

1 [Administrative Code - American Indian Cultural District]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to expand the boundaries of the**  
4 **American Indian Cultural District (District) and provide additional details regarding the**  
5 **cultural and historical significance of the District; and affirming the Planning**  
6 **Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

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

11

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

13

14 Section 1. Findings.

15 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
16 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
17 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
18 Supervisors in File No. 201088 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms  
19 this determination.

20 (b) On November 4, 2020, the Historic Preservation Commission held a duly  
21 noticed hearing regarding the effects of this ordinance upon historic or cultural resources, and  
22 submitted a written report to the Board of Supervisors as required under Charter Section  
23 4.135. The report is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 201088.

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1 Section 2. Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising  
2 Section 107.3, to read as follows:

3 **SEC. 107.3. LIST OF ESTABLISHED CULTURAL DISTRICTS.**

4 The Cultural Districts of the City and County of San Francisco are:

5 \* \* \* \*

6 (h) **American Indian Cultural District.** The Cultural District shall include the area  
7 bounded by ~~15th Street to the north between Folsom Street and Julian Street, Julian Street to the east~~  
8 ~~between 15th Street and 14th Street, 14th Street to the north between Julian Street and Valencia Street,~~  
9 ~~Valencia Street to the west between 14th Street and 16th Street, 16th Street to the north between~~  
10 ~~Valencia Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the west between 16th Street and 17th Street, and~~  
11 ~~17th Street to the south between Sanchez Street and Folsom Street.~~Duboce Avenue to the north between  
12 Market Street and Mission Street, 13th Street to the north between Mission Street and Folsom Street,  
13 Folsom Street to the east between 13th Street and 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Folsom  
14 Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the east between 17th Street and 18th Street, 18th Street to  
15 the south between Dolores Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west between 18th Street and  
16 17th Street, 17th Street to the south between Church Street and Sanchez Street, Sanchez Street to the  
17 west between 17th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Sanchez Street and  
18 15th Street, 15th Street to the north between Market Street and Church Street, Church Street to the west  
19 between 15th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Church Street and 14th  
20 Street, 14th Street to the north between Market Street and Dolores Street, Dolores Street to the west  
21 between 14th Street and Market Street, Market Street to the northwest between Dolores Street and  
22 Duboce Avenue.

23  
24 Section 3. Chapter 107C of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising  
25 Section 107C.1, to read as follows:

1           **SEC. 107C.1. FINDINGS.**

2           The American Indian Cultural District (the “District”) is within a geographic region that  
3 is of great historical and cultural significance to the American Indian community. This corridor  
4 holds a unique concentration of historical events, cultural resources, and Native American-  
5 based programming, services, and gathering spaces that are historically and presently  
6 important to the American Indian community in the San Francisco Bay Area.

7           San Francisco is the aboriginal home of the Ramaytush Ohlone Peoples. There are  
8 known and documented Ohlone cultural resources and sacred sites within the District,  
9 including the home of a once-thriving Ohlone village called “ChutchuiE-la-muth,” which was  
10 located in the area currently known as Mission Dolores Park. Nearby within the District is  
11 Mission Dolores. Many American Indian community members see the Mission as a reminder  
12 of the painful history of the Mission Era, which lasted from 1769 to 1833. During this time,  
13 thousands of American Indians were forcibly removed from their homelands and moved into the  
14 missions. The missions were created to convert American Indians to Christianity and to give the  
15 Catholic Church authority over American Indians so European territory could be expanded in North  
16 America with fewer barriers. Historical documentation of missions reflects enslavement, forced  
17 religious practices, division of families, forced labor, rape and prostitution of men, women, and  
18 children, and cruel punishment including the use of irons and whips. The mission system  
19 decreased the populations of Native Americans in California in some areas by up to 90%. The  
20 average lifespan of a Native American in the mission system was ten years. Thise areas we  
21 now call Dolores Park and Mission Dolores holds a unique historical perspective to the American  
22 Indian community. First Nations people do not just see a park and a mission, they recognize  
23 an area that started as a thriving village site and transitioned to an area of great suffering,  
24 where California Native Americans have been buried, suffered, died, and were buried for the  
25 purposes of European land expansion.

1           Following the Mission Era, government policies stripped ~~aboriginal~~ American Indian  
2 people of millions of acres of their land. ~~The government also~~ created boarding schools that  
3 forcibly separated American Indian children from their homelands, families, traditional language,  
4 tribes, and culture. Boarding schools that ran until the 1970's were created to "civilize" American  
5 Indian children and assimilate them into American society by "killing the Indian to save the man." To  
6 deepen the process of assimilation and land removal, policies were implemented to end government  
7 assistance to tribes and incentivize American Indians to move into urban areas, ~~and implemented~~  
8 ~~policies to end government assistance to tribes.~~ In 1952, the Bureau of Indian Affairs implemented  
9 an urban Indian relocation program to assimilate American Indians into "modern culture." This  
10 program gave American Indians one-way tickets to urban areas. Major cities, including San  
11 Francisco, ~~was one of four counties in California to~~ received a large influx of American Indians  
12 from all over the United States. American Indian people waited for days and weeks at local  
13 bus and train stations for government representatives to meet families and carry out the  
14 promise of stable employment and success in the urban cities.

15           San Francisco was one of the largest relocation cities in the United States. As the  
16 urban American Indian population in San Francisco began to expand, the Mission District  
17 became a home base for ~~that~~ the community. To create a remedy for the lack of adequate  
18 government support and resources, the community developed its own support systems. ~~The~~  
19 Support systems included ~~including~~ social services, cultural retention ~~efforts~~ activities, employment  
20 and housing opportunities, education, political empowerment, and Native American-owned and  
21 supported businesses ~~some of the first urban pow wows.~~ The community also came together to  
22 develop cultural programming, language preservation programs, education courses, and annual  
23 events, and to establish community gathering spaces ~~Native-owned and supported businesses,~~  
24 ~~community gathering spaces, and an,~~ such as an American Indian Cultural Center (AICC), and some  
25

1 of the first urban pow wows. These American Indian-based enterprises and the rich cultural  
2 history of the area are at the heart of the proposed District.

3 The ~~16th Street corridor~~District was home to the first American Indian Center (AIC),  
4 which from the 1940's to 1969 was located between Mission Street and Valencia Street. The fire that  
5 burned down the AIC in 1969 played a significant role in the Occupy Alcatraz Movement. Activists  
6 pushed to create a new American Indian Center and Native American school on Alcatraz Island, which  
7 remained open there until June of 1971. From 1969 through 1970, the AIC also held an office space at  
8 16<sup>th</sup> and Guerrero Streets. From 1970 to 1988, the AIC was located at 225/229 Valencia Street. This  
9 site offered a wide variety of services, programing, and resources to the community. This site closed in  
10 1988 due to a mishandling of funds. In the 1990's, the Indian Center of All Nations (ICAN) was  
11 located at 16<sup>th</sup> and Mission Streets. ICAN closed in 1995 due to a lack of steady funding. The Centers  
12 over the years have been run by several different community members, but they all had the same goals  
13 of providing a community space, cultural retention, resources, events, and programing for American  
14 Indians in the San Francisco Bay Area.

15 From 2005 to 2007, a group of community members began meeting with Members of the Board  
16 of Supervisors at City Hall and with the San Francisco Arts Commission, to advocate for program  
17 funding and a new community space. In 2012, Mayor Ed Lee attended the Dancing Feather Pow Wow  
18 and announced his intention to help find a new home and funding for an American Indian Center. As a  
19 response to Mayor Lee's announcement, an American Indian Advisory Council formed in 2013. This  
20 Council met, and still meets every month, to discuss the future and vision of an American Indian  
21 Cultural Center. The San Francisco Arts Commission and local Native American-based funding  
22 initiatives provided funds to help create the American Indian Cultural Center (AICC). The AICC is  
23 composed of the American Indian Advisory Council, a functioning Board, Executive Director, a  
24 Program Director, and student interns. In 2019, the AICC was formally recognized as a virtual  
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1 Cultural Center, operating to provide arts and cultural programs without a fixed location or gathering  
2 space. AICC is currently in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status.

3 The buildings that housed the various American Indian Center locations and the surrounding  
4 areas hold great importance to the community and have provided a home for historically and  
5 politically significant events located on 16th and Valencia Streets, and the second AICC, located at 223-  
6 225 Valencia Street at Duboce Street from 1969 to the 1980s. The AICC was the meeting place for  
7 Bay Area American Indian organizations and home of the United Bay Indian Council, which  
8 brought together 30 clubs into one large Council. The American Indian Movement originally  
9 held an office in the AICC before moving to the International Indian Treaty Council on Mission  
10 Street. Across the street from the AIC, Al Smith owned a trading post where the Native American  
11 community came together to sell arts, crafts, and beadwork. Other meeting spots in the area included  
12 places such as Aunt Mary's, a cafe across from the Roxie Theater on 16th Street where the Native  
13 American community would gather for breakfast, and the Rainbow Cattle Company, a popular Native  
14 American bar on Duboce and Valencia Streets. Muddy Waters and Modern Times were popular spots  
15 for artists, poetry nights, and speaking engagements, have also been located on Valencia Street. These  
16 gathering places reflect the history of a strong cultural connection to the area among Native American  
17 people. The buildings that housed the AICC and the surrounding areas hold great importance to the  
18 community and have provided a home for historically and politically significant events.

19 ~~—Across the street from the AICC, Al Smith owned a trading post where the Native community~~  
20 ~~came together to sell arts, crafts, and beadwork. Other meeting spots in the area included places such~~  
21 ~~as Aunt Mary's, a cafe across from the Roxie Theater where the Native community would gather for~~  
22 ~~breakfast, and the Rainbow Cattle Company, a bar on Duboce and Valencia Streets. Muddy Waters~~  
23 ~~and Modern Times, popular spots for artists, poetry nights, and speaking engagements, have also been~~  
24 ~~located on Valencia Street. These gathering places reflect the history of a strong cultural connection to~~  
25 ~~the area among Indian Americans.~~

1 \* \* \* \*

2 While the American Indian community has had its roots in the District from time  
3 immemorial, the community also recognizes the shared cultural and historical importance of  
4 the area to the Latino and other Indigenous communities. Since the enactment of the  
5 Relocation Act, countless programs, efforts, and support systems have been developed  
6 cross-culturally in these communities. In pre-colonial times, Northern Native and Southern  
7 Native communities co-existed with intricate trade routes and shared ceremonies. Similarly, in  
8 current times, many programs, gatherings and ceremonies take place together and co-exist in  
9 this District. American Indians, Latino community organizers, and Southern Native groups  
10 have come together to support the District as a small manifestation of justice and repatriation.

11 According to 2015 Census data, American Indians make up roughly 1.6% of the  
12 population in California (723,225 persons), and 0.5% of the population in San Francisco. There  
13 are over 500 tribal nations in the Unites States, and over 150 tribes in California, 109 of which are  
14 federally recognized. One in nine American Indians lives in a city, and 90% of the American Indian  
15 population in California resides in urban areas. The legacy of American Indians in the Bay Area is  
16 in jeopardy due to the increased cost of living, the lack of affordable housing, the lack of  
17 community-specific resources and political representation, and the lack of safe, reliable community  
18 space for youth, elders, cultural gatherings, and events. The District will honor American Indian  
19 culture and~~help~~ provide a recognized home base for the American Indian community ~~and~~to  
20 ensure that American Indian history and contributions will not be forgotten or overwritten. The  
21 District will not only benefit the American Indian community, but it will help foster cultural  
22 competency in the broader San Francisco community, serve as a model for the rest of  
23 California, and honor First Nations people and their longstanding history in San Francisco.

1           Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
2 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
3 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
4 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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6           Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
7 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,  
8 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
9 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
10 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under  
11 the official title of the ordinance.

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13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
14 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

15 By:                 /s/    
16        ANNE PEARSON  
17        Deputy City Attorney

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