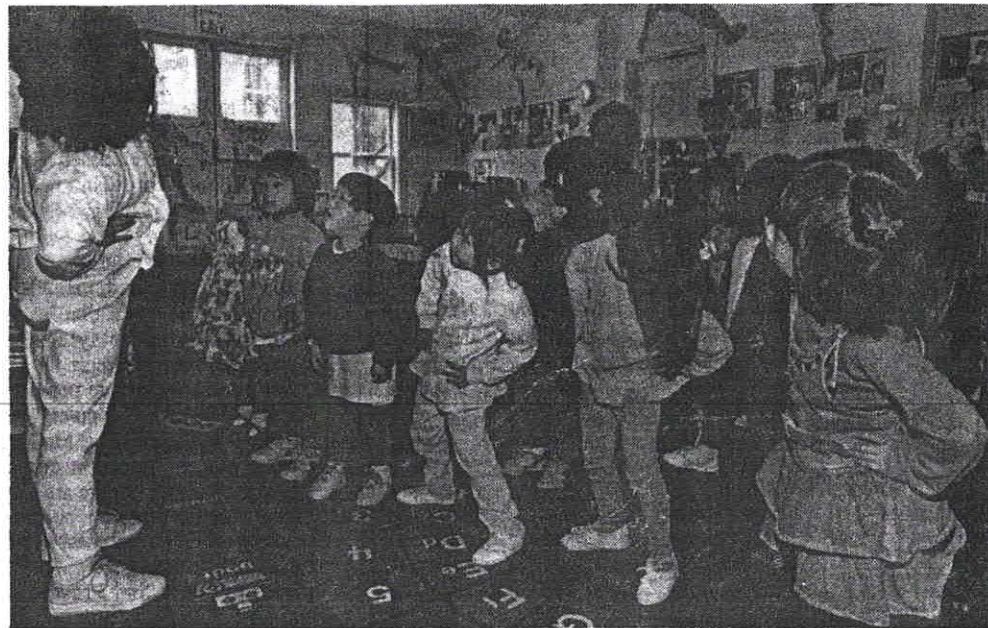


Photo: Christine T. Anderson

Three-, four- and five-year-olds at Wah Mei School on Judah Street learn English and Cantonese in a supporting environment and attractive atmosphere. Here the children are exercising and counting in Cantonese.

know them individually.

"People are different, not everyone needs the same thing," Quan said. "We work with children that have individual needs. With children who have individual cultural needs."

The school has always had one of the highest adult/child ratios in the City. There is one adult of every six to seven children.

The staff includes 10 teacher and teachers aids, as well as both parent and student volunteers, from both high school and college.

The "Teddy Bears Class Schedule," is designed for both half day and full day programs. The center is open till 6 p.m.

Students get to school between 7:30 and 8:30 in the morning and can do puzzles, draw pictures or play table games.

Around 8:30 breakfast is served, cooked in house kitchen

by a full-time cook.

The children then break up into large groups to have singing, movement exercises, story time, etc. all in English. This program is also repeated in Chinese later in the morning.

Small groups break up to hone in on the individual needs of each child. These groups practice language and pre-readi-

ness skills. After lunch, half day students go home and full day students repeat almost the same schedule except large groups do English and Chinese at the same time.

School statistics, over a four year period, show approximately 78 percent of the youngsters move on to public school and around 22 percent go to private.

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# WAH MEI NEWS



## Director's Letter

Our foggy Sunset microclimate is a sure sign that Summer is here! We are so proud and pleased to launch our first ever Wah Mei Summer Camp this year! For Kinder-5th grade school-aged children, the 8-week summer day camp highlights the importance of engaging children in fun and active enrichment activities that help mitigate the impact of Summer Learning Loss... and of course, it wouldn't be Wah Mei if the camp didn't focus on being bilingual.

We are excited to also share that our Weekend Chinese Program, enjoying continued success over 20+ years, has outgrown our Judah & 19th Street site. Wah Mei is partnering with Lawton Elementary School to locate our Weekend Chinese Program there starting Fall 2018. We are thrilled to advance a community partnership with this neighborhood SFUSD school as we continue to guide the organization towards program expansion and deepen our mission of bilingual education.

Our Summer edition newsletter includes a touching story of one of our long-term staff, Ms. Lori Liao in an article of perseverance, hard work, and the joys of Wah Mei! It's Wah-Mei-Zing!

  
Ben Wong, Executive Director  
[www.wahmei.org](http://www.wahmei.org)

## In this issue:

**01** Director's Letter

**02** Expanding Past Horizons

*Featuring: Adam Lam and  
Lori Liao*

**03** The Art of Giving:  
A Wah Mei Story

*Featuring: Lori Liao*

*Katie Quan graduated Wah Mei School in 1998 and is a guest writer for Wah Mei News. Her work is dedicated to community, art, and advocacy. [katiequan.persona.co](http://katiequan.persona.co)*



# Expanding Past Horizons

Since 1974, Wah Mei School's commitment to bilingual, multicultural education still rings true. While known for its Cantonese and Mandarin preschool program, Wah Mei services continue to expand. This year, we launch our inaugural Wah Mei Summer Camp. Long-time Weekend Chinese School Director, Lori Liao, and new Summer Camp Director, Adam Lam, give us a peek into their programs & views of multiculturalism outside of a standard school curriculum.

## Tell us about your programs.

**Lori:** Our Weekend Chinese Program offers Mandarin and Cantonese classes. We accommodate for all different levels and our lessons focus on speaking, listening, reading, writing, and Chinese culture and history. Our Weekend Chinese for Preschoolers program is centered around a play based curriculum. Each session is 16 weeks or 32 weeks and is held on Saturday mornings from September through May.

**Adam:** Wah Mei Summer Camp is a bilingual youth enrichment program that offers children from K-5 the opportunity to expand their language capability while exploring cultural diversity. No prior Chinese language skills are necessary to participate so don't miss out on this fun, engaging, and highly-enriched summer program. Camp runs from June 11 to August 18, 2018.

## How do you incorporate bilingual and bicultural education into classrooms?

**L:** I have been working with Wah Mei School for eighteen years, but I still feel like we have many more ways to explore how we teach Chinese. Rather than simply focusing on writing and reading, we want to make learning language more interesting for children. We do not assign homework – even if some parents request this. Rather, we encourage our students to listen and to speak. Because our world and our technology changes, our pedagogy should continuously change as well.

**A:** Our summer camp attracts a diverse range of youth who want a fun summer program that supports dual language exposure. We have “language

adventures” where program leaders intentionally promote bilingualism. With theme based projects, we hope to give them a taste of the Chinese language. However, the hope is that they do not see this as “school,” but accept all aspects of education as an overall “summer experience.”

## For Lori, your classes are on Saturdays and Adam, your sessions are during the summer. These are typically seen as “days for leisure,” but why should children have these programs where learning is continuous?

**L:** Many of our parents want their children to take in as much language as they can – even if they are enrolled in immersion schools. They want them to continue learning their Cantonese and Mandarin while practicing culture and traditions.

**A:** I've always enjoyed working with kids and seeing their development. Whether it's an *aha!* moment or helping them through a problem, I believe that is the most rewarding part. The summer camp is not only a great opportunity to give back to the community, but also give children a summer experience that goes hand in hand with a bilingual program. Children should always be learning and the summer gives them a unique opportunity to do so.

## What do you hope to accomplish for the future?

**L:** Our Weekend Chinese Program will be relocating to Lawton Elementary on September 8 as we will continue expanding upon our teaching methods.

**A:** I want to see our camp build upon a foundation where we can continue growing. We aim for not only a highly enriched program, but a safe place for children to build upon over the school year and beyond.

---

*Weekend Chinese Program begins on September 8, 2018 at Lawton Elementary School, 1570 31st Ave., San Francisco. To register, and for more information, email Lori Liao at [chineseschool@wahmei.org](mailto:chineseschool@wahmei.org).*

*Wah Mei Summer Camp runs from June 11 to August 3, 2018 at Chinese Immersion School at De Avila, 1250 Waller St., San Francisco. To register, and for more information, email Adam Lam at [summer@wahmei.org](mailto:summer@wahmei.org).*





# The Art of Giving: A Wah Mei Story

*By Katie Quan featuring Lori Liao*

While one might see her typing busily on a computer or running around taking care of Wah Mei operations, it takes only about three seconds to see that Ms. Lori Liao's smile makes the warmest of welcomes and the perfect cure to see on a cold, cloudy San Francisco day.

Born and raised in Taiwan, Ms. Liao studied apparel design in school, and eventually established a successful career as a real estate agent. After having children, she decided to stay home and tend to them. The family bought a new house and in her free time, she loved nothing more than seeing operas, enjoying the music and shows. Taiwan provided amazing opportunities to grow and blossom as a woman, as a mother, and as a person.

Eighteen years ago, little did she know her life would change with just one phone call. As her in-laws came to an age where care was needed, she and her husband decided to pack up their belongings and leave everything they had to come to the United States. Unfortunately, due to the poor economy in 2000, after selling their furniture and estate, and paying for numerous fees, they were left with only \$400 to start a new life for a family of five.

**“The first couple years in America, I had seven part-time jobs. Every day, no rest. Seven days a week. I worked at our laundry shop. I tutored. I took care of my children. I went to City College. I did my assignments. This was all very stressful, but there was no choice.”**

While income was difficult to attain, what frustrated her the most was learning English. As a former real estate agent whose primary method of communication is speaking, being unable to master English became a struggle. However, with help from close family friends, she attended City College for child development and English courses, helped her parents-in-law with their laundry shop, and work any other part time jobs they could manage.





One day, she dropped off her youngest child at Wah Mei when the school's office called her. *Anthony's mommy!* They chirped. A new Chinese School teacher position had opened up. They needed a Mandarin teacher and Ms. Liao, as a native speaker, was at least confident in her own language abilities. If she prepared well, teaching would be no problem. However, she learned quickly about teaching children. Laughing, she recalls the early days, "I had a testbook. Two and a half hours was not enough time for me! When students asked, 'Do we have recess?' and I said 'No. We don't have a recess.' The students were only five or six years old, but they said, 'Teacher, I hate you!' I learned later that recess had to be fifteen to twenty minutes and soon after, our relationship gradually became better."

## **Today, she is Wah Mei's Operation Manager and Director of the Weekend Chinese Program.**

Wah Mei Weekend Chinese School currently has more than 140 students all year long, and the enrollment is increasing. Since starting at Wah Mei, Ms. Liao received the Association of Northern California Chinese School Exceptional Educator Award in 2008, 2011, and 2016 and is leading ways to empower communal and collaborative learning.

"Children can learn multiple languages," she nods with

pride, "They know which teachers speak Mandarin and they know which teachers speak in Cantonese." She encourages parents to speak their native language with their children, "Speak to your children in your language and you can teach them your ideas, your family philosophy, and your family history. I talk to my kids a lot so they know where they come from."

Ms. Liao pauses to take a breath as she reflects upon her own life.

**"I want to be better. I don't  
want to complain and sigh. Life  
is hard, but life is beautiful and  
I am okay now."**

After all these years, I asked Ms. Liao what her favorite part about Wah Mei was and her answer brought tears to her eyes. "Wah Mei is a nonprofit and it helps both newcomers and low-income families. Parents can go to work and we will take care of their children. Wah Mei helps the community and I am very appreciative. When we came, we had no money, no income, but my children could go to school. That's why I stay at Wah Mei. Diana gave me a chance and after, I wish to help more people, more women like me. All of this comes from her and now, I continue this and help others too."

She refers to Wah Mei as a garden: "We can plant many flowers and trees. Teachers are like the gardeners – we water the flowers, feed them, teach them, and then finally when the time is right, the flowers will be moved. Wah Mei is their first school and so it's important for them have a good start in life. Then, they move on and we wish the best for each student and each flower."

---

*Today, Ms. Liao can be found working in Wah Mei's office. When she is not helping Wah Mei parents with any academic, financial, or personal issues of their own, she can be found tending to her family. Her oldest daughter, Tiffany Yu followed her path to teach Mandarin in San Francisco. Her second daughter, Jennifer Yu, works as a Registered Nurse and will be obtaining her MSN in 2019. Her son, Anthony Yu, will be graduating from college with a BA in Computer Sciences. For the first time in a long time, Ms. Liao can finally say she is home.*



## Our Mission

To provide a safe and nurturing high quality Chinese-English multicultural environment that promotes children's development while building a supportive community for families.

## Our Values

We appreciate and foster the unique attributes and experiences of each child and families. We are child centered and provide a safe, open environment for every child.

We are committed to maintaining trusting and collaborative relationships, and have a strong network of partners and supporters in our community.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values of Wah Mei School. We are committed to providing an emotionally and physically safe space for each of our students, their families, and our staff.



## Community Participation

Families are encouraged to participate in their children's educational program by becoming involved in classroom activities, fundraisers, special events, field trips, Wah Mei Board, and various committees.

**Wah Mei School is proud to be the first Chinese American bilingual preschool in San Francisco.**

Since our first class in 1974, our program has successfully helped children develop Cantonese and Mandarin capabilities. Our children also develop Chinese cultural appreciation through appropriate developmental activities that emphasize both learning and playing in a fun environment.

**Today, Wah Mei School offers a variety of program services providing a greater resource for children and families.**



**Wah Mei School**  
1400 Judah Street  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
[www.wahmei.org](http://www.wahmei.org)

**Phone:** (415) 665-4212

**Fax:** (415) 665-4116

**Email:** [info@wahmei.org](mailto:info@wahmei.org)

Wah Mei is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



# Wah Mei School





# Wah Mei School

## Preschool Program

Our preschool program provides a learning environment that emphasizes our rich Chinese heritage, culture, and traditions. We prepare children to be school-ready global citizens, in a fun and developmentally appropriate setting. We offer a play based curriculum where children are encouraged to creatively explore through activities including music, songs, art, and movement.

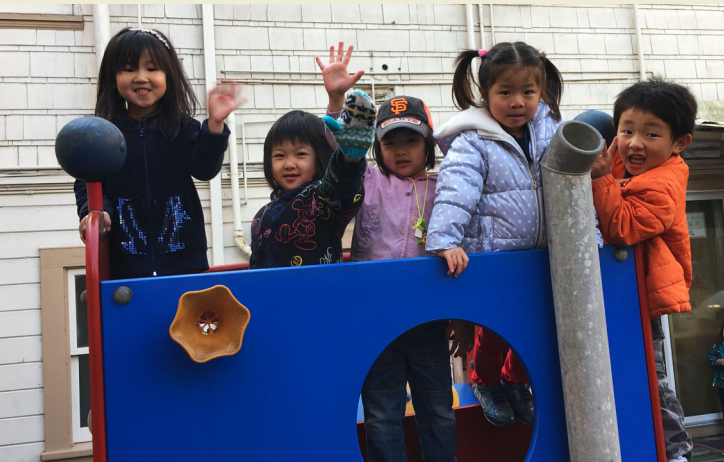
**Full Day Program:** 7:30am - 6:00pm

**Half Day Program:** 8:30am - 12 noon  
or 1:00pm - 4:30pm

We offer fee-based and subsidized programs for children aged 2 years 9 months - 5 years old. Wah Mei participates as a San Francisco First 5 Preschool for All program site.

Wah Mei serves breakfast, a hot lunch, and one afternoon snack daily. All meals meet USDA requirements and only wholesome foods are served.

Applications are accepted year round. Site visits are strongly recommended, please contact the school to schedule.



## Weekend Chinese Program

Cantonese and Mandarin classes at different levels are available. The program enrolls children 3 to 15 years old on Saturday mornings from September through May.



### Weekend Chinese for Preschoolers (Ages 3-5)

Activities are centered around a play based curriculum. Each session is 16 weeks. Parents may choose Cantonese and/or Mandarin

Cantonese: 9:30am - 10:20am

Mandarin: 10:30am - 11:20am

### Weekend Chinese Classes (Ages 5-14)

Conversation, reading, and writing skills, as well as the appreciation of Chinese culture and history are emphasized. Each session is 32 weeks. Parents may choose Cantonese or Mandarin.

Cantonese or Mandarin: 9:00am - 11:30am

For more information, email  
[chineseschool@wahmei.org](mailto:chineseschool@wahmei.org).



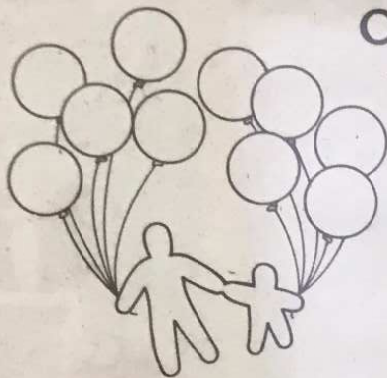
## Wah Mei Summer Camp

An exciting youth development program that offers children (grades K-5) exposure to Cantonese or Mandarin language while exploring cultural diversity. Activities are focused on team building and experiential learning, community adventures, and discoveries. No prior Chinese language skills are necessary to participate in this fun, engaging, and highly-enriched summer program. Camp is 8-weeks, or two 4-week sessions in the summer. It is "Wah-Mei-zing!"

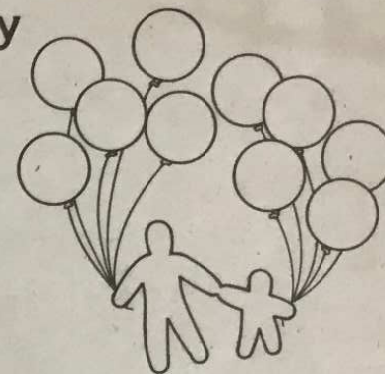
For more information, email [summer@wahmei.org](mailto:summer@wahmei.org).







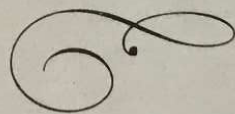
On the Occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
the  
State Department of Education's  
Office of Child Development



## Commends

Wah Mei School

for Caring Services to California's Children  
This 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1982



Wilson Kille  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Francis L. Walker  
Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction



CITY AND COUNTY



OF SAN FRANCISCO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

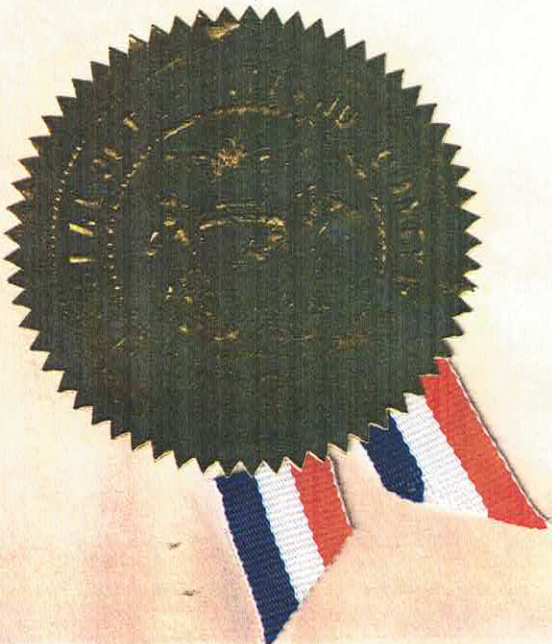
### *Commendation*

BE IT KNOWN, That the Board of Supervisors, at its meeting of the date shown hereon, on motion introduced by the subscribing Supervisor and unanimously adopted by the Board, the following commendation was duly authorized:



In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the City and County of San Francisco as a Founding Member of the Wah Mei School Board, in the provision of Chinese-American bilingual education to preschool age children. Your support of the Chinese-American community and your concern about issues relating to childcare is commendable.

On this Tenth Anniversary of the Wah Mei School, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco applauds your efforts.



President of the Board

Wendy Nelder

Subscribing Supervisor

Wendy Nelder

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

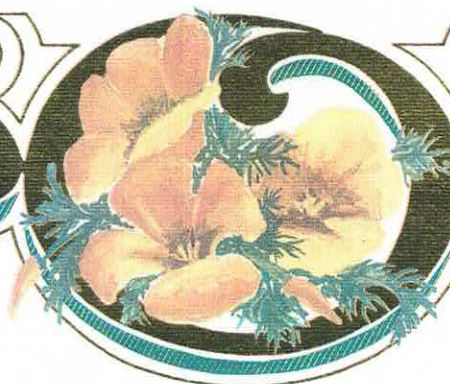
John L. Taylor

November 26, 1984

Meeting Date



# certificate of RECOGNITION



*Presented to*  
**WAH MEI SCHOOL**

**MARCH 19, 1994**

**IN HONOR OF  
ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

On this day it is fitting that we pay special recognition to Wah Mei School as we celebrate its Twentieth anniversary.

On behalf of the Third Senate District and the State of California, it gives me great pleasure to commend the Wah Mei School. As the first Chinese American bilingual preschool in San Francisco it has successfully promoted bilingualism and multiculturalism in our City. Its outstanding contributions through a commitment to education and understanding have touched many lives.

I hereby designate March 19, 1994 as "Wah Mei School Day" and extend my best wishes to its staff, volunteers and board of directors for continuing fulfillment and success in the years to come.

*Walter Munk*

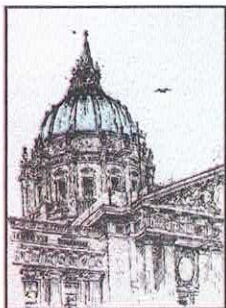
SENATOR





# Proclamation

City and County of San Francisco



*Whereas the City and County of San Francisco wishes to congratulate Wah Mei School on its 20th year of providing exemplary bilingual and multicultural preschool programs; and*

*Whereas 50% of the children served are recent immigrants to the United States; and*

*Whereas Wah Mei provides a familiar environment to help these monolingual and limited-English speaking children acclimate to their new home; and*

*Whereas the school and its staff have received numerous honors and recognition for a successful model bilingual preschool program; now*

***Therefore Be It Resolved That I, Frank M. Jordan, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby recognize and honor Wah Mei School for its dedication and success in serving children and do hereby declare March 19, 1994 as ...***

## **Wah Mei School 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 blue ink that reads "Frank M. Jordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'F'.

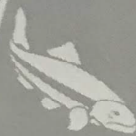
Frank M. Jordan





*California State Assembly*

*Certificate Of*  
***Recognition***



PRESENTED TO:

*Wah Mei School*

IN HONOR OF:

*Celebrating 25 years of Bilingual Education*  
*May 8, 1999*



*Kevin Shelley*

A handwritten signature of Kevin Shelley in dark ink.

MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY

*12th* ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE



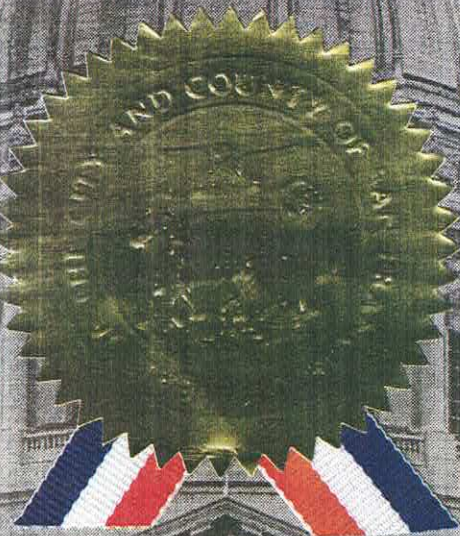
# Certificate of Honor

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

*The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this 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:*

WAH MEI SCHOOL

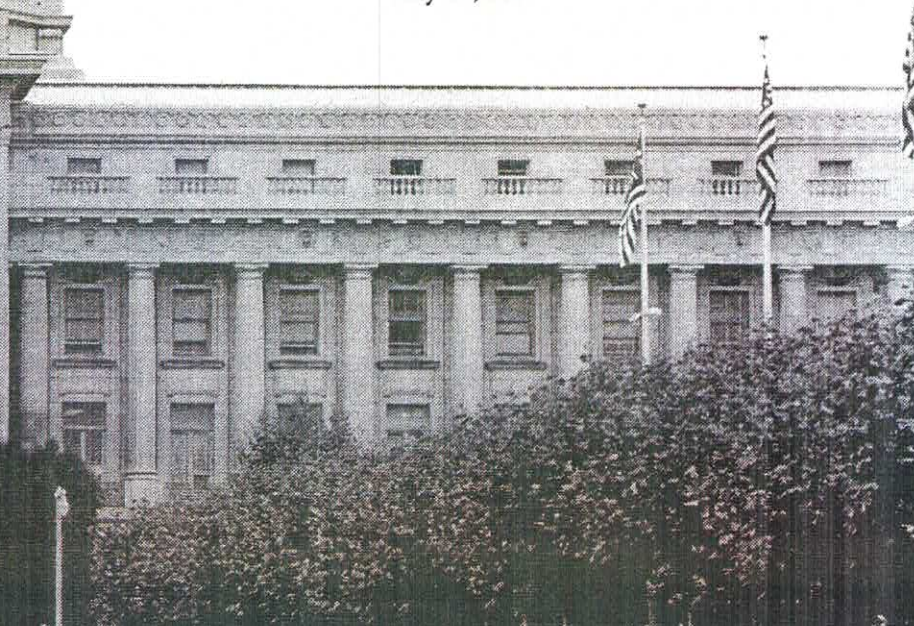
The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco commends your organization for your extraordinary contributions to the community and congratulates you on your 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Supervisor Carmen Chu

Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

May 15, 2009





# Certificate of Honor

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### Wah Mei School

In honor of your 40 years of exemplary service to the children and families across San Francisco.

The citizens of the City & County of San Francisco and the Board of Supervisors bestow its highest commendation to Wah Mei School and wish it many more successful years in preschool education.

Congratulations.

  
Supervisor Norman Yee

Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

May 9, 2014

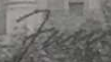














# Proclamation

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

*Whereas, Formed by the Richmond Bilingual Committee that was comprised of community representatives and bilingual educators, Wah Mei School opened its doors in 1974 to become the first bilingual Chinese-English preschool in San Francisco; and*

*Whereas, Wah Mei School is committed to providing high-quality programming and services in a safe, caring, and nurturing environment that promotes each child's social-emotional, physical and cognitive growth and competency through age-appropriate experiences for all young children of San Francisco; and*

*Whereas, Over the last four decades, Wah Mei School has continued to promote multiculturalism through economic and cultural diversity and the development of the whole child to become pioneers in Chinese bilingual early childhood education; and*

*Whereas, The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco recognizes May 9, 2014, as the 40th anniversary of Wah Mei School; now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco commends and congratulates founders Julie Tang, Lisa Tang Shek, Wesley Woo, Al Sing Yuen, among others, and Wah Mei School on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary for serving young children and their families throughout San Francisco and beyond; and, be it*

*Further Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco declares May 9, 2014 Wah Mei School Day in San Francisco.*

*Eric Mar, District One*

*San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
May 9, 2014*

*Scott Wiener*

*Norm Yee*

*Mark S. Fain*

*David Lough*

*David Tang*



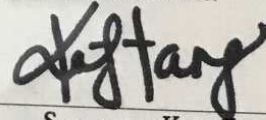
# Certificate of Honor

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### WAH MEI SCHOOL 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On the occasion of the 43rd anniversary celebration of the first Chinese American bilingual preschool in San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco extends its highest commendation to Wah Mei School for your commitment to promoting multiculturalism and meeting the needs of each child and family for past generations and for generations to come.

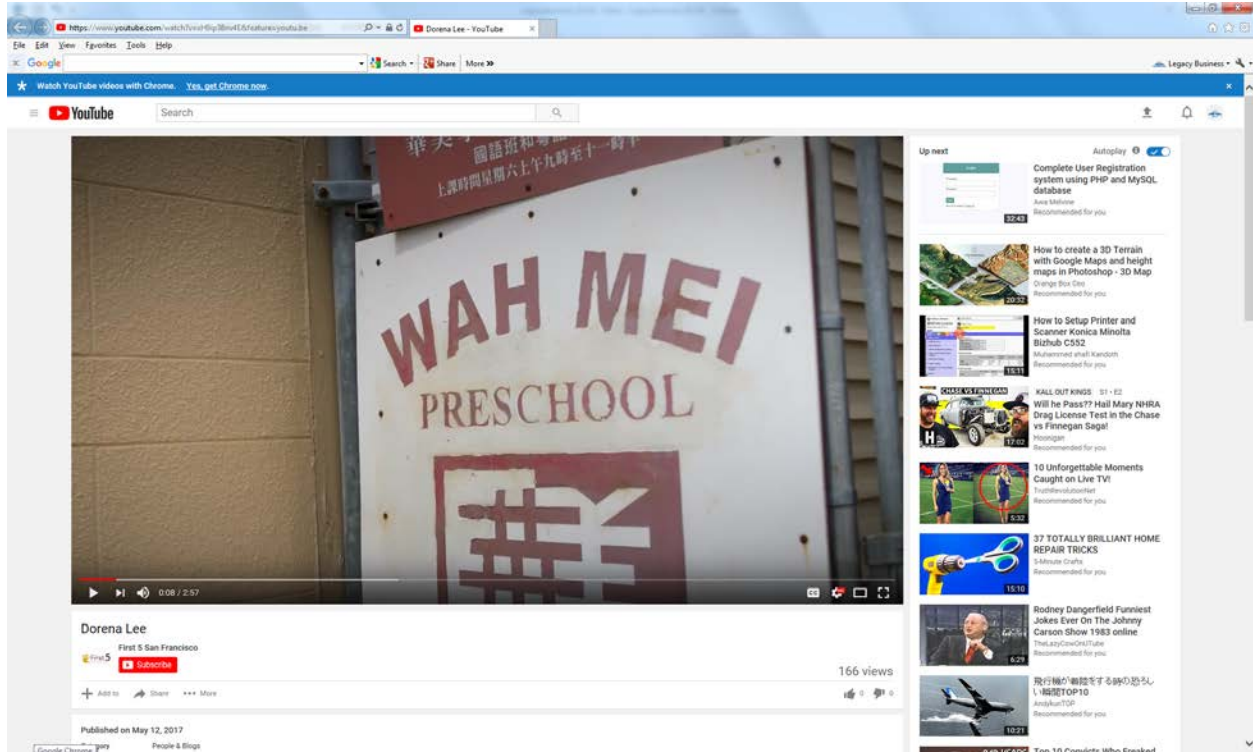


Supervisor Katy Tang  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
May 18, 2017



# Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH9ip38nv4E&feature=youtu.be>



First Five San Francisco Excellence in Teaching Video of Head Teacher Dorena Lee  
Published on May 12, 2017