

1 [Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Great Star Theater]

2
3 **Resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Great Star Theater in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco.**
5

6 WHEREAS, The Great Star Theater was originally built in 1925 to feature Chinese
7 opera, a theater art form that incorporates music, song and dance, martial arts, acrobatics,
8 costume and make-up arts, as well as literary arts, that dates back to ancient China where it
9 reached its peak popularity in the 13th century, during the Song dynasty; and

10 WHEREAS, The Great Star Theater, formerly known as the Great China Theater, is a
11 410-seat performing arts and film theater, located at 636 Jackson Street in San Francisco's
12 historic Chinatown neighborhood, and is the last remaining Chinese theater in any Chinatown
13 in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, For centuries, Chinese opera was as a primary form of entertainment in
15 China and within the Chinese diaspora, serving as a powerful medium for telling the stories of
16 the Chinese people and their lived experiences; and

17 WHEREAS, During to World War II, Chinese opera performances declined due to the
18 disbandment of many Chinese opera troupes; and

19 WHEREAS, To preserve and promote cultural heritage, The Great Star Theater began
20 offering Chinese-language movies produced in China as well as American shorts films to
21 meet the community's appetite and embrace of culturally-relevant entertainment; and

22 WHEREAS, The Great Star Theater, along with its major competitor located a block
23 apart, became cultural centers and a powerhouse for Chinese Americans in Chinatown,
24 hosting protests and political events for causes both local and afar, including honoring the
25 Chinese revolutionary and political philosopher, Sun Yat-sen; and

1 WHEREAS, As the popularity of Chinese opera declined, the Great Star Theater
2 pivoted to expand showing of movies while reserving the theater for operas for special cultural
3 celebrations like the Dragon Boat and Mid-Autumn Moon Festivals; and

4 WHEREAS, The Great Star Theater helped launched film legend Bruce Lee's career
5 when he was just an infant and played a newborn girl in the premiere of the Cantonese-
6 language film "Golden Gate Girl" in 1941; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2021, Alice Chu and Roger Pincombe re-opened the venue and created
8 a nonprofit to continue the Theater's legacy of cultivating traditional Asian art forms, nurturing
9 emerging artists, and revitalizing the San Francisco Chinatown community; and

10 WHEREAS, The Great Star Theater in its renewed form hosts an eclectic array of
11 performances, ranging from Cantonese opera and guzheng music to modern cabaret,
12 comedy, and film premieres; and

13 WHEREAS, Since it's opening in 2021, the Great Star Theater hosted over 650 events,
14 117 unique productions that represented diverse voices and talents, and housed more than
15 80,000 audience members; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That on the occasion of the Great Star Theater's centennial celebration,
17 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby extends its highest commendation and
18 appreciation to Alice Chu and Roger Pincombe for revitalizing the Great Star Theater's artistic
19 legacy and ensuring that the arts remain a powerful force for connection and change in the
20 Chinatown community and San Francisco.