EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE AMENDMENT

HEARING DATE: November 4, 2020

Project Name: American Indian Cultural District Expansion
Case Number: 2020-009508PCA [Board File No. 201088]
Initiated by: Supervisors Ronen and Mandelman / Introduced September 22, 2020
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone, Community Equity Division
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org, 628-652-7425
Reviewed by: Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs
aaron.starr@sfgov.org, 628-652-7523
Recommendation: Approval with Modifications

Planning Code Amendment
The proposed Ordinance would amend Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District.

The Way It Is Now:
1. Section 107.3 currently lists the boundaries of the District as the approximately 11-block area bounded by 15th Street to the north between Folsom Street and Julian Street, Julian Street to the east between 15th Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Julian Street and Valencia Street, Valencia Street to the west between 14th Street and 16th Street, 16th Street to the north between Valencia Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 16th Street and 17th Street, and 17th Street to the south between Sanchez Street and
2. Section 107C.1 currently list findings supporting the cultural significance of the area to the American Indian community.

**The Way It Would Be:**

1. Section 107.3 would be amended to list the boundaries of the District as the approximately 26-block area bounded by Duboce Avenue to the north between Market Street and Mission Street, 13th Street to the north between Mission Street and Folsom Street, Folsom Street to the east between 13th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Folsom Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the east between 17th Street and 18th Street, 18th Street to the south between Dolores Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 18th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Church Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 17th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Sanchez Street and 15th Street, 15th Street to the north between Market Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 15th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Church Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Market Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the west between 14th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Dolores Street and Duboce Avenue.

2. Section 107.C.1 would be amended to add and correct findings related to the cultural significance of the area to the American Indian community.

**Background**

The ordinance first establishing the District was passed April 17, 2020 [Board File No. 191183]. That ordinance requires the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District and proposing strategies to acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District. The deadline for the written reports was established as January 31, 2021, which will not be amended by the proposed ordinance. MOHCD and the Planning Department are actively working with the American Indian Cultural District towards preparation of their strategy report; and, it is expected that the work will be completed in 2021 after some delay caused by the current health and economic crisis.
Issues and Considerations

Boundary Description

Per the Administrative Code, “the boundary of a cultural district defines a geographic area that embodies a unique cultural heritage because it contains a concentration of cultural and historic assets and culturally significant enterprise, arts, services, or businesses, and because a significant portion of its residents or people who spend time in the area or location are members of a specific cultural or ethnic group that historically has been discriminated against, displaced, and oppressed.” Per Section 107.4 of the Administrative Code, the boundaries of cultural districts should be contiguous and should not overlap with other cultural districts. The boundaries described in the draft ordinance would be share with the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District and the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District, but it does not appear that they would overlap.

The broader district area proposed in this amendment would more accurately capture the portion of the Mission neighborhood with the strongest associations with the American Indian community. This is demonstrated in the revised ordinance findings, which cite specific locations associated with American Indian organizations and affiliated businesses. The area may also hold intangible associations for the community of past events or current activities, which the community is best positioned to discern.

While there are no size requirements for cultural districts, the more than doubled footprint proposed in the amendment may allow for a more robust set of tools to stabilize the community and safeguard their cultural assets. The cultural district program does not automatically confer any land use controls, but zoning changes could be recommended as a strategic tool to encourage future development that is compatible with the District goals. The larger footprint could allow for more effective zoning tools. The size could confer similar benefits in terms of improving the visibility of the community and knowledge of its history.

Expanded Findings

Historic preservation professionals typically rely on historic context statements when evaluating the cultural and historical significance of properties. In the absence of an American Indian Historic Context Statement, the existing and proposed findings provide a way for preservation staff to assess the historic importance of these properties. The Planning Department is actively exploring resources for developing a historic context statement with the American Indian community in the near future.

The information added to the findings in the draft amended ordinance better describes the genocide and oppression suffered by American Indians in both the distant and recent past. The amended findings further demonstrate how the American Indian peoples were deliberately and systematically deprived of connection to their history, culture, homelands, and language. These findings help to elevate the deep need for repair and redress for the community and provide important context for the purpose and goals of the District. They also further establish the community’s long history of dedicated community service and organizing, much of which took place in this part of the Mission neighborhood.

General Plan Compliance

The proposed ordinance would comply with the General Plan, specifically with the Commerce and Industry Element, which calls for the City to “maintain and enhance a sound and diverse economic base and fiscal structure for the City” and with the Arts Element, which calls for the City to “support arts and cultural programs which address the needs of diverse populations. The ordinance complies with the Mission Area Plan Historic
Preservation objectives, which call for the City to protect, preserve, and reuse historic resources, to integrate preservation into ongoing planning processes, and to foster public awareness and appreciation of cultural resources. The ordinance would also comply with General Plan Priority Policy #2, which states that “That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods.” Creating the new cultural district will help efforts to preserve and enhance the City’s remaining ethnic and cultural enclaves. Preservation and enhancement of these districts serves the City’s interest as an abundance of cultural and recreational activities lends San Francisco a comparative advantage over other municipalities.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

Understanding the benefits, burdens and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Administrative amendments provide is part of the Department’s Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor’s Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which requires all Departments to conduct this analysis.

The proposed amendments would help to safeguard the American Indian community and its cultural assets and further racial and social equity in multiple ways. The ordinance would encourage broader engagement by the Planning Department with the American Indian community during the review of planning projects within the expanded boundary. This engagement would help to daylight and address the concerns of the American Indian community, which has been historically excluded from decisions effecting its people’s wellbeing. The boundary expansion and narrative corrections and clarifications also more accurately convey the cultural significance of this area and the American Indian history associated with the Mission neighborhood. This accuracy is especially important given the relatively little information related to contemporary American Indian life in the histories commonly utilized by the Planning Department and other agencies. The revised ordinance and the relationship that the cultural district program establishes between the District and the Department will facilitate an expansion of the City’s knowledge about this important cultural group. This better understanding may ensure more equitable treatment of its people and significant places in the future. Moreover, the program goals should support more equitable outcomes in many areas including housing and tenant protections, cultural competency, historic preservation, arts and culture, land use, and economic and workforce development.

Implementation

The Department has determined that this ordinance will not impact our current implementation procedures.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission approve with modifications the proposed Ordinance and adopt the attached Draft Resolution to that effect. The Department’s proposed recommendations are as follows:

1. Modify the Ordinance so that the boundary description in Section 107.3 explicitly states whether or not the lots lining the outer edge of the boundary streets are included as part of the District.

Basis for Recommendation

The Department supports the overall goals of this Ordinance because it expands the area of the District in a manner that would more accurately represent the history and cultural assets of the American Indian community. Further, staff recognizes that the proposed findings add important information to support the cultural
significance of this area, especially in the absence of an American Indian Historic Context Statement. The Department does have concerns about the precision of the proposed new boundary description as stated in the ordinance and is recommending the following modification.

1. **Recommendation 1: Amend Section 107.3.** Staff recommends amending Section 107.3 so that the boundary description explicitly states whether or not the lots lining the outer edge of the boundary streets are included as part of the District. For example, the text would describe whether or not the lots on the northern side of Duboce Avenue are included within the district. This clarity would help future determinations about the District’s jurisdiction, especially where the American Indian District abuts the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District and the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District.

**Required Commission Action**

The proposed Ordinance is before the Commission so that it may approve it, reject it, or approve it with modifications.

**Environmental Review**

The proposed amendments are not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c) and 15378 because they do not result in a physical change in the environment. Although this ordinance refers to cultural resources and sacred sites associated with Ohlone Native Americans, this ordinance is not defined as a project under CEQA and, therefore, does not require Tribal Cultural Resource notification.

**Public Comment**

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

**Attachments:**

Exhibit A: Draft Planning Commission Resolution
Exhibit B: Board of Supervisors File No. 201088

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2020 Supervisors Ronen and Mandelman introduced a proposed Ordinance under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter “Board”) File Number 201088, which would amend Sections 107.3 and 107C.1 of the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District;

WHEREAS, The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the proposed Ordinance on November 4, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Ordinance has been determined to be categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act Sections 15060(c) and 15378; and
WHEREAS, the Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

MOVED, that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby approves with modifications the proposed ordinance with the following amendment:

- Amend Section 107.3 so that the boundary description explicitly states whether or not the lots lining the outer edge of the boundary streets are included as part of the District.

Findings

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

The Commission supports the overall goals of this Ordinance because it expands the area of the District in a manner that would more accurately represent the history and cultural assets of the American Indian community.

The Commission recognizes that the amended findings of the District ordinance add important information to support the cultural significance of this area, especially in the absence of an American Indian Historic Context Statement.

In keeping with the Commission’s Resolution No. 1127 Centering Preservation Planning on Racial and Social Equity, the Commission finds that the proposed amendments would help to safeguard the American Indian community and its cultural assets and further racial and social equity for their community in multiple ways, including increasing Department knowledge of American Indian history and increased opportunities for meaningful engagement.

The Commission recognizes that San Francisco’s cultural diversity is integral to the City fabric and is what helps make San Francisco a desirable location for living, working and recreating.

The Commission recognizes that cultural heritage is the expression of a way of living. It is developed by a community through objects, beliefs, traditions, practices, artistic interpretation, and significant places. It manifests itself in tangible and intangible elements passed through generations. Examples of these elements include buildings, plazas, crafts, art, festivals, processions, protests, businesses, and other institutions. Losing any of these elements diminishes a community’s cultural integrity. Preserving these unique cultural elements requires distinct strategies according to each community’s needs in partnership with local government.
The Commission recognizes that during periods of rapid change in the City, cultural districts can help preserve and enhance indispensable elements of the City’s fabric.

The Commission seeks to improve the precision of the proposed new boundary description as stated in the draft ordinance to clarify the shared understanding of the District’s jurisdiction, especially where it abuts the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District and the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District.

**General Plan Compliance**

The proposed Ordinance and the Commission’s recommended modifications are consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

**ART ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE II-2**

SUPPORT ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS WHICH ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE POPULATIONS.

**COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 2**

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

Policy 2.3

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

**MISSION AREA PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 8.2**

PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND REUSE HISTORIC RESOURCES WITHIN THE MISSION PLAN AREA

**OBJECTIVE 8.3**

ENSURE THAT HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONCERNS CONTINUE TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ONGOING PLANNING PROCESSES FOR THE MISSION PLAN AREA AS THEY EVOLVE OVER TIME

**OBJECTIVE 8.6**

FOSTER PUBLIC AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE MISSION PLAN AREA

Expanding the Cultural District will help efforts to preserve and enhance the City’s remaining ethnic and cultural enclaves. Their preservation and enhancement also serve the City’s interest as an abundance of cultural and recreational activities lends San Francisco a comparative advantage over other municipalities. The District will support efforts to integrate preservation into ongoing planning processes and to foster public awareness and appreciation of cultural resources.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby APPROVES WITH MODIFICATIONS the proposed Ordinance as described in this Resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on November 4, 2020.

Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED:
MEMORANDUM

TO: Jonas Ionin, Historic Preservation Commission

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee

DATE: September 25, 2020

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Rules Committee

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

File No. 201088

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

c: Rich Hillis, Planning Department
Scott Sanchez, Planning Department
Lisa Gibson, Planning Department
Devyani Jain, Planning Department
Adam Varat, Planning Department
AnMarie Rodgers, Planning Department
Aaron Starr, Planning Department
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Planning Department
Joy Navarrete, Planning Department
Enacted: 1
In Control: Rules Committee

File Name: Administrative Code - American Indian Cultural District
Date Introduced: 09/22/2020

Requester: 
Cost: 
Final Action: 

Title: Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Sponsors: Ronen; Mandelman

**History of Legislative File 201088**

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Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

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

Section 1. Findings.

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

(b) On _____________________, the Historic Preservation Commission held a duly noticed hearing regarding the effects of this ordinance upon historic or cultural resources, and submitted a written report to the Board of Supervisors as required under Charter Section 4.135. The report is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ____________.
Section 2. Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 107.3, to read as follows:

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

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

* * * *

(h) **American Indian Cultural District.** The Cultural District shall include the area bounded by 15th Street to the north between Folsom Street and Julian Street, Julian Street to the east between 15th Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Julian Street and Valencia Street, Valencia Street to the west between 14th Street and 16th Street, 16th Street to the north between Valencia Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 16th Street and 17th Street, and 17th Street to the south between Sanchez Street and Folsom Street. Duboce Avenue to the north between Market Street and Mission Street, 13th Street to the north between Mission Street and Folsom Street, Folsom Street to the east between 13th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Folsom Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the east between 17th Street and 18th Street, 18th Street to the south between Dolores Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 18th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Church Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 17th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Sanchez Street and 15th Street, 15th Street to the north between Market Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 15th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Church Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Market Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the west between 14th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Dolores Street and Duboce Avenue.

Section 3. Chapter 107C of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 107C.1, to read as follows:
SEC. 107C.1. FINDINGS.

The American Indian Cultural District (the “District”) is within a geographic region that is of great historical and cultural significance to the American Indian community. This corridor holds a unique concentration of historical events, cultural resources, and Native American-based programming, services, and gathering spaces that are historically and presently important to the American Indian community in the San Francisco Bay Area.

San Francisco is the aboriginal home of the Ramaytush Ohlone Peoples. There are known and documented Ohlone cultural resources and sacred sites within the District, including the home of a once-thriving Ohlone village called “ChutchuiE-la-muh,” which was located in the area currently known as Mission Dolores Park. Nearby within the District is Mission Dolores. Many American Indian community members see the Mission as a reminder of the painful history of the Mission Era, which lasted from 1769 to 1833. During this time, thousands of American Indians were forcibly removed from their homelands and moved into the missions. The missions were created to convert American Indians to Christianity and to give the Catholic Church authority over American Indians so European territory could be expanded in North America with fewer barriers. Historical documentation of missions reflects enslavement, forced religious practices, division of families, forced labor, rape and prostitution of men, women, and children, and cruel punishment including the use of irons and whips. The mission system decreased the populations of Native Americans in California in some areas by up to 90%. The average lifespan of a Native American in the mission system was ten years. These areas we now call Dolores Park and Mission Dolores hold a unique historical perspective to the American Indian community. First Nations people do not just see a park and a mission, they recognize an area that started as a thriving village site and transitioned to an area of great suffering, where California Native Americans have been buried, suffered, died, and were buried for the purposes of European land expansion.
Following the Mission Era, government policies stripped aboriginal American Indian people of millions of acres of their land. The government also created boarding schools that forcibly separated American Indian children from their homelands, families, traditional language, tribes, and culture. Boarding schools that ran until the 1970’s were created to “civilize” American Indian children and assimilate them into American society by “killing the Indian to save the man.” To deepen the process of assimilation and land removal, policies were implemented to end government assistance to tribes and incentivize American Indians to move into urban areas, and implemented policies to end government assistance to tribes. In 1952, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented an urban Indian relocation program to assimilate American Indians into “modern culture.” This program gave American Indians one-way tickets to urban areas. Major cities, including San Francisco, was one of four counties in California to receive a large influx of American Indians from all over the United States. American Indian people waited for days and weeks at local bus and train stations for government representatives to meet families and carry out the promise of stable employment and success in the urban cities.

San Francisco was one of the largest relocation cities in the United States. As the urban American Indian population in San Francisco began to expand, the Mission District became a home base for the community. To create a remedy for the lack of adequate government support and resources, the community developed its own support systems. Support systems included social services, cultural retention activities, employment and housing opportunities, education, political empowerment, and Native American-owned and supported businesses. The community also came together to develop cultural programming, language preservation programs, education courses, and annual events, and to establish community gathering spaces. The community also came together to develop cultural programming, language preservation programs, education courses, and annual events, and to establish community gathering spaces such as an American Indian Cultural Center (AICC), and some...
of the first urban pow wows. These American Indian-based enterprises and the rich cultural
history of the area are at the heart of the proposed District.

The 16th Street corridor District was home to the first American Indian Center (AIC), which from the 1940’s to 1969 was located between Mission Street and Valencia Street. The fire that burned down the AIC in 1969 played a significant role in the Occupy Alcatraz Movement. Activists pushed to create a new American Indian Center and Native American school on Alcatraz Island, which remained open there until June of 1971. From 1969 through 1970, the AIC also held an office space at 16th and Guerrero Streets. From 1970 to 1988, the AIC was located at 225/229 Valencia Street. This site offered a wide variety of services, programing, and resources to the community. This site closed in 1988 due to a mishandling of funds. In the 1990’s, the Indian Center of All Nations (ICAN) was located at 16th and Mission Streets. ICAN closed in 1995 due to a lack of steady funding. The Centers over the years have been run by several different community members, but they all had the same goals of providing a community space, cultural retention, resources, events, and programing for American Indians in the San Francisco Bay Area.

From 2005 to 2007, a group of community members began meeting with Members of the Board of Supervisors at City Hall and with the San Francisco Arts Commission, to advocate for program funding and a new community space. In 2012, Mayor Ed Lee attended the Dancing Feather Pow Wow and announced his intention to help find a new home and funding for an American Indian Center. As a response to Mayor Lee’s announcement, an American Indian Advisory Council formed in 2013. This Council met, and still meets every month, to discuss the future and vision of an American Indian Cultural Center. The San Francisco Arts Commission and local Native American-based funding initiatives provided funds to help create the American Indian Cultural Center (AICC). The AICC is composed of the American Indian Advisory Council, a functioning Board, Executive Director, a Program Director, and student interns. In 2019, the AICC was formally recognized as a virtual
Cultural Center, operating to provide arts and cultural programs without a fixed location or gathering space. AICC is currently in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

The buildings that housed the various American Indian Center locations and the surrounding areas hold great importance to the community and have provided a home for historically and politically significant events located on 16th and Valencia Streets, and the second AICC, located at 223-225 Valencia Street at Duboce Street from 1969 to the 1980s. The AICC was the meeting place for Bay Area American Indian organizations and home of the United Bay Indian Council, which brought together 30 clubs into one large Council. The American Indian Movement originally held an office in the AICC before moving to the International Indian Treaty Council on Mission Street. Across the street from the AICC, Al Smith owned a trading post where the Native American community came together to sell arts, crafts, and beadwork. Other meeting spots in the area included places such as Aunt Mary’s, a cafe across from the Roxie Theater on 16th Street where the Native American community would gather for breakfast, and the Rainbow Cattle Company, a popular Native American bar on Duboce and Valencia Streets. Muddy Waters and Modern Times were popular spots for artists, poetry nights, and speaking engagements, have also been located on Valencia Street. These gathering places reflect the history of a strong cultural connection to the area among Native Americans.
* * * *

While the American Indian community has had its roots in the District from time immemorial, the community also recognizes the shared cultural and historical importance of the area to the Latino and other Indigenous communities. Since the enactment of the Relocation Act, countless programs, efforts, and support systems have been developed cross-culturally in these communities. In pre-colonial times, Northern Native and Southern Native communities co-existed with intricate trade routes and shared ceremonies. Similarly, in current times, many programs, gatherings and ceremonies take place together and co-exist in this District. American Indians, Latino community organizers, and Southern Native groups have come together to support the District as a small manifestation of justice and repatriation.

According to 2015 Census data, American Indians make up roughly 1.6% of the population in California (723,225 persons), and 0.5% of the population in San Francisco. There are over 500 tribal nations in the United States, and over 150 tribes in California, 109 of which are federally recognized. One in nine American Indians lives in a city, and 90% of the American Indian population in California resides in urban areas. The legacy of American Indians in the Bay Area is in jeopardy due to the increased cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, the lack of community-specific resources and political representation, and the lack of safe, reliable community space for youth, elders, cultural gatherings, and events. The District will honor American Indian culture and help provide a recognized home base for the American Indian community and to ensure that American Indian history and contributions will not be forgotten or overwritten. The District will not only benefit the American Indian community, but it will help foster cultural competency in the broader San Francisco community, serve as a model for the rest of California, and honor First Nations people and their longstanding history in San Francisco.
Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

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

By: /s/ ANNE PEARSON
Deputy City Attorney
LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - American Indian Cultural District]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code establishes several cultural districts within the City, including the American Indian Cultural District. The American Indian Cultural District is currently located in and around the northwestern quadrant of the Mission District.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would increase the size of the American Indian Cultural District by revising its boundaries so that the District would be roughly bounded 17th Street, Market Street, Duboce Avenue, and Folsom Street. The proposed ordinance would also expand the findings to include additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District.
Introduction Form
By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

X 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).

☐ 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.

☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.

☐ 4. Request for letter beginning :"Supervisor inquiries"

☐ 5. City Attorney Request.

☐ 6. Call File No. from Committee.

☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).


☐ 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission

☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):
Ronen; Mandelman

Subject:
Administrative Code - American Indian Cultural District

The text is listed:

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: /s/ Hillary Ronen
Yes, my electronic signature is intended to reflect my approval as to form.

Thanks,

Anne

Anne Pearson – available by cell phone at 646-241-7670
Deputy City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Suite 234
San Francisco, CA  94102
Tel: (415) 554-4706
anne.pearson@sfcityatty.org

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Disclosures: Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk’s Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk’s Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors’ website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.

From: Monge, Paul (BOS) <paul.monge@sfgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:58 PM
To: BOS Legislation, (BOS) <bos.legislation@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>
Subject: Ronen - Ordinance Expanding Boundaries for the American Indian Cultural District

Hello,

Attached please find the introduction form, language, and legislative digest for an ordinance introduced by Supervisor Ronen seeking to expand the existing boundaries for the American Indian Cultural District.

This email confirms that the use of the symbol “/s/ Hillary Ronen” is intended to have the same effect as Supervisor Ronen’s signature and confirms the Supervisor’s intent to approve the documents.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Paul Monge, JD, MPP
Legislative Aide
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen I District 9
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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

Section 1. Findings.

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

(b) On _________________, the Historic Preservation Commission held a duly noticed hearing regarding the effects of this ordinance upon historic or cultural resources, and submitted a written report to the Board of Supervisors as required under Charter Section 4.135. The report is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. __________.
Section 2. Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 107.3, to read as follows:

SEC. 107.3. LIST OF ESTABLISHED CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

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

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(h) American Indian Cultural District. The Cultural District shall include the area bounded by 15th Street to the north between Folsom Street and Julian Street, Julian Street to the east between 15th Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Julian Street and Valencia Street, Valencia Street to the west between 14th Street and 16th Street, 16th Street to the north between Valencia Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 16th Street and 17th Street, and 17th Street to the south between Sanchez Street and Folsom Street. Duboce Avenue to the north between Market Street and Mission Street, 13th Street to the north between Mission Street and Folsom Street, Folsom Street to the east between 13th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Folsom Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the east between 17th Street and 18th Street, 18th Street to the south between Dolores Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 18th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Church Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 17th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Sanchez Street and 15th Street, 15th Street to the north between Market Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 15th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Church Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Market Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the west between 14th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Dolores Street and Duboce Avenue.

Section 3. Chapter 107C of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 107C.1, to read as follows:
SEC. 107C.1. FINDINGS.

The American Indian Cultural District (the “District”) is within a geographic region that is of great historical and cultural significance to the American Indian community. This corridor holds a unique concentration of historical events, cultural resources, and Native American-based programming, services, and gathering spaces that are historically and presently important to the American Indian community in the San Francisco Bay Area.

San Francisco is the aboriginal home of the Ramaytush Ohlone Peoples. There are known and documented Ohlone cultural resources and sacred sites within the District, including the home of a once-thriving Ohlone village called “ChutchuiE-la-muh,” which was located in the area currently known as Mission Dolores Park. Nearby within the District is Mission Dolores. Many American Indian community members see the Mission as a reminder of the painful history of the Mission Era, which lasted from 1769 to 1833. During this time, thousands of American Indians were forcibly removed from their homelands and moved into the missions. The missions were created to convert American Indians to Christianity and to give the Catholic Church authority over American Indians so European territory could be expanded in North America with fewer barriers. Historical documentation of missions reflects enslavement, forced religious practices, division of families, forced labor, rape and prostitution of men, women, and children, and cruel punishment including the use of irons and whips. The mission system decreased the populations of Native Americans in California in some areas by up to 90%. The average lifespan of a Native American in the mission system was ten years. These areas we now call Dolores Park and Mission Dolores hold a unique historical perspective to the American Indian community. First Nations people do not just see a park and a mission, they recognize an area that started as a thriving village site and transitioned to an area of great suffering, where California Native Americans have been buried. suffered, died, and were buried for the purposes of European land expansion.
Following the Mission Era, government policies stripped aboriginal American Indian people of millions of acres of their land. The government also forcibly separated American Indian children from their homelands, families, traditional language, tribes, and culture. Boarding schools that ran until the 1970’s were created to “civilize” American Indian children and assimilate them into American society by “killing the Indian to save the man.” To deepen the process of assimilation and land removal, policies were implemented to end government assistance to tribes and incentivize American Indians to move into urban areas, and implemented policies to end government assistance to tribes. In 1952, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented an urban Indian relocation program to assimilate American Indians into “modern culture.” This program gave American Indians one-way tickets to urban areas. Major cities, including San Francisco, was one of four counties in California to receive a large influx of American Indians from all over the United States. American Indian people waited for days and weeks at local bus and train stations for government representatives to meet families and carry out the promise of stable employment and success in the urban cities.

San Francisco was one of the largest relocation cities in the United States. As the urban American Indian population in San Francisco began to expand, the Mission District became a home base for the community. To create a remedy for the lack of adequate government support and resources, the community developed its own support systems. Support systems included including social services, cultural retention efforts, activities, employment and housing opportunities, education, political empowerment, and Native American-owned and supported businesses; some of the first urban pow wows. The community also came together to develop cultural programming, language preservation programs, education courses, and annual events, and to establish community gathering spaces; Native-owned and supported businesses; community gathering spaces, and an, such as an American Indian Cultural Center (AICC), and some
of the first urban pow wows. These American Indian-based enterprises and the rich cultural history of the area are at the heart of the proposed District.

The 16th Street corridor District was home to the first American Indian Center (AIC), which from the 1940’s to 1969 was located between Mission Street and Valencia Street. The fire that burned down the AIC in 1969 played a significant role in the Occupy Alcatraz Movement. Activists pushed to create a new American Indian Center and Native American school on Alcatraz Island, which remained open there until June of 1971. From 1969 through 1970, the AIC also held an office space at 16th and Guerrero Streets. From 1970 to 1988, the AIC was located at 225/229 Valencia Street. This site offered a wide variety of services, programming, and resources to the community. This site closed in 1988 due to a mishandling of funds. In the 1990’s, the Indian Center of All Nations (ICAN) was located at 16th and Mission Streets. ICAN closed in 1995 due to a lack of steady funding. The Centers over the years have been run by several different community members, but they all had the same goals of providing a community space, cultural retention, resources, events, and programming for American Indians in the San Francisco Bay Area.

From 2005 to 2007, a group of community members began meeting with Members of the Board of Supervisors at City Hall and with the San Francisco Arts Commission, to advocate for program funding and a new community space. In 2012, Mayor Ed Lee attended the Dancing Feather Pow Wow and announced his intention to help find a new home and funding for an American Indian Center. As a response to Mayor Lee’s announcement, an American Indian Advisory Council formed in 2013. This Council met, and still meets every month, to discuss the future and vision of an American Indian Cultural Center. The San Francisco Arts Commission and local Native American-based funding initiatives provided funds to help create the American Indian Cultural Center (AICC). The AICC is composed of the American Indian Advisory Council, a functioning Board, Executive Director, a Program Director, and student interns. In 2019, the AICC was formally recognized as a virtual
Cultural Center, operating to provide arts and cultural programs without a fixed location or gathering space. AICC is currently in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

The buildings that housed the various American Indian Center locations and the surrounding areas hold great importance to the community and have provided a home for historically and politically significant events located on 16th and Valencia Streets, and the second AICC, located at 223-225 Valencia Street at Duboce Street from 1969 to the 1980s. The AICC was the meeting place for Bay Area American Indian organizations and home of the United Bay Indian Council, which brought together 30 clubs into one large Council. The American Indian Movement originally held an office in the AICC before moving to the International Indian Treaty Council on Mission Street. Across the street from the AICC, Al Smith owned a trading post where the Native American community came together to sell arts, crafts, and beadwork. Other meeting spots in the area included places such as Aunt Mary’s, a cafe across from the Roxie Theater on 16th Street where the Native American community would gather for breakfast, and the Rainbow Cattle Company, a popular Native American bar on Duboce and Valencia Streets. Muddy Waters and Modern Times were popular spots for artists, poetry nights, and speaking engagements, have also been located on Valencia Street. These gathering places reflect the history of a strong cultural connection to the area among Native American people. The buildings that housed the AICC and the surrounding areas hold great importance to the community and have provided a home for historically and politically significant events.

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While the American Indian community has had its roots in the District from time immemorial, the community also recognizes the shared cultural and historical importance of the area to the Latino and other Indigenous communities. Since the enactment of the Relocation Act, countless programs, efforts, and support systems have been developed cross-culturally in these communities. In pre-colonial times, Northern Native and Southern Native communities co-existed with intricate trade routes and shared ceremonies. Similarly, in current times, many programs, gatherings and ceremonies take place together and co-exist in this District. American Indians, Latino community organizers, and Southern Native groups have come together to support the District as a small manifestation of justice and repatriation.

According to 2015 Census data, American Indians make up roughly 1.6% of the population in California (723,225 persons), and 0.5% of the population in San Francisco. There are over 500 tribal nations in the United States, and over 150 tribes in California, 109 of which are federally recognized. One in nine American Indians lives in a city, and 90% of the American Indian population in California resides in urban areas. The legacy of American Indians in the Bay Area is in jeopardy due to the increased cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, the lack of community-specific resources and political representation, and the lack of safe, reliable community space for youth, elders, cultural gatherings, and events. The District will honor American Indian culture and help provide a recognized home base for the American Indian community and to ensure that American Indian history and contributions will not be forgotten or overwritten. The District will not only benefit the American Indian community, but it will help foster cultural competency in the broader San Francisco community, serve as a model for the rest of California, and honor First Nations people and their longstanding history in San Francisco.
Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

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

By: _____/s/ __________________________

ANNE PEARSON
Deputy City Attorney

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