



June 15, 2021

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Supervisor Peskin  
Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via email only: [angela.calvillo@sfgov.org](mailto:angela.calvillo@sfgov.org)

Re: **Transmittal of Planning Department Case Number 2020-006641DES**  
**396-398 12th Street / San Francisco Eagle Bar Landmark Designation**  
BOS File No. 201400

Dear Ms. Calvillo and Supervisor Haney,

On May 19, 2021, the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter “HPC”) conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider Supervisor Haney’s ordinance (Board File No. 201400) to landmark the San Francisco Eagle Bar (396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street). At the hearing, the HPC voted to adopt a resolution to recommend landmark designation pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

The proposed amendments have been determined to be categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15060(c)(2).

Please find attached documents related to the HPC’s action. Also attached is an electronic copy of the proposed ordinance, drafted by Deputy City Attorney Andrea Ruiz-Esquide. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Aaron D. Starr  
Manager of Legislative Affairs

Cc: Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, City Attorney's Office  
Megan Imperial, Legislative Aide (Supervisor Melgar)  
Erica Major, Office of the Clerk of the Board  
Honey Mahogany, Legislative Aide (Supervisor Haney)  
Marcelle Boudreaux, Planning Department, P-IV Landmarks  
Alex Westhoff, Planning Department, Preservation Planner  
[Bos.legislation@sfgov.org](mailto:Bos.legislation@sfgov.org)  
[Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org)

Attachments:

Draft Article 10 Landmark Designation Ordinance  
Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1191 (Recommendation)  
Planning Department Executive Summary dated May 19, 2021  
Article 10 Landmark Designation Fact Sheet  
Correspondence in Support of Landmark Designation

1 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - 396-398 12th Street (San Francisco Eagle Bar)]

2

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate 396-398 12th Street (aka San**  
4 **Francisco Eagle Bar), Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 3522, Lot No. 014, as a Landmark**  
5 **consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the**  
6 **Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act;**  
7 **and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code,**  
8 **Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority**  
9 **policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

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

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

18

19 Section 1. Findings.

20 (a) CEQA 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., "CEQA") pursuant to Section 15308 of California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections  
25 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

1 determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
2 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board of Supervisors affirms this determination.

3 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that  
4 the proposed landmark designation of 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3522,  
5 Lot No. 014 ("San Francisco Eagle Bar"), will serve the public necessity, convenience, and  
6 welfare for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No.  
7 \_\_\_\_\_, recommending approval of the proposed designation, which is incorporated  
8 herein by reference.

9 (3) The Board of Supervisors finds that the proposed landmark designation of  
10 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street is consistent with the General Plan and with Planning Code Section  
11 101.1(b) for the reasons set forth in Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No.  
12 \_\_\_\_\_.

13  
14 (b) General Findings.

15 (1) Pursuant to Charter Section 4.135, the Historic Preservation Commission  
16 has authority "to recommend approval, disapproval, or modification of landmark designations  
17 and historic district designations under the Planning Code to the Board of Supervisors."

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

23 (3) The Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of May 19,  
24 2021, reviewed Planning Department staff's analysis of the historical significance of 396-398  
25 12<sup>th</sup> Street set forth in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet dated \_\_\_\_\_.

1 (4) On February 2, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 041-  
2 21, initiating landmark designation of 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street as a San Francisco Landmark  
3 pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the Planning Code. On February 12, 2021, the Mayor approved  
4 the resolution. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.  
5 201400.

6 (5) On May 19, 2021, after holding a public hearing on the proposed  
7 designation and having considered the specialized analyses prepared by Planning  
8 Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation  
9 Commission recommended designation of 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street as a landmark consistent with  
10 the standards set forth in Section 1004 of the Planning Code, by Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
11 Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No. \_\_\_\_\_.

12 (6) The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the 396-398 12th Street has a  
13 special character and special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value, and  
14 that its designation as a Landmark will further the purposes of and conform to the standards  
15 set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code. In doing so, the Board hereby incorporates by  
16 reference the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.

17  
18 Section 2. Designation.

19 Pursuant to Section 1004 of the Planning Code, 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street (San Francisco  
20 Eagle Bar), Assessor's Block No. 3522, Lot No. 014, is hereby designated as a San Francisco  
21 Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Section 1004. Appendix A to Article 10 of  
22 the Planning Code is hereby amended to include this property.

1 Section 3. Required Data.

2 (a) The description, location, and boundary of the Landmark site consists of the City  
3 parcel located at 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street (San Francisco Eagle Bar), Assessor's Block No. 3522,  
4 Lot No. 014, in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood.

5 (b) The characteristics of the Landmark that justify its designation are described and  
6 shown in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet and other supporting materials contained in  
7 Planning Department Record Docket No. 2021-001853DES. In brief, 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street is  
8 eligible for local designation as it is associated with events that have made a culturally and  
9 historically significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and with  
10 persons significant to San Francisco history. Specifically, designation of the San Francisco  
11 Eagle Bar is proper given association with the South of Market neighborhood's Leather and  
12 LGBTQ communities. The venue, with a 40-year tenure, serves as the longest running South  
13 of Market Leather/LGBTQ bar and has served as a de-facto community center home to a  
14 large variety of events including charitable fundraisers, leather contests, live music and  
15 comedy, political organizing, community activism, art exhibits, and more. Signature events  
16 such as Sunday Beer Busts and the Bare Chest Calendar have collectively raised millions of  
17 dollars for AIDS-related charities, and date back to the 1980s at a time when the Federal  
18 Government resources for AIDS victims was lacking, thus contributing to the San Francisco  
19 model of AIDS care.

20 (c) The particular features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined  
21 necessary, are those generally shown in photographs and described in the Landmark  
22 Designation Fact Sheet, which can be found in Planning Department Record Docket No.  
23 2021-001853DES, and which are incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully  
24 set forth. Specifically, all those physical and spatial features which define the historic  
25 character of the bar should be preserved or replaced in-kind, including:

1            *Exterior:*

2            (1) Site comprised of building (consisting of the primary bar space within the  
3 gable-roofed portion, indoor stage within the rear flat-roofed portion, and the side bar within  
4 the side flat-roofed portion) with primary elevation at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and secondary elevation at  
5 Harrison Street, and open side yard allowing for outdoor patio;

6            (2) Single-story massing of building;

7            (3) Secondary elevation (on Harrison Street) clad in channel drop wood siding;

8            (4) Primary elevation (on 12<sup>th</sup> Street) clad in stucco ;

9            (5) Minimal fenestration at visible façades on Harrison Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street;

10           (6) Roof-form on primary bar space of building, defined by front-facing gable  
11 roof terminating in false front parapet with cartouche detailing;

12           (7) Recessed entryway at 12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation with segmented arched opening,  
13 solid double doors and glazed transom;

14           (8) Two segmented arched window openings with glazed infill at 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
15 elevation;

16           (9) Solid front property-line fence extending from the building (fronting the  
17 indoor/outdoor bar area) to enclose the patio (12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation);

18           (10) Large outdoor patio, located at side yard, with enclosed rear bar (3-4  
19 serving stations) and outdoor stage, and tall metal flagpole with Leather flag; and

20           (11) Indoor/outdoor restroom, defined by an original porcelain trough (shared  
21 urinal) attached to exterior wall of main building and opening onto outdoor patio.  
22  
23  
24  
25

1                    *Interior.*

2                    (1) Indoor performance stage with adjacent DJ booth located to the rear of the  
3 primary bar space;

4                    (2) Vaulted wood ceiling at the open-volume interior primary bar space;

5                    (3) Indoor bar, with three serving stations, located within primary bar space;

6                    (4) Indoor/outdoor bar, with two serving stations, located within the side flat-  
7 roofed portion of the building which opens onto the patio, with unique fold-up panels above  
8 bar, which form an awning when open to the patio.  
9

10  
11                    Section 4. Effective Date.

12                    This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs  
13 when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not  
14 sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the  
15 Mayor's veto of the ordinance.  
16

17 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
18 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

19 By:                                      /s/                    
20                    ANDREA RUIZ-ESQUIDE  
21                    Deputy City Attorney

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# LANDMARK RESOLUTION RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION NO. 1191

**HEARING DATE: MAY 19, 2021**

**Record No.:** 2021-001853DES  
**Project Address:** 396-398 12th Street (San Francisco Eagle Bar)  
**Zoning:** WMUG WESTERN SOMA MIXED-USE GENERAL  
55-X Height and Bulk District  
**Block/Lot:** 3522/014  
**Project Sponsor:** Planning Department  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
**Property Owner:** John Nikitopoulos  
P.O. Box 73  
Boonville, CA 95415  
**Staff Contact:** Alex Westhoff 628-652-7314  
Alex.Westhoff@sfgov.org

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EAGLE BAR, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL BLOCK NO. 3522, LOT NO. 014, AS LANDMARK NO. XXX CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10

1. WHEREAS, on December 15, 2020, Supervisor Haney introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File No. 201400 to initiate the Landmark designation process for the San Francisco Eagle Bar, 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3522, Lot No. 014; and
2. WHEREAS, on January 25, 2021, the Board of Supervisors at its Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting recommended unanimously to Recommend to the full Board approval of the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation (Board File No. 201400); and
3. WHEREAS, on February 2, 2021, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation, and on February 12, 2021, Resolution No. 041-21 became effective (Board File No. 201400); and
4. WHEREAS, Department Staff, who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, prepared the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for the San Francisco Eagle Bar, which was reviewed for

accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10; and

5. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of May 19, 2021, reviewed Department staff's analysis of the San Francisco Eagle Bar historical significance pursuant to Article 10 as part of the Landmark Designation Executive Summary dated May 19, 2021, and recommended Landmark designation through this Resolution; and
6. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the San Francisco Eagle Bar as a Landmark is in the form prescribed by the Historic Preservation Commission and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and
7. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the San Francisco Eagle Bar is eligible for local designation for association with San Francisco's South of Market LGBTQ and Leather communities; and
8. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar is also proper given its significance as a venue which has raised millions of dollars for AIDS-related and other charities over the course of several decades, as well as serving as a de facto community center used by a variety of Leather/LGBTQ social, cultural and political organizations and individuals; and
9. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the San Francisco Eagle Bar meet two of the Historic Preservation Commission's four priority areas for designation: buildings that represent smaller-scale commercial site, and properties with strong cultural or ethnic associations; and
10. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that designation of the San Francisco Eagle advances the objectives outlined in Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Resolution No. 1127, adopted in 2020, otherwise called *Centering Preservation Planning on Racial and Social Equity*, which states goals for how the Commission and the Planning Department can develop proactive strategies to center their work and resource allocation on racial and social equity, focused on preservation; and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar as a Landmark will make it one of the first Leather bars in the world to receive landmark status; and
12. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the San Francisco Eagle Bar meet the eligibility requirements of Section 1004 of the Planning Code and warrants consideration for Article 10 landmark designation; and
13. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the boundaries and the list of character-defining features, as identified in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, should be considered for preservation under the proposed landmark designation as they relate to the San Francisco Eagle Bar historical significance and retain historical integrity; and
14. WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 7, which states that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, and will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section

302; and

15. WHEREAS, the Department has determined that landmark designation is exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical); and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Board of Supervisors approval of landmark designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 3522, Lot No. 014 consistent with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on May 19, 2021.



Jonas P. Ionin  
*Commission Secretary*

AYES: Nageswaran, Black, Foley, Johns, Pearlman, So, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: May 19, 2021



# LANDMARK DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**HEARING DATE: May 19, 2021**

**Record No.:** 2021-001853DES  
**Project Address:** 396-398 12th Street (San Francisco Eagle Bar)  
**Zoning:** WMUG WESTERN SOMA MIXED-USE GENERAL  
55-X Height and Bulk District  
**Block/Lot:** 3522/014  
**Project Sponsor:** Planning Department  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
**Property Owner:** John Nikitopoulos  
P.O. Box 73  
Boonville, CA 95415  
**Staff Contact:** Alex Westhoff 628-652-7314  
Alex.Westhoff@sfgov.org

**Recommendation:** Recommend Landmark Designation to the Board of Supervisors

## Property Description

The subject site lies on an approximately 5,153 square feet, irregularly-shaped rectangular lot at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Streets with approximately 79.5 feet of street frontage along 12<sup>th</sup> Street, and 60.5 feet along Harrison Street. The property includes both indoor and outdoor components including the main corner building with indoor bar, stage, DJ booth, and an indoor/outdoor bar, and a spacious patio with stage; and a rear building with an enclosed bar, walk-in cooler, and storage.

### *Exterior*

The building is comprised of multiple structures with varying roof forms. The corner one-story building with gabled roof, which houses the front indoor bar space includes a northeast facing primary elevation roughly 22 feet in length with three structural bays (12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation). The wood-framed building has no discernable architectural style and includes scored stucco cladding along the front façade. Front façade fenestration includes a segmented arched opening with a recessed primary entryway, solid double entry doors with a glazed transom, and a scored concrete step. Additional building fenestration to the right of the entryway consists of

two slightly recessed fixed plate-glass wood-sash windows with arched stucco surrounds. The primary façade terminates in a cornice and a false front parapet that features a cartouche.

The flat roofed portion of the building along 12<sup>th</sup> Street encloses the indoor/outdoor bar and is roughly 14.5 feet in length. This part of the building is fronted by a solid wooden fence with vertical planks. Fenestration is minimal, with the exception of a recessed egress door which serves to access the indoor/outdoor bar. The fence further extends approximately 43 more feet to enclose the rear patio. A set of recessed double doors lies midway along this portion of the fence, providing access to the patio.

Along the secondary Harrison Street elevation, the main portion of the building extends nearly 47 feet and is clad in channel drop wood siding. The secondary façade is free from fenestration. The asphalt-shingled front-facing gable roof, can be viewed from the side, which extends the depth of this portion of the building. The remainder of the side facade is clad with the same siding material, though flat-roofed and projects slightly south of the rest of the building.

#### *Interior*

Once inside the building at the primary bar space, to the left is a bar with three serving stations, extending about nine feet from the south wall. The remainder of this portion of the building is generally left open for socializing and watching performances. A vaulted ceiling defines this portion of the building. To the rear is the indoor stage, elevated a few feet above the ground, and measuring approximately 340 square feet. To the right of the stage is an enclosed wood-framed DJ booth with chain-link metal fencing material beginning midway up the booth's exterior on the south and east sides for viewing the stage and crowd. Additionally, smaller partitioned rooms within the main building include an ADA-accessible restroom, office, and utility room.

The northeastern portion of the main building includes the indoor/outdoor bar. The bar includes two serving stations, one which can be accessed from the inside, and the other from the outside via the patio. Above the outdoor portion are wooden fold-up panels which create an awning when open.

#### *Patio*

The outdoor open-air concrete patio is nearly 1,400 square feet, not including the stage, and largely kept open for socializing. A tall wooden gazebo roughly 10 x 25 feet is situated on the southern portion of the patio which provides relief from the sun, and includes wooden panels installed partway up along its posts for holding drinks. An additional shade structure is draped between the gazebo and the main building. A porcelain trough functions as a shared urinal, and is around 6 feet long, attached to the southern wall and filling much of the small room it is located in which opens onto the patio. At the eastern edge of the patio, just south of the recessed doorway is a tall metal flagpole with the Leather flag. The stage, elevated a few feet above grade, is roughly 450 square feet and located in the northeastern corner of the patio. A wooden bench lines the northern portion of the stage, to provide seating when the stage is not being used for an event.

#### *Rear Building*

An additional one-story building is sited at the lot's northwest corner. The building includes two rooms, with the northernmost room used for storage. The other room includes the third bar, open to the patio, with 3-4 serving stations and a walk-in cooler. In front of the bar is an open area which has been used as a meeting space by a variety of community groups who utilize the venue.

## Project Description

The Historic Preservation Commission is requested to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding Landmark designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar (396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street). The pending Landmark designation was initiated by the Board of Supervisors.

On December 15, 2020, Supervisor Haney introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter “Board”) File No. 201400 to initiate the Landmark designation process for the San Francisco Eagle Bar, 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street. At the Land Use Committee of the Board hearing on January 25, 2021, the committee voted unanimously to Recommend to the full Board approval of the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation. On February 2, 2021, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution, and on February 12, 2021, Resolution No. 041-21 became effective.

## Compliance With Planning Code

### Article 10 of the Planning Code.

The executive summary and analysis under review was prepared by Department preservation staff, who meet the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications. The Department has determined that the subject property meets the requirements for eligibility as an individual landmark pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code. The justification for its inclusion is explained in detail in the attached Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, and briefly in this Executive Summary.

**Significance:** The San Francisco Eagle Bar is significant for its association with San Francisco’s South of Market (SoMa) Leather and LGBTQ communities, including its use as a de-facto community center for 40 years, and the venue’s extensive fundraising efforts which have raised millions of dollars for AIDS related and other charities. The period of significance is 1981 – 2020.

The 2016 *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, written by Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson for the San Francisco Planning Department provided a detailed historical context of SoMa’s Leather and LGBTQ communities. This context statement was used as a basis to assess the Eagle’s significance, particularly as it related to broader trends and events pertinent to Leather/LGBTQ history both locally and nationally/globally. To further augment this context Planning Department staff conducted primary research, including oral history interviews with long-term community members, as well as additional secondary research. This research further uncovered additional facets of the Eagle’s significance from those who experienced it, including the identification of historically important people associated with the venue.

**Underrepresented Landmark Types:** The proposed landmark designation addresses two previously identified underrepresented landmark types: property that is small-scale and properties associated with underrepresented racial/ethnic/social groups. In addition, this is the first LGBTQ-oriented Landmark in the SoMa neighborhood.

To date, only four of San Francisco’s designated Landmarks are recognized for their association with LGBTQ history. These Landmarks are:

- Landmark No. 227: Castro Camera Shop and Harvey Milk Residence (573-575 Castro Street)
- Landmark No. 241: Jose Theater/NAMES Project Building (2362 Market Street)
- Landmark No. 264: Twin Peaks Tavern (401 Castro Street), and
- Landmark No. 287: Paper Doll (524 Union Street), and
- Two Landmarks in progress: Japanese YWCA (1830 Sutter Street) and Lyon-Martin House (651 Duncan Street).

Other Landmarks, such as San Francisco City Hall (Landmark No. 21) and San Francisco Women's Building (Landmark No. 178), have significant historical associations with LGBTQ history, but have not been recognized for that history.

**Integrity:** The Eagle maintains a high level of integrity. See Page 3 of attached Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for further analysis.

**Character-Defining Features:** Exterior and interior character-defining features of the Eagle are identified in the attached Landmark Designation Fact Sheet on Page 4.

**Boundaries of the Landmark:** The proposed Landmark encompasses 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street (Assessor's Block No. 3522, Lot 014).

#### **General Plan.**

The Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan contains the following relevant objectives and policies:

#### OBJECTIVE 2

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

#### Policy 4

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

Designating significant historic resources as local landmarks will further continuity with the past because the buildings will be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

**Planning Code Section 101.1 – Eight Priority Policies** establishes and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the proposed designation is consistent with the priority policies, and furthers Policy Number 7, which states that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

## Landmark Designation Procedures

### Action by Historic Preservation Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission on February 4, 2009, by Resolution No. 001, adopted the National Register Criteria as its methodology for recommending landmark designation of historic resources. Under the National Register Criteria, the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association, and that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or properties that have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Article 10 of the Planning Code.

Section 1004 of the Planning Code authorizes the landmark designation of an individual structure or other feature or an integrated group of structures and features on a single lot or site, having special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, as a landmark. Section 1004.1 also outlines that landmark designation may be initiated by the Board of Supervisors or the Historic Preservation Commission and the initiation shall include findings in support. Section 1004.2 states that once initiated, the proposed designation is referred to the Historic Preservation Commission for a report and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve, disapprove or modify the proposal.

Pursuant to Section 1004.3 of the Planning Code, if the Historic Preservation Commission approves the designation, a copy of the resolution of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors and without referral to the Planning Commission. The Board of Supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation.

In the case of the initiation of a historic district, the Historic Preservation Commission shall refer its recommendation to the Planning Commission pursuant to Section 1004.2(c). The Planning Commission shall have 45 days to provide review and comment on the proposed designation and address the consistency of the proposed designation with the General Plan, Section 101.1 priority policies, the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, and the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the Bay Area. These comments shall be sent to the Board of Supervisors in the form of a resolution.

Section 1004(b) requires that the designating ordinance approved by the Board of Supervisors shall include the location and boundaries of the landmark site, a description of the characteristics of the landmark which justify its designation, and a description of the particular features that should be preserved.

If the Historic Preservation Commission approves the proposed designation recommendation, a copy of the resolution of approval is transmitted to the Board of Supervisors, which holds a public hearing on the designation and may approve, modify or disapprove the designation (Section 1004.4). If the Historic Preservation Commission disapproves the proposed designation, such action shall be final, except upon the filing of a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days (Section 1004.5).



## Public/Neighborhood Input

Staff have spoken regularly with SoMa LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District Board members who have expressed support for the designation. One additional letter of support was provided to Planning Department staff by a long-term patron of the Eagle. Additionally, the business owner circulated an online petition for the Historic Preservation Commission to designate the Eagle as a historical site. This petition was circulated through the venue's website, social media channels, and other means. Over 1,500 digital signatures were gathered in support of the historical designation, include signatures from long term patrons and community members.

## Issues & Other Considerations

- Interior and Outdoor Patio Character-Defining Features: Inclusion of both the interior spaces and the outdoor patio is warranted as events related to the Eagle's historical and cultural significance have taken place within these spaces. The patio is believed to be one of the largest outdoor patios in the City of San Francisco. Since the early 1980's the outdoor patio as well as the indoor bar space with stage has enabled the venue to host a huge spectrum of parties, fundraisers, contests, live shows, art exhibits, political organizing, and more. The outdoor patio has enabled a larger capacity, while bolstering the venue's popularity thus lending to the success of Sunday Beer Busts and other events which have raised millions of dollars for AIDS-related and other charitable causes.
- Property owner input: Pursuant to Article 10, Section 1004.2 of the Planning Code, the City must provide written notice to the property owner 10 days prior to the second hearing, during which the HPC considers whether to recommend landmark designation to the Board of Supervisors.

The Assessor's Summary identifies John Nikitopoulos as the property owner. Pursuant to discussion with Planning Department Staff, however, the business owner mentioned that Mr. Nikitopoulos had passed away a few years ago and the Estate of John Nikitopoulos is the current owner, which is being represented by attorney Myrna Oglesby. Planning Department staff emailed the hearing notice to Myrna Oglesby on April 22, 2021. Additionally, the hearing notice was mailed to both Myrna Oglesby and John Nikitopoulos on April 29, 2021 for the hearing schedule for May 19, 2021.

- Business owner input: Throughout the development of this Landmark Designation, Department staff has worked closely with the current business owner Lex Montiel.

## Environmental Review Status

The Planning Department has determined that actions by regulatory agencies for protection of the environment (specifically in this case, landmark designation) are exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical).

## Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors landmark designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar for its significant long-term association with SoMa's Leather

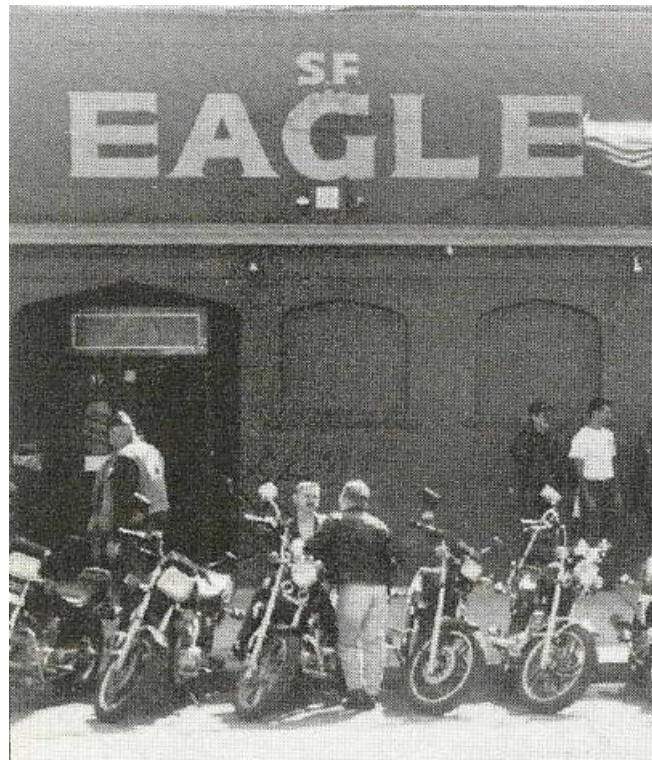
and LGBTQ communities, including its use as a venue to raise millions of dollars for AIDS-related and other charitable causes.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Draft Resolution Recommending Landmark Designation
- Exhibit A – Landmark Designation Fact Sheet
- Exhibit B - Maps and Context Images
- Exhibit C – Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance
- Exhibit D – Landmark Initiation - Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 041-21
- Exhibit E – Board of Supervisors February 2, 2021 Initiation Hearing Packet



# ARTICLE 10 LANDMARK DESIGNATION FACT SHEET



<b>Historic Name:</b>	San Francisco Eagle Bar (San Francisco Eagle, Eagle Tavern)
<b>Address:</b>	396-398 12 <sup>th</sup> Street
<b>Block/ Lot(s):</b>	3522/014
<b>Parcel Area:</b>	5,153 sq ft
<b>Zoning:</b>	WMUG (WSOMA Mixed Use-General) / 55-X Height and Bulk District
<b>Year Built:</b>	1906
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown

<p><b>Prior Historic Studies/Other Designations:</b></p>	<p>Small Business Commission  <i>San Francisco Eagle Bar, Legacy Business Registration (April 24, 2017)</i></p> <p>San Francisco Board of Supervisors - <i>Establishment of the LGBTQ and Leather Cultural District (2018)</i>  <i>Note: This resolution established the LEATHER &amp; LGBTQ Cultural District, mentioning the Eagle as an asset within the District. The District's boundaries were identified as: south side of Howard Street between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 101, to the west side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Howard Street and Harrison Street to Interstate 80 between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Division Street, to Highway 101 between Interstate 80 and Howard Street; as well as the south side of Harrison Street from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street, the west side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street from Harrison Street to Bryant Street and the north side of Bryant Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street and the west side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Bryant Street to Harrison Street.</i></p> <p>Page and Turnbull – <i>Western SOMA Light Industrial &amp; Residential Historic District (2009)</i>  <i>Note: This survey identified the Eagle as a contributor to a National Register Eligible District.</i></p> <p>Watson Heritage Consulting - <i>Historic Resources Evaluation, 280-282 7th Street, San Francisco (July 20, 2017)</i>  <i>Note: This Historic Resources Evaluation included the identification of the Eagle as a contributor to a CEQA eligible LGBTQ Historic District. This discontinuous district includes contributing properties primarily bounded by: 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the east, 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the west, Bryant Street to the south, and Mission Street to the north. The Department concurred with the determination of the District. The foundation of this HRE is the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco (2016), Donna J. Graves &amp; Shayne E. Watson.</i></p>
<p><b>Prior HPC Actions:</b></p>	<p>Legacy Business Registry Recommendation to Small Business Commission (April 5, 2017)</p>
<p><b>Significance Criteria:</b></p>	<p><i>Events:</i> Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</p> <p><i>Persons:</i> Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</p>
<p><b>Period of Significance:</b></p>	<p>1981-2020</p>

<p><b>Statement of Significance:</b></p>	<p>The San Francisco Eagle Bar is significant for its association with San Francisco’s South of Market (SoMa) Leather and LGBTQ communities. The Eagle has associations with four of the subthemes outlined in the <i>Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco</i>, as follows: Evolution of LGBTQ Enclaves and Development of New Neighborhoods (1960s to 1980s), Gay Liberation, Pride, and Politics (1960s to 1990s), Building LGBTQ Communities (1960s to 1990s), and San Francisco and the AIDS Epidemic (1981 to 1990s). Further significance also lies in the Eagle’s association with the following four people: Marcus Hernandez, Alan Selby, Terry Thompson, and Robert Uyvari. The Eagle has served as a long-term SoMa Leather and LGBTQ social space, functioning as a de-facto community center. In addition to its use as a bar, the venue has been used for a wide array of activities including fundraisers, leather contests, live music and comedy performances, art exhibits, political organizing and activism, and a meeting space for a huge array of community groups. Its significance is further underscored by its forty-year tenure, making it the longest running SoMa Leather/LGBTQ bar. Opening just before the onset of the AIDS epidemic, the venue’s extensive AIDS fundraising efforts have collectively raised millions of dollars through signature events including the annual Bare Chest Calendar and Sunday Beer Busts.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of Integrity:</b></p>	<p>The seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>The Eagle has occupied the subject property from 1981-present and retains a high degree of integrity to convey its cultural significance. The property retains a high degree of integrity of location, association, setting, materials, and feeling. The property also retains integrity of design and workmanship, however, these physical aspects of integrity are less important to conveying cultural significance.</p> <p>Overall, the Department has determined that the Eagle retains integrity to convey historical and cultural significance, as the venue has served as the location of countless SoMa Leather and LGBTQ community events including charitable fundraisers, leather contests, live music and comedy, art exhibits, and much more. Few exterior changes have been made to the building over the course of its use as the Eagle. It has remained in the same SoMa location on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Streets since its establishment. While there have been some interior expansions, they are not street visible, and the building’s general form, massing, and height have remained unchanged. Exterior features including wood framing, front façade stucco, gabled roof, and false front parapet appear to match historic 1980’s photographs of the venue. Furthermore, doors and windows along the minimally fenestrated façade appear to be in the same locations as they historically were based upon this photographic documentation. The outdoor patio, which the venue expanded to include just a few years after it began operating, retains its open-air feeling. Dimension and materials of the solid front property line fence which encloses the patio also match 1980’s photographic documentation.</p>

<p>Character-Defining Features:</p>	<p><i>Exterior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site comprised of building (consisting of the primary bar space within the gable-roofed portion, indoor stage within the rear flat-roofed portion, and the side bar within the side flat-roofed portion) with primary elevation at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and secondary elevation at Harrison Street, and open side yard allowing for outdoor patio</li><li>• Single-story massing of building</li><li>• Secondary elevation (on Harrison Street) clad in channel drop wood siding</li><li>• Primary elevation (on 12<sup>th</sup> Street) clad in stucco</li><li>• Minimal fenestration at visible façades on Harrison Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Street</li><li>• Roof-form on primary bar space of building, defined by front-facing gable roof terminating in false front parapet with cartouche detailing</li><li>• Recessed entryway at 12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation with segmented arched opening, solid double doors and glazed transom</li><li>• Two segmented arched window openings with glazed infill at 12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation</li><li>• Solid front property-line fence extending from the building (fronting the indoor/outdoor bar area) to enclose the patio (12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation)</li><li>• Large outdoor patio, located at side yard, with enclosed rear bar (3-4 serving stations) and outdoor stage, and tall metal flagpole with Leather flag</li><li>• Indoor/outdoor restroom, defined by an original porcelain trough (shared urinal) attached to exterior wall of main building and opening onto outdoor patio</li></ul> <p><i>Interior:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indoor performance stage with adjacent DJ booth located to the rear of the primary bar space</li><li>• Vaulted wood ceiling at the open-volume interior primary bar space</li><li>• Indoor bar, with three serving stations, located within primary bar space</li><li>• Indoor/outdoor bar, with two serving stations, located within the side flat-roofed portion of the building which opens onto the patio, with unique fold-up panels above bar, which form an awning when open to the patio</li></ul>
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<sup>1</sup> “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,” *National Register Bulletin*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1995, p. 44.

### Statement of Significance Summary

For forty years, the San Francisco Eagle Bar (Eagle), located at 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street, has served as a cornerstone for San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) Leather and LGBTQ communities. According to Bay Area Reporter archival research, the news first broke in 1980 that San Francisco would have its own Eagle Bar, joining other U.S. cities of New York, Boston, L.A., and Washington D.C. The venue opened in its current location on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1981, with a May 12-14 grand opening celebration. As one of the few SoMa Leather bars with an outdoor patio, the venue has been a prominent SoMa Leather and LGBTQ gathering space, serving as a home to a wide array of parties, fundraisers, contests, live shows, art exhibits, political organizing, and more. A variety of well-known non-profit organizations, activists, political leaders, artists, DJs, musicians and more have utilized the space, collectively contributing to the Eagle's identity as an unparalleled cultural hub of SoMa's internationally known Leather/LGBTQ scene.<sup>2</sup>

Sociologist and Leather historian Gayle Rubin defines "Leather" as a "distinctive subgroup of male homosexuals... organized around sexual activities and erotic semiotics that distinguish it from the larger gay male population."<sup>3</sup> Masculine men, especially motorcyclists who wore leather "began to carve out alternative gay social spaces." Gay motorcycle clubs, including the Warlocks and California Motor Club were formed in San Francisco in the 1960s, along with some of SoMa's early Leather bars opening around this time period.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout its 40-year history, the Eagle has been under three different ownerships<sup>5</sup>:

- 1981 - 1998 - Bob Damron, author of the Damron Gay Guide, and Jay Levine were business partners and the first owners. The venue's original name was the San Francisco Eagle. The original space did not include the outdoor patio, and the interior included a main room with a horseshoe shaped bar. The bar opened before the onset of AIDS and was generally packed every night. While Damron passed away in 1989, Levine continued to run the bar until 1998
- 1998 - 2011 – John Gardiner and Joe Banks were partners who purchased the bar from Levine. Upon acquisition, a stipulation was that "Eagle" must remain in the name, and hence the bar became the Eagle Tavern. Along with new ownership, came some changes to long-running events, though new events were introduced, and signature Beer Busts continued. The couple now owns the Hole in the Wall Saloon on Folsom Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets, a location to where they transferred a great deal of the Eagle's interior décor, including light fixtures and artwork. The Eagle Tavern officially closed on May 31, 2011.<sup>6</sup>
- 2013 - present – Alex (Lex) Montiel and Mike Leon reopened the bar as the SF Eagle after having purchased the bar the year prior. Prior to reopening, the couple brought the structure up to building code with changes including structural and electrical upgrades, the removal of the horseshoe bar, an

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<sup>2</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>3</sup> Gayle Rubin, "The Miracle Mile," in James Brook, Chris Carlsson and Nancy J Peters, eds., *Reclaiming San Francisco* (San Francisco California: City Lights Books), 1998, 253.

<sup>4</sup> Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson, *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, March 2016, page 248.

<sup>5</sup> Gary Kenyon, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 22, 2021.

<sup>6</sup> Gary Kenyon, *SF Eagle History*, 2014, page 14.

ADA-accessible bathroom, an ADA-accessible entrance, and roof replacement. The new owners committed to continuing many of the venue's long-running fundraisers, while also introducing new events.<sup>7</sup>

The period of significance (POS) is 1981 to 2020. The start of this period, 1981, is the year the Eagle opened. The Eagle's long-term tenure is cited as a contributing factor to its cultural significance, and thus a contemporary year (2020) was identified as the POS end date. Many other SoMa Leather/LGBTQ bars existed for much shorter periods, with few even reaching 10-12 years, compared to the Eagle's 40-year tenure.<sup>8</sup> The Eagle has demonstrated enormous resiliency as the venue has persevered through the AIDS epidemic, changes in ownership, and continued community displacement resulting from rapid development throughout the SoMa neighborhood. Many of the Eagle's recurring events which began in the 1980s and contribute to its significance have continued through contemporary times.

The year 2020 was identified as the POS end date as it represents a break, albeit anticipated to be temporary, in the Eagle's operations due to the beginning of the global Covid-19 pandemic. On March 15, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered bars and nightclubs statewide to close their doors as a precautionary means to reduce spread of the coronavirus. This had devastating economic and cultural impacts, leading many long-running small businesses throughout San Francisco to close permanently. While the Eagle has remained closed for business, the closure is only temporary. Per conversation with Eagle owner Lex Montiel, the venue does plan to reopen once the Covid-19 pandemic has ended.<sup>9</sup>

### Significance Criteria

The Eagle is eligible for designation as a San Francisco Landmark for association with significant historic events (Criterion 1) and people (Criterion 2).

The *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco* was adopted by the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission in 2016. This 400+ page document includes subthemes outlining events and trends associated with the development of San Francisco's LGBTQ communities. The Eagle's historical and cultural significance is strongly related to the following four subthemes:

- **Evolution of LGBTQ Enclaves and Development of New Neighborhoods (1960s to 1980s)**  
*Social, political, and cultural changes associated with LGBTQ migration, organizing and activism in San Francisco from the 1960s through the 1980s led to the emergence of new queer neighborhoods and changes to existing enclaves.*
- **Gay Liberation, Pride, and Politics (1960s to 1990s)**  
*Conceptualizing gay rights, and organizing for them, evolved and became more complex in the 1960s to the 1980s. Homophile activists had worked on the premise that rights would be gained by arguing that sexual behavior was a private matter and only one small part of their identity; in all other ways they were the same as straight people—and should therefore be equal to them.*

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<sup>7</sup> Lex Montiel, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 10, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Bob Goldfarb, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 12, 2021.

<sup>9</sup> Montiel interview.



- **Building LGBTQ Communities (1960s to 1990s)**

*Advances in gay liberation helped further the growth of LGBTQ communities, including both the associated physical spaces, as well as events and traditions that shaped them. The growing spectrum of activities and institutions, from sports, visual arts, music, film, literature, education, religion, sex-based, and more were reflective of San Francisco's diverse and expanding LGBTQ communities.*

- **San Francisco and the AIDS Epidemic (1981 to 1990s)**

*The AIDS epidemic is among the most significant events to shape the LGBTQ history of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The social, psychological, and financial costs are stunning, and the epidemic has wrought enormous changes in medical research, healthcare delivery, and gay culture. By killing a significant number of gay and bisexual men and transgender women, the disease underscored major issues associated with homophobia and discrimination, medical research, and the provision of healthcare in the U.S. It also brought to the fore the ability of communities to rally in the face of discrimination and death. The San Francisco model of HIV/AIDS care, which utilized medical facilities and community-based organizations to mobilize compassionate and respectful treatment, became a global standard.*

The Eagle is also significant under Criterion 2 for its association with the following people:

- **Marcus Hernandez**

*Commonly known as "Mr. Marcus", Hernandez was a well-known Leather personality with a long-running Bay Area Reporter Leather column. He contributed to the success of early recurring fundraising events which the Eagle became known for, including MCing the Bare Chest Calendar contest throughout the entirety of its time at the Eagle, as well as at its subsequent home at the Powerhouse. He was also an avid Leather photographer, and judged Leather contests worldwide.*

- **Alan Selby**

*Also known as "Daddy Alan" and "The Mayor of Folsom Street", Selby founded Mr. S Leather, an iconic SoMa leather retailer and manufacturer, which operated a store out of the Eagle for many years. Selby's events at the Eagle included "Leather Daddy" and "Leather Daddy's Boy" contests, which continued well into the late 2000s. Selby was also an incredibly dedicated AIDS activist. In addition to volunteering his time to a variety of AIDS-related organizations, many of his events served as charitable fundraisers.*

- **Terry Thompson**

*Manager of the Eagle circa 1984-1994, Thompson is widely credited as the driving force behind many of the venue's long-running fundraising events, which collectively have raised millions of dollars for AIDS-related, and other charities. Thompson established the Bare Chest Calendar as a charitable fundraiser, developed the Sunday Beer Busts, organized a few street fairs, and hosted several other regular events.*

- **Robert Uyvari**

*Homoerotic artist of the 1970s-80s, Uyvari split his time between San Francisco and his home state of Wisconsin. His pieces were amongst the first displayed at the Eagle and he designed the early Eagle poster which was distributed internationally. Additionally he did cover art for the Places of Interest Map Guide Book, designed posters from several other venues, and oversaw the design of early gay bars in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

### Criterion 1 - Events

More details on the Eagle's significance in relationship to the four identified subthemes is described below:

- **Evolution of LGBTQ Enclaves and Development of New Neighborhoods (1960s to 1980s)**

SoMa's Leather community has been credited with influencing the Leather culture globally, with the Eagle long-serving as an anchor to this scene. The SoMa neighborhood has a robust Leather history which can be traced back to the 1960s. During this time the neighborhood was characterized by a mix of large industrial sites, junkyards and vacant buildings.<sup>10</sup> The post-World War II SoMa Demographic was largely single male workers of various ethnicities with blue-collar jobs. Based on SoMa's largely low income demographic, the neighborhood was targeted by the City's Redevelopment Agency, whose efforts included eminent domain, demolition of dozens of residential hotels, and evictions.<sup>11</sup> During this transitional period, the burgeoning Leather community took foothold in the neighborhood, taking advantage of the cheap rents and nocturnal privacy which was SoMa offered.<sup>12</sup>

Leather culture began as a statement against effeminate stereotypes often associated with male homosexuals. While its origins can be traced back nationally about two decades prior, there wasn't much of a scene in San Francisco until the 1960s. Though a small handful of bars catering to the leather community, as well as gay motorcycle clubs, existed in the city prior, the Tool Box (non-extant) at 399 Fourth Street at Harrison opened in 1962, and is generally credited as SoMa's first Leather bar.<sup>13</sup> Other gay bars, concentrated along a three-block strip of Folsom Street including Febe's, the Stud, and the Ramrod (all non-extant) opened during the 1960s thus furthering the neighborhood as a LGBTQ/Leather enclave. The proliferation of leather bars continued through the late 1970s, expanding to surrounding streets, and thus further defining SoMa's robust Leather community.<sup>14</sup> Beyond bars, a variety of other assets catering to the growing SoMa Leather/LGBTQ community including publishing organizations, restaurants, nightlife venues, homophile organizations, bath houses, and more grew and flourished.<sup>15</sup> SoMa expanded quickly as a sexual center for gay men and acquired new nicknames such as The Miracle Mile and Valley of the Kings. In 1970, there were nearly twenty gay bars and bathhouses, Leather and non-Leather, in the neighborhood; by 1980, the introduction of discos and the expansion of gay bars and bathhouses brought the total close to forty.<sup>16</sup>

However, a variety of factors led the number of SoMa's LGBTQ associated businesses to significantly plummet. In the 1970's redevelopment and demolition led to many of the neighborhood's bars and sex clubs to relocate.<sup>17</sup> The onset of AIDS in the 1980s led to further closure of bathhouses and sex clubs, as such venues were targeted out of fear and panic surrounding the spreading of AIDS.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Graves and Watson, *SF LGBTQ context statement*, 164.

<sup>11</sup> Page and Turnbull, Inc., *South of Market Area, Historic Context Statement*, June 2009, page 5.

<sup>12</sup> Rubin, "The Miracle Mile," 251.

<sup>13</sup> Graves and Watson, *SF LGBTQ context statement*, page 248.

<sup>14</sup> Western SOMA Citizens Planning Taskforce. *Recognizing, Protecting and Memorializing South of Market LGBTQ Social Heritage Neighborhood Resources*, 2011, pages 3-4.

<sup>15</sup> Shayne E. Watson, *Historic Resources Evaluation, 280-282 7<sup>th</sup> Street*, July 2017, 49.

<sup>16</sup> Graves and Watson, *SF LGBTQ Context Statement*, page 165.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

The Eagle is the longest running extant SoMa Leather/LGBTQ venue. While other Leather bars existed prior, very few lasted more than 11-12 years, only a fraction of the time in comparison to the Eagle's 40 years of existence.<sup>19</sup> Also notable as a long running extant SoMa venue is the Powerhouse (1347 Folsom Street), which opened in 1985, though other LGBTQ/Leather bars existed at its site dating back to 1971.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison St.) opened in 1989, seven years after the Eagle, and remains open.<sup>21</sup> In summary the Eagle is the longest operating extant SoMa Leather/LGBTQ space, even pre-dating most of the Castro's LGBTQ bars.<sup>22</sup>

The Eagle's rise to prominence can be partially credited to the closings of other SoMa bars which anchored the scene in the 1980s. Particularly notable was Febe's, which closed in 1986. Motorcycle clubs which were strongly associated with gay male Leather culture, frequently utilized Febe's and other contemporary bars such as the Ramrod (which also closed in 1986). The closing of these establishments led to a steady stream of regulars looking to patronize other venues, many of whom migrated to the Eagle.<sup>23</sup> Along with the clubs came their traditions. Motorcycle club members would park their bikes



Above: Venue artwork. Once affixed to the back of the indoor stage, the piece remains at the patio bar.

Image Source: Planning Department Staff, 2021

Below: 1988 Bike Blessings on 12<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the Eagle.

Photo Credit: Mr. Marcus.

<sup>19</sup> Goldfarb interview.

<sup>20</sup> Watson, *Historic Resources Evaluation, 280-282 7<sup>th</sup> Street*, page 58.

<sup>21</sup> Cal Callahan, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 11, 2021.

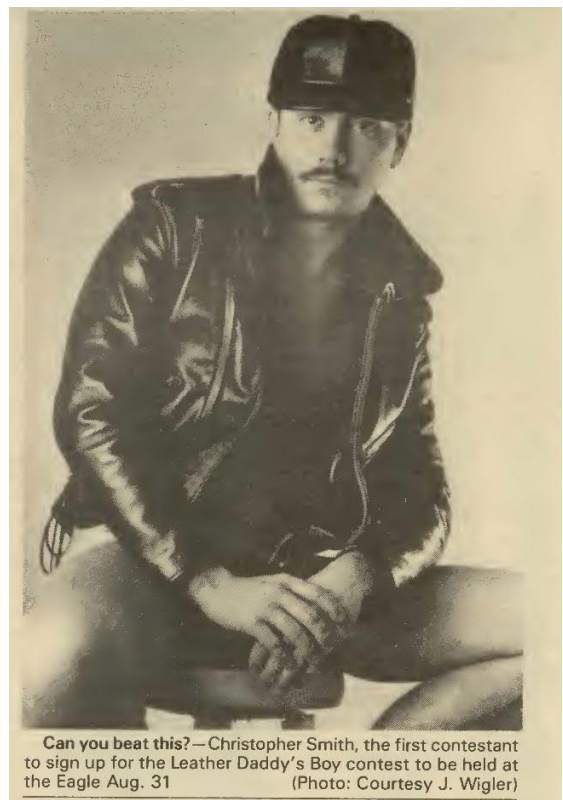
<sup>22</sup> Early extant Castro Bars include The Mint (1968), Twin Peaks Tavern (1973), Moby Dick (1979), The Pilsner Inn (1980), Midnight Sun (1981). (<http://www.sfgayhistory.com/neighborhoods/castro/castro-gay-bars/>. Accessed May 9, 2021).

<sup>23</sup> Gayle Rubin, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 26, 2021.

outside on 12<sup>th</sup> Street for recurring “bike blessings”, some of which were undertaken by priests.<sup>24</sup> Similarly “bike christenings” included new bikes being named with a bottle of champagne broken over the bike, and in some cases a ride through the patio and main bar.<sup>25</sup> The Eagle further branded itself as a Motorcycle Club venue through the collection of Motorcycle Club insignia, badges, pins and patches which were framed and displayed on the wall of the back bar. An additional row of framed patches was also mounted above the passage between the patio and the indoor bar. These collections remained through Gardiner and Bank’s ownership of the venue, though have since been removed.<sup>26</sup>

Pursuant to a building permit history search, expansion to include the patio commenced in 1983, just two years after the Eagle opened. The patio is believed to be one of the largest outdoor patios in San Francisco<sup>27</sup>, serving as a social space for a countless number of events that have contributed to the Eagle’s important role as a de-facto SoMa LGBTQ/Leather community center. The patio is open air, yet enclosed on all sides, including by a solid wooden fence along the eastern property line. The patio space has offered privacy from the outside world, while helping to create an ambience that has lended to popularity of Eagle, attracting both regular patrons and international tourists. The sheer capacity of the patio has helped support large fundraising events, such as the long-running Sunday Beer Busts, which have raised millions of dollars over the course of decades for charities related to AIDS and other causes. The trough urinal, accessible from the patio was also built around the same time, further contributing to the unique character of the Eagle as a gay venue.<sup>28</sup> The patio has also long provided a space for Cigar Clubs to gather, something that few other San Francisco venues offer.<sup>29</sup>

Since its early days, the Eagle has been known for its leather contests. Daddy Alan Selby, founder of Mr. S Leather, an important manufacturer and retailer of leather products, started the “Leather Daddy” and “Leather Daddy’s Boy” contests, which continued well into the late 2000s. In 1982, Chris Winkler was selected as the first Mr. SF Eagle; and became the first International Mr. Leather runner up.<sup>30</sup> The Mr. San



1986 Leather Daddy Boy Contestant. Image Source: Bay Area Reporter August 21, 1986.

<sup>24</sup> Kenyon Interview.

<sup>25</sup> Gary Kenyon, *SF Eagle History*, page 11.

<sup>26</sup> Rubin Interview.

<sup>27</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*. April 5, 2017, page 6.

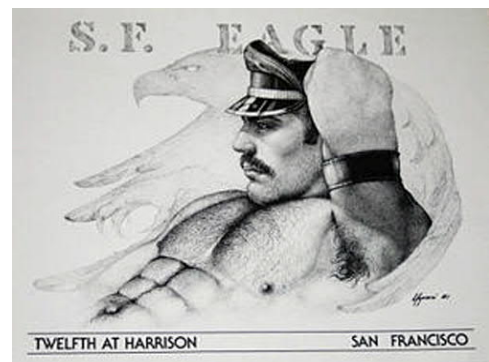
<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Montiel Interview.

<sup>30</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, “A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle,” 1980-2005.

Francisco Leather contest was also held on the bar's patio<sup>31</sup>In 1992, Lenny Broberg, (title holder of both Mr. Eagle Leather and Mr. SF Leather) became the first Mr. Eagle to win the International Mr. Leather title.<sup>32</sup> Another long-running charitable event dating back to the Eagle's early days is the *Golden Dildeaux Awards*, a contest consisting of hysterical X-rated comedy.<sup>33</sup> Albeit being digital the last two years, the Golden Dildeaux Awards remain held at the Eagle most years as fundraising endeavors.<sup>34</sup>

From drawing, paintings, and photography, visual arts have played a critical role in further defining and branding the Leather aesthetic. Since its early days the Eagle has showcased work by prominent artists within the scene. During its opening year, 1981, the venue held its first art exhibit spotlighting the work of internationally recognized gay lifestyle artist Robert Uyvari. In 1982 well known leather-themed photographer Jim Wigler held his first exhibition at the venue and the Eagle continued to showcase his work afterwards.<sup>35</sup> Charcoal artist Fred Linde's work was displayed in 1982, homoerotic drawer Clark Kummel's work in 1983, and Dick Wheeler (oil) and Ed Burns (graphite) in 1984. In 1985 Tom of Finland, arguably the most renowned homoerotic artist of the 1980's attended a SF AIDS fundraiser where his work was displayed, signed and auctioned.<sup>36</sup> Tom of Finland also returned in 1988 for a leather auction and Beer Bust benefitting the Tom of Finland Foundation, which included a display of his work and book signing.<sup>37</sup> Throughout the remainder of the decade other featured artists included Leather-culture photographer Bill Bowers (1987), Bay Area Reporter cartoonist Fran Frisch (1989) and another exhibit



Above: 1981 Poster by Robert Uyvari.

Image Credit : The Gay Highwaymen.

Below: Clark Kummel's artwork displayed to kick off the Eagle's second Anniversary Week. Image

Credit : The Bay Area Reporter, April 7, 1983.

<sup>31</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*, page 3.

<sup>32</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>33</sup> Gary Kenyon, *SF Eagle History*, page 9.

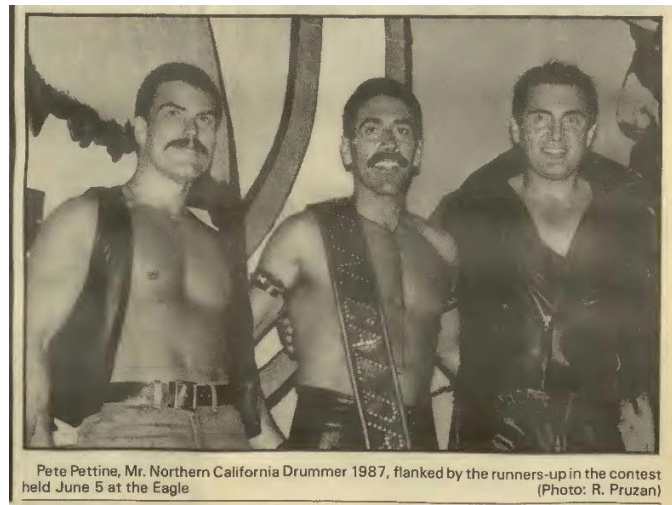
<sup>34</sup> Callahan Interview.

<sup>35</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

of Jim Wigler's photography (1989).<sup>38</sup> According to Gayle Rubin, other U.S. Cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, had larger Leather scenes, though generally more dispersed compared to San Francisco's scene. The City's unique concentration of Leather institutions, and highly visible street presence led to its notoriety. Additionally, the global attention which San Francisco's Leather scene gained can be partially credited to Drummer Magazine, which moved from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 1977. Drummer, with an international readership, featured local people, bars, and dungeons, including the Eagle. Thus, through being featured in Drummer magazine, the Eagle and the rest of the SoMa Leather scene were put in the international spotlight. In addition to publishing the magazine, Drummer hosted the Mr. Drummer contest. At least two Mr. Northern California Drummer contests were held on 12<sup>th</sup> Street in front of the bar.<sup>39</sup>



1987 Mr. Northern California Drummer Contest at the Eagle.  
Image Credit : The Bay Area Reporter, June 11, 1987.

Annual street festivals have long celebrated the neighborhood's rich Leather heritage while attracting thousands of visitors. Folsom Street Fair began in 1984 originally as a political statement against redevelopment, providing a collective voice amongst SoMa's diverse residents.<sup>40</sup> While not originally a Leather event, the neighborhood's robust Leather community had a strong early presence, and subsequently helped grow the Fair into one of the world's best known events celebrating BDSM and Leather Culture. In 1985 Eagle employee and International Mr. Leather 1985 Patrick Toner began the Up Your Alley Fair, sometimes called Dore Alley Fair, specifically as a charity benefitting AIDS organizations.<sup>41</sup> Originally located on Ringold Alley, this fair was moved to Dore Alley between Harrison and Folsom Streets in 1987.<sup>42</sup> Both festivals are now run by the same non-profit organization, Folsom Street Events.

While not located on Folsom Street, the Eagle has long served as a venue for Folsom Street Fair related events. Kicking off Leather Week, the week preceding the Folsom Street Fair, is the Leather Walk, a charity event. As a fundraiser for the AIDS Emergency Relief Fund (AEF), the Leather Walk was founded in 1992 by Art Tomaszewski, former AEF Board President, Bare Chest Calendar Man and former Mr. Headquarters Leather. The Eagle serves as the terminus for the walk which begins in the Castro and ends at the Eagle for the raising of the Leather flag and Beer Bust. At its peak years, the Leather Walk raised

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Gary Kenyon, SF Eagle History, page 9.

<sup>40</sup> Rubin, "The Miracle Mile," 268.

<sup>41</sup> Peter Fiske, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 30, 2021.

<sup>42</sup> Rubin, "The Miracle Mile," 268.

around \$20,000 for AEF.<sup>43</sup> Throughout the remainder of Leather Week, the Eagle generally hosts evening events not directly associated with the Fair, but taking place because of the Fair. Naturally the Eagle has been a popular venue for Fair participants, generally with a long line outside for those who want to continue the celebration as the fair is ending.<sup>44</sup> The Eagle also frequently serves as the venue for the Folsom Street Fair check beneficiaries' presentation, a celebratory post-Folsom Street Fair Event taking place on the Eagle's outdoor stage patio, with charity organizations receiving the checks from donations raised by the Fair.<sup>45</sup>



Leather Walk 2002. Photo Credit: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

- **Gay Liberation, Pride, and Politics (1960s to 1990s)**

San Francisco, as a LGBT mecca, has long been a hotspot for activism to advance gay liberation, often receiving national and global attention. Bars and nightlife establishments have played important roles not just as social hubs, but as community organizing spaces to build awareness and support for political activities which have advanced LGBTQ equality. The Eagle's prime SoMa location, its gracious indoor and outdoor spaces with stages to support large crowds, and engaged/involved staff have all contributed to its use as a community organizing space. Politicians were known to campaign at the Eagle's popular events, such as Sunday Beer Busts, in order to gain support amongst gay voters.<sup>46</sup> Notable events with political associations that have occurred at the Eagle have included:

- 1983 - Beer Bust to raise funds for the documentary "Out of Order: the Times of Harvey Milk," which later becomes "The Times of Harvey Milk" which won an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 1985.<sup>47</sup>
- 1984 – The Eagle's owner signed a joint statement in CA Superior Court in regards to the lawsuit challenging the closure of the bath houses: "The city's action is not only unwarranted, and unlikely to reduce the risk or the spread of AIDS, but will establish a dangerous precedent for government's authority to regulate the constitutionally-protected activities of all citizens."<sup>48</sup>
- 1986 - The Eagle hosts a fundraiser for Pat Norman, the first African-American lesbian to run for San

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<sup>43</sup> GayTravel4U, "San Francisco Leather Walk 2021," Accessed April 8, 2021 via <https://www.gaytravel4u.com/event/san-francisco-leather-walk/>.

<sup>44</sup> Callahan Interview.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Fiske Interview.

<sup>47</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

Francisco Board of Supervisors, raising \$1,500.<sup>49</sup>

- o 1987 - The Eagle hosted a fundraiser for Harry Britt's congressional campaign. Britt was an openly gay politician, first appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 1979 succeeding Harvey Milk, and continued through much of the 1980s. He initially introduced domestic partnership legislation in 1982 (vetoed by Mayor Feinstein), though similar legislation was passed in 1989 under Britt's leadership which was signed by Mayor Art Agnos.
- o 1989 - Local S and M group hosts a Flog-a-Thon at the Eagle to support Harvey Gantt's United States Senate Campaign. Gantt was running against anti-gay Senator Jessie Helm.<sup>50</sup>

The Eagle has also had a presence at San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade since the 1980s with manager Terry Thompson's romantic partner Stephen Blair designing the venue's parade floats. Bar employees and patrons, as well as visiting Leather title holders would ride in the floats.<sup>51</sup> Additionally the San Francisco Leather Pride Contingent, dating to at least 1999, has held organizing meetings at the Eagle since 2010. This contingent has served as the locus of Leather in the Pride Parade, bringing together various Leather groups to march together under a single entity. Included in their Pride Parade planning efforts is the selection of Leather Marshalls, also taking place on the Eagle Patio. Also included in this contingent is the San Francisco Chapter of Breeches and Leather Uniform Fanclub (BLUF), a group of Leathermen who strictly meet in full leather, and also use the Eagle for their meetings.<sup>52</sup> The SF Pride Committee has also utilized the venue for the meeting space, to discuss how to make the Pride Parade more welcoming to the Leather, kink, sex, and bear communities.<sup>53</sup>

The Eagle has also provided a venue for "Non-Violence Trainings" which have been required for participants affiliated with the Eagle's presence at public events such as SF Pride, as well as 2009 Proposition 8 protests. These trainings have included 100-150 people.<sup>54</sup>

- **Building LGBTQ Communities (1960s to 1990s)**

While the Castro is often recognized as San Francisco's most iconic and internationally renowned gay neighborhood, SoMa has attracted and continues to retain an assemblage of gay social spaces often appealing to a slightly different demographic. While there is certainly crossover between the two neighborhoods, SoMa gay bars have often served a slightly older clientele offering more alternative and edgier nightlife options to what the Castro has generally provided.

The Eagle has served as home to a long list of different types of activities including live music, dance parties, comedy performances, fundraisers, political activism, community group meetings, art exhibitions, anniversary parties, weddings (once same-sex marriages were legalized), memorial services, and more. While gentrification has displaced many of SoMa's LGBTQ community who formerly worked and/or resided in the neighborhood, the Eagle continues to serve as a meeting space for the Leather and

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Rubin Interview.

<sup>51</sup> Gary Kenyon, SF Eagle History, page 10.

<sup>52</sup> Goldfarb Interview.

<sup>53</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>54</sup> Fiske Interview.



Leather adjacent community.<sup>55</sup> Due to the large diversity of activities taking place at the venue, the Eagle has served as a de-facto community center, well beyond the traditional role of a bar as social space simply to serve alcoholic beverages.

### *Sporting*

Throughout its history, the Eagle has sponsored numerous sporting-related events. In 1986, the Eagle's SF Gay Softball League was formed with bartenders, barbacks, and supporters. The next year the Eagle Softball team hosted all of the contestants for the International Ms. Leather competition for a fundraising Beer Bust. In 1986, the venue welcomed all of the athletes from the Gay Games after the closing ceremony. In 1993 a gathering of athletes participating in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay Open occurred at the venue, hosted in San Francisco by the Gay Tennis Federation. This is followed the next week by an Athletes Reception for the Second Annual Memorial Day Weekend Sports Festival. In 1994 at the San Francisco Gay Softball League end of year celebration, the Eagle won the True Spirit Awards.<sup>56</sup>



Team photo of the Eagle Team in 1988.  
Photo Credit: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

### *Music*

As a cornerstone of SoMa's LGBTQ community, the Eagle has long been a hub of activities which have helped to shape and define San Francisco's diverse queer culture. Many, though not all, of the events have been aligned with the Eagle's tradition of being a fundraising hub for various social causes. However, despite the Eagle's robust Leather and LGBTQ affiliation not all of the Eagle's events have been Leather-associated, nor have all of them been exclusively Queer. In 1999, when John Gardiner and Joe Banks took ownership of the Eagle certain changes were made to some of the long-standing weeknight events. This included beginning Thursday Night Live (TNL), a weekly live music night. TNL took the place of the weekly Bare Chest Calendar events, which then moved to the Powerhouse where it has remained.<sup>57</sup> The Eagle, relatively small for a music venue, offered an intimate and affordable space for more underground bands to perform. Often classified as "rock and roll", many of the bands who performed were not gay, and were generally outside of disco and electronic dance music genres which were more commonly featured at gay bars. The Eagle's shows were not well advertised, and beyond word-of-mouth, promotion was generally limited to streetlamp fliers around SoMa.<sup>58</sup> Regular TNL

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<sup>55</sup> Callahan Interview.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Larry Rich, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 19, 2021.

<sup>58</sup> John Ginoli, personal interview with Alex Westhoff, March 17, 2021.

clientele was mixed, and included both gays who attended other Eagle events, as well as straight patrons who appreciated the music and didn't mind being in a gay venue.<sup>59</sup> Notable bands included the San Francisco-based Pansy Division, who rose to prominence within the homocore/queercore genre, and performed at the Eagle at least ten times. While Pansy Division had existed prior, the Eagle was an ideal setting for their performances, given it was a gay venue although with a more alternative brand and clientele.<sup>60</sup>



Other well-known musicians have utilized the space, for live music or DJ gigs, from a variety of genres including rock, punk, industrial, electro and more. This includes Grant Hart (Hüsker Dü), Gary Floyd (the Dicks), Don Baird<sup>61</sup>, Book of Love, My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult, Casey Spooner (Fischer Spooner), Jake Shears (Scissor Sisters), Jello Biafra (Dead Kennedys), Douglas McCarthy (Nitzer Ebb), Al Jourgensen (Ministry), and others<sup>62</sup>.



#### *Stage Performances*

The Eagle has also served as a stand-up comedy venue with Wednesday nights as stand-up comedy nights for sometime.<sup>63</sup> Well known comedians who have performed there include Tom Ammiano (before he was a State

Above: Pansy Division performing at the Eagle, 2002. Jon Ginoli (singer, right), Chris Freeman (bassist, left) Photo Credit: Unknown.

Below: TNL crowd watching Pansy Division, 2006. Upon closing the Eagle in 2011, then owners Gardiner and Banks moved some of the quirky interior lighting features and artwork to adorn the interior of the Hole in the Wall where they took ownership of. Photo Credit: Unknown.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> SF Eagle Staff, *SF Eagle Entertainment Roster*, 2021.

<sup>63</sup> Montiel Interview.

Senator)<sup>64</sup>, lesbian comedian Karen Ripley for the first time in 1985<sup>65</sup>, and Margaret Cho. In 1989 The Eagle hosted a Connie Francis look alike competition with guest judge Connie Francis. The fundraiser raised \$5,000 for Project Open Hand.<sup>66</sup> Other performances have included the First Annual San Francisco Drag King Competition in 1994.<sup>67</sup> Held by Mr. Nancy Kravitz and Katherine Murty, the event was MC'd by Elvis Herselvis with judges including Club Confidential hosts Stafford and Jordy Jones.<sup>68</sup> The Eagle has also hosted benefits for the SF AIDS Foundation which have included appearances by Comedians Danny Williams and Monica Palacios.

#### *Community Event Space*

Countless groups have used the Eagle as a meeting space. The Eagle has helped foster inclusivity within the LGBTQ community, serving as a meeting spot for groups beyond organizations dominated by white gay men. Dykes on Bikes, San Francisco's lesbian motorcycle club has used the space as a meeting venue. More recently, Onyx, a West Coast based BIPOC Leather organization also started meeting at the Eagle. Furthermore, the Young Leatherman's Discussion Group hosts monthly educated workshops and discussions targeting a 40- year-old-and-under demographic, thus serving to help stabilize a younger Leather community contingent, highlighting the importance of educating new generations to continue the cultural traditions.<sup>69</sup> Additionally, the initial meetings for the recently established SoMa LEATHER and LGBTQ Cultural District were held at the venue.<sup>70</sup>

- **San Francisco and the AIDS Epidemic (1981 to 1990s)**

The AIDS epidemic represents a watershed period of evolution within San Francisco's LGBTQ community. During the height of the AIDS crisis, between 1981 and 1998, 22 Eagle employees as well as countless family and friends were lost to the disease.<sup>71</sup> The lack of Federal response to AIDS made the importance of grass roots organizing critical, and the Eagle served as an epicenter for AIDS related activism, with ongoing fundraising events continuing until today.<sup>72</sup> Through its weekly Beer Busts and other fundraising events, the venue's efforts have raised millions of dollars for charities including AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF), Godfather Service Fund, PAWS, Positive Resource Center (PRC), SF Aids Foundation, SF Pride, SF Leather Alliance, and many others.<sup>73</sup> Beginning in the 1980s and continuing through today, the venue has hosted over 2,000 Beer Busts and fundraisers.<sup>74</sup> In addition to fundraising and activism, the Eagle also served as a venue for AIDS victims' memorial services, in some cases including the victims' ashes being scattered onsite.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Kenyon Interview.

<sup>65</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Susan Stryker and Jim Van Buskirk, *Gay by the Bay* (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1996), 124.

<sup>68</sup> "San Francisco Drag King Contest," Accessed February 12, 2021 via <http://www.sfdragkingcontest.com/aboutus.php>.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Goldfarb Interview.

<sup>71</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*, page 2.

<sup>72</sup> Callahan Interview.

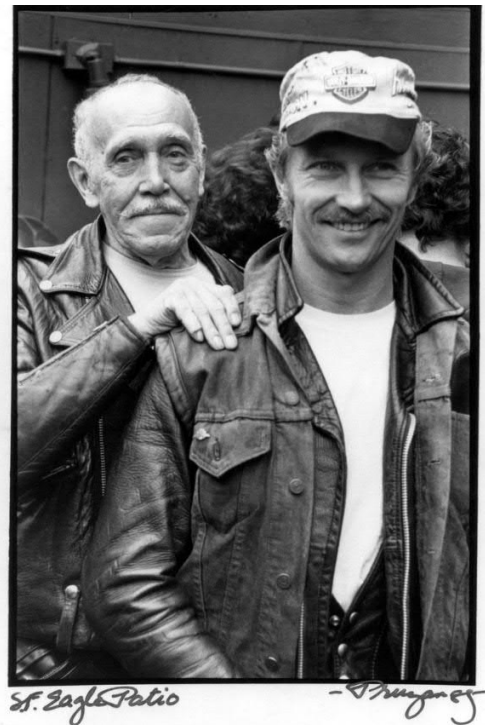
<sup>73</sup> Fiske Interview.

<sup>74</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

Previous bar manager Terry Thompson is credited for spearheading numerous fundraising events to help the rapidly growing number of AIDS patients. Terry created events that became classic fund-raisers in the SoMa bar scene including Halloween's "Leather and Feathers" costume contest the immensely popular Sunday fund-raising Beer Busts, and numerous others.<sup>76</sup> In 1985, Thompson reported "We have raised over \$100,000 at the Eagle for AIDS in the past few years and it has been raised because there has been no federal funding."<sup>77</sup> During the first 11 years of fundraising, over \$5 million for AIDS charities were raised.<sup>78</sup> AEF, originally known as the AIDS Fund and S.F. AIDS Fund, founded by Rick Booth and others, was a major beneficiary of many of the Eagle's events.<sup>79</sup> AEF provided financial assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS. AEF later merged with the PRC, which provided additional services largely for people living with HIV and AIDS. Thompson also did two AIDS fundraising street fairs, one in 1987 and one in 1988, both on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Harrison Street and Bernice Alley.<sup>80</sup>

Rita Rockett, a bar patron, was a good friend of staff member Dennis Yount, one of San Francisco's first AIDS victims. Upon visiting Dennis in the hospital Rita had the idea to host brunches at San Francisco General Hospital Ward 5A and 5B, the early 1980s AIDS wards, to boost patient morale.<sup>81</sup> The parties grew into "Rita's Sunday Brunches" and to help support these brunches, Rita would host Beer Bust fundraisers on the Eagle's patio which continued through the early 1990s.<sup>82</sup> Sunday Beer Busts remain as arguably the Eagle's best known recurring events, often raising thousands of dollars in just a few hours for charitable causes. While causes have largely been HIV/AIDS, other causes have included breast cancer, homelessness, and suicide prevention.<sup>83</sup>



Above: Renowned homoerotic artist Tom of Finland (left) & co-founder of Tom of Finland Co. Durk Dehner (right) on Eagle Patio at 1985 fundraiser.

Photo Credit: Robert Pruzan.

Below: 1985 Leather and Feather Contest. Image Source: Bay Area Reporter November 7, 1985.

<sup>76</sup> Gary Kenyon, SF Eagle History, page 6.

<sup>77</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

<sup>78</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*, page 18.

<sup>79</sup> Callahan Interview.

<sup>80</sup> Gary Kenyon, SF Eagle History, pages 6-7.

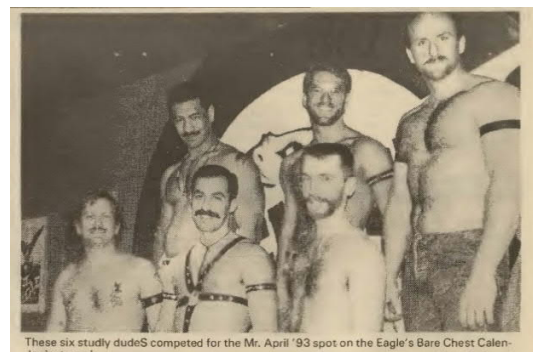
<sup>81</sup> Kenyon Interview.

<sup>82</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*, page 3.

<sup>83</sup> Callahan Interview.

The Bare Chest Calendar (BCC) is a well-known San Francisco-based annual AIDS charity fundraising effort, and has a strong association with the Eagle. The BCC began at the Arena (399 9<sup>th</sup> St.) as a promotional effort for one year until the venue closed. Thompson, then an Arena staff member, moved to manage the Eagle in 1985, taking the BCC along with him and developing it into a fundraiser for AEF. Contestants were required to compete in a weekly contest to be featured on the calendar. Contestants also participated in Dinner Date Auctions as an additional fundraiser, taking place at Sunday Beer Busts.<sup>84</sup> The BCC remained at the Eagle through 1999 until Gardiner and Banks took ownership of the venue, and began TNL in place. The BCC then moved to the Powerhouse, where Mr. Marcus continued to serve as MC until 2000.<sup>85</sup> However, the Eagle continued to support the BCC in other ways, including Beer Bust fundraisers. Over the BCC's lifetime it has raised approximately \$3 Million for HIV/AIDS charities, with recent years exceeding \$200,000 of fundraising annually.<sup>86</sup>

In observance of World's AIDS Day, on December 1, 2015, the National AIDS Memorial Grove awarded the entire San Francisco Leather community with the Thom Weyand Unsung Hero Award, for their response to HIV and AIDS. This award credited the community with their early and meaningful response to AIDS, establishing charitable organizations to help cover the victims living expenses, provide legal aid, and more.<sup>87</sup> The Eagle organized busses to take several hundred people to the Grove to celebrate the award. John B. Cunningham, the Executive Director of the Grove is quoted as<sup>88</sup>:



Above: 1985 Godfather's Day Beer Bust and Auction flier. Image Credit: Univ. of Southern California Libraries.

Below: April 1993 Bare Chest Calendar Contestants. Image Source: Bay Area Reporter, February 13, 1992.

<sup>84</sup> Goldfarb Interview.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> Rich Interview.

<sup>87</sup> Cision Distribution, "Surviving Voices: Enduring Stories Of Hope." Accessed April 5, 2021 via <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/surviving-voices-enduring-stories-of-hope-300186668.html>.

<sup>88</sup> Race Bannon, "Unsung Heroes: Leather Community Acknowledged on World AIDS Day". *Bay Area Reporter*, December 13, 2015.

"We were so honored to recognize the San Francisco leather community with the 2015 Thom Weyand Unsung Hero award. The Grove's mission is to ensure the lives of people who have died from AIDS are not forgotten and the story is known by future generations. The story of the leather community's response from day one in the face of such profound loss has been one of action, compassion and love, and will forever be a lesson for those who follow. The National AIDS Memorial strives to reach all who seek to heal and to be heard, and on World AIDS Day hundreds saw and listened to their story. On behalf of the National AIDS Memorial, congratulations and thank you for being a beacon of hope."

- **Recent Events (2000s to present)**

More recent events have also been identified as integral to the Eagle's unique cultural legacy. In 2013, after a decision was made to no longer display a Leather flag at the Castro MUNI station, a large metal flag pole with the Leather flag was installed at the patio.<sup>89</sup> More recently, the development of the world's first Leather-themed outdoor public plaza, the Eagle Plaza began. In conjunction with the construction of the development at 1532 Harrison Street, the city's In-Kind Agreement program was used to fund a plaza on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Harrison and Bernice Streets. This includes an 80' flag pole for the Leather Flag and Leather pride-themed crosswalks, installed in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Fundraising events, in many cases hosted by the Eagle, were a source of funds assisting with certain elements of the plaza.<sup>90</sup>

According to SoMA LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District Manager Cal Callahan, as of 2020, there were only around 14 SoMa businesses catering to Leather/LGBTQ Communities.<sup>91</sup> The Covid-19 global pandemic led to the loss of a few more, including the Stud, a long-running SoMa dance club. While the Eagle has been temporarily closed through the Covid-19 pandemic, per conversation with business owner Lex Montiel, the venue plans to reopen. However, given the Covid-19 pandemic represents a temporary break in the Eagle's operations, 2020 was identified as the POS end date.

### ***Criterion 2 - People***

The Eagle has long served as a social space for a countless number of historically significant individuals, collectively contributing to its unparalleled cultural importance for Leather and/or LGBTQ communities both locally and globally. The following individuals have been identified as significant to the Leather community<sup>92</sup>, and are specifically associated with the Eagle. This list is not intended as an exhaustive list of prominent figures within SoMa's Leather/LGBTQ history, but rather a list of those individuals whose historically significant work is closely tied to the Eagle. Many others have utilized the space in ways which have undoubtedly contributed to the Eagle's legacy, though may have stronger ties with other spaces, for which historical significance has or could be evaluated. Being listed below, however, is not to preclude other spaces from being evaluated for historical significance due to their associations with these individuals.

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<sup>89</sup> Fiske Interview.

<sup>90</sup> Goldfarb Interview.

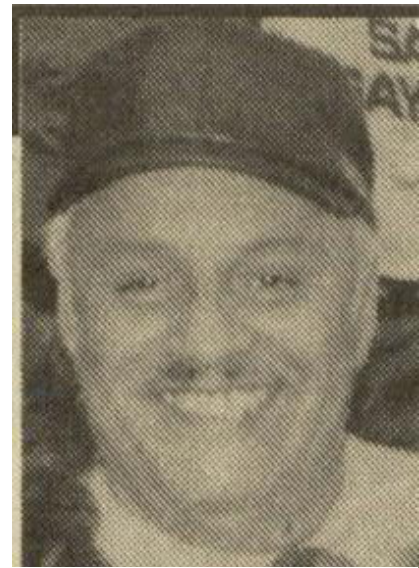
<sup>91</sup> Callahan Interview.

<sup>92</sup> Terry Thompson, Alan Selby and Marcus Hernandez are three of the twenty-eight people honored with bootprints along Ringold Alley between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. These bootprints were installed as part of the "Leather Memoir" project, which commemorates the area's history. Ringold Alley served as a late-night gay cruising spot prior to the onset of AIDS, and was the original location of the Up Your Alley Fair, beginning in 1985. <https://www.artandarchitecture-sf.com/ringold-alleys-leather-memoir.html>. Accessed May 7, 2021.

- **Marcus Hernandez (1932-2009)**

Marcus Hernandez, commonly known as Mr. Marcus, was a well-known Leather personality. Born in Los Angeles on March 22, 1932 as Gilbert Hernandez, Hernandez married Marian Givens in 1952, with whom he had four sons.<sup>93</sup> Hernandez moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles following his divorce in 1968, the same year he came out as homosexual.<sup>94</sup> Upon moving, Hernandez managed various San Francisco Leather bars for 12 years, and also served as the Appointment Secretary for then-Mayor Joseph Alioto circa early 1970's.<sup>95</sup>

Along with Terry Thompson, Marcus played a critical role in the success of early events and fundraisers which the Eagle became known for, including MCing all of the BCC contests (both while at the Eagle and later at the Powerhouse).<sup>96</sup> Also known as “Marcus the Merciless”, as he was notorious for posing probing, embarrassing questions to contestants.<sup>97</sup> Marcus is perhaps best known as Leather Columnist for the Bay Area Reporter, a position which he held for 38 years, starting in 1972. His columns were filled with details on Leather contests, as well as gossip, and he viewed his platform as an opportunity to educate the non-Leather LGBTQ community about Leather culture. His column was also used to bolster the visibility of non-profits, including AEF. Additionally a photographer, Marcus photographed Leather contests worldwide, and judged an estimated 250 contests.<sup>98</sup> Hernandez also contributed articles and photographs to Drummer Magazine, the Leather Journal, and other publications.<sup>99</sup> He was also involved with the Imperial Court of San Francisco<sup>100</sup>, one of the largest and oldest LGBT organizations in the world, and in 1972, while working for Mayor Alioto, he became the first Emperor of the Imperial Court.<sup>101</sup> Hernandez passed away on October 8, 2009, due to complications from diabetes and arteriosclerosis.



Thumbnail photo of Mr. Marcus from his Bay Area Reporter Column.

Image Source: Bay Area Reporter, September 12, 1985.

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<sup>93</sup> Online Archives of California, “Collection overview to the Marcus Hernandez (Mister Marcus) collection, 2011-03,” collection held by GLBT Historical Society. Accessed May 7, 2021 via <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8n01bzg/>.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Cynthia Laird, “B.A.R. leather columnist Marcus Hernandez dies”. *Bay Area Reporter*, October 9, 2009.

<sup>96</sup> Goldfarb Interview.

<sup>97</sup> Rich Interview.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Online Archives of California, “Collection overview to the Marcus Hernandez (Mister Marcus) collection, 2011-03,” collection held by GLBT Historical Society. Accessed May 7, 2021 via <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8n01bzg/>.

<sup>100</sup> The Imperial Court of San Francisco was established by José Julio Sarria in 1965. Sarria, a proud openly gay Latino and drag queen is an iconic figure in the early years of activism for LGBT civil rights, including being the first openly gay candidate for public office, co-founding the Society for Individual Rights, and co-founding the Tavern Guild. By 1995, there were 60 Imperial Courts and Empires throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. (<http://www.imperialcouncilsf.org/founder.html>. Accessed May 6, 2021).

<sup>101</sup> Online Archives of California, “Collection overview to the Marcus Hernandez (Mister Marcus) collection, 2011-03,” collection held by GLBT Historical Society. Accessed May 7, 2021 via <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8n01bzg/>.

- **Alan Selby (1929 – 2004)**

A well-known personality in the SoMa Leather scene, and often called “The Mayor of Folsom Street”, as well as “Daddy Alan”. Born in London, Selby served as a medic and nurse in World War II. After the War he became a gentleman’s clothier, at which point his interest and skills in leatherwork began to develop.<sup>102</sup> Cultural and fashion trends of London’s swinging sixties further inspired his professional interest in Leather. During this time period he also familiarized himself with the aesthetic of the homosexual fetish underground.<sup>103</sup>

In 1969 Selby made his first visit to San Francisco, where he had his first S/M experience and toured local Leather shops, piquing his interest in opening his own.<sup>104</sup> Upon returning to London he joined his first Leather club, called the Sixty-Nine Club of the United Kingdom where he met and befriended renowned homoerotic artist Tom of Finland.<sup>105</sup> Around this time he also met his lover Peter Jacklin, who was skilled in leathercraft.<sup>106</sup> While still in London, Selby and Jacklin established Leather Unlimited, a small factory and outlet.<sup>107</sup> He established connections in major cities like New York, and in 1972 worked with the owners of “Leather-n-Things” in San Francisco’s Castro District. For much of the 1970s, Selby traveled regularly between London and San Francisco, as well as numerous other world class cities for business.<sup>108</sup>



Above: Alan Selby commemorated on Ringold Alley’s Leather Memoir. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.

Below: Alan Selby at the Mr. S Leather store on 7<sup>th</sup> Street in San Francisco (circa 1980). Photograph by Alexander V. Areno.

<sup>102</sup> Online Archives of California, “Collection overview to the Alan Selby collection, 1999-63,” collection held by GLBT Historical Society. Accessed May 7, 2021 via <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8q81m0m/?query=alan+selby>.

<sup>103</sup> Leatherpedia, “Alan Selby.” Accessed May 7, 2021 via <http://www.leatherpedia.org/alan-selby/>.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Online Archives of California, “Collection overview to the Alan Selby collection, 1999-63,” collection held by GLBT Historical Society. Accessed May 7, 2021 via <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8q81m0m/?query=alan+selby>.

<sup>108</sup> Leatherpedia, “Alan Selby.” Accessed May 7, 2021 via <http://www.leatherpedia.org/alan-selby/>.



In 1979, Selby and Jacklin moved to San Francisco, bringing their business with them. On June 17, 1979, the first Mr. S Leather (“S” for Selby) opened on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. S. Leather remains open today as a well-known a retailer and manufacturer of bondage, fetish and sex gear, at 385 8<sup>th</sup> Street near Harrison Street. Mr. S. Leather also operated a store within the Eagle circa the late 1980’s – 1998.<sup>109</sup>

Jacklin became sick and died of AIDS in the 1980s. At this time, Selby shifted his focus to fighting AIDS and supporting its victims. Selby sold Mr. S Leather to community member Richard Hunter, and turned to fundraising and volunteer work.<sup>110</sup> Amongst Selby’s countless events at the Eagle were the "Leather Daddy" and "Leather Daddy's Boy" contests, which continued well into the late 2000s.<sup>111</sup> Many of his events served as fundraisers for AIDS-related charities and services, including AEF, for which he raised over one million dollars.<sup>112</sup> In addition to raising money, his events served to recirculate the local community’s “material culture”. As people died, their leather estates were often donated to Selby’s auctions which both helped to generate funds as well as find new homes. Some of his items were also donated to archival collections, including Gayle Rubin’s personal collection, the GLBT Historical Society, and the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago.<sup>113</sup> Additionally, Selby served as a long-term volunteer at the San Francisco General Hospital AIDS Ward, including providing patient massages, and also served on numerous boards including the Stop AIDS project.<sup>114</sup> At the age of 75, Selby died of complications from emphysema. Upon his 2004 passing, around 400 people gathered at the Eagle to celebrate his life.<sup>115</sup> Selby received numerous awards and honors throughout his life and posthumously, including the Steve Maidhof Award for National or International Work by the National Leather Association International in 1988, Man of the Year as part of the Pantheon of Leather Awards in 1989, the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the Pantheon Leather Awards in 2004, a 2013 Leather Hall of Fame Induction, and a 2019 GLBT Historical Society Museum Exhibition.<sup>116</sup>



California Assemblyman Mark Leno, right, presents a proclamation to the late Alan Selby on the occasion of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday gala held earlier this year in San Francisco, just one of many accolades Selby received during his lifetime.

Alan Selby, on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, receiving a proclamation from California Assemblyman Mark Leno.

Photo Credit: Bay Area Reporter May 6, 2004.

<sup>109</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, “A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle,” 1980-2005.

<sup>110</sup> Leatherpedia, “Alan Selby.” Accessed May 7, 2021 via <http://www.leatherpedia.org/alan-selby/>.

<sup>111</sup> Kenyon biography.

<sup>112</sup> Leatherpedia, “Alan Selby.” Accessed May 7, 2021 via <http://www.leatherpedia.org/alan-selby/>.

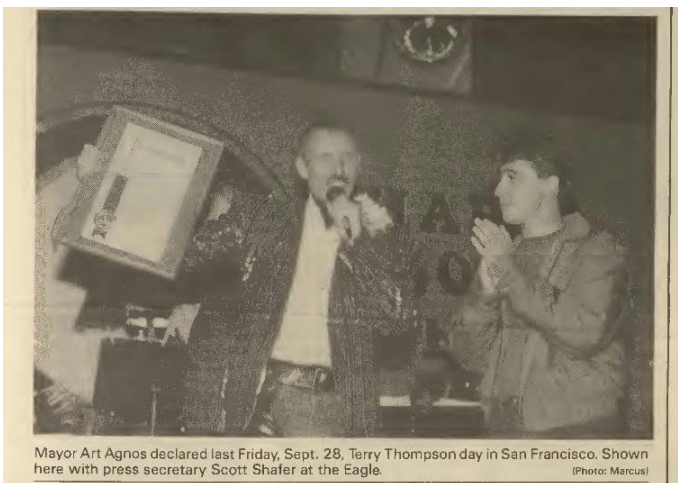
<sup>113</sup> Rubin Interview.

<sup>114</sup> Julian Guthrie, “Alan Selby -- Beloved Leader in Leather Community / 'Daddy Alan' is Remembered for Gregarious, Generous Spirit”. *San Francisco Gate*, May 11, 2004. Accessed May 8, 2021 via <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Alan-Selby-beloved-leader-in-leather-community-2780553.php>.

<sup>115</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, 1980-2005.

<sup>116</sup> Wikipedia, “Alan Selby.” Accessed May 7, 2021 via [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Selby](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Selby).

- **Terry Thompson (1940-1994)**  
Terry Thompson managed the Eagle from 1984-1994 and is widely credited as the driving force behind the venue's extensive fundraising efforts. To date these efforts have raised millions of dollars for AIDS-related, and other charities, including over \$5 Million during the 11 years of Thompson's management.<sup>117</sup> Prior to residing in San Francisco, Thompson lived in Los Angeles, serving as commander-in-chief of the Academy, an upscale gay restaurant, as well as a member of the Oedipus MC, a gay motorcycle club established in 1958. He moved to San Francisco to first manage bars, including the Arena, the home of the original BCC. While the then owner of the Arena conceived the idea of the BCC, Thompson brought the BCC with him to the Eagle the following year, after the Arena shut down, and transitioned it into the AIDS charity fundraiser which it remains today.<sup>118</sup> Other events which grew and flourished under Thompson's leadership included, Leathers and Feathers, Halloween's pumpkin-carving contest; the Easter Egg coloring contest; donations for lighting on the bar's Christmas tree; and Sunday Beer Busts.<sup>119</sup> Thompson also did two street fairs, in 1987 and 1988, on 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Harrison Street and Bernice Alley.<sup>120</sup> His strong public relation skills were credited as having lended to the success of the venue's events during this time period.<sup>121</sup> Thompson was the recipient of several awards and honors including 1985 and 1988 Gay Community Awards (Bar Manager of the Year), 1987 Citation of Community Service (John Molinari and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors), 1990 Declaration of "Terry Thompson Day" (by the Mayor of San Francisco Art Agnos), 1992 honor at Castro Lions Annual Anniversary, 1993 Cable Car Awards (Special Award), and 1994 AEF Awards Dinner (Zachary Long Hall of Fame Award).<sup>122</sup> Thompson passed away on November 5, 1994.



Above: Terry Thompson commemorated on Ringold Alley's Leather Memoir. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.

Below: 1990 Terry Thompson Day declaration.

Image Source: Bay Area Reporter, October 4, 1990.

<sup>117</sup> Gary Kenyon, SF Eagle History, page 6.

<sup>118</sup> Mr. Marcus, "Ode to a Fallen Brother", *Bay Area Reporter*, November 10, 1994.

<sup>119</sup> Kenyon, Eagle Biography.

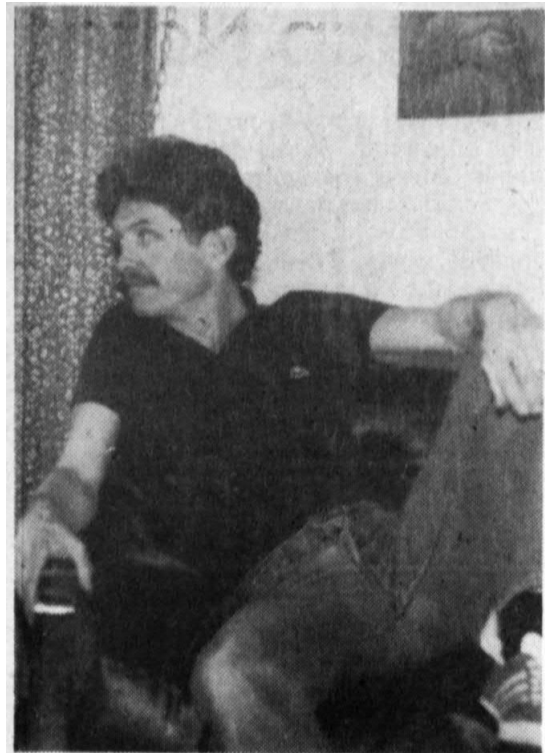
<sup>120</sup> Leon, Mike and Lex Montiel, *Legacy Business Registry (The Eagle) Application – Historical Narrative*, page 5.

<sup>121</sup> Mr. Marcus, "Ode to a Fallen Brother", *Bay Area Reporter*.

<sup>122</sup> Bay Area Reporter Digital Archives, "A Snapshot Timeline of the San Francisco Eagle," 1980-2005.

- **Robert Uyvari (1941-1986)**

Robert Uyvari, originally from Wisconsin, was a gay artist known for his homoerotic paintings and drawings, and whose work was distributed internationally. Uyvari's work included the cover art displayed in the Places of Interest Map Guide Book for three years, approximately 1980-1984.<sup>123</sup> He spent his time between San Francisco and Milwaukee from 1975-1984, and won numerous "Cable Car Awards" for his artwork while in San Francisco. The Eagle's first ever art exhibit, in 1981, spotlighted Uyvari's work. His work was also featured at the Arena, and he designed the Eagle graphic which was used on all T-shirts, as well as the iconic Eagle poster which was displayed in the bar.<sup>124</sup> The poster was also widely distributed, with thousands of copies mailed out throughout the world, thus helping to foster Leather culture internationally.<sup>125</sup> He also designed posters for other venues contemporary to this time period. Furthermore his work was featured at a number of Milwaukee gay bars over the years.<sup>126</sup> Additional work specific to Milwaukee included the design and construction supervision of the city's first large outdoor patio for a gay bar, the M&M club in 1980, and chief designer for Club 219 bar.<sup>127</sup> Uyvari died of AIDS in 1986, and was survived by his lover Ron, both parents, four brothers, and a sister. His wishes were for his ashes to be scattered over the San Francisco Bay. Years after his death his artwork continued to be auctioned at various AIDS fundraising events. Furthermore, his artwork remains associated with the Eagles's brand identity decades later, including continued occasional use on event promotional fliers.



Above: Robert Uyvari. Below: Promotional poster for 1993 Mr. S.F. Eagle contest (used after Uyvari's death). Images Source (both): History of Gay and Lesbian Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

<sup>123</sup> History of Gay and Lesbian Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, "Robert Anthony Uyvari." Accessed May 7, 2021 via [http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-u/uyvari\\_robert.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-u/uyvari_robert.htm).

<sup>124</sup> Kenyon interview.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> History of Gay and Lesbian Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, "Robert Anthony Uyvari." Accessed May 7, 2021 via [http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-u/uyvari\\_robert.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-u/uyvari_robert.htm).

### Property Description

The subject site lies on an approximately 5,153 square feet, irregularly shaped rectangular lot at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Streets with approximately 79.5 feet of street frontage along 12<sup>th</sup> Street, and 60.5 feet along Harrison Street. The property includes both indoor and outdoor components including the main corner building with indoor bar, stage, DJ booth, and an indoor/outdoor bar; a spacious patio with stage; and a rear building with an enclosed bar, walk-in cooler, and storage.

#### *Exterior*

The building is comprised of multiple structures with varying roof forms. The corner one-story building portion with gabled roof, which houses the front indoor bar space, includes a northeast facing primary elevation roughly 22' in length with three structural bays (12<sup>th</sup> Street elevation). The wood-framed building has no discernable architectural style and includes scored stucco cladding along the front façade. Façade ornamentation is relatively minimal, though a sinuously curved, darkly colored decorative stucco pattern projects along the front of the building from the ground level up to a few feet, wrapping into the recessed entryway. Front façade fenestration includes a segmented arched opening with a recessed primary entryway, solid double entry doors with a glazed transom, and a scored concrete step. Additional building fenestration to the right of the entryway consists of two slightly recessed fixed plate-glass wood-sash windows with arched stucco surrounds. The primary façade terminates in a cornice and a false front parapet that features a cartouche. Three flagholders with Leather flags are attached to the false parapet. Additional features include simple "398" address numbering directly above the front entryway.

The flat roofed portion of the building along 12<sup>th</sup> Street encloses the indoor/outdoor bar and is roughly 14.5 feet in length. This part of the building is fronted by a solid wooden fence with vertical planks. Fenestration is minimal, with the exception of a recessed egress door which serves to access the indoor/outdoor bar. The fence further extends approximately 43 more feet to enclose the rear patio. A set of recessed double doors lies midway along this portion of the fence, providing access to the patio. The Eagle's logo is painted to span the double doors and an artistic rendering of eagle wings in the Leather flag colors (white, blue, black, and red) is painted along the fence's exterior.

Along the secondary Harrison Street elevation, the main portion of the building extends nearly 47 feet and is clad in channel drop wood siding. The secondary façade is free from fenestration, and largely free from ornamentation with the exception of several metal flagholders, equi-distantly spaced just below the roofline. The asphalt-shingled front-facing gable roof, can be viewed from the side, which extends the depth of this portion of the building. The remainder of the side facade is clad with the same siding material, though flat-roofed and projects slightly south of the rest of the building.

#### *Interior*

Once inside the building at the primary bar space, to the left is a bar with three serving stations, extending about nine feet from the south wall. The remainder of this portion of the building is generally left open for socializing and watching performances, as well as space for a pool table which is frequently kept out. A vaulted ceiling defines this portion of the building. To the rear is the indoor stage, elevated a few feet above the ground, and measuring approximately 340 square feet. To the right of the stage is an enclosed wood-framed DJ booth with chain-link metal fencing material beginning midway up the booth's exterior on the south and east sides for viewing the stage and crowd. Additionally, smaller partitioned rooms within the main building include an ADA-accessible restroom, office, and utility room.

The northeastern portion of the main building includes the indoor/outdoor bar. The bar includes two serving stations, one which can be accessed from the inside, and the other from the outside via the patio. Above the outdoor portion are wooden fold-up panels which create an awning when open.

#### *Patio*

The outdoor open-air concrete patio is nearly 1,400 square feet, not including the stage, and largely kept open for socializing. A tall wooden gazebo roughly 10 x 25 feet is situated on the southern portion of the patio which provides relief from the sun, and includes wooden panels installed partway up along its four posts for holding drinks. An additional shade structure is draped between the gazebo and the main building. A porcelain trough functions as a shared urinal, and is around 6 feet long, attached to the southern wall and filling much of the small room it is located in which opens onto the patio. At the eastern edge of the patio, just south of the recessed doorway is a tall metal flagpole with the Leather flag. The interior of the fence facing the patio is adorned with painted wooden art pieces characteristically depicting men of the classic Leather aesthetic. The stage, elevated a few feet above grade, is roughly 450 square feet and located in the northeastern corner of the patio. A wooden bench lines the northern portion of the stage, to provide seating when the stage is not being used for an event.

#### *Rear Building*

An additional one-story building is sited at the lot's northwest corner. The building includes two rooms, with the northernmost room used for storage. The other room includes the third bar, open to the patio, with 3-4 serving stations, and a walk-in cooler. In front of the bar is an open area which has been used as a meeting space by a variety of community groups which utilize the venue.

### **Property History**

According to the Assessor's Report found in the Planning Department records, the subject property was erected in 1906. However previous Sanborn maps indicate prior development on-site. Specifically both the 1889 and 1899-1900 Sanborn map indicate four parcels roughly aligning with the one parcel that now includes the Eagle (bar and patio). This includes the corner parcel whose primary façade faces 12<sup>th</sup> Street, two additional 12<sup>th</sup> Street-oriented parcels to the northwest, and one Harrison Street-oriented parcel to the southwest. The corner parcel facing 12<sup>th</sup> Street included a two-story saloon with a store/grocery. The nearly square structure was roughly 45' x 50' with a shingle roof, a first story front façade roof overhang and a smaller second story roof overhang at the rear of the building's north façade over what appears to be a setback between the neighboring northwest property. According to the 1899-1900 Sanborn map the subject property's address was 346-350 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The two adjacent 12<sup>th</sup> St. facing parcels area also developed with 1-2 story structures, though the maps include no indication of their uses. The Harrison Street-facing parcel includes a one-story dwelling unit, addressed 1602 (1889) and 1608 (1899). A few small rear additions were made to the property between 1889 and 1899. No other details on the original structures' histories were uncovered, and likely they were destroyed in the 1906 Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fires given the devastating effects this disaster had on the SoMa neighborhood as well as other parts of the City.<sup>128</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Page and Turnbull, Inc., *South of Market Area, Historic Context Statement*, page 46.

The original 1906 building permit was not discovered after a search through the Department of Building Inspection's files, nor did staff research did not uncover any information about the builder from other sources such as the San Francisco Chronicle archives. The 1913 Sanborn map identifies three separate parcels facing 12<sup>th</sup> street on what is now one parcel (that includes the original building and the outdoor patio). The corner parcel, roughly 25' x 60' consists of a one story 12-foot building, now serving as the primary enclosed portion of the Eagle where the main bar lies, whose use is identified as "Saloon," with the address 350 12<sup>th</sup> St. The main portion of the building is roughly 25' in length along 12<sup>th</sup> Street and nearly 50 feet in depth along Harrison Street, matching the current dimensions. The remainder of the parcel, to the rear along Harrison street, is a separate one-story room, though joined with main building, enclosing the area the now includes the indoor stage. The adjacent northern parcel consists of a smaller one story 10' tall structure, used for storage, addressed 348A 12<sup>th</sup> St., and roughly 15' in length covering the full 12<sup>th</sup> Street frontage, though only approximately 25' in-depth. This is the area that now houses the indoor/outdoor bar. Its 12<sup>th</sup> street dimensions roughly align with the current dimensions, indicating this could be original. The third parcel in from the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Harrison Streets, the area now covering the Eagle's patio, is addressed 346-348 12<sup>th</sup> Street and appears to consist of a 1-story 12-foot building with a hipped roof, though no specific use is indicated.

The 1950 Sanborn map conveys fairly similar information for this property with a few changes. While the corner and northwest adjacent parcel appear to remain separate, the smaller structure on the adjacent parcel appears to now be attached to the main saloon. Furthermore the two structures now share an address of 388 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The third northwest parcel appears to remain developed, with the same building footprint as before, labeled A. & Stge. (Automobile and Storage per Sanborn Map acronyms), with an address of 386 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

The 1998 Sanborn maps identifies the site developed more closely to what it is today, including all three parcels now merged into one. The main enclosed bar structure remains, along with the attached rear and side rooms which previously existed, all similarly dimensioned to what was previously there. Three one story additions now appear including a side rectangular addition on twelve street and two non-street visible roughly square additions facing the interior, located in the general areas that are now used for restrooms/office space. The building which previously existed on what was the third northwest parcel from the corner (previously labeled A & Stge) was since demolished. In its place is the unenclosed area making up the Eagle Patio, labeled "parking".

Through City Directory searches of the various addresses amongst the few parcels which now make up the Eagle (bar and outdoor patio), staff research yielded limited information about past occupants. The space that is now the Eagle's patio, originally appears to have been used as the "Denver Horse Market" per a listing in the 1907 City Directory. No other information on specific occupants was yielded about this property. Circa 1910s-1920s, the corner property (now the enclosed portion of the Eagle Bar) was occupied by John Schwormstede. Earlier in his residency Schwormstede appears to have used the site for liquor retail, though liquor is no longer mentioned in the 1920s City Directory, likely due to prohibition. Circa 1930s-1940s the site was occupied by Walter and/or Elisha O'Leary, who also appear to have used it as a retail liquor space post-prohibition. Circa 1950s – mid-1970s the site appears to be the location of the Buzz's Shamrock Inn Tavern. From the late 1970s through 1980, prior to the 1981 establishment of the Eagle, the site appears to have been vacant. No historic photographs, interior or exterior, were uncovered through staff research, of the subject property prior to its use as the Eagle.

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### Interviews

Interviews were conducted by Planning Department Staff Member Alex Westhoff, as follows:

Lex Montiel (current SF Eagle Owner), March 10, 2021

Cal Callahan (SF LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District Manager), March 11, 2021

Bob Goldfarb (SF LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District President), March 12, 2021

Jon Ginoli (Pansy Division Lead Singer), March 17, 2021

Larry Rich (Bare Chest Calendar Big Daddy/CEO), March 19, 2021

Gary Kenyon (former SF Eagle Bartender), March 22, 2021

Gayle Rubin (Associate Professor of Anthropology, and Women's and Gender Studies University of Michigan/SOMA Historian), March 26, 2021

Peter Fiske (SF Leather Community Leader/Regular Eagle Patron), March 30, 2021

As interview follow-ups, Cal Callahan, Bob Goldfarb and Gayle Rubin reviewed the draft Fact Sheet for accuracy.

### Newspapers & Periodicals & Archival Research

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Photos  
Current/Recent

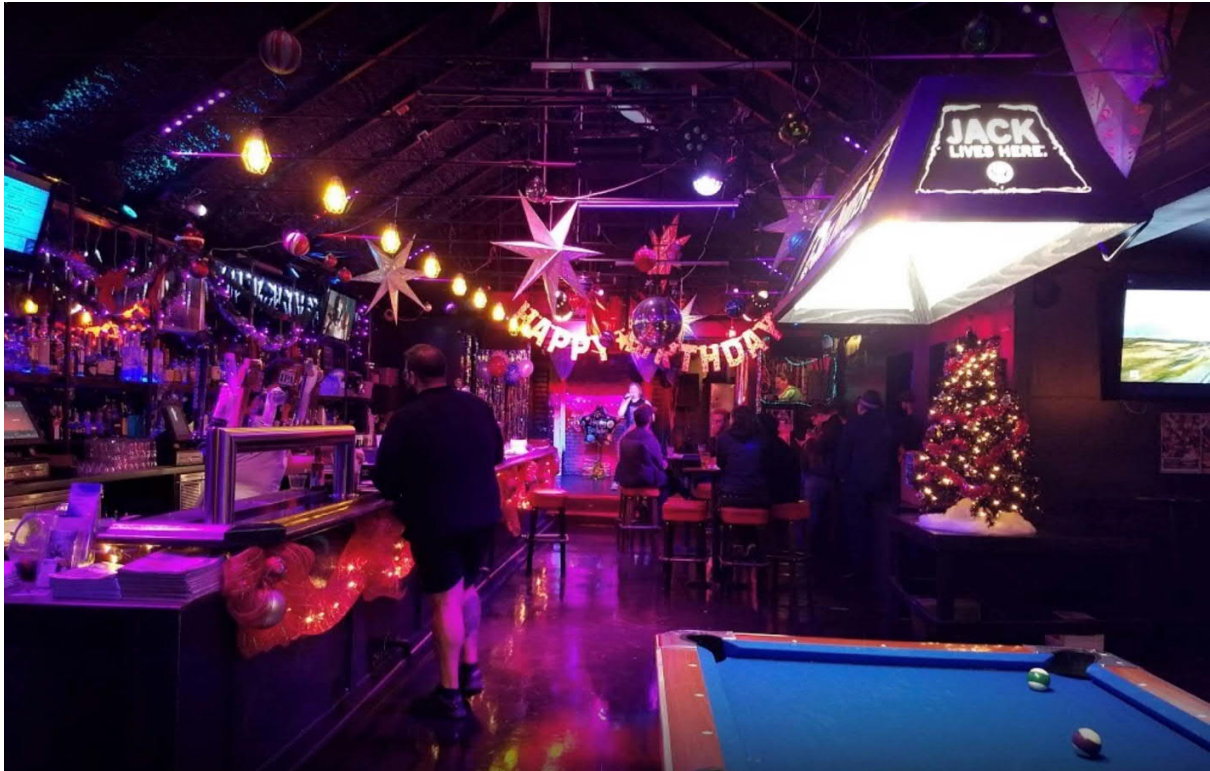


Top Left: 2014 Crowd on patio. Taken from outdoor stage with indoor/outdoor bar behind. Photo Credit: David Hyman.

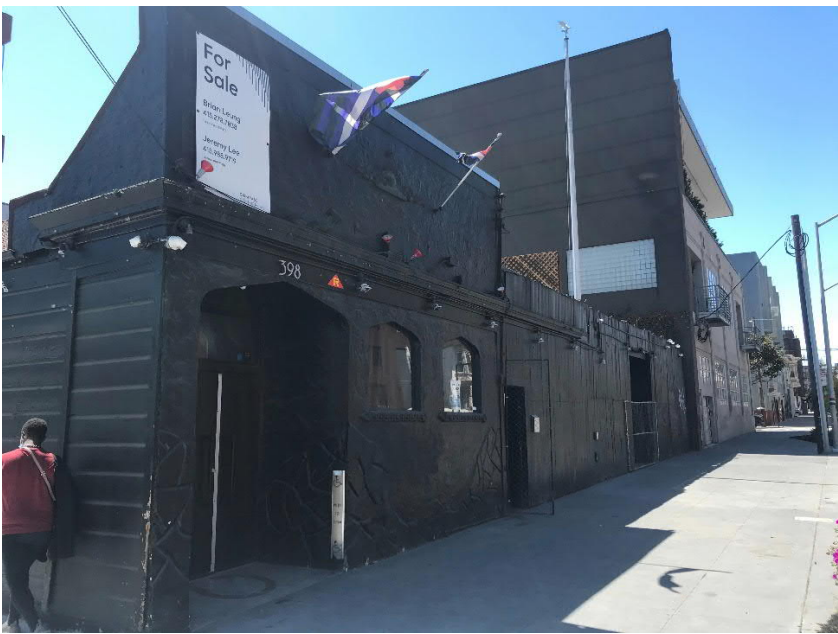
Top Right: Enclosed patio bar. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.

Bottom Left: Outdoor patio under existing gazebo. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.

Bottom Right: Shared porcelain trough, open to outdoor patio. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.



Above: Interior space with bar (left), stage (rear) and DJ booth (right rear). Photo Credit: Unknown (form Eagle's Website).  
Below: 2018 photo with indoor bar. Photo Credit: Rick Gerharter (Bay Area Reporter).



Current Exterior Photos. Photo Credit: Planning Department Staff.

Historic



Above: SF Eagle circa mid-1980's. Photo Credit: Allan Berube.

Below: The Eagle Tavern. Date unknown, though under the ownership of John Gardiner and Joe Banks (1998-2011). Photo Source: The Gay Highwaymen.

**From:** [peter fiske](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#); [peter fiske](#); [gayle rubin](#); [Robert Goldfarb](#)  
**Subject:** Written answers to survey questions Pls forward for Historical for May 19th meeting please pass to Historical Committee hearing 5/19/21  
**Date:** Monday, April 19, 2021 2:19:00 PM

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

Alex please forward to be entered in evidence for the 5/19 hearing. I cannot find an email address to sent this to you so please forward. Thank PF

My name is Peter Fiske & I have been a gay leatherperson for 57 years. I was elected to the Leather Hall of fame in 2017 & given the Leather Leadership award from creating Change Conference international LGBT Conference in 2019. I resided in SF from 1966 to 2011. I have also been given the Heritage of Pride Award by SF Pride in 2006 for over 15 years of outstanding service to the SF LGBT Community & in 2005 the Hank Cooke Award by Aids Emergency Fund.

1 My association with the SF Eagle. I knew The owner Bob Damron & manager Terry Thompson long before they opened the Bar in 1981. I have planned & managed charity events there ( hundreds) from 1982 to 2011 when I moved to Palm Springs. In 1982 wh HIV/AIDS hit us hard the SFstepped up with major money & support. It was/is Our leather Community Center. Leather & fetish people were not very welcome at LGBT resources & spaces. The Eagle has always welcomed us & all people!

2/ Why designate as landmark? In 1982 the SF Eagle decided to donated all the proceeds from Sunday beverage events to AIDS charities. Over \$35 million dollad as raised between 1982-2017 ( 35 years). These went to many vital services. The Eagle was where funerals, weddings, celebrations of life & other Community needs were addressed/. & where we could gather safely. The SF Eagle & Eagle Plaza are the heart of the SF Leather & South of Market Communities. Sylvester entertained there. as did many famous stars. Politicians campaigned there. It is already plainly a SF Historic Landmark of great importance & the designation will insure it remains intact for the Community & the City.

3/ Overview Assoc. with leather Community... It is our Community center. for over 40 years it has been home to the SF leather Community & welcoming to all. It has raised over \$35 million for charity.

5/ What is significant about Eagle. The SF Eagles Beer events every Sunday have been a Community tradition! I cannot overstate their importance of them to the Community. Dore Alley Fair was started by Patrick Toner in 1985 & soon combined with the Folsom Fire (founded 1984) to becme Folsom Events which brings major tourist income to the city & provides a gathering place for the Leather Community. I met my husband there in 1983 @ an Aids Emergency Fund event & I celebrated his life there in 1992. Without the funds from the SF Eagle the Aids Emergency Fund would not have existed. I served as a volunteer, Board member & President of AEF AEF celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2022 & has now combined with SF Aids foundation & PRC to better serve the Community. Every mayor from Dianne Feinstein on campaigned there. Harvey Milk called the Bar home.

6/ Signficent people Harvey Milk, Cleve Jones, Robert Mapplethorpe, Keith Haring, Sylvester, Donna sachel, Daddy Alan Selby, Gary Virginia and many others.

7/ is Eagle connected to other eagles? They do keep in touch. There are Eagles in DC, Atlanta, Chicago and Palm Springs. Several have closed.

8/ Did Eagle put scene on the world map? Yes! Leather contests & fund raising spread globally It was called the SF Model of Care. In 2016 the entire SF Leather Community & the SF Eagle were honored by The National Aids Memorial Grove for our response to HIV/AIDS. The Eagle organized free busses for 150 people to & from the Grove to attend the dinner & Wold Aids day Commemoration.

9/ Yes, the SF Eagle is a Community Center. Weddings, funerals, celebrations of Life...trainings for SF Pride for over 20 years. Act up non violence trainings in 1980s & 1990s. I was trained there for the 2014 sit down on Van Ness Ave after Prop 8 was ruled legal by Ca. Supreme Court. 250 were arrested & released, my self included.

10/ Venues age... Only leather venue as old as the Eagle is the Powerhouse opened in 1968 formerly the

No Name&the Bolt & the Brig. On Folsom betw. 9th & 10th.

11/ Significant features... LargeOutdoor patio with a stage. Inside stage for live music.SF Eagle staff & patrons helped with the design of Eagle Plaza & many serve on the Board of the Leather Cultural district. Summary I moved in SF in 1964 & stayed 47 years. I am still active in the SF & National leather Communities.I am a Stonewall veteran. The Stonewall Inn is a national Historic Place.In 2017 The Tower Hamlets in London designated Backstreet Leather/Fetish bar as a Historic landmark to save it from closure & development. Without this Landmark designation the SF Eagle is in danger being lost.Without the SF Eagle the Eagle Plaza loses it's significance. Without The Eagle Plaza & The SF Eagle the Heart of the Leather Community is destroyed! I urgently urge approval of the Historic Place designation so that another 40 years of SF Community & Leather History can be preserved & enjoyed. Thank you Peter Fiske .

**From:** [giselle p](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Case No. 2021-001853DES  
**Date:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:41:20 PM

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

Dear Mr. Westhoff,

I am writing to express my support for the designation of the SF Eagle as a historic landmark : Case No. 2021-001853DES.

As a lifetime resident of the Bay Area and having lived in San Francisco my entire adult life, as well as being a member of the kink community, the Eagle has always stood as a monument not only to the current leather and kink scene, but to the institutional memory and significance of the broader socio-cultural impact of SOMA and the city. Indeed, the Eagle has been at the epicenter of fundraising, arts, protest, and social coherence that have had an impact far beyond the patrons of the establishment.

Thank you for your time,

Giselle Paine



**From:** [Race Bannon](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** SF Eagle Historic Landmark Designation / Case No. 2021-001853DES  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 2:12:14 PM

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Dear Alex,

I am writing in support of Case No. 2021-001853DES, the designation of the San Francisco Eagle bar in South of Market to become a historic landmark.

The history of the bar, how vital it is to local LGBTQ culture, and the incredible amount of money raised for charity at the bar over the years are but some of the reasons designating it a historic landmark is appropriate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Race Bannon

[race@racebannon.com](mailto:race@racebannon.com)

Pronouns: he/him/his

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Check out my new book, [The Art of Self-Education: How to Get a Quality Education for Personal and Professional Success Without Formal Schooling](#)

**From:** [Peter Berman](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Eagle bar  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:50:53 PM

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

Dear Alex,

I am writing in support of Case No. 2021-001853DES, the designation of the San Francisco Eagle bar in South of Market to become a historic landmark.

The history of the bar, how vital it is to local LGBTQ culture, and the incredible amount of money raised for charity at the bar over the years are but some of the reasons designating it a historic landmark is appropriate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Pete Berman, MD

**From:** [Tristissima et alia](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** The SF Eagle (Case No. 2021-001853DES.)  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:02:33 PM

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

Hello, Alex. My legal name is Chris Hughes, and I would like to add my support to the designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar as a historical landmark.

I am beyond lucky, as a nonbinary person (now legally! yay California!) with a marginalized sexuality to have been born in the Bay Area. Of all of the major cities of the United States, San Francisco has historically led the nation as a center of LGBTQIA+ culture. I grew up knowing that I had a community and a people nearby, that I wasn't completely alone, and that **\*\*very literally\*\*** kept me alive through some of the hard times.

The SF Eagle is part and parcel of that knowing which has saved my life. It is an undeniable and visible reminder that I have a history. Its instantly recognizable facade, to this day, unknots the muscles in my shoulders when I see it and I pass it, comforting me with the idea that this is a place in which I am welcome.

Please help preserve that vital institution of San Francisco's respect for LGBTQIA+ and people with marginalized sexualities. It will literally save lives, and it will keep alive an important source of employment and site for networking for an economically disadvantaged community (as an example, last I knew 25% of nonbinary people were unemployed, and the median annual income of my community was \$30,000).

Thank you very much!

\*\*\*\*\*

Become my patron on Patreon (<https://www.patreon.com/queermythopoeia>) to support my RPG writing and streaming! Find me on all the social medias by means of my Linktree (<https://linktr.ee/queermythopoeia>)

Si uales, ualeo,

Christopher Douglas Salvatore Hughes..... Grok Amiri  
Princess Teacup.....Sertor Ualerium Tristissima Liber  
Staci Everheart.....Wizard Lizard  
et alia laughing and weeping.....Flurp  
Pope Uncommon the Dainty.....Skunkheart  
Dionysia Sacredmirror.....Kaleidoscope Eyes  
Darcy Marie Salvadora Hughes.....Merlin Monroe  
Gandalfina Ixtliyollotl Face-and-Heart

**From:** [Sumiko Saulson](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Referencing Case No. 2021-001853DES.  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 5:15:01 PM

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

Dear Mr. Westhoff,

I am writing to support the designating of The Eagle as an important cultural, historical, and community institution and in support of its historical preservation. Not only is it an important cultural institution in San Francisco's gay community, and leather community, but it is one of the few remaining live music venues of its size.

With so many important South of Market venues having been shut down due to a combination of the pandemic / shelter-in-place and real estate profiteering in the dotcom era, it is important to protect the community institutions ones we still have left. Over the past year, the South of Market Cultural District lost Slims, Brainwash, and The Stud. The Stud particularly hit home for the kinky and queer culture in the South of Market area.

I am proud to be a part of the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District in my role as the host of the Erotic Storytelling Hour. I am proud of the effort the LCD has made to be inclusive of all of the races, ethnicities, genders and sexualities that the South of Market Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District represents. I am excited about Eagle Plaza, and the spirit of that inclusion which it embraces and represents. That we are making a safer, greener, more lovely space for the community, which will be inviting to new people in our community and create safe spaces for existing community, is very laudable.

However, we do not seek to be gentrifiers. If we want to maintain a sense of history, culture, and authenticity then we absolutely must protect the Eagle and all that it stands for.

Around since 1981, The Eagle is San Francisco's oldest still existing leather bar. It is the oldest continuing LGBTQ space of any kind in South of Market. Although it was not the first leather bar in the area (the Stud opened in 1966) it has outlived the others. I say this with sadness, because I used to go to the Stud in the 80s, with my friend since high school, Michael McElhaney, who used to own it until a few years back. We have lost so much history already that I don't we think we can afford to lose anymore.

For those of us like myself, who are old enough to remember the HIV epidemic in the eighties, and at it's height in the early 90s before the cocktail, there are a lot of bitter sweet memories attached with the Eagle. There is an entire history of the LGBTQ and Leather community that is tied this era, and which should not be lost. It should neither

be glossed over, nor converted into things that memorialize it, but were not a living, breathing part of the experience - the way the Eagle, which lost 22 staff members to the virus - do.

The fact is that we cannot resurrect the part of the 60s queer culture and history that was removed from our City and painted from dark blue with rainbows and murals to the dullest tincture of pale conformity. when we lost The Stud. What we CAN do is to protect the Eagle, which still stands. The Eagle has been a part of the after Folsom Street Fair and after Dore Alley crowd forever. It's karaoke Mondays, and it's Disco Daddy parties, which I joyously attended with my equally queer compatriot, Natalya Fay, an out and proud lesbian (may she rest in peace) and Disco bear friend Marc Sanchez, while geared towards the gay male leather crowd, were always friendly to other visiting bits of queer wildlife from the local leather culture. But it is, first and foremost, a safe haven for gay leather culture and should be preserved as such.

Sincerely,

**Sumiko Saulson, author**

Writer of Dark Speculative Fiction

[www.SumikoSaulson.com](http://www.SumikoSaulson.com)

Pronouns: ze/hir/hirs

Sumiko Saulson is an award-winning author of Afrosurrealist and multicultural sci-fi and horror. Ze is the editor of the anthologies and collections *Black Magic Women*, *Scry of Lust*, *Black Celebration*, and *Wickedly Abled*. Ze is the winner of the 2016 HWA StokerCon "Scholarship from Hell", 2017 BCC Voice "Reframing the Other" contest, and 2018 AWW "Afrosurrealist Writer Award."

Ze has an AA in English from Berkeley City College, and writes a column called "Writing While Black" for a national Black Newspaper, the San Francisco BayView. Ze is the host of the SOMA Leather and LGBT Cultural District's "[Erotic Storytelling Hour](#)."



San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission  
ATTN: Diane Matsuda, President  
By email: [diane.matsuda@sfgov.org](mailto:diane.matsuda@sfgov.org)

May 17, 2021

Dear President Matsuda:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the GLBT Historical Society in strong support of the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the Landmark Designation of the San Francisco Eagle Bar, a legacy business that has been located at 396-398 12<sup>th</sup> Street since 1981.

An anchor institution for the LGBTQ & Leather Cultural District adjacent to the new Eagle Plaza, the San Francisco Eagle exemplifies the intent of the City's several groundbreaking efforts to preserve and protect the living culture of San Francisco, including the Legacy Business Program, the Cultural Districts Ordinance, and the San Francisco LGBTQ Cultural Heritage Strategy.

Currently, there are nearly 300 landmarked sites in San Francisco, and only 6 are associated with the LGBTQ community. With your support, the San Francisco Eagle will be the 7th LGBTQ landmark, the first in the South of Market, and the first with a Leather association.

We emphatically support the landmarking of the San Francisco Eagle based on its historic contributions to the city, and in the interest of a more equitable San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Beswick', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Terry Beswick  
Executive Director

[cc. commissions.secretary@sfgov.org](mailto:commissions.secretary@sfgov.org)  
[jonas.ionin@sfgov.org](mailto:jonas.ionin@sfgov.org)  
[alex.westhoff@sfgov.org](mailto:alex.westhoff@sfgov.org)  
[lex@thesfeagle.com](mailto:lex@thesfeagle.com)  
[honey.mahogany@sfgov.org](mailto:honey.mahogany@sfgov.org)

**From:** [TJ Smith](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Case No. 2021-001853DES  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:40:36 PM

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

Dear Alex,

I am writing in support of Case No. 2021-001853DES, the designation of the San Francisco Eagle bar in South of Market to become a historic landmark.

The history of the bar, how vital it is to local LGBTQ culture, and the incredible amount of money raised for charity at the bar over the years are but some of the reasons designating it a historic landmark is appropriate.

In addition, it has served the global LGBTQ community as meeting center, safehouse and destination over the last few decades. As a former resident, who now lives elsewhere I can attest that this institution has significance not only to locals, but to visitors alike.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.



**From:** [unson@aol.com](mailto:unson@aol.com)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Case No. 2021-001853DES, the dhistorical esignation of the San Francisco Eagle bar  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 2:58:12 PM

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

Dear Alex,

I am writing in support of Case No. 2021-001853DES, the designation of the San Francisco Eagle bar in South of Market to become a historic landmark.

The history of the bar, how vital it is to local LGBTQ culture, and the incredible amount of money raised for charity at the bar over the years are reason enough for designating it a historic landmark is appropriate. However, one really needs to also focus on its history and the truly unique role it played in helping the LGBTQ community overcome the AIDS crisis. We lost an entire generation of gay men to AIDS, those members of the community who would typically have grown up and taught our youth how to be upstanding leaders, the “men” of our community. The SF Eagle is the place we gathered to support each other through hard times , and to this day, it’s one of the few places where young members of the LGBTQ community can still gather with survivors of the AIDS crisis and learn about the history of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Paul Unson  
San Mateo

May 18, 2021

Historic Preservation Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in support of the SF Eagle's landmark designation. The Eagle has been a linchpin in the SOMA culture for many years and is an important partner for the LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District. Its famed Sunday Beer Bust is a stand-by for hundreds, if not thousands, of patrons every week. It is a priority destination for out-of-town visitors, as well as providing a fundraiser for dozens of local nonprofits every year.

It has been the home of countless live music shows, contests, and social events. It is more than a bar, more than a series of events, it is an institution of the gay community's culture. For many, the SF Eagle IS SOMA. Being granted historical landmark status would help ensure that this cornerstone of the community remains the resource it has been for so many years.

We strongly urge the passage of SF Eagle's landmark designation on behalf of the residents of SOMA, visitors to the District, and the neighboring businesses which benefit from the consistent influx of patrons. It is an extremely significant piece of our cultural heritage and an important factor in the vitality of the LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District.

Sincerely,



Bob Goldfarb  
President, LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District

**From:** [Ricardo Olguin](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** The Eagle Tavern  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 7:45:01 PM

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2021-001853DES

Alex, the eagle has been a home and refuge for those outcast from their families nationwide, worldwide and is an icon of leather and LGBT pride. Please allow it to become a historic landmark, I know the eagle was a place for me to come and express who I am and for so many others. Without a landmark we are at risk of it being taken away. This cannot happen and we must be known worldwide as the place where lgbt can come and feel at home, even more so in our amazing city.

Thank you,  
Rick olguin  
925-250-4151

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [Enchill, Charles \(CPC\)](#)  
**To:** [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Support of the Eagle Bar  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 6:27:26 AM

---

Hello Alex,

Forwarding the correspondence below regarding your landmark designation item.

Best,

**Charles Enchill, Preservation Planner**  
**Northeast Team / Current Planning Division**  
San Francisco Planning  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94103  
Direct: 628.652.7551 | [www.sfplanning.org](http://www.sfplanning.org)  
[San Francisco Property Information Map](#)

Due to COVID-19, San Francisco Planning is not providing any in-person services, but we are operating remotely. Our staff are [available by e-mail](#), and the Planning and Historic Preservation Commissions are convening remotely. The public is [encouraged to participate](#). Find more information on our services [here](#).

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**From:** Steve Gaynes <steve.gaynes@sflcd.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:30 PM  
**To:** Enchill, Charles (CPC) <charles.enchill@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Support of the Eagle Bar

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

I am writing this letter in support of the SF Eagles landmark status. I have been working in nonprofits in South of Market community for over 35 years and the Eagle has always been there to help all the nonprofits by supporting us with their beer bust. The Eagle has also been a very important gathering space at times of sadness for memorial services and times of great joy for weddings and it is where I met my husband over 30 years ago. I would appreciate the support for landmark status for the Eagle bar.

Steven Gaynes  
San Francisco Resident since 1985



101 West Hall

1085 South University Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1107  
ph: 734-764-7274  
fax: 734-763-6077  
May 19, 2021

Re: Eagle Landmark Designation

Historic Preservation Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my fervent support for the landmark designation of the SF Eagle. The Eagle has been a central institution of the LGBTQ and Leather communities for four decades. Since it opened in 1981, it has served as a social and political nexus for these populations, both across the Bay Area, but also particularly in the South of Market neighborhood. It has been a critical venue for fund raising, especially during the early period of the AIDS epidemic. It has hosted countless political campaigns, musical performances, and community meetings. Innumerable other events have taken place on its famed patio. The Eagle has been a draw for tourists, regularly welcoming visitors from all over the world: it has an international reputation. And it has been a geographic anchor that has helped the Leather and LGBTQ communities maintain their coherence, even during challenging periods.

When the SF Eagle first opened, the Leather and LGBTQ presence South of Market were extensive, and boasted dozens of important sites. But the Eagle has been the most durable and long lasting; it is now one of the handful of such businesses that remain. It is an essential site that helps these communities maintain their foothold in the neighborhood, and which keeps them vibrant and vital. I urge you to designate it as the landmark it so richly deserves to be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gayle Rubin'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gayle Rubin  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies