

1 [Supporting the 2010 National Asian Pacific Islander American Historic Preservation Forum]

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3 **Resolution supporting the 2010 National Asian Pacific Islander American Historic**
4 **Preservation Forum to protect and preserve the legacies of Asian and Pacific Islander**
5 **cultures in America.**

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7 WHEREAS, The historic preservation movement in the United States is just beginning
8 to expand its concept of what “historic preservation” means in culturally diverse communities;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, This defining process should be based in the needs and precepts of the
11 diverse communities themselves; and,

12 WHEREAS, In California alone, the bulk of the historic Japantowns that dotted the
13 state before World War II have largely disappeared, and the three remaining historic
14 Japantowns (San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles) are being threatened with
15 demographic and economic gentrification and change; and

16 WHEREAS, Historic Chinatowns are also undergoing change and facing threats across
17 the country, and these stories are multiplied in the Korean, Filipino, Pacific Islander and other
18 Asian American communities; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the past few years, key members of the APIA communities around
20 the country began to discuss with the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) the idea
21 of a national conference in order to collaborate and gain further insight, education, and
22 inspiration about historic preservation; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2007, the APIA caucus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
24 was formed to begin planning for the first-ever National Historic Preservation Forum; and

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1 WHEREAS, This forum will be the first time that APIAs convene to share their
2 experiences and stories and to support one another in a common struggle not to lose their
3 heritage and their American stories; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the 2010 National
5 Asian Pacific Islander American Historic Preservation Forum as a defining step toward
6 protecting and preserving the legacies of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures in America
7 through the following goals:

8 Demonstrating how preserving Asian Pacific Islander America can be synonymous with
9 promoting community pride, cultural identity, and neighborhood vitality;

- 10 • Creating opportunities for stewards and advocates for Asian Pacific Islander heritage
11 resources to forge consensus, share best practices, and increase capacity and
12 outreach;
- 13 • Strengthening connections between the stewards of America’s Asian Pacific Islander
14 heritage and the organized historic preservation movement by broadening the
15 understanding of API cultural heritage in America;
- 16 • Expanding the discussion about who we are and the variety of API resources and API
17 chapters in American history that we are struggling to preserve;
- 18 • Sharing best practices, advice, and success stories to equip attendees with proven and
19 innovative tools with which to pursue preservation efforts in their own communities;
- 20 • Engaging new audiences and developing fresh approaches for preserving API heritage
21 resources in these challenging times; and
- 22 • Putting forth a pan-Asian preservation agenda and demonstrating as expanded
23 meaning for “historic preservation” that will continue to ensure a place for diverse
24 groups at preservation’s table.