



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 0698

HEARING DATE DECEMBER 19, 2012

ENDORISING FURTHER EXPLORATION OF A CITY PROGRAM TO DOCUMENT, DESIGNATE, AND INCENTIVIZE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.

1. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”), at its regular hearing of December 5, 2012, held a discussion of the potential development of incentives associated with the documentation and designation of social and cultural resources, including a discussion of the Planning Department’s current work in the Japantown and West SOMA communities related to social and cultural heritage.
2. WHEREAS, the HPC reviewed the following documents in their discussion of social and cultural resources: Proposal for Formal Social Heritage Resource Designations prepared by Commissioners Matsuda and Martinez (November 13, 2012), Memorandum to the Historic Preservation Commission from Steve Wertheim, Planning Department, regarding Update on the Japantown Planning Process (October 2, 2012), and Draft Social Heritage Inventory Records for the Buddhist Church of San Francisco and the Cherry Blossom Festival prepared by Page & Turnbull (November 2012; and,
3. WHEREAS, the HPC generally supports the Proposal for Formal Social Heritage Resource Designations, but recognizes that the proposal requires further development and specificity; and,
4. WHEREAS, the HPC generally supports the methodology developed by the Department in partnership with Page & Turnbull for the Japantown Social Heritage Program, but recommends adding information to the inventory form such as identifying ownership, cross-referencing DPR forms, and identifying past uses with their dates of activity at the site. Also, the HPC recommends adding designation assistance as a potential preservation tool for social heritage resources in Japantown; and,
5. WHEREAS, the HPC encourages the Department to present the methodology developed for documenting social heritage resource in Japantown to the broader preservation community to seek both professional and financial support; and,
6. WHEREAS, the HPC recommends that future historic contexts developed by the City should be scoped with social and cultural heritage in mind; and,
7. WHEREAS, the HPC recognizes that a social heritage resource designation program managed by the City could allow the Board of Supervisors to create incentives tailored to the preservation of social and cultural resources; and,

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8. WHEREAS, the HPC recognizes that the appropriate body to administer a future social heritage resource program may be an organization or agency, other than the Planning Department, that is dedicated to the support of arts and culture in the City; and,
9. WHEREAS, the HPC recognizes that any social and cultural heritage program requires strong support, development, and continued involvement by the community stakeholders that value and define the resources; and,
10. WHEREAS, the HPC recognizes that historical integrity and economic viability are issues that need to be further examined in the context of social and cultural heritage resources; and,
11. WHEREAS, the HPC recognizes that social and cultural heritage resources are often a series of networks of people and that they overlap to varying degrees; therefore, careful documentation and understanding of the evolution of community and how each group has contributed to the fabric is essential to the establishment of a social heritage program; and,
12. WHEREAS, the HPC acknowledges that social and cultural heritage is a vast and important issue confronting the City's communities and recommends that any future social and cultural heritage program should be an educational effort and discussion across the entire City family.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT SO RESOLVED that the Commission hereby endorses the proposal submitted by Commissioners Matsuda and Martinez and the social heritage inventory work of the Planning Department; that the Commission recognizes that more work needs to be done to develop the proposal before it is presented to the community, the Planning Commission, or the Board of Supervisors for comment; and, that the Commission would like to be a forum for that work.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on December 19, 2012.

Jonas P. Ionin
Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: Chase, Damkroger, Hasz, Johns, Matsuda, and Wolfram

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Martinez

ADOPTED: December 19, 2012