

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Landmark Designation - “History of Medicine in California” Frescoes - Toland Hall Auditorium in UC Hall, 533 Parnassus Avenue]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to designate the “History of Medicine in California” frescoes in Toland Hall auditorium in UC Hall, 533 Parnassus Avenue (“History of Medicine in California” frescoes), Assessor’s Parcel Block No. 2634A, Lot No. 011, as a Landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Article 10 of the Planning Code; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making public necessity, convenience, and welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.

Existing Law

Under Article 10, Section 1004 of the Planning Code, the Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, designate an individual structure that has special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value as a City landmark. Unless prohibited by state law, once a structure has been named a landmark, any construction, alteration, removal or demolition for which a City permit is required necessitates a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission ("HPC"). (Planning Code Section 1006; Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, Section 4.135.) Thus, landmark designation generally affords a high degree of protection to historic and architectural structures of merit in the City. There are currently more than 288 individual landmarks in the City under Article 10, in addition to other structures and districts in the downtown area that are protected under Article 11. (See Appendix A to Article 10.)

Where, under state law, a property is not subject to the controls of the Planning Code, the Board may designate a structure as a City landmark, but the requirements of Planning Code Section 1006 do not apply.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance amends the Planning Code to add a new historic landmark to the list of individual landmarks under Article 10: the “History of Medicine in California” frescoes at Toland Hall Auditorium in UC Hall, 533 Parnassus Avenue, Assessor’s Block No. 2634A, Lot No. 011, on the campus of UC San Francisco.

The ordinance finds that the “History of Medicine in California” frescoes are eligible for designation as they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of San Francisco history and they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and work of master artist Bernard Zakheim. Specifically, designation of the “History of Medicine in California” frescoes is proper given their association with the history of the Works Project Administration’s Federal Art Project. Designation of the “History of Medicine in California” frescoes is also proper given their significance as an important example of the work of master artist and muralist Bernard Zakheim that displays distinctive characteristics of New Deal-era progressive mural artwork.

As required by Section 1004, the ordinance lists the particular features that shall be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined necessary.

Background Information

The landmark designation was initiated by the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Resolution No. 355-20. On July 31, 2020, the Mayor approved the resolution. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 200677.

On August 19, 2020, after holding a public hearing on the proposed designation and having considered the specialized analyses prepared by Planning Department staff and the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended designation of “History of Medicine in California” frescoes as a landmark consistent with the standards set forth in Section 1004 of the Planning Code by Resolution No. 1134. Said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No. _____.

n:\land\as2016\0900449\01153592.doc