

Letters in Support of Landmark Designation for Diamond Heights Safety Wall

Organizations:

- Diamond Heights Community Association
- Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project
- Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Individuals:

- Carl Arnetzen
- John Priola
- Allison Arieff
- Michael and Patricia Busk
- David Bogandoff and Judith Presley
- Rebecca Coolidge
- Catherine Dunham
- James Feldman
- Karen Kerner
- Bridgette Karen Pimental-Shanmugam
- Brynna McNulty
- Marina Nelson
- Michael Rice
- Sharon Nadeu
- Evelyn Rose



Diamond Heights Community Association, PO Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

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Bob Pullum
Lee Ann Prifti
Annie Shynebaugh

Sept. 17, 2017

Re: Support for Landmark Status for the Diamond Heights Safety Wall in Diamond Heights

Dear Mr. Wolfram and Commissioners,

The Diamond Heights Community Association Board requests that your Commission designate the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork is very important to Diamond Heights' history since it was designed and created by Stefan Novak in 1968 to serve as the entrance for the new Diamond Heights model neighborhood development. We are concerned about the current condition of the sculpture and want to secure analysis and preservation of it as soon as possible.

Landmark status would help our Board with our goals to seek funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist and the sculpture's place in San Francisco history. We want to ensure that this magnificent and very large sculpture will be maintained for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of landmark status for the Diamond Heights Safety Wall.

Best regards,

Betsy Eddy,
Diamond Heights Community Association, President

cc: Tim Frye, Historic Preservation Officer
Bob Pullum, DHCA Board Member

DHCA website: www.dhcasf.org. Email: dhcasf@gmail.com

GLEN PARK NEIGHBORHOODS HISTORY PROJECT

Rediscovering our Neighborhoods' Histories — Documenting our Living Histories — Sharing our Histories with Others
Glen Canyon, Glen Canyon Park, Sunnyside, Fairmount Heights, and Diamond Heights in San Francisco's Old Rancho San Miguel

October 24, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Landmark Designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall

Dear President Wolfram and Commissioners,

Founded in 2014, the *Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project* is dedicated to the rediscovery and preservation of the histories of our neighborhoods, located immediately south of Twin Peaks in a portion of the old Rancho San Miguel. Our neighborhoods – Glen Park, Glen Canyon Park, Sunnyside, Fairmount Heights, and Diamond Heights – are rich with historic events, ranging from prehistory to mid-20th century redevelopment. For our work, we were the recipient of the *Walter G. Jebe, Sr. Neighborhood Award* from the *San Francisco History Association* in 2016.

We support designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark and ask for your approval. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and a commemorative plaque honoring the artist, Stefan Novak. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history.

On behalf of the Advisory Council of the Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project, we thank you in advance for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Evelyn Rose, PharmD
Project Director and Founder
31 Mizpah Street
San Francisco, CA 94131



Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Stephen Martinpinto
President
Sunnyside Neighborhood Association
PO Box 27615
San Francisco CA 94127
Sunnyside.President@gmail.com
(760) 271-1877

October 23, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Wolfram and Commissioners,

Sunnyside Neighborhood Association was established 1974 to represent the residents of this neighborhood and to foster local community work and quality of life.

The officers of the association wholeheartedly support the efforts of Diamond Heights Community Association to have the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. designated as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark.

The artwork has served as the widely recognized gateway to Diamond Heights neighborhood for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate these improvements and help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Martinpinto
President

Ken Hollenbeck
Member-at-Large

Pauline Levinson
Vice-president

Amy O'Hair
Secretary

Carl M. Arntzen
44 Amber Drive
San Francisco, California 94131-1624

October 25, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Community-Sponsored Article 10 Landmark Designation
Application for the Diamond Heights Safety Wall

The safety wall serves as a visual welcoming landmark to Diamond Heights and has important cultural and architectural value as discussed in the application because of its association with the Diamond Heights Redevelopment Project which dramatically reshaped the area from undeveloped hills into a successful neighborhood.

I have lived at 44 Amber Drive since 1980. 44 and 48 Amber are directly below the wall. Anytime I need to give directions to someone on how to get to our home, I simply have to mention that we are below the wall because it is such a well-recognized landmark. It is not simply a wall, but an extremely unique architectural landmark symbolic of Diamond Heights. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's important place in San Francisco history.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl M. Arntzen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Carl M. Arntzen

October 20, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners,

Please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,
John Priola
324 Surrey Street

from: **allison arieff** <aja@modernhouse.com>

date: Sun, Oct 22, 2017 at 4:49 PM

subject: letter of support

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
[1650 Mission Street, Suite 400](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94103](#)

Dear Mr. Wolfram and Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history. Our city is changing — and changing fast. While certainly not every artifact or building of the past should be saved this sculpture should be. It is of significant historical and aesthetic importance and deserves preservation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,

Allison Arieff
Design writer, *The New York Times*
Editorial Director, SPUR
Longtime Glen Park resident

From: Michael Busk, mbusk.for@att.net

October 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Wolfram and Commissioners,

We enthusiastically encourage you to grant landmark status to the Stefan Novak "Redwood Sculpture." For forty years we have lived in the same house in Diamond Heights and driven or walked by this piece, which bids us a creative and interesting day as we leave and welcomes us back as we return.

Of the numerous other reasons why it should be officially recognized as the landmark that it is, three for us have prominence –or maybe four.

One, it is a clear, gentle but insistent product of the Sixties, as are we, as is this exceptional neighborhood: Peace, Love, and Joy.

Two, it is tree, actually the quintessential tree of our part of the world, tree that declares that this nature-infused neighborhood has way more trees than houses, tree that is the sentinel and guardian and bulwark of the grand canyon of San Francisco.

Three, it is a complex art piece that is simple, always rewarding another glance another day, typifying to young and old that the more you look, the more you see.

Finally, could anyone with a soul fail to raise to eminence a landmark whose nickname –perhaps even its official name– is "Safety Wall."

Peace, Love, Joy,

Patricia and Michael Busk

October 23, 2017

From: David Bogdanoff and Judith Presley

dbogdanoff@jps.net

The San Francisco Historical Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
San Francisco, California

We herein request landmark status for the Diamond Heights Safety Wall at Portola Drive in Diamond Heights.

We request this landmark status to facilitate the preservation of this artwork which is an illustration of the 1960s development of Diamond Heights.

Sincerely,

David Bogdanoff & Judith Presley
Glen Park Residents for 30 years

From: Rebecca Coolidge, beccacool@gmail.com

October 22, 2017

Dear Historic Preservation Commission Staff:

Please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The Safety Wall is beautiful and unique, and more people will be able to learn about its historic context.

Please help preserve the Safety Wall and provide it City Landmark designation!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coolidge

October 23, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
[1650 Mission Street, Suite 400](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94103](#)

To whom it concerns:

As a 10 year resident of Diamond Heights, I am writing to request that you please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The sculpture/artwork/safety wall has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights since it's inception some 50 years ago and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will help facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and a commemorative plaque. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's unique place in San Francisco history for generations to come.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in this valuable public safety, architectural and historic matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine Dunham
catherine2064@gmail.com

From: James Feldman, jfeldman1952@gmail.com

October 24, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department

A wonderful piece of sculpture stands guard over the Diamond heights community, a community that is increasingly being recognized in San Francisco for its unique mid-century architectural style.

This work of art was incorporated into the original plan of the district at the district's very inception 50 years ago. Built with a grant from General Electric, it functioned both as a safety wall and a welcoming entry to the neighborhood.

This sculpture and safety wall is now in need of restoration and preservation, and so:

Please approve the designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. Landmark status will help facilitate obtaining the necessary funding for the restoration needed to preserve the sculpture's important place in San Francisco history.

Karen Kerner
karenekerner@gmail.com

October 21, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
[1650 Mission Street, Suite 400](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94103](#)

Dear Commissioners:

I am a long time resident of the Glen Park/Diamond Heights area of San Francisco. I am writing to ask that you approve the designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall (Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard) as an Article 10 landmark. The beautiful redwood structure has been a beacon of welcome (and an important safety barrier) to the Diamond Heights neighborhood for fifty years, but it is now in need of preservation and restoration. With landmark status, the necessary work can be funded. Thank you in advance for your help in preserving this important landmark.

Sincerely,

Karen Kerner
[297 Addison Street](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94131](#)

Brigette Karen Pimentel-Shanmugam
bridgettekaren@gmail.com

October 21, 2017

Dear City of San Francisco,

As a Diamond Heights property owner and resident of San Francisco, I highly recommend the city support our cause to have the Redwood Sculpture on Portola Drive designated a historical landmark. Just last week as I was walking my newly adopted rescue dog, passed by the Redwood Sculpture and was wondering about the history and the artist that created this piece of art. I admired the structure and was wondering how nice it would be at night if it was illuminate and possibly cleaned up a bit. I had no background on when it was erected until I read that Diamond Heights Community was petitioning to have this piece considered as a historic landmark.

As a native San Franciscan that has lived in the Richmond, Mission and Bernal Heights hoods I can tell you that my community in Diamond Heights is very involved and truly cares about the area and the people living in our hood. We do not have a lot of landmarks that are significant to the hood and this Redwood sculpture seems quite appropriate as our gateway into the Diamond Heights community. We do not have the clout of Presidio Heights or Pac Heights with its painted ladies and amazing Presidio park, however we are a group of residents that cares about the community and this icon serves as a structure that encapsulates the " new city development of the early 70's with our condos, single family homes and apartments that are meant to be affordable to families". The structure is really the only public piece of art that can connects us back to the emergence of this newly developed community.

Thank you for you consideration and please come visit us.

Sincerely,
Brigette Karen Pimentel-Shanmugam
125 Topaz Way
SF Ca 94131

From: mcbryнна@gmail.com

October 22, 2017

Dear Historic Preservation Commission Staff:

Please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The Safety Wall is one of my most favorite art installations in San Francisco! It's beautiful and unique, and in learning about the context in which it was built it definitely sounds worthy of City Landmark status. I hope it achieves this status so others can learn about it and the Safety Wall can get the stewardship it needs.

Please help preserve the Safety Wall!

Sincerely,

Bryнна McNulty

From: Marina Nelson, thelaw@gmail.com

October 21, 2017

Dear commissioners, Please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting, and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history and also serves as a unique barrier from cars in case of accident.

Michael Rice, mrice100@sbcglobal.net

October 22, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

I am happy to support designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. As the department and commission have recognized in recent years, Mid-Century architecture and design are important and often threatened resources. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting, and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist. Glen Park and Diamond Heights have notable resources of this period, such as the Glen Park BART Station and Fire Station 26. The Safety Wall is part of this character.

Thank you,

Michael Rice
Past President, Glen Park Association
(for identification only)

November 1, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

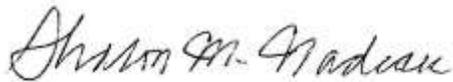
Re: Landmark Designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall

Dear President Wolfram and Commissioners,

Please approve designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Blvd. as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark. The artwork has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for 50 years and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will facilitate obtaining funding for restoration, nighttime lighting and for a commemorative plaque honoring the artist. Landmark status will help preserve the sculpture's place in San Francisco history.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon M. Nadeau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Sharon Nadeau
31 Mizpah Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

November 1, 2017

Andrew Wolfram and Commissioners
Historic Preservation Commission
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Landmark Designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall

Dear President Wolfram and Commissioners,

Art can be found throughout the San Francisco landscape, from monuments depicting historic figures and events, to the long-standing Hearts in San Francisco project, to Cupid's Span along the Embarcadero. While all are attractive to the eye, none incorporate function in the artistic design.

Crafted nearly 50 years ago in 1968, the Diamond Heights Safety Wall serves both art *and* function. Constructed entirely of redwood by Stefan Novak, it reflects the natural history of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Its form is a Modernist design that signals approaching visitors they are about to enter a region whose architecture is something quite different from that found elsewhere in San Francisco. In function, not only can it be enjoyed by pedestrians walking within the structure, but it also serves as a safety barrier, protecting the homes behind it from any vehicular mishaps at Portola Drive and Clipper Street. Quite a novel concept.

As a historian of our district, I support designation of the Diamond Heights Safety Wall on Portola Drive at Diamond Heights Boulevard as an Article 10 San Francisco Landmark and ask for your approval. It has served as the gateway to Diamond Heights for half a century and is now in need of preservation and restoration. Landmark status will help preserve this sculpture's place in the history of San Francisco.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evelyn Rose". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Evelyn Rose, PharmD
Chief Tramping Office, Tramps of San Francisco (History Blog)
Project Director and Founder, Glen Park Neighborhoods History Project
31 Mizpah Street
San Francisco, CA 94131