

1 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua
2 House]

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the American Indian Historical**
4 **Society / Chautauqua House, located at 1451 Masonic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel Block**
5 **No. 1270, Lot No. 002, on the west side of Masonic Avenue between Frederick and Java**
6 **Streets, as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the**
7 **Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California**
8 **Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare**
9 **findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the**
10 **General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

11 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
12 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
13 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
14 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
15 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
16 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
17 subsections or parts of tables.

18 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

19 Section 1. Findings.

20 (a) Environmental and Land Use Findings.

21 (1) The Planning Department has determined that the Planning Code
22 amendment proposed in this ordinance is subject to a Categorical Exemption from the
23 California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et
24 seq., hereinafter "CEQA") pursuant to Section 15308 of California Code of Regulations, Title
25 14, Sections 15000 et seq., the Guidelines for implementation of the statute, for actions by
regulatory agencies for protection of the environment (in this case, landmark designation).
Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.

1 _____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board of Supervisors affirms
2 this determination.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that
4 the proposed landmark designation of American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua House
5 will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Historic
6 Preservation Commission Resolution No. _____, recommending approval of the
7 proposed designation, which is incorporated herein by reference.

8 (3) The Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed landmark designation of
9 American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua House is consistent with the General Plan
10 and with Planning Code Section 101.1(b) for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation
11 Commission Resolution No. _____, which is incorporated herein by reference.

12 (b) General Findings.

13 (1) On October 21, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No.
14 498-25, initiating landmark designation of American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua
15 House as a San Francisco Landmark pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the Planning Code. On
16 October 24, 2025, the Mayor approved the resolution. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk
17 of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 250849.

18 (2) Pursuant to Charter Section 4.135, the Historic Preservation Commission
19 has authority “to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations
20 and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors.”

21 (3) The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet was prepared by Planning
22 Department Preservation staff. All preparers meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional
23 Qualification Standards for historic preservation program staff, as set forth in Code of Federal
24 Regulations Title 36, Part 61, Appendix A. The report was reviewed for accuracy and
25 conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

1 (4) The Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of January 21,
2 2026, reviewed Planning Department staff’s analysis of the historical significance of American
3 Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua House set forth in the Landmark Designation Fact
4 Sheet dated January 21, 2026.

5 (5) On January 21, 2026, after holding a public hearing on the proposed
6 designation and having considered the specialized analyses prepared by Planning
7 Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation
8 Commission recommended designation of American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua
9 House as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Section 1004 of the Planning
10 Code, by Resolution No. _____. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
11 Supervisors in File No. _____.

12 (6) The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that American Indian Historical
13 Society / Chautauqua House has a special character and special historical, cultural,
14 architectural, and aesthetic interest and value, and that its designation as a landmark will
15 further the purposes of and conform to the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning
16 Code. In doing so, the Board of Supervisors hereby incorporates by reference the findings of
17 the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.

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19 Section 2. Designation.

20 Pursuant to Section 1004.3 of the Planning Code, the American Indian Historical
21 Society / Chautauqua House, located at 1451 Masonic Avenue, Assessor’s Parcel Block No. ,
22 Lot No. , is hereby designated as a San Francisco landmark consistent with the standards set
23 forth in Section 1004. Appendix A to Article 10 of the Planning Code is hereby amended to
24 include this property.

1 Section 3. Required Data.

2 (a) The description, location, and boundary of the landmark site consists of the
3 footprint of the American Indian Historical Society / Chautauqua House, located on Assessor's
4 Parcel Block No. 1270, Lot No. 002, on the west side of Masonic Avenue between Frederick
5 and Java Streets in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood, as shown in the
6 Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.

7 (b) The characteristics of the landmark that justify its designation are described and
8 shown in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet and other supporting materials contained in
9 Planning Department Record Docket No. 2025-010434DES. In brief, the American Indian
10 Historical Society / Chautauqua House, located at 1451 Masonic Avenue, is eligible for local
11 designation for its association with the 1960s Red Power movement, as well as the Costo
12 family who played prominent roles in American Indian Civil Rights advocacy. The American
13 Indian Historical Society (AIHS) was a San Francisco-based organization that focused on
14 American Indian education, communication, and cultural development. The organization was
15 founded in 1964 by Rupert Costo (Cahuilla), Jeannette Henry-Costo (Eastern Cherokee), and
16 thirteen other California American Indians. The Costos were married for nearly forty years and
17 worked together to bring attention to American Indian concerns, including writing and editing
18 several scholarly works on Native American history and culture. Initially located at the Costos'
19 private residence, they located a suitable home for the American Indian Historical Society at
20 the subject property in 1967, naming the headquarters Chautauqua House. Establishment of
21 the Chautauqua House occurred amidst the backdrop of Red Power, a movement for Native
22 civil rights and sovereignty in the 1960s-1970s, which mobilized actions to incite changes in
23 Native American affairs. The movement led to the passing of a number of laws to
24 protect/improve American Indian education, health care, cultural/religious practices, and more.
25 Specific ties to the Red Power movement included the Chautauqua House serving as a

1 meeting place for an educational committee lead by Richard Oakes (Mohawk), who among
2 other accomplishments, spearheaded the first Native American Studies Department at San
3 Francisco State University and was a leader of the longest documented American Indian
4 Occupation on Alcatraz starting in November 1969. With hundreds of members, the AIHS
5 challenged textbooks, testified in congress, coordinated community meetings, lobbied for
6 protection of burial grounds, and more. Chautauqua House also included gallery space for
7 American Indian artists (Museum of Indian Art) and exhibits, and it was from here that the
8 AIHS published The Indian Historian, a quarterly journal edited by American Indian scholars
9 and historians.

10 (c) The particular features that should be preserved, or replaced in kind as determined
11 necessary, are those generally shown in photographs and described in the Landmark
12 Designation Fact Sheet, which can be found in Planning Department Record Docket No.
13 2025-010434DES, and which are incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully
14 set forth herein. Specifically, the features that are character-defining and shall be preserved or
15 replaced in kind are the exterior elevations, form, massing, structure, rooflines, architectural
16 ornament, and materials of the property, identified as:

- 17 (1) Location of the house on the property with front and side setbacks;
- 18 (2) Physical and visual connection between front facade and street;
- 19 (3) Two-story height;
- 20 (4) Hipped roof with overhang eaves, asphalt shingles, stucco chimney;
- 21 (5) Asymmetrical facade;
- 22 (6) Smooth stucco cladding;
- 23 (7) Arched front and side entryways, with recessed front wood entry doors;
- 24 (8) Two circular sunburst ornamentations at front entryway;
- 25 (9) Double vertical window configuration with wood windows and grids;

1 (10) Shallow second story front balcony with balustrade.

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3 Section 4. Effective Date.

4 This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on the 31st day after enactment.
5 Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance
6 unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within 10 days of receiving it, or the Board of
7 Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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9 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
10 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

11 By: /s/ Peter Miljanich
12 PETER MILJANICH
13 Deputy City Attorney
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