

September 2, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

Support for the Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St

Hello,

My name is Jeantelle Laberinto, and I am a community member deeply rooted in the South of Market. I am writing in support of the landmark designation of The Mint Mall and Hall at 951-957 Mission Street.

As a Filipina born and raised in San Francisco, the South of Market has always been a special neighborhood and an important part of my life. My father's family immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. Like many other Filipino families, my father's family chose to make the South of Market their home away from home. As they planted roots, my family began to expand, and many of my cousins ended up growing up in the South of Market. My growing family attended local schools and the local church, participated in neighborhood programs, worked in local businesses and hotels (and still do to this day), and were highly integrated into the tight-knit Filipino community cultivated over decades. Though many of my family members were unfortunately either displaced or priced out, the South of Market continues to be an important neighborhood for us all to come back to. Now, 30 years later, I continue to engage in advocacy with and for the Filipino community in the South of Market, both personally and professionally.

My father's family lived at 957 Mission Street for nearly two decades, as it was a relatively affordable housing option and many Filipinos they knew in the neighborhood were also residents of the building. As a school-aged youth, my family and I spent so much time at the Mint Mall, as it was a commercial, cultural, and social service hub for the community. My family often called it the "one-stop shop" to not only get a haircut or a home-cooked Filipino meal, but also to get support and connections to services. On holidays, there were often fun events for kids and families that celebrated Filipino cultural traditions and made my immigrant grandparents and parents feel connected to their homeland. Even as a youth, it was clear that the Mint Mall was a cherished community asset that served so many community members, and it's clear to see how true that sentiment still is today.

I ask that you please approve the landmark designation for the Mint Mall and Hall, and support the Filipino community in recognizing the historical and cultural significance of this important site.

Thank you,
Jeantelle Laberinto

September 2, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
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San Francisco, CA 94102

Support for the Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St

Hello my name is Nix Guirre, and I live and work in the South of Market. I am writing in support of the landmark designation of The Mint Mall and Hall at 951-957 Mission St.

I'm a queer immigrant and an arts & culture administrator for the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, as well as a community artist in the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District.

Over 15 years ago, I immigrated to the United States from the Philippines with my parents. We found our first home in the Mint Hall, a place that not only sheltered us but also gave us a deep sense of belonging. The transition was difficult. We had to leave our older siblings behind, and like many immigrant families, we were filled with uncertainty. But the tight-knit Filipino community within Mint Hall and Mall made San Francisco feel like home.

The hallways of Mint Hall echo with familiar sounds and scenes from the Philippines: our native languages spoken freely, kids playing together, families singing karaoke on Sundays, neighbors cutting each other's hair or preparing care packages to send back home. We share food, stories, and resources with each other. The Mint Mall provides affordable Filipino food, haircuts, community-led health services, and a gathering space for civic and cultural events. It's not just a building—it's a living, breathing ecosystem of Filipino life.

The affordability, accessibility, and cultural continuity provided by Mint Hall and Mall are what made it possible for my family to survive (and thrive) in San Francisco. We still live there. And soon, my brother and his family will be immigrating to the U.S. Being able to join us in Mint Hall will help them transition, just as it did for us over 15 years ago.

Designating this site as a historical landmark would honor the deep cultural roots, resilience, and contributions of the Filipino community in San Francisco. Mint Hall and Mall are not just places where people live and work. They are places where our culture lives on.

I ask that you please approve the landmark designation for the Mint Mall and Hall, and support the Filipino community in recognizing the historical and cultural significance of this important site.

Thank you,
Nix Guirre

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 2, 2025

Support for the Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St

My name is MC Canlas, and I have resided and worked in the South of Market district for 37 years. I am writing to express my support for the landmark designation of The Mint Mall and Hall at 951-957 Mission Street.

As a local historian, author of "SoMa Pilipinas Studies 2000 in Two Languages," and a key advocate for the SoMa Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District, I currently serve as manager of the Bayanihan Community Center.

My connection to the Mint Mall is both extensive and meaningful. During my tenure with West Bay's Pilipino Early Intervention Program in the 1990s, I facilitated youth development workshops at the Mint Mall for at-risk youth. In 2003, we introduced parol lantern making workshops at this location—the foundation of San Francisco's now-iconic annual Parol Lantern Festival. Furthermore, during the DotCom boom and resulting community displacement in the 1990s, I was actively involved in efforts to preserve the Mint Mall as a vital community space.

For decades, the Mint Mall and Mint Hall have served as essential hubs for the Filipino community in SoMa, supporting the largest concentration of Filipino residents by providing necessary services, venues for gatherings, and social activities. It is therefore imperative that the City recognize the historical and cultural importance of the Mint Mall and Hall through official landmark designation.

I ask that you please approve the landmark designation for the Mint Mall and Hall and support the Filipino community in recognizing the historical and cultural significance of this important site.

Respectfully yours,

MC Canlas
Historian, SoMa Pilipinas
mc@bayanihanc.org

From: [Michael Nulty](#)
To: [Corrette, Moses \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Supporting Article 10 Landmark Designation Mint Mall and Hall
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2025 3:51:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

The Alliance for a Better District 6 fully supports the article 10 landmark Designation of Mint Mall and Hall.

The building at 951-957 Mission, known as Mint Mall and Hall, is prominently situated within the SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural Heritage District, a designation that is strongly supported by its Cultural History, Housing and Economic Sustainability Strategy (CHHESS) report. This area is recognized for its rich cultural significance and the vibrant contributions of its residents, who together create a unique tapestry that reflects the Filipino community's heritage and contemporary experiences. The Mint Mall, which encompasses the basement, ground floor, and mezzanine, along with the Hall that occupies the upper residential floors, are of great cultural importance, as they are home to a high proportion of Filipino residents who contribute to the community's unique character and identity through their diverse backgrounds, traditions, and shared experiences.

The Mint Mall and Hall derive their significance not only from their physical presence but also from their historical role as sites for numerous culturally significant events and activities that resonate deeply within the Filipino community. These spaces serve as vital cultural hubs where individuals gather to celebrate their heritage, share stories, and engage in various artistic expressions, creating a dynamic environment that fosters connections among community members. Over the years, these venues have served as essential gathering points, fostering a sense of belonging and cultural pride among residents. They have been the backdrop for a variety of Filipino cultural and arts organizations, which have played a critical role in promoting Filipino heritage and arts through workshops, performances, and exhibitions that highlight the richness of Filipino culture.

Additionally, many community-serving non-profits and small businesses, both past and present, have called this location home, further enriching the cultural landscape and providing vital services to the community. These organizations not only support the economic sustainability of the area but also empower residents by offering resources, education, and outreach programs that address the specific needs of the Filipino community. This site embodies a significant aspect of intangible cultural heritage, reflecting the traditions, values, and collective memories of the Filipino community in the area, serving as a living testament to the resilience and creativity of its people, and reinforcing the importance of preserving such cultural landmarks for future generations.

Any questions regarding this letter please e-mail us.

In solidarity,

Michael Nulty
Executive Director
Alliance for a Better District 6

Michael Nulty

P.O. Box 420782

San Francisco, CA 94142-0782

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Filipino Community Development Corporation

953 Mission Street, Suite
20, San Francisco, CA 94103

August 25, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

Support for the Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St

I am Lorenzo Listana, a long-time SoMa resident of over 10 years, co-owner of a small business in SoMa, and the founding director of the Filipino Community Development Corporation (FCDC).

Since 2007, our small manufacturing company, **Aeroskin Worldwide**, has been based in the Mint Mall. After 18 years, we remain one of the anchors, 100% Filipino-owned small business in SoMa.

In 2017, the Filipino Community Development Corporation (FCDC) also established its office in the Mint Mall as part of ongoing revitalization efforts to create a truly community-serving space.

For decades, the Mint Mall has served as more than a commercial site—it has been a vital community hub and an integral part of the historical and cultural fabric of SoMa.

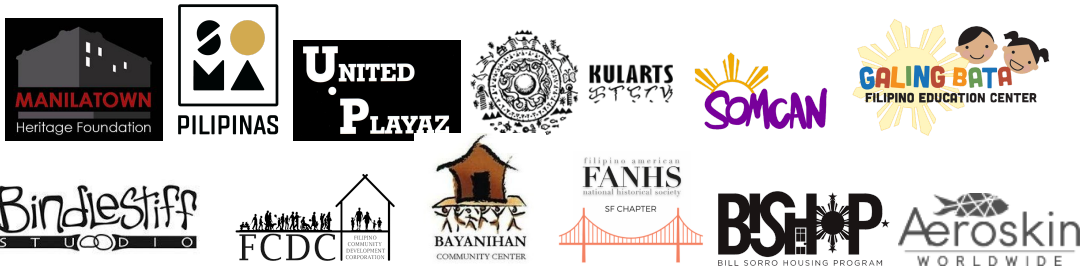
I strongly support the landmark designation of **The Mint Mall and Hall, located at 951–957 Mission Street in the South of Market (Board File No. 250783)**, and respectfully urge you to approve this designation to preserve its historical and cultural significance.

Maraming Salamat,

Lorenzo Listana

Co-owner, Aeroskin Worldwide

Founding Director, Filipino Community Development Corporation



August 26, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St (File No. 250783)

The twelve undersigned organizations are in full support of the landmark designation of The Mint Mall and Hall located at 951-957 Mission St in the South of Market (Board File No. 250783), and ask that you please approve the landmarking of this historically and culturally significant site.

Built in 1916 as a residential hotel, the Mint Mall and Hall transferred to full Filipino ownership in the 1980s. Since that time, a large population of Filipino residents has inhabited the apartments in the upper residential floors of the building (known as the Mint Hall) and supported a host of Filipino small businesses and non-profits below in the Mint Mall. Notable Filipino businesses and non-profits past and present include Arkipelago Books, Teatro ng Tanan, and New Filipinas restaurant (now called JT Restaurant). These businesses and non-profits were among those that successfully fought against their eviction from the Mint Mall with the help of community organizers under the Mint Mall Organizing Committee.

As one of the centers of gravity for the Filipino community in SOMA, the Mint Mall and Hall has been the site of significant cultural events, including the annual Pasko sa SOMA (Christmas in SOMA) and first parol-making workshops for the Parol Lantern Festival. The Mint Mall and Hall has been an invaluable neighborhood asset in District 6 for over 44 years, especially to the Filipino community in San Francisco.

Located in the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District, the Mint Mall and Hall is recognized as a key community asset. The *SOMA Pilipinas Cultural History, Housing and Economic Sustainability Strategy Report*, or *CHHESS Report*, was adopted by the city in 2022. One of the strategies identified in the report is to landmark buildings in SOMA that have historical and cultural significance to the Filipino community. To build on this and expand efforts to implement the *CHHESS report*, SOMA Pilipinas and the South of Market Community Action Network worked with the Planning Department to create the *CHHESS Affordable Housing Implementation Plan* that identified the Mint Mall and Hall as a building to be explored for historic landmarking. We are happy that today we can finally move this goal forward and have the city recognize the historic and cultural significance of this site.

Please support and approve the landmark designation for the Mint Mall and Hall.

Sincerely,

Aeroskin Worldwide - Cecil Listana, Manager

Bill Sorro Housing Program - Rick Cantora, Operations and Outreach Director

Bindlestiff Studio - Aureen Almario, Artistic Director

Filipino American Development Foundation - Gayle Romasanta, Executive Director

Filipino American National Historical Society SF Chapter - Nickie Tuthill-Delute, President

Filipino Community Development Corporation - Lorenzo Listana, Founding Director

Filipino Education Center Galing Bata - Charm Consolacion, Site Director

KULARTS - Alleluia Panis, Executive Artistic Director

Manilatown Heritage Foundation - Caroline Cabading, Executive Director

SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Heritage Cultural District - Raquel Redondiez, Director

South of Market Community Action Network - Angelica Cabande, Executive Director

United Playaz - Rudy Corpuz, Executive Director

From: [West Side Tenants Association](#)
To: [Corrette, Moses \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Landmark Designation of the Mint Mall and Hall 951-957 Mission St
Date: Friday, August 29, 2025 12:44:36 PM

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Hello Moses Corette,

My name is Steve Leeds and I'm a member of and on the Coordinating Committee of the **West Side Tenants Association**. Our membership and supporters live throughout San Francisco. I'm writing today to express our wholehearted support of the landmark designation of The Mint Mall and Hall at 951-957 Mission St.

Mint Mall and Hall has a long history of interconnectedness with the Filipino Community and SF residents throughout the city. As it is located In the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District, the Mint Mall and Hall is recognized as a very important community asset.

As our neighborhoods change dramatically and the history and cultural importance is forgotten and unrecognized, we are pleased that the city and county of San Francisco is moving forward to recognize Mint Mall and Hall's historical and cultural significance.

The **West Side Tenants Association** strongly supports this Landmark Designation.

Thank You.

Steve Leeds
West Side Tenants Association
Coordinating Committee Member

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Hello from the [West Side Tenants Association](#)! We are tenants and community members on the West side and throughout San Francisco who believe that safe and dignified housing is a human right and land should not be a commodity. We believe in building community by developing strong relationships -- if you are facing displacement, you are not alone.



From: [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#)
Cc: [Corrette, Moses \(CPC\)](#); [Feliciano, Josephine \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Support letter for landmarking of Mint Mall and Hall (951-957 Mission St)
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 8:30:41 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Best,
Josephine O. Feliciano, Planning Technician II
Commission Affairs
San Francisco Planning
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94103
Direct: 628.652.7600 | www.sfplanning.org
[San Francisco Property Information Map](#)

From: Lorenzo Listana <lorenzo.foundingdirector@filipinocdc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Support letter for landmarking of Mint Mall and Hall (951-957 Mission St)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the landmarking and historical preservation of the Mint Mall and Hall located at 951-957 Mission Street.

I am a SoMa resident, owner of a small company located in Mint Mall since 2007, and the Founding Director of the Filipino Community Development Corporation (FCDC), also located in Mint Mall.

I would like to request that you, Supervisors, approve the landmarking of Mint Mall and Hall for their historical and cultural significance in the SoMa Pilipinas Heritage District.

Maraming Salamat,

Lorenzo Listana

Co-owner, Aeroskin Worldwide

W: <https://www.aeroskinworldwide.com/>

Founding Director, Filipino Community Development Corporation (FCDC)

P: (415) 481-5181

W: <https://filipinocdc.org/>

