

1 [Accepting a State grant to fund a Japantown Pilot Program.]

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3 **Resolution authorizing the Planning Department to apply for and accept funds, in an**
4 **amount not to exceed \$50,000, from the California State Library, State of California, to**
5 **aid in the preparation, adoption and implementation of a cultural preservation plan that**
6 **promotes the preservation of Japantown in San Francisco.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is distinguished as one of the most culturally and ethnically
9 diverse cities in the State and nation; and

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco's Japantown is home to only a few remaining tangible
11 examples that reflect the history and traditions of its Japanese-American community; and

12 WHEREAS, The first immigrants from Japan settled in Japantown as early as 1870,
13 establishing residences, businesses, religious facilities, and social and cultural activities; and

14 WHEREAS, Japantown grew and prospered despite discrimination and adversities until
15 World War II, when all people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly moved into relocation
16 centers, thereby losing their homes, businesses and possessions; and

17 WHEREAS, Following World War II, additional impacts to the physical, social and
18 cultural fabric of Japantown were sustained as a result of the activities of the San Francisco
19 Redevelopment Agency's A-1 and A-2 Redevelopment Area Projects, resulting in further
20 losses of historic resources; and

21 WHEREAS, The historical, social and economic forces which helped to create
22 Japantown no longer exist, and Japantown no longer has a high concentration of residents of
23 Japanese ancestry living in the area; and

24 WHEREAS, Japantown is unlikely to be able to attract a high concentration of residents
25 of Japanese ancestry to live in, or return to, the area, and will not be able to sustain a high

1 concentration of community-serving businesses, organizations, and culturally-serving
2 institutions, even though it remains important as a place to find one's roots, as manifested in
3 historical, cultural and educational activities; and

4 WHEREAS, Japantown continues to be a place for ethnically-based commercial,
5 entertainment and cultural activities; and

6 WHEREAS, The future of Japantown will depend on the ability of its activities, design
7 and businesses to attract not only residents of San Francisco, but visitors from throughout the
8 Bay Area, the State, the nation, and the world; and

9 WHEREAS, Due to the tragic loss of historic buildings and other structures, Japantown
10 is unlikely to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or the California Register of
11 Historical Resources as an historic community; and

12 WHEREAS, Traditional community development strategies have not fully recognized
13 the important and unique cultural characteristics of Japantown; and

14 WHEREAS, Japantown remains a cultural treasure to the City and County of San
15 Francisco and the State of California; and

16 WHEREAS, The State of California, through SB 307, the California Japantown
17 Preservation Pilot Project, has directed the State Librarian to provide grants to the cities of
18 San Jose, Los Angeles and San Francisco to be used for Japanese cultural preservation in
19 those three cities; and

20 WHEREAS, The funds provided through this project to each of the three cities,
21 including San Francisco, will be in an amount not to exceed \$50,000; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
23 authorizes the Planning Department to apply for and accept funds from the California State
24 Library, State of California, to aid in the creation of a cultural preservation planning component
25 of a specific plan for San Francisco's Japantown; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Department, in conjunction with the San
2 Francisco Redevelopment Agency, is urged to review all previous plans, studies, regulation
3 and incentive programs that have, or may, affect San Francisco's Japantown, including, but
4 not limited to, the Concepts for the Japantown Community Plan prepared for the Japantown
5 Planning, Preservation and Development Task Force in November, 2000; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Department is also urged to initiate a new
7 planning process, in conjunction with the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, with the
8 goal of creating a cultural preservation planning component of a specific plan for Japantown
9 which incorporates and addresses community cultural values and traditions, design, public
10 history, public memory, and enlarging the concept of preservation from buildings to social and
11 cultural institutions, public art, educational opportunities, cultural events and activities and
12 interpretive exhibits in order to ultimately arrive at a sense of place, which truly reflects the
13 people of Japanese ancestry's history, experiences and memories in San Francisco and
14 America; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Department will participate in the Oversight
16 Process established by the State Librarian to assure maximum coordination between the
17 planning efforts of the three cities receiving grants from the California State Library, including,
18 but not limited to, support of and attendance at a pre-planning workshop; and, be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco has been advised that the California
20 Japanese American Community Leadership Council will hire and support a cultural
21 preservation planning specialist as a Project Coordinator to assist in overseeing and
22 coordinating the planning processes in the three cities; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That as part of the State Librarian's oversight process, the
24 Planning Department is urged to identify the project planner in charge of the cultural
25 preservation planning component of the specific plan. This project planner should be the

1 main contact for the grant project, should attend, along with other staff members with project
2 assignments, all meetings, seminars, conferences and other coordination activities, and
3 should prepare progress reports, as required by the State Librarian; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Planning Department, in conjunction with the
5 Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board and the State's Project Coordinator, will prepare a
6 final report on its progress toward the creation of a cultural preservation planning component
7 of a specific plan and submit it to the State Librarian no later than October 31, 2004; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution does not authorize the expenditure of the
9 accepted funds, and further authorization by the Board of Supervisors will be required prior to
10 the expenditure of any of these accepted funds.

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