

1 [Commending the Mexican Museum for Distinction as New Affiliate of the Smithsonian  
2 Institute]

3 **Resolution commending the Mexican Museum for its accomplishments and for**  
4 **welcoming the Smithsonian Institute to the City and County of San Francisco.**  
5

6 WHEREAS, The Mexican Museum today announced that it has received the distinction  
7 of being named an Affiliate of the world-renowned Smithsonian Institution. And this Affiliation  
8 establishes a long-term partnership between the Smithsonian and The Mexican Museum, and  
9 includes the future loan of Smithsonian artworks and artifacts to The Mexican Museum’s  
10 collections. Not only does The Mexican Museum join a short but esteemed list of museums  
11 around the nation to hold this Affiliate status, but it is also the first museum in San Francisco  
12 to be granted this honor; and

13 WHEREAS, The Mexican Museum was founded by San Francisco artist Peter  
14 Rodriguez in 1975 in the heart of the Mission District and now at Fort Mason Center, The  
15 Mexican Museum is the realization of a vision to exhibit the aesthetic expression of the  
16 Mexican and Mexican American people. And, today, the Museum’s vision has expanded to  
17 reflect the evolving scope of the Mexican, Chicano and Latino experience; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) is fully committed and  
19 supportive of the San Francisco Mexican museum as a viable and vibrant institution in the  
20 City and County of San Francisco; and

21 WHEREAS, The BOS fully supports the creation of a new Museum facility for The  
22 Mexican Museum in Yerba Buena Center, in a new mixed-use project to be developed at the  
23 cultural enclave on Mission and Third Streets; and  
24  
25

1           WHEREAS, The BOS has approved the issuance of over 11 Million Dollars in tax  
2 increment dollars for the development and construction of the Mexican Museum new facility  
3 and the Redevelopment Agency on December 14, 2010 voted unanimously to approve two  
4 agreements with The Mexican Museum for its participation in the planned mixed-use project  
5 as the user of the new museum space: an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement and a Grant  
6 Agreement; and

7           WHEREAS, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi stated that, “The designation of  
8 The Mexican Museum as a Smithsonian Affiliate brings pride to our city and honors the  
9 diversity of our communities. This collaborative partnership will allow San Franciscans to  
10 benefit from the Smithsonian’s unparalleled collections, ensures our museums reflect the rich  
11 tapestry that is American diversity, and recognizes the enormous contributions Mexican  
12 Americans have made to our nation”; and

13           WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee stated that, “The Mexican Museum’s  
14 affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution – the world’s largest museum and research complex  
15 – will enable San Francisco residents and visitors to view and appreciate works of art that  
16 would be only be available to them if they travelled to Washington DC”; and

17           WHEREAS, Supervisor David Campos stated that “The Mexican Museum in San  
18 Francisco is the first museum of its kind outside of Mexico to feature exhibitions and programs  
19 focused solely on Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano and Latino art and culture. Its  
20 unparalleled permanent collection of more than 14,000 objects – paintings, sculpture,  
21 ceramics, textiles, prints, photographs, and mixed-media – spans more than 4,000 years of art  
22 history; and

23           WHEREAS, The Mexican Museum and the Smithsonian Affiliations will bring the  
24 Smithsonian, in all of its breadth and scope, to San Francisco and create lasting experiences  
25 that broaden perspectives on the arts, history, and world cultures”; and

1           WHEREAS, Smithsonian Affiliations offers museums, nonprofit cultural institutions and  
2 educational organizations across the country the opportunity to have greater access to the  
3 Smithsonian Institution’s collection of more than 136 million objects; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors fully supports the affiliation  
5 between the San Francisco Mexican Museum and the world-renowned Smithsonian  
6 Institution; and, be it

7           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends the  
8 Mexican Museum for its accomplishments in the preservation of its unparalleled permanent  
9 collection of more than 14,000 objects of Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano and Latino art  
10 and culture; and, be it

11          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors welcomes the  
12 Smithsonian Institute to the City and County of San Francisco.