

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Chautauqua House]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **The Chautauqua House, located at 1451 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block**
5 **No. 1270, Lot No. 002.**
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7 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
8 Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

9 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
10 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
11 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
12 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

13 WHEREAS, 1451 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1270, Lot No. 002,
14 built in 1909, is the historic location of the American Indian Historical Society which was
15 headquartered at the property from 1967-1986; and

16 WHEREAS, 1451 Masonic Avenue is significant for its association with the Red Power
17 movement of the 1960s, as well as with the Costo family who played prominent roles in
18 American Indian Civil Rights advocacy; and

19 WHEREAS, The American Indian Historical Society was a San Francisco-based
20 organization that focused on American Indian education, communication, and cultural
21 development; and

22 WHEREAS, The American Indian Historical Society was founded in 1964 by Rupert
23 Costo (Cahuilla), Jeannette Henry-Costo (Eastern Cherokee), and thirteen other California
24 American Indians; and
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1 WHEREAS, The Costos were married for nearly forty years and worked together to
2 bring attention to American Indian concerns, including writing and editing several scholarly
3 works on Native American history and culture; and

4 WHEREAS, The Costos named the headquarters the Chautauqua House and
5 established it amidst the backdrop of Red Power, a movement for Native civil rights and
6 sovereignty in the 1960s-1970s, which mobilized actions to incite changes in Native American
7 affairs; and

8 WHEREAS, The Chautauqua House served as a meeting place for an educational
9 committee lead by Richard Oakes (Mohawk) who amongst other accomplishments,
10 spearheaded the first Native American Studies Department at San Francisco State University
11 and was a leader of the longest documented American Indian Occupation on Alcatraz starting
12 in November 1969; and

13 WHEREAS, The American Indian Historical Society challenged textbooks, testified in
14 Congress, coordinated community meetings and lobbied for protection of burial grounds, and
15 more; and

16 WHEREAS, The Chautauqua House also included gallery space for American Indian
17 artists (Museum of Indian Art) and exhibits and published The Indian Historian, a quarterly
18 journal edited by American Indian scholars and historians; and

19 WHEREAS, The events and advocacy associated with the Chautauqua House are an
20 important part of local American Indian history; and

21 WHEREAS, The property remains full architectural integrity; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates a landmark designation of the
23 Chautauqua House under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
25 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its

1 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
2 the Chautauqua House; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
4 Preservation Commission consider whether the Chautauqua House warrants landmark
5 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
6 Planning Code.