



LANDMARK RESOLUTION RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION NO. 1248

HEARING DATE: JUNE 15, 2022

Record No.: 2022-004422DES
Project Address: Mother's Building (located within San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road)
Zoning: Public (P)
OS Height and Bulk District
Sunset Chinese Cultural District
Block/Lot: 7281/006
Project Sponsor: SF Planning Department
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103
Property Owner: City and County of San Francisco
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
Staff Contact: Pilar LaValley (628-652-7372)
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RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE MOTHER'S BUILDING, LOCATED WITHIN ASSESSOR'S PARCEL BLOCK NO. 7281, LOT NO. 006, AS LANDMARK NO. XXX CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10

1. WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022, Supervisor Melgar introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File No. 220275 to initiate the Landmark designation process for the Mother's Building, located within San Francisco Zoo, in Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006; and
2. WHEREAS, on April 4, 2022, the Board of Supervisors at its Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board approval of the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation (Board File No. 220275); and
3. WHEREAS, on April 12, 2022, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation, and on April 22, 2022, with the Mayor's signature, Resolution No. 137-22 became effective (Board File No. 220275); and

4. WHEREAS, Department Staff, who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, prepared the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for the Mother's Building, which was reviewed for accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10; and
5. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of June 15, 2022, reviewed Department staff's analysis of the historical significance of the Mother's Building pursuant to Article 10 as part of the Landmark Designation Executive Summary dated June 8, 2022, and recommended Landmark designation through this Resolution; and
6. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the Mother's Building as a Landmark is in the form prescribed by the Historic Preservation Commission and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and
7. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the Mother's Building, constructed in 1925 for Herbert and Mortimer Fleishhacker to honor their mother, was donated to the City and dedicated to serve as a resting place for mothers and young children, is eligible for local designation for its association with women's history as one of the only recreation sites of the period focused on well-being of women during recreation activities; and
8. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the Mother's Building is also proper for its association with the history of the Works Project Administration's (WPA) art programs of the 1930's - Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) and Federal Art Project (FAP) - and with the mural cycle and tile mosaics, created for the building by Bay Area artists Helen K. Forbes, Dorothy Puccinelli, and Helen Bruton (assisted by her sisters, Margaret and Esther Bruton), for what was the only large-scale WPA art project created solely by women; and
9. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the Mother's Building is also proper given its architectural significance as it embodies distinctive characteristics of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture and is representative of the work of architect of merit George W. Kelham; and
10. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the Mother's Building meets the eligibility requirements of Section 1004 of the Planning Code and warrants consideration for Article 10 landmark designation; and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the boundaries and the list of character-defining features, as identified in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, should be considered for preservation under the proposed landmark designation as they relate to the building's architectural and historical significance and retain historical integrity; and
12. WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 7, which states that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, and will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302; and
13. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the Mother's Building meets two of the Historic Preservation Commission's four priority areas for designation: property types that are underrepresented among the City's designated landmarks and properties associated with an underrepresented racial/social/ethnic group. Although there are numerous individual landmarks with historically significant

association with women's history, only the Donaldina Cameron House (920 Sacramento Street, Landmark No. 44), Paper Doll (524 Union Street, Landmark No. 287), Japanese YWCA/Issei House (1830 Sutter, Landmark No. 291), and Lyon-Martin House (651 Duncan Street, Landmark No. 292) denotes this area of significance in the designation documentation. Within the area of San Francisco west of 19th Avenue, south of Lincoln Way, and north of the city line, there are four individual landmarks: Earthquake Refugee Shack (1227 24th Avenue, Landmark No. 171), Shriner's Hospital (1601 19th Avenue, Landmark No. 221), Infant Shelter (1201 Ortega Street, Landmark No. 242), and Trocadero Clubhouse (within Sigmund Stern Grove, Landmark No. 301); and

14. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that designation of the Mother's Building produces few, if any, opportunities to advance racial and social equity objectives outlined in Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 1127, adopted in 2020, otherwise called *Centering Preservation Planning on Racial and Social Equity*, which states goals for how the Commission and the Planning Department can develop proactive strategies to address structural and institutional racism and center their work and resource allocation on racial and social equity, focused on preservation, although it does expand the representation of women's history in the city's landmark program; and,
15. WHEREAS, the proposed landmark designation does not appear to result in any direct or unintended negative consequences on the City's and Department's Racial and Social Equity initiatives; and,
16. WHEREAS, the Department has determined that landmark designation is not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c) and 15378 because it does not result in a physical change in the environment; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Board of Supervisors approval of landmark designation of the Mother's Building, located within San Francisco Zoo, in Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006, consistent with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on June 15, 2022.



Laura Lynch for Jonas P. Ionin
Acting Commission Secretary

- AYES: Wright, Black, Foley, Johns, So, Nageswaran, Matsuda
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ADOPTED: June 15, 2022