

**From:** [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [BOS-Administrative Aides](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Nagasundaram, Sekhar \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SUPPORTING BOS Land Use and Transportation Committee Agenda Item #3 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Lyon-Martin House, 651 Duncan Street] File #210286  
**Date:** Monday, April 26, 2021 11:08:54 AM

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**From:** aeboken <aeboken@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 25, 2021 10:12 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative\_aides@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** SUPPORTING BOS Land Use and Transportation Committee Agenda Item #3 [Planning Code - Landmark Designation - Lyon-Martin House, 651 Duncan Street] File #210286

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TO: Board of Supervisors members

I am supporting the landmark designation of the Lyon-Martin House as **it's** an integral part of San Francisco's LGBTQ history.

Eileen Boken

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods\*

\* For identification purposes only.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Ginger Weatherford](#)  
**To:** [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I Support Local Landmark Designation for the Lyon-Martin House  
**Date:** Saturday, April 24, 2021 2:57:45 PM

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

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Preston, and Peskin,

I write to support the designation of the home of Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin as a San Francisco local landmark. This designation would make it the city's first to be associated with lesbian activism.

Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin played a foundational role in the movement to protect the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community. For decades, they energized the city's LGBTQ+ community by offering their home as a safe space where women could meet to champion women's rights, validate and decriminalize lesbian identity, shape anti-violence and anti-discrimination policies, and promote marriage equality and elder rights. It also served as meeting place for the Daughters of Bilitis, the nation's first socio-political organization for lesbians, and hosted gatherings of powerful LGBTQ+ allies, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

A survey of San Francisco's LGBTQ+ cultural heritage released in 2015 recommended the designation of the Lyon-Martin House as a local historic landmark. The significance of the property has also been recognized by the National Park Service and is included in the agency's publication entitled, "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History," a guide intended to increase the number historic sites that reflect LGBTQ+ history that is included in historic registers nationwide.

In San Francisco, and across the country, historic places that reflect the history of the LGBTQ+ community are considerably underrepresented on registries of historic properties. To ensure that we are telling a fuller and more truthful American story, there is a need to identify and preserve more LGBTQ+ historic sites, including sites of lesbian history and activism, to acknowledge the achievements and struggles of the entire community's history. The local landmarking of the Lyon-Martin House is a positive and necessary first step to not only provide for its long-term preservation, but to honor the legacy of two lifelong champions of women's rights, lesbian identity, and LGBTQ+ civil rights.

I ask that you please vote yes to advance this important designation.

Sincerely,  
Ginger Weatherford  
San Diego, CA

**From:** [Jo Harrison](#)  
**To:** [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [harrisonja@bigpond.com](mailto:harrisonja@bigpond.com)  
**Subject:** Landmarking of the Lyon-Martin house by the Land Use and Transportation Committee  
**Date:** Friday, April 23, 2021 10:18:20 PM

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

Dear Ms Major,

I am writing from Australia to urge the Committee to support the important designation of the Lyon-Martin house in San Francisco as a landmark site. I hold a PhD in gerontology and health sciences. My research investigated the struggle for recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex ageing in gerontology in the US. Lessons were drawn from the US experience and applied to the Australian context. I met Phyllis and Del while undertaking my research and I also accessed the Lyon and Martin collection at the GLBT Historical Society.

I am a 78er and was one of the activists at the first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, which became a riot and resulted in numerous arrests and brutal harm to many of us who were there that night in 1978.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of the Lyon-Martin house to lesbians internationally, including Australia. At both a personal as well as a wider political level, the actions that took place at the house and that are linked to everything that Phyllis and Del were involved in impacted across hemispheres. Lesbians in Australia established a Chapter of Daughters of Bilitis and would go on to form organisations and support services based on the work of Lyon and Martin.

When I interviewed Phyllis and Del they spoke about their house and emphasised its significance in relation to their ability to engage in activism and organising, including in the area of LGBTI ageing and the rights of LGBTI elders. Their precious house is of value to those of us who are thousands of miles away and is itself a memorial and a symbol of activism that took place and continues to take place across the globe.

I write to support the designation of the home of Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin as a San Francisco local landmark. For decades, they played an integral role in the movement to protect the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community. During their lifetime, their home was a place of refuge and a gathering place to support advocacy efforts for the equality of the LGBTQ+ community, serving as the location of countless meetings of the Daughters of Bilitis, the nation's first lesbian rights organization founded in the 1950s.

A survey of San Francisco's LGBTQ+ cultural heritage released in 2015 recommended the designation of the Lyon-Martin House as a local historic landmark. The significance of the property has also been recognized by the National Park Service and is included in the agency's publication entitled "LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History," a guide intended to increase the number historic sites that reflect LGBTQ+ history that is included in historic registers nationwide.

In San Francisco, and across the country, historic places that reflect the history of the LGBTQ+ community are underrepresented on registries of historic properties. There is a need to identify and preserve more LGBTQ+ historic sites, including sites of lesbian history and activism, to ensure that the entire community's history is acknowledged and included as a part of the full American story. The local landmarking of the Lyon-Martin House would be a positive first step in ensuring its long-term preservation. Its significance would resonate 'down under' as Australians including myself would strongly commend such a decision with great support and gratitude.

Sincerely

Dr Jo Harrison (PhD Gerontology)  
Adelaide  
Australia