



# Lydia So, AIA, LEED AP

Architect, Land Use, Transit & Art  
Advisor, Commissioner

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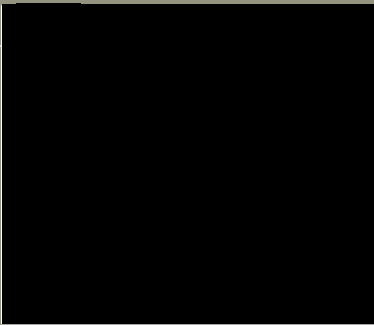
Lydia So is a licensed architect, real estate and art advisor, who provides solutions for clients through design and economics thinking. She runs her architectural and consulting company, SOLYD, making positive impacts on regional economic growth, inclusive land use and transit oriented placemaking, historic preservations and public art advocacy.

Lydia moved from Portland, Oregon to San Francisco 22 years ago. After working for corporate America, Lydia founded a local small business to fulfill her immigrant dreams. SOLYD pivoted from a tech start-up to a full service architectural, interior design, art selection and real estate consulting company. Her company curates unique and agile solutions for each client on offices, homes, retail and wellness properties throughout The Bay Area.

Lydia was appointed by Mayor Breed and received unanimous votes from the Board of Supervisors to serve as the Director on the Board of the SF Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA).

Lydia has lengthy experience in public service, having served as San Francisco City Commissioner for four terms. She was on the Historic Preservation Commission and its Architectural Review Committee to provide governance to the Planning Department by reviewing and approving complex private and public historical assets and districts, land use legislations and small legacy businesses. Prior to that she served on the Arts Commission and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.

## Contact



## Licensure

- ▶ Registered Architect, California
- ▶ LEED AP, U.S. Green Building Council

## Education

Certificate of Commercial Real Estate Investment

- ▶ MIT | 2020

Certificate of Business Management

- ▶ Apple University | 2014-15

Bachelor of Architecture,  
Minor Business Administration

- ▶ University of Oregon | 1995-2001 | Dean's List

## community services

- Board of Directors, SFMTA San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency
- Former Historic Preservation Commissioner
- Former Arts Commissioner
- Board of Directors, Chinese Historical Society of America
- Advisor, Facilities Committee, Board of San Francisco Symphony
- Member, BART Business Advisory Council Committee
- Former Board of Directors, Portsmouth Plaza Parking Corp.
- Former Board of Directors, American Institute of Architects
- Vice President, Asian American Architects & Engineers
- Member, Memorial Advisory Committee, City & County of San Francisco
- Member, California Preservation Foundation
- Member, Lambda Alpha International Land Economics Society
- Member, Urban Land Institute
- Former Advisor, Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza

## language & hobby

- Cantonese, native speaking & writing. Mandarin, speaking.
- Quality time with daughter
- Farmer's Market
- Skiing
- Museum & gallery walks

In 2021, Lydia gave a talk at the Golden Gate Park about the historic transformation of the music concourse. She hosted a forum with AAPI leaders, architects and urban planners to discuss economic resiliency of Chinatown during the Covid pandemic. Lydia was hired as the Chinese cultural consultant to Paramount film production of The Tiger Apprentice. She was featured on an international TV show with the Smithsonian channel about history and architecture of SF Chinatown.

Lydia is a juror on numerous design award jury panels, such as the Northern California Historic Preservation Foundation and the California College of the Arts.

Lydia honed her real estate and design skills over 20 years at Apple; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Bohlin, Cywinski, Jackson. Her global experience includes the highest sales net revenue electronic store in the world, the tallest skyscraper in Beijing and the world's first glass spiral staircase in Osaka. She invented the first 9 Apple Stores with Steve Jobs and team. She earned over 35 design awards. She holds a Certificate of Commercial Real Estate Investment at MIT (Executive Education). Business Management Certificate at Apple University. B.Arch and Business Minor at University of Oregon.



**S O L Y D**  
Architecture Management Design