

From: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
To: ["ralph.hibbs@gmail.com"](mailto:ralph.hibbs@gmail.com); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Kilgore, Preston \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Horrell, Nate \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Thongsavat, Adam \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza Omitted Set of Letters of Support - BOS File No. 240725 - LUT July 29, 2024
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:53:00 AM
Attachments: [GBF HMP Landmarking Individual letters.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Thank you for your comment letter.

I am forwarding your comments to the members of the LUT committee, and I will include your comments in the file for this ordinance matter.

I invite you to review the entire matter on our [Legislative Research Center](#) by following the link below:

-

[Board of Supervisors File No. 240725](#)

John Carroll

Assistant Clerk

Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415)554-4445



Click [here](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation and archived matters since August 1998.

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From: Ralph Hibbs <ralph.hibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2024 6:49 PM
To: Carroll, John (BOS) <john.carroll@sfgov.org>
Cc: Thongsavat, Adam (BOS) <adam.thongsavat@sfgov.org>; Ralph Hibbs <ralph.hibbs@gmail.com>
Subject: Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza Omitted Set of Letters of Support

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.



John,

Despite all of our best efforts, one set of Letters of Support for Landmark Designation - Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza, Agenda Item #2 in tomorrow's Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting did not make it into the Supervisor's packets.

The missing letters are in the attached file. I request you add them to the supervisor's packets prior to the meeting, if possible.

In public comment tomorrow, I will have a person recap all 3 sets of Support Letters collected, and leave a physical copy of the missing set.

I appreciate any accommodations you can make to get these to the supervisors prior to the meeting.

Regards,
Ralph Hibbs
Supporting the Gilbert Baker Foundation



GILBERT BAKER

FOUNDATION

May, 6, 2024

Attached is a PDF Binder of letters from the individuals in support of landmarking the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza.

Carmen Neely	Executive Director, Harlem Pride
Monica Helms	Creator of the Trans Flag
Andy Humm	Co-Host Gay USA TV show
Tom Amiano	Former SF Supervisor
Arnaud Gautier-Fawas	Delegate for International Relations, Europe & France
Alumi Seeno	Okayama Pride, Japan
Ben Garcia	Executive Director, The American LGBTQ+ Museum
Kenneth Bunch aka Sister Vish	Founder, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
Donna Sachet	Entertainer/ Activist
Kathy Amendola	Cruisin' The Castro Walking Tours
Danny Nicoletta	Photographer
David Christenson	Director, Harvey Milk Photo Center
David Frier	Rochester, NY
Debra Walker	Artist, SF Police Commission, Former SF Arts Commission
Drew Dalton	Executive Director, ReportOUT, United Kingdom
Erik Bottcher	New York City Council, District three
Izzy Sweeny	ReportOUT, Madrid, Spain
Jay Shockley	Director NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project
Jaylene Quiles	First Trans Director, pride New Mexico
Jeff Sheehy	Former Supervisor, District 8, San Francisco, CA
Jeremy Prince	Former Director of exhibits, GLBT Historical Society
Cleve Jones	Activist, San Francisco, CA
Ken Jones	Activist, San Francisco, CA
Greg Miraglia	Professor of LGBT Studies, Napa College
Lorato Botshabelo	ReportOUT, South Africa
Maria Azzopardi	President, Allied Rainbow Communities, Malta
Mark Grech	Operations Chief, Allied Rainbow Communities, Malta
Michael T. Johnson	Author, RED, an illustrated Novel
Michelle Fisher	Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass.
Akemi Ichikawa	President of Momoniji Okayama, Japan
Patrick Carney	Pink Triangle of Twin Peaks
Peter Tatchell	Peter Tatchell foundation, United Kingdom

Sarah Oltmeyer

Rick Foster

Steve Taylor

Thom Hansen aka Pansy

Toni Attard

Tony Simone

Ann Northrop

Artist, The Arcus Memorial, Vienna, Austria

Founder, You Are Safe Here

Vice President, Global Outreach, Interpride

Cherry grove, NY

European Arts Commission, Malta Representative

New York State Assembly, 75th District

Co-Host Gay USA TV

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' with a diagonal slash through it, followed by a smaller 'B'.

Charles Beal

He/Him

President, The Gilbert Baker foundation



**Celebrating Pride and Diversity in our SGL & LGBT
Communities and Organizations in Harlem!**

42 Macombs Place - New York, NY - 10039

Email: info@HarlemPride.org - Ph: 646.858.3125

January 17, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.

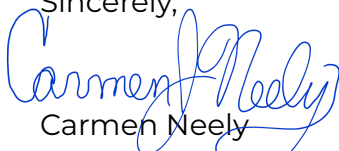
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But these iconic installations were temporary. The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation. Baker made deliberate choices about its placement, height and location, to guarantee visibility from around the city. This Rainbow Flag firmly holds a place in LGBTQ+ history. To alter this work in any way would defy the artist's original intentions.

The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag.

It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Sincerely,


Carmen Neely
President & CEO

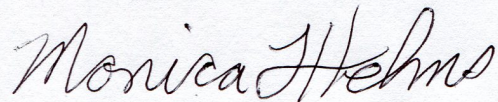
Dear Supervisor Mandelman,

My name is Monica Helms and I am the creator of the Transgender Pride Flag. I understand that you are trying to decide to landmark the flag pole at Castro and Market that flies the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag. As another flag designer, I think that is an amazing idea.

Gilbert designed a symbol that brings hope to all in the LGBTQ community, and having the special place where his flag flying in San Francisco is an honor he deserves. President Biden recently said that all embassies should fly the rainbow flag again, so he knows how important it is to show it for all to see. We need to ensure the spot in the Castro district is landmarked for all of history

Gilbert Baker will always be remembered as the creator of the Rainbow Pride Flag. He deserves to always be remembered in his favorite city by landmarking the site. Please make the pole a landmark site so his flag will proudly. There could be no better honor for him.

Oh, and while you're at it, how about erecting a flag pole in the Tenderloin District for the Transgender Pride Flag? Just a thought.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Helms". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Monica Helms

US Navy Submarine Veteran



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Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.

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Thank you

Andy Humm, Co-Host, GAY USA television news

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissions

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Thank you

Tom Amiano



Inter-LGBT

Délégation aux
Relations internationales,
à l'Europe,
et à la francophonie

Paris, France
January 11th 2024,

Subject: Letter of Support for the Preservation of the LGBT Rainbow Flag

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the initiative to preserve the iconic LGBT Rainbow Flag, a symbol that transcends boundaries and stands as a beacon of equality, pride, and emancipation for countless individuals around the world.

The Rainbow Flag, created by the artist and LGBTQ+ rights activist Gilbert Baker, is more than just a piece of fabric; it is a profound work of art that has become the emblem of a global movement for human rights. As we witness ongoing challenges to equality and personal freedom in various parts of the world, including the West, preserving this symbol becomes not only an act of cultural stewardship but a commitment to defending the principles it represents.

San Francisco, the birthplace of the LGBT Rainbow Flag, holds a unique responsibility to safeguard this symbol that resonates with millions of people. Beyond its local significance, the flag has transcended geographical borders to become a universally recognized symbol of the LGBTQ+ struggle for pride and emancipation.

By registering, protecting, and celebrating the LGBT Rainbow Flag, the city of San Francisco will send a powerful message to the world, a message that champions diversity, resilience, and the unwavering commitment to human rights. In a time when these rights are under threat in many parts of the globe, preserving this symbol gains even greater significance.

Inter-LGBT, as the largest LGBT federation in France, urge you to support the efforts to ensure the long-term preservation of the LGBT Rainbow Flag by landmarking it and recognizing its status not just as a flag but as a work of art that encapsulates the spirit of a global community fighting for a more inclusive and accepting world.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause.

Best regards,

Arnaud Gauthier-Fawas
Delegate for International Relations, Europe and the Francophonie
arnaud.gauthierfawas@inter-lgbt.org



L'interassociative lesbienne, gaie, bi et trans
c/o MVAC - 5, rue Perrée (boîte 8) - 75003 PARIS
Tél./Fax: 06 81 19 83 70 - <http://www.inter-lgbt.org> - contact@inter-lgbt.org
Membre de la Coordination InterPride France - Membre de l'ILGA
Membre fondateur du RAVAD (Réseau d'assistance aux victimes d'agressions et de discriminations) www.ravad.org
Organisatrice de la Marche des fiertés lesbiennes, gaies, bi et trans

2023.12.14

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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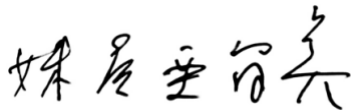
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Thank you



Alumi Senoo

Kurashiki
Okayama, JAPAN



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In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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Thank you,

Ben Garcia
Executive Director
American LGBTQ+ Museum

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Historic Preservation Commission

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Thank you

Sister Vish-Knew (Ken Bunch)

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissions

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. This flag was a result of the request of Harvey Milk himself, recognizing the power of a symbol for the LGBTQ+ Community to rally around. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.

Gilbert Baker's installation was part of a series of his monumental artworks. The mile-long Rainbow Flag from 1994 commemorated New York City's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The Key West flag honored the original flag's 25th anniversary. (Measuring 1.25 miles, it set a world's record.) I had the honor of seeing each of these incredible displays in person and cannot overstate their power and importance.

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Thank you.
Donna Sachet
San Francisco, CA
415-246-0375

February 14, 2022

National Park Service
National Register of Historical Places
1849 C Street NW (7228)
Washington, DC 20240

Re: The Rainbow Flag & Flagpole
Southwest Corner of Castro & Market Streets
San Francisco, California 94114

To Whom It May Concern,

It gives us great honor to support the National Register of Historical Places landmark status of Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag and Flagpole installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco. This installation was designed by Baker, the creator of the LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag, and installed with the help of San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown in November 1997.

The Rainbow Flag is the most recognizable cultural symbol in the world representing the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and Queer people around the globe for the past 43 years.

The Rainbow Flag has, and continues to be, a beacon of hope, diversity, inclusivity and most of all, pride. Sadly, the LGBTQ community remains the most discriminated minority in the United States today. Over (30) states legally discriminate against LGBTQ's in regards to employment, healthcare, housing (eviction), and public accommodations (being refused services at restaurants, movie theaters, libraries and shops). In addition to this, there are currently 250 Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills in (41) states that are being lobbied into laws. Ten states have already passed them.

On a global scale, sexual and gender diversity is illegal in 70 countries where the simple act of coming out of the closet is met with harassment, beatings, jail and even death. Gilbert Baker designed the giant Rainbow Flag and flagpole at Harvey Milk Plaza to make sure this beacon of visibility would be flying 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It was his wish that this installation would serve as a constant symbol of hope for people all over the world, yearning to take that first step out of the darkness of the closet into the light of freedom. The importance of preserving as well as, protecting the most important symbol of LGBTQ+ culture, the Rainbow Flag and Flagpole, is imperative to the future of LGBTQ+ culture.

In addition, this installation should be preserved as a significant work of art. Baker's Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago and the Kansas History Museum. It has also been featured in exhibits in France, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, Ireland and in cities across America including Philadelphia, Boston and Los Angeles. By preserving this iconic piece of LGBTQ history, it will continue to inspire positive social changes and the universal right to love around the world.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathy Amendola
Owner
Cruisin' the Castro Walking Tours
San Francisco, CA 94114

To whom It May Concern

I was a friend of the late Gilbert Baker and was working in the LGBT community as a documentary photographer covering the LGBT journey during the formative years of the creation rainbow flag. I also worked in Harvey Milk's camera store and on several of Harvey's political campaigns and I became friends with Charles Beal during the filming of Milk the movie and Charley and I have stayed close ever since, and I whole-heartedly support his leadership as Executive Director of the Gilbert Baker Foundation.

I write with advice on forthcoming policy making decisions that may come up with regard to moving the pre-existing site of the current rainbow flag monument at Market and Castro – please don't move it. Please DO afford yourselves of any and all guidance on this matter with the Gilbert Baker Foundation.

While I am also on the advisory board of the friends of the Harvey Milk Plaza and recognize the constantly morphing challenges of that larger long-term goal, I do hope that the Mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors will vote to not move the pre-existing flag monument as we move forward together on a good plan for the Plaza's future and its great history of protest and dissent and visibility and safety for LGBT people and their allies.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do on behalf of the LGBT civil rights journey and please don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of assistance to you in anyway and especially with regard to this issue.

Warmly – Dan Nicoletta

1223 NW Prospect Ave.
Grants Pass, Oregon, 97526
415-310-3072
dannic@charter.net



London N. Breed, Mayor
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**San Francisco Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman**

RE: Landmarking Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza

April 11, 2021

Dear Supervisor Mandelman,

Regarding landmarking Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza. As Director of the Harvey Milk Photo Center, which is part of the San Francisco Rec & Parks Department, I would like to make the urgent case for preserving this iconic work of art as an official San Francisco Landmark.

I was privileged to work with Gilbert Baker, prior to his passing, while we were curating our 2017 Annual Art & Pride exhibit at Harvey Milk Photo Center. I can share with you his clear passion and enthusiasm for creating his beautiful and iconic flag, which resonates in the beauty of his vision, with the conversation we shared when preparing our 2017 exhibit. Recalling our last phone conversation, just hours prior to his passing on March 30, 2017, Gilbert was filled with pure enthusiasm and joy for being on this important community project, our Art & Pride- 2017 Exhibit. I will always treasure and honor our conversations.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza is as historically noteworthy as the LGBTQ civil rights movement that it symbolizes. The Rainbow Flag has evolved, as Gilbert envisioned, to become a clear unifying symbol of diversity, hope and liberation for all oppressed people. Such an iconic image deserves landmarking.

I humbly ask the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Citizens of San Francisco to officially landmark Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza. This designation will be a key reminder of the creator of this iconic flag, and a moving reminder honoring our beautiful diversity, while celebrating the humanitarian ideals which Gilbert gave the world. These words and his flag resonate when I think of Gilbert today, "We are stronger and enriched as one community, when we educate, honor, and support one another". The rainbow flag beautifully exemplifies these ideals.

Respectfully Yours,

Dave Christensen

Dave Christensen, Director, Harvey Milk Photo Center
San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department
50 Scott Street
San Francisco, CA 94117



To Whom It May Concern

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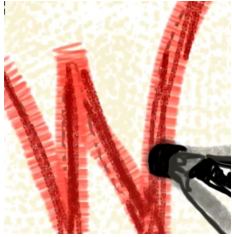
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Thank you

David C. Frier, CISM, CISSP, CRISC
Rochester, NY



Debra Walker
540 Alabama Street #210
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-370-7091
dw@debrawalker.com

April 12, 2021

Mayor London Breed, the honorable Rafael Mandelman and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor London Breed, the honorable Rafael Mandelman and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

My name is Debra Walker. As you may know, I am a San Francisco artist. I came to this amazing city in 1983 to be queer and to paint. I am writing in full support of granting historic status to the Gilbert Baker LGBTQ pride flag and flag presentation at the corner of Castro and Market as part of Harvey Milk Plaza.

I am a SF Arts Commissioner, served as the tenant representative on the Building Inspection commission for two decades, am a past president of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ democratic Club, served as an elected member of the the SF Democratic Party County Committee for years, have run for supervisor and have been an activist on many issues since moving here over 40 years ago.

Gilbert Baker, the creator of the Pride Flag, was a friend of mine. I came to San Francisco in the eighties because San Francisco was a welcoming place. I came here to be queer and an artist. San Francisco represents a unique arts community that is immediately loud and out and makes no apologies for using its power to make political change. This is how and where I met Gilbert. We were both working in the shadows of various actions...out in the street in the middle of the night...me on political campaigns - he on so many issues facing our community at the time. Mutual admiration and the knowledge of how important symbols and art are to our world brought us together.

I was on my roof early this Easter Sunday and looking out over our city. I took in the beauty of SF and also the symbols cresting on our skyline. On churches and peaks.....and waving proud all the way over in the Castro - the pride flag at Castro and Market. I was filled with gratitude and so proud to live in this city..for our big, bold flag, waving in the ocean breeze, every day symbolizing the support our city gives us ALL!!!

That is why we need this flag and the memory of Gilbert Baker....to support us....to empower us....to give our city the opportunity - everyday - to support us, too.

Symbols inspire. Arts empowers. Long live our Pride Flag!!!

Sincerely,

(signed)

Debra Walker, Artist

Commissioner, San Francisco Arts Commission

Member, Grants for the Arts Advisory Panel



To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.

Gilbert Baker's installation was part of a series of his monumental artworks. The mile-long Rainbow Flag from 1994 commemorated New York City's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The Key West flag honored the original flag's 25th anniversary. (Measuring 1.25 miles, it set a world's record.)

But these iconic installations were temporary. The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation. Baker made deliberate choices about its placement, height and location, to guarantee visibility from around the city. This Rainbow Flag firmly holds a place in LGBTQ+ history. To alter this work in any way would defy the artist's original intentions.

The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag.

It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Thank you

Drew Dalton
Founder and Chair of Trustees
ReportOUT
www.reportout.org



ERIK BOTTCHER
COUNCIL MEMBER

**THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**
224 WEST 30TH STREET, #1206
NEW YORK, NY 10001

TELEPHONE
(212) 564-7757

January 3, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

As the representative for New York City Council District 3, which includes the neighborhoods of the West Village, Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, including the historic Stonewall Inn, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserves this important work of art, and ensures that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erik Bottcher".

ERIK BOTTCHER
New York City Council Member
District 3

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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Thank you

Isabelle Swaney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'IS' followed by a stylized flourish.



Making an invisible history visible

www.nyclgbtsites.org

December 2, 2021

Re: Letter of Support for Landmarking Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag, San Francisco

To the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission:

The New York City LGBT Historic Sites Project strongly advocates for the landmark designation of Gilbert Baker's Rainbow flagpole installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco. The Project is an award-winning cultural heritage initiative that has documented over 375 LGBT sites in New York City, including ones connected to Gilbert Baker, that illustrate the community's influence on American culture. The Project's work has also led to the designation of seven NYC Landmarks and the listing of ten sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag, originally created in San Francisco in June 1978, has become a global symbol of the LGBT community. It was created "for all genders, all races and all ages...a flag for the Rainbow of Humanity." The flag itself, in its now many iterations around the world, symbolizes unity, support, protest, and pride. And – for a community that has historically had to remain invisible – its display inside and outside institutions, businesses, public spaces, and residences provides one of the most visible and instantly recognizable signs of LGBT expression and inclusion. Baker is an internationally recognized queer artist and activist who also has personal ties to New York City, where he lived from 1994 until his death in 2017. On June 25, 1994, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, Baker set a world record when 10,000 volunteers unfurled a mile-long Rainbow Flag in front of the United Nations, making headlines around the globe. Cut-up portions of the flag were then brought to an ACT UP demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral to protest the Catholic Church's stance on homosexuality.

We support the Gilbert Baker Foundation's advocacy efforts to have the Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza designated a San Francisco Landmark. This would preserve and officially recognize a symbolic work of queer art that is an icon of San Francisco and a beloved destination for visitors from around the world.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Dolkart, Ken Lustbader, and Jay Shockley, Co-Directors
Amanda Davis, Project Manager

Copy: Charles Beal, president, the Gilbert Baker Foundation

October 13, 2021

San Francisco Historical Preservation Commission
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

My name is Jaylene Quiles. I am the first nonbinary trans Pride Director in New Mexico, and the first director of the first pride parade and pride celebration in my hometown of Las Vegas, NM 2019. I am a GLBTQI+ historian in New Mexico. My work and achievements have been in the Advocate, the LGBTQI News and the Antibully Podcast. I am a co-founder of the women's rugby team at the University Of New Mexico, as well as the first ever open trans-nonbinary person to run for office in the entire state of New Mexico.

I am writing to endorse the landmarking of the Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza that Gilbert Baker created in 1997.

There would be no other pride flags without the Rainbow Flag. To dismiss that fact would jeopardize our entire existence as GLBTQI+ humans, historians, leaders, activists, survivors and our youth's future. Gilbert taught me, we are above stereotypes and labels. We are whom we are and we should embrace whom we are.

If it wasn't for Gilbert Baker, and our Beautiful Pride Flag, many more of us would be dead.

Please, with all my heart and soul, landmark our Flag.
Please, embrace who we are. Please show us you are with us, and not against us. Let our first ever Historical Pride Flag fly free.

Thank you for your time and consideration of mine and my family's request.
My name is Jaylene Quiles and my pride flag is not for sale and neither are our rights.

With love and respect.
A Proud Gay. 🏳️‍🌈

Jaylene Quiles

To Whom It May Concern

I support the landmarking of the historic work of art by Gilbert Baker, *The Rainbow Flag* installed at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. This work of art is not only the creation of the artist, Gilbert, but also symbolizes a liberation movement that has swept the world. In countries around the globe, communities, activists and allies fly the Rainbow Flag, often at great personal risk.

The importance of this symbol comes not only from the love of the community it represents but also from the antipathy of those who seek to destroy that community. Banning the flag along with persecution of those who display is on the rise. Daily, our community faces threats to our families and our very lives.

This work of art is a beacon of hope, empowerment and love, for both San Franciscans and for people from around the world. Its very existence is an act of defiance and resolute determination by us to not allow ourselves to be erased—something that has happened again and again in the ebbs of flow of history.

This installation, erected in 1997, holds special resonance for those of us surviving HIV/AIDS as a potent symbol of hope unfurled at a critical turning point in an epidemic that had killed almost half of the residents in the immediate neighborhood at the outset.

It is important to consider Baker's body of work as an artist. We should consider Baker's work as a vexillographer, spearheading the creation of the Rainbow Flag and creating massive, spectacular environmental works of art like the mile-long flag displayed at Pride in New York City in 1994 and the 1.25 mile coast to coast Rainbow Flag at Key West Pride in 2003. These, however, were temporary works. *The Rainbow Flag* at Harvey Milk Plaza was his one permanent installation. He planned this work over many years, identifying the location and planning the design of the various features.

To appreciate Gilbert's impact as an artist, we should consider the proliferation of flags representing the constellation of communities in our liberation movement. Flags derive from banners designed to lead armies into battle where we kill each other. Gilbert's work help spread the notion that flags can represent communities of love and affirm our identities, our individuality and our freedom.

Now is the time to landmark *The Rainbow Flag* at Harvey Milk Plaza. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Trans rights and lives are threatened. Drag

Queens are banned along with LGBTQ+ books. More than 40 towns and school districts now refuse to fly the Rainbow Flag.

The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor should take immediate action to preserve this important work of art and affirm the LGBTQ+ community. Show us you support us. We need *The Rainbow Flag* to fly, at full mast, 365 days a year. We need to be able to look to the sky and see it fly in all of its beauty and in the love of the community from which it came knowing that San Francisco supports us.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Sheehy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jeff Sheehy

Jeremy J. Prince

November 2, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag in 1978) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride, belonging, and self-empowerment—for both residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.


Gilbert Baker's installation was part of a series of his monumental artworks. The mile-long Rainbow Flag from 1994 commemorated New York City's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The Key West flag honored the original flag's 25th anniversary; measuring 1.25 miles, it set a world's record!

More recently, I had the honor to co-curate an exhibition on Baker and his art as activism at the GLBT Historical Society Museum in the Castro, entitled, *Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker (2019-2022)*. Using materials from Baker's estate, and his own words through his posthumously published memoir, the exhibition examined how Baker blurred the lines between artist and activist, protester and performer, emphasizing his intuitive understanding of the ways art can serve as a powerful means to address political and social issues. Over the course of four decades, Baker melded his artistic gifts with his devotion to justice, employing a range of approaches—including sewing, painting, design and performance—to advocate for positive social change.

But these iconic installations were temporary. The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation. Baker made deliberate choices about its placement, height and location, to guarantee visibility from around the city. This Rainbow Flag firmly holds a place in LGBTQ+ history. To alter this work in any way would defy the artist's original intentions.

The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag. It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Thank you,



Jeremy J. Prince
Former Director of Exhibitions & Museum Operations
GLBT Historical Society

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissions

Gilbert's Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza is one of the most significant examples of LGBTQ+ art in the world. When you look at this city and what we've contributed to this particular movement, I think it's important for people to remember that all of these things that happened because specific individual people had ideas and they had courage and they had backing and community to support them. And anybody who tries to fuck with that flag up at the corner is going to hear from me.

CLEVE JONES

On Aug 17, 2020, at 1:21 PM, Ken Jones <ken.jones.cor@gmail.com> wrote:
Greetings and Best Wishes. We are on the same page about Gilbert Baker's Flag Statue at Harvey Milk Plaza; and, there is no need to change or remove it. What I am suggesting (as a Community-builder, where there are great tensions about exclusion) is that we create a space for all the mis-under-non-represented Members of the LGBTQ Community who have designed some beautiful flags representing: The Kink Community, Asexual, Pansexual, Bisexual, Transgender, the newest edition, "Bears". Not that many people pay attention to my posts; but I see a plaza full of smaller flags watched over by the Granddaddy of them all.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect our institution.

Peace and Love. Ken Jones



From The Office Of Greg Miraglia

December 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Greg Miraglia. I am a professor of LGBT studies at City College of San Francisco and at Napa Valley College. I write you today to urge your support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

I spent most of my working career in law enforcement at three different Bay Area police departments and rising to the position of deputy chief, most of the while hidden deeply in the closet. When I came out as a gay man, I was terrified of having my career ended because of homophobia. I quickly learned about the history of Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag and how it was created right here in San Francisco. I immediately developed a connection with that flag and embraced it as an important part of my own identity.

I've been teaching classes in LGBT studies now for more than a decade. Part of my instruction includes teaching young people the history of the rainbow flag and its importance in today's world. It is a powerful symbol of visibility, identity, and community grounded in San Francisco. When I bring my students to the Castro to see the places and artifacts of our history, we begin at Gilbert Baker's art installation – the giant rainbow flag that proudly flies high above the city. If there is one picture my students take during this tour, it is one taken under the flag and in front of the plaque bearing Gilbert's name. I can think of few other landmarks so important to San Francisco and the world more worthy of landmark status than this piece of art.

In a time when even here in our own United States LGBTQ+ people are under attack in the legislature and being victimized on the street in vicious hate crimes, there is no more critical a time than now for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor to act. Designating this art installation a landmark will affirm for the world the importance of the rainbow flag preserve this installation as an important permanent part of San Francisco history.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Miraglia".

Greg Miraglia
Professor of LGBT Studies
City College of San Francisco
Napa Valley College

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag.

It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Thank you



Lorato Botshabelo

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Sincerely,



Maria Azzopardi
President, Allied Rainbow Communities, Malta



PROUD MEMBER OF
**EUROPEAN
PRIDE** ORGANISERS
ASSOCIATION

Allied Rainbow Communities (VO/1136), 19 Triq San Mark, Valletta, Malta;

info@arc.org.mt | +356 9927 2999 | www.arc.org.mt



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Thank you

Mark Grech
Naxxar, Malta

December 13, 2023

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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Thank you,

Michael T. Johnson

Michael T. Johnson
mtjohns96@gmail.com
717-321-4609
Pronouns: He/Him

Re: Landmarking Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag in San Francisco

January 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. I have a good vantage point from which to assess this. I am now the Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Previously, I worked in curatorial roles at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). I have also taught in undergraduate and graduate programs for over a decade, including at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Design, Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, and at Baruch College at the City University of New York. I have worked with countless artists over the course of my twenty-year career.

Baker, who I had the pleasure of meeting and working with when I brought his flag into the MoMA collection, is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is not only in the permanent collection of MoMA but also the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum, and many more esteemed institutions.

Gilbert Baker's installation was part of a series of his monumental artworks. The mile-long Rainbow Flag from 1994 commemorated New York City's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The Key West flag honored the original flag's 25th anniversary. (Measuring 1.25 miles, it set a world's record.)

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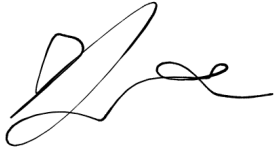
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Please do not hesitate to let me know should you require further elaboration or support from me for this landmarking request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Millar Fisher', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle Millar Fisher
Ronald C. and Anita L. Wornick Curator of Contemporary Decorative Arts
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
e: mfisher@mfa.org
www.mfa.org



2023.12.14

To Whom It May Concern

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But these iconic installations were temporary. The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation. Baker made deliberate choices about its placement, height and location, to guarantee visibility from around the city. This Rainbow Flag firmly holds a place in LGBTQ+ history. To alter this work in any way would defy the artist's original intentions.

The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag.

It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Thank you

市川明美

President of Momoniji Okayama
Akemi Ichikawa
Okayama,
JAPAN

<https://momoniji.net/>

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman

Supervisor

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Landmark Status for Gilbert Baker's Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza

Dear Supervisor Mandelman,

I am writing in support of the effort to landmark Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag Installation at Harvey Milk Plaza.

The very fact a pole and flag exist at Harvey Milk Plaza is a testament to Gilbert's determination against all odds, his vision, his dedication and fortitude – and his refusal to take “no” for an answer. He was a force of nature; heaven help those who dared get in his way.

I had the good fortune of knowing Gilbert personally. He was a huge fan of the gigantic art display I have worked to place upon Twin Peaks for over a quarter-century. There is a complex relationship between the Pink Triangle and the Rainbow flag. They are the yin-yang of LGBTQ symbolism. One was forged out of hatred and forced upon us while the other was inspired by love and optimism for a better future. The Rainbow Flag is the anecdote for the Pink Triangle. The Holocaust symbol of persecution represented our community for so long, until Gilbert Baker created a new, uplifting symbol of hope. His flag caught on and is now everywhere; how many non-national flags are known worldwide? Gilbert's creation is unique and universal. The Harvey Milk Plaza flag and pole are Gilbert's only permanent display.

Gilbert attended the Pink Triangle ceremony seven or eight times over the decades. I was honored that he flew out from NYC to present SF Pride's "*Gilbert Baker Pride Founders Award*" to me atop Twin Pinks at the 2015 Pink Triangle ceremony during Pride Weekend. It was also an honor to be loaned two of his handmade art pieces on Nazi Uniforms to display on mannequins at pink triangle ceremonies and in a display window about the Pink Triangle on Castro Street. Those uniforms were his last art piece. His most enduring art is of course the iconic Rainbow Flag which came about after SF Supervisor Harvey Milk asked Gilbert in 1978 to create something that would mobilize the community to fulfill Milk's message of "*hope*".

The pole and giant flag at Harvey Milk Plaza are a permanent memorial to the man and his creation. The flag is a symbol of inclusion, love, diversity, acceptance and hope. I understand it is eligible for landmark status for reasons listed by *The Gilbert Baker Foundation* because the installation meets at least two criteria listed by the National Register of Historic Places. Below are three criteria:

1. For its association with Gilbert Baker as an internationally significant artist and activist (National Register Criterion B);
2. As the only permanent installation in the world representing Gilbert Baker's internationally recognizable symbol of LGBTQ pride (National Register Criterion C);
3. Although this installation is only 24 years old in 2021, Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza is eligible for the National Register under Criteria Consideration G as a property of exceptional importance that has achieved significance within the last 50 years.

Gilbert Baker inspired many, he educated many, and he was loved by many.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Carney

(415) 726-4914

The 26th annual Pink Triangle will be in June 2021

www.thepinktriangle.com



To Whom It May Concern

30 October 2023

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. I speak as a personal friend of Gilbert who worked with him in decades past.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

Gilbert Baker's Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza deserves recognition as a historically significant art installation. Baker is recognized as an important political artist. His six-color Rainbow Flag is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the London Design Museum, the Tang Museum, the Barack Obama Presidential Library in Chicago, The Philadelphia Art Museum and many more esteemed institutions.

Gilbert Baker's installation was part of a series of his monumental artworks. The mile-long Rainbow Flag from 1994 commemorated New York City's 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The Key West flag honored the original flag's 25th anniversary. (Measuring 1.25 miles, it set a world's record.)

But these iconic installations were temporary. The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent installation. Baker made deliberate choices about its placement, height and location, to guarantee visibility from around the city. This Rainbow Flag firmly holds a place in LGBTQ+ history. To alter this work in any way would defy the artist's original intentions.

The timing for landmarking by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor is crucial. The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Conservatives threaten trans rights and LGBTQ+ books and curricula. More than 40 towns and school districts now ban the Rainbow Flag.

It is critical that San Francisco, the birthplace of the Rainbow Flag, preserve this important work of art. Ensure that this beacon of liberation flies, at full mast, 365 days a year, in support of sexual and gender minorities. When they erase our flag, they erase us all. Landmark this flag.

Thank you

Peter Tatchell
Director, Peter Tatchell Foundation
London UK

To the people,

As an artist, I wholeheartedly advocate for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco.

Baker's Rainbow Flag isn't merely art; it's a historic masterpiece. Displayed in institutions worldwide, it echoes his monumental, temporary installations—the mile-long tribute to Stonewall in '94 and the record-setting Key West flag.

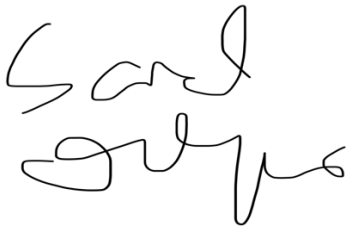
Amidst these, Harvey Milk Plaza remains Baker's sole permanent testament. Deliberately positioned for maximum visibility, it firmly secures its place in LGBTQ+ history. Altering it would defy the artist's original intent.

Now, as the LGBTQ+ community faces threats and erasure, the timing for landmarking is crucial. Preserving this symbol in San Francisco, its birthplace, becomes an act of defiance against those attempting to diminish identity and rights.

Let this flag soar high every day, a constant celebration of diversity and resilience. Please landmark this flag to ensure that voices and heritage stand tall against adversity.

In solidarity

Sarah Oltmeyer
Artist

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Oltmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Sarah" is on the top line, and the last name "Oltmeyer" is on the bottom line, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Planning Commissions

I am writing to voice my full support for landmark status for the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza. As outlined on YouAreSafeHere.net, this flag stands as a proud symbol of LGBTQ+ identity, acceptance and empowerment.

As a gay man who came of age in the 1980s, I understand firsthand the discrimination and danger the LGBTQ+ community has historically faced. Harvey Milk Plaza and Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag installation there serve as a bold, hopeful counterpoint to that painful history. Especially now, with an alarming rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation threatening fundamental rights, preserving this iconic symbol of freedom is critically important.

Gilbert Baker was a visionary artist and gay rights activist. His rainbow flag is recognized globally as a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and unity. Baker himself made careful choices regarding the flag's height, visibility, and placement within Harvey Milk Plaza. Granting landmark status would ensure his artistic vision is preserved as originally intended.

Myself and YouAreSafeHere.net stand in urging San Francisco, the birthplace of Baker's iconic rainbow flag, to affirm its commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and liberation. Please approve landmark status for the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza, guaranteeing this beacon of hope and self-empowerment continues flying proudly over the Castro for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Foster

Rick Foster

Founder, YouAreSafeHere.net

THOM HANSEN
15 Park Street - #7
Norwalk, CT 06460

January 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California. The Rainbow that flies there has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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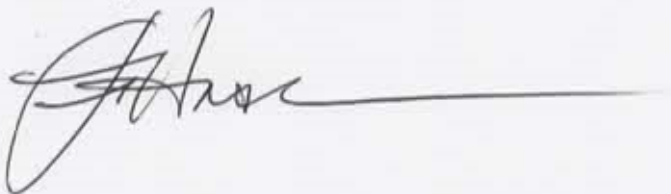
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Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thom Hansen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter to show my support for the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza in San Francisco, California.

In 1997, Baker (the creator of the original LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag) created this iconic San Francisco memorial under the leadership of then Mayor Willie Brown and in collaboration with the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. Since then, the Rainbow Flag at the corner of Market and Castro Streets has become a beacon of pride and self-empowerment — for both the residents of San Francisco and for visitors from around the world.

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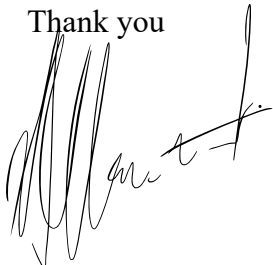
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Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toni Attard', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Toni Attard

Artistic Director EuroPride Valletta 2023

To: The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Historic Preservation Commission

I'm writing in support of the landmarking of the Gilbert Baker Rainbow Flag installation at Harvey Milk Plaza. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Flag, I think we must take notice of the overwhelming importance of this striking symbol to people all over the world, and therefore the crucial need to create this permanent home for it.

I'm a journalist — co-host of the longstanding weekly TV program Gay USA (gayusatv.org). Every week we report on the horrors and triumphs of life for LGBTQ+ people in every corner of the world. And in every one of those stories — literally every single one — the people involved are carrying, or fighting to carry, Gilbert's Rainbow Flag. In refugee camps in Kenya, in the streets of a now fully homophobic Moscow, in huge crowds of an emerging LGBTQ+ community in Taiwan, in Kyiv, Ukraine, fighting violent police in Istanbul, celebrating in the streets of Valparaiso and Rio and Bogota, evading arrest and beatings in Jamaica, and yes, in small towns and cities around the U.S. where the battles continue, the Rainbow Flag flies bright and strong, giving strength and hope to millions upon millions hanging onto that hope by the proverbial "thread." An appropriate image in this context. Literally that thread.

All those people around the world need to see that the Rainbow Flag has a home, a place of creation, a place they can look to and hold onto to ground themselves. I hope you will give them that cornerstone.

Thank you,

Ann Northrop
Activist, Journalist
Co-Host, Gay USA