

1 [Endorsing Old Mint Grant Application.]

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3 **Resolution endorsing the application to the California Cultural and Historical**
4 **Endowment (CCHE) by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society for CCHE**
5 **Grant Funds to assist in the seismic retrofit of the historic Old Mint as a central part of**
6 **the effort to rehabilitate and restore the historic building and create therein a San**
7 **Francisco History Museum and supporting continued site control by the San Francisco**
8 **Museum and Historical Society of the Old Mint for such purposes.**

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10 WHEREAS, The Old Mint, located at 88 5th Street in San Francisco, dedicated in
11 1874, is one of the last major Greek Revival buildings in the country associated with federal
12 architecture, San Francisco's oldest stone structure, and was designated a National Historic
13 Landmark in 1961; and,

14 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is the owner of the Old Mint,
15 pursuant to the transfer of the title from the federal government and the execution of a
16 Programmatic Agreement under which conditions for the use of the building are carefully set
17 forth, chief among them being the necessity of providing substantial public access to the Old
18 Mint and rehabilitation of the building according to the Historic Preservation Standards of the
19 Secretary of the Interior as interpreted by the State Historic Preservation Officer; and,

20 WHEREAS, Following a competitive process conducted by the Mayor's Old Mint Task
21 Force which included substantial public input and professional expert advice, the Task Force
22 recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the proposal by the San Francisco Museum
23 and Historical Society (the "Society") to transform the Old Mint into a City History Museum be
24 accepted, and that the City enter into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement (ENA) with the
25 Society for a 66-year lease for the property; and,

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors endorsed the ENA process with the Society,
2 which entails the negotiating of lease terms and a development agreement which, among
3 other conditions, guarantees ongoing project maintenance, viable financing, public access,
4 compliance with the Secretary's Standards as determined by the State Historic Preservation
5 Officer and meeting all appropriate environmental regulations; and,

6 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Resolution No. 375-03, the Mayor and the Board of
7 Supervisors designated the Society as the organization to develop the official San Francisco
8 History Museum to tell the rich and diverse stories of all San Franciscans; and,

9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Museum and Historical Society Advisory Committee
10 (Sec. 2A. 166, San Francisco Administrative Code) has been established by the Mayor and
11 the Board of Supervisors to publicly discuss and make recommendations to the City on a
12 variety of issues regarding the establishment of a great San Francisco City History Museum,
13 including, among other issues, "strategies to promote citywide communication and partnership
14 between various local organizations that hold historical/cultural resources"; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Advisory Committee was appointed pursuant to City policy that the
16 members of all boards, commissions and committees be broadly representative of the
17 diversity in ethnicity, race, age and sexual orientation of the City and County and have
18 representation of both sexes; and,

19 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the various committees and
20 officials of the City and County of San Francisco who are charged with responsibilities
21 regarding the Old Mint History Museum project, and on behalf of the citizens of
22 San Francisco, has viewed approvingly the progress made by the Society to bring to this
23 ambitious project the funding it requires, from various public and private sources; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The Society has indicated that to date, the Society has raised or secured
2 some \$25 million for the Old Mint project, and has so far expended nearly \$2 million for
3 planning and design; and,

4 WHEREAS, It is clear that substantial funding will be required for the seismic retrofit
5 and preservation and adaptive re-use of this historic un-reinforced masonry building; and,

6 WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the California Clean
7 Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 which
8 provides funds to the State of California for the California Cultural and Historical Endowment
9 (CCHE) Grant Program; and,

10 WHEREAS, The CCHE has determined that, of the \$122 million in Proposition 40
11 funds available for the CCHE competitive grant program, \$35 million was obligated for funding
12 of the 1st cycle of the first round; of which \$2.887 million was awarded to the Society,
13 pursuant to an application supported by this Board (Resolution No. 551-04), to assist in the
14 design process for the Old Mint project; and,

15 WHEREAS, The Society indicates that it intends to apply for a \$3 million grant out of
16 the \$43 million available in the second round of CCHE funding, which, together with matching
17 funds, will substantially finance the necessary seismic retrofit; and,

18 WHEREAS, During the planning and analysis portions of the Old Mint project, the
19 Society has enjoyed control of the Old Mint site, under which it has conducted symposia and
20 other functions, and has made the building available to community and cultural groups for
21 similar purposes; and,

22 WHEREAS, The Old Mint project clearly falls within the purview of CCHE's charge to
23 provide grants for the restoration, preservation and interpretation of California's historical and
24 cultural resources; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the application by the
2 San Francisco Museum and Historical Society to the California Cultural and Historical
3 Endowment for a grant in the amount of \$3 million in its second round to assist in the seismic
4 retrofit of the historic Old Mint as a central part of the effort to rehabilitate and restore the
5 historic building to house a San Francisco City History Museum; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports continued site control
7 by the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society of the Old Mint for purposes of seismic
8 retrofiting; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the California Cultural and Historical Endowment is
10 respectfully urged to give this application its most serious consideration.

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