

1 [Resolution to Support the Efforts of the Exploratorium in Obtaining Increased Funding.]

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3 **Resolution supporting the Exploratorium in their efforts to continue and expand its**
4 **essential work in educating the children of the San Francisco and the Bay Area.**

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6 WHEREAS, for over 20 years the Exploratorium of San Francisco has been the Bay
7 Area's leader in the development of teaching skills in the areas of science and math; and

8 WHEREAS, in a recent study, 90% of Bay Area science program administrators named
9 the Exploratorium as their main source for teacher development; and,

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that in the Bay Area's urban schools, more than 40% of
11 high school teachers, 60% of middle school teachers, and 90% of newly hired teachers are
12 not technically qualified to teach at least one of their science courses; and,

13 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1984 the Exploratorium received from the California
14 Department of Education annual appropriations ranging from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000; and,

15 WHEREAS, This funding was removed from the budget as of fiscal year 2004; and,

16 WHEREAS, The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 mandates science testing of
17 students yet does not allow non-profit science centers like the Exploratorium to receive direct
18 funding in support of teacher development; and,

19 WHEREAS, Despite these challenges, the Exploratorium is moving forward with the
20 creation of the Science Educator Leadership Institute, a greatly expanded teacher
21 development program with the initial goal of assisting 500 Bay Area science educators attain
22 the "highly qualified" status required of teachers by the No Child Left Behind Act; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Exploratorium will neither be able to attain this ambitious and
24 important goal nor continue in its vital role as the Bay Area's premier source of science
25 teacher development in the absence of increased funding; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby support the
2 Exploratorium in its efforts to acquire funding from both the government of the State of
3 California and the government of the United States in order to continue and expand its
4 essential work in educating the children of the San Francisco and the Bay Area.

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