

1 [Accept and Expend Grant - State of California General Fund Grant - Improvements for
2 Japantown Peace Plaza, Buchanan Center Mall - \$5,000,000]

3 **Resolution approving the acceptance of \$5,000,000 of General Fund grant funds from**
4 **the State of California for the planning, design, and construction of physical**
5 **improvements and enhancements to the Japantown Peace Plaza at the Buchanan**
6 **Center Mall; making certain certifications required to receive the funds; authorizing**
7 **Public Works and other City departments to expend such funds for this project for the**
8 **period of October 2022 through March 2026; and affirming the Planning Department’s**
9 **determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

10

11 WHEREAS, On or about September 23, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom
12 approved the California Budget Act of 2021, which included an allocation of \$5,000,000 for
13 local assistance to the City and County of San Francisco (“Grantee” or “agency”) for the
14 planning, design, and construction of improvements to the Peace Plaza at Buchanan Mall
15 (“project”), a culturally significant public plaza in the heart of San Francisco’s Japantown
16 district; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Fund Specified Development and Acquisition Grant is
18 administered by the state of California’s Natural Resources Agency, which restores, protects
19 and manages the state’s natural, historical and cultural resources for current and future
20 generations by using creative approaches and solutions based on science, collaboration and
21 respect for all the communities and interests involved; and

22 WHEREAS, The project would focus on three main priorities: 1) enhancing accessibility
23 of the mall for seniors and people with disabilities and limited mobility, 2) rehabilitating the
24 existing Ruth Asawa fountains, and 3) supporting the business community by embellishing the

25

1 sense of cultural authenticity and enhancing the commercial edges of the mall; and

2 WHEREAS, Following Grantee’s completion of the planning, community outreach, and
3 design phases, the project may include repaving the side walkways, planting more trees,
4 landscaping with culturally relevant plants, and enhancing the existing historic public art,
5 including historic fountains, cobblestone river and the Torii gate, with new, complementary
6 public art; encouraging businesses to provide outdoor seating and displays along the
7 storefronts; and utilizing new energy- and water-efficient technologies to light the plaza and
8 maintain the fountains; and

9 WHEREAS, Grantee, acting by and through the Department of Public Works
10 (“Department”) and the Planning Department, has developed a project budget and has
11 reviewed the grant agreement provided by the California Natural Resources Agency (“Grant
12 Agreement”); and

13 WHEREAS, The project budget covered by the grant includes \$652,000 for Indirect
14 costs; and

15 WHEREAS, The Legislature and Governor of the State of California have approved a
16 grant for the project shown above; and

17 WHEREAS, The California Natural Resources Agency has been delegated the
18 responsibility for the administration of the grant project, setting up necessary procedures; and

19 WHEREAS, Said procedures established by the California Natural Resources Agency
20 require the Grantee to certify by resolution the approval of a Project Information Package
21 before submission of said package to the State; and

22 WHEREAS, The Grantee will enter into an agreement with the State of California for
23 the above project; and

24 WHEREAS, In Public Works Order No. 207042, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
25 Supervisors in File No. 221028, the Director of the Department stated it had reviewed the

1 project's Project Information Form, the Grant Agreement, and the California Natural
2 Resources Agency's Procedural Guide for General Fund Specified Development and
3 Acquisition Grant Projects ("Procedural Guide") (together the "Grant Documents," all on file
4 with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 221028); and

5 WHEREAS, As set forth in Public Works Order No. 207042, the Department has: 1)
6 recommended that the Board of Supervisors ("Board") approve the acceptance of a general
7 fund allocation for local assistance for the project; 2) certified that the Department
8 understands the assurances and certification in the Project Information Form; 3)
9 recommended that the Board certify that the City would have sufficient funds to develop,
10 operate, and maintain the project consistent with the land tenure requirements of the Grant
11 Agreement, or would secure the resources to do so; 4) recommended that the Board certify
12 that the City would comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the California Labor Code;
13 5) certified that the Department has reviewed and understands the General Provisions
14 contained in the sample Grant Agreement contained in the Procedural Guide; 6)
15 recommended that the Board certify that the project would comply with any laws and
16 regulation including, but not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"),
17 legal requirements for building codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws,
18 environmental laws and, that prior to commencement of construction, all applicable licenses
19 and permits will have been obtained; and 7) recommended that the Board appoint the
20 Department's project manager for the project as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute
21 and submit all documents including, but not limited to the Project Information Form,
22 agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the
23 aforementioned project; and

24 WHEREAS, In Public Works Order No. 207042, the Director of the Department
25 requested and recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve this resolution and

1 authorize the Department to enter into the Grant Agreement on behalf of the City, and to
2 authorize the Department and the Clerk of the Board to take further actions, as may be
3 deemed necessary by the California Natural Resources Agency before the Department or any
4 other City department may accept and expend the grant funds for the project; now, therefore
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, That San Francisco Public Works is hereby authorized to accept and
7 expend up to \$5,000,000 of General Fund Grant funds from the State of California for the
8 project described above; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby:

10 1. Accepts the recommendations, certifications, and determinations of the Department
11 as set forth in Public Works Order No. 207042 and adopts the Department's certifications and
12 determinations as its own; and

13 2. Certifies that said agency understands the assurances and certification in the
14 Project Information Form; and

15 3. Certifies that said agency will have sufficient funds to develop, operate and maintain
16 the project consistent with the land tenure requirements of the Grant Agreement; or will
17 secure the resources to do so; and

18 4. Certifies that said agency will comply with the provisions of Section 1771.5 of the
19 California Labor Code; and

20 5. Certifies that the project will comply with any laws and regulation including, but not
21 limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), legal requirements for building
22 codes, health and safety codes, disabled access laws, environmental laws and, that prior to
23 commencement of construction, all applicable licenses and permits will have been obtained;
24 and

25

1 6. Certifies that said agency has reviewed and understands the General Provisions
2 contained in the sample Grant Agreement contained in the Procedural Guide; and

3 7. Appoints the project manager for the project as agent to conduct all negotiations,
4 execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to the Project Information Form,
5 agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the
6 aforementioned project(s); and

7 8. Ratifies any administrative action taken to date with respect to the grant funds,
8 including but not limited to the submittal of any applications and related materials; and

9 9. Requests that within 30 days of the execution of the Grant Agreement by all parties,
10 the Department shall provide the final Agreement to the Clerk of the Board for inclusion in File
11 No. 221028.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Approved: _____ /s/

London Breed, Mayor

Approved: _____ /s/

Ben Rosenfield, Controller

Recommended:

_____/s/

Carla Short, Interim Director

Department of Public Works

n:\legana\as2022\2200499\01618748.docx