

1 [Commemorative Street Name Designation - "Ruth Asawa Plaza" - 1700 Block of Buchanan
2 Street]

3 **Resolution adding the commemorative street name "Ruth Asawa Plaza" to the 1700**
4 **block of Buchanan Street in recognition of artist Ruth Asawa.**

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6 WHEREAS, Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) was an artist, educator and community activist;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Asawa was born in Norwalk, California, moved to San Francisco in 1949
9 and spent most of her life in the City; and

10 WHEREAS, Beginning in the mid-1960s, Asawa received commissions to create public
11 sculptures and fountains, including many throughout the City; and

12 WHEREAS, Among her acclaimed works are fountains in Ghirardelli Square and
13 outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco, and the Japanese American Internment
14 Memorial in San Jose; and

15 WHEREAS, Asawa drew upon her life-long interest and experimentation with origami
16 to inspire her work, including *Aurora* and the *Origami Fountains* in Japantown; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1968, she became the first Asian American woman to join the San
18 Francisco Arts Commission, and later became the first Asian American woman to serve as a
19 trustee of the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco; and

20 WHEREAS, Asawa co-founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop in 1968 and was
21 instrumental in creating the first public arts high school in San Francisco in 1982, which was
22 renamed in her honor in 2010; and

23 WHEREAS, In August 2020, the United States Postal Services honored Ruth Asawa
24 by issuing a set of commemorative stamps featuring Asawa's wire sculptures, the first time
25 that a Japanese American's art is celebrated on a stamp; and

1 WHEREAS, In October 2021, Asawa was inducted into the California Hall of Fame,
2 located at the California Museum in Sacramento; and

3 WHEREAS, Asawa’s story is one tremendous perseverance -- she was, along with her
4 family and thousands of Japanese-Americans, sent to internment camps during WWII -- and
5 unending determination, raising six children in San Francisco while creating timeless works of
6 art; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That in order to celebrate the legacy and contributions of Ruth Asawa, the
8 San Francisco Public Works is directed to add the honorary street name “Ruth Asawa Plaza”
9 to its official list of Commemorative Street Names in accordance with 17 Public Works Code,
10 Section 789 et seq.

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