

Sep 21, 2025

Land Use and Transportation Committee

City Hall, 1Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Land Use and Transportation Committee

I am writing to express our strong support for the San Francisco African American Arts Cultural District's CHHESS (Cultural History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategies Report). We endorse its findings and recommendations, recognizing its critical role in documenting, preserving, and uplifting the histories and needs of San Francisco's diverse cultural districts.

As a fellow Cultural District, we recognize the vital importance of the CHHESS framework and the commitment to advancing it as a means of preserving the cultural heritage of San Francisco's African American Arts and Cultural District. This dedication includes safeguarding residents, supporting small businesses, and ensuring that neighborhood growth authentically reflects the voices and priorities of the community.

The African American Arts & Cultural District has always been a vibrant community deeply rooted in African American history, intergenerational families, and a legacy of resilience, creativity, and activism. Nevertheless, in the absence of culturally informed policies and planning instruments, this distinct identity faces significant threats. Like numerous marginalized communities, the district continues to grapple with increasing risks stemming from displacement, escalating housing costs, commercial instability, and systemic neglect.

We believe that this report will not only safeguard cultural anchors but also provide a roadmap for equitable investment in housing, economic empowerment, and culturally responsive social services for the community. The work of SFAAACD in amplifying the voices of San Francisco's cultural districts ensures that our collective stories and needs are centered in city planning and funding priorities.

The Transgender Cultural District is proud to stand alongside fellow cultural districts and community partners in advancing this vision. We urge full support and recognition of the CHHESS Report as a necessary step toward preserving San Francisco's cultural heritage and ensuring our city remains a home for historically marginalized communities.

Sincerely,
Breonna McCree & Carlo Gomez Arteaga



**THE
TRANSGENDER
DISTRICT**

100 Market Street, Suite 2001, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.transgenderdistrictsf.com

Erin McElroy Carlos Soto Arceaga



A project of the Japantown Task Force

**San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Transportation Committee VIA E-MAIL**

September 16, 2025

RE: Support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District CHHESS Report

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Japantown Cultural District expresses its strong support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District's (SFAAACD) Cultural History, Housing, Equity, and Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report, along with its findings and recommendations. It is critical that we uplift and implement the CHHESS framework to preserve the cultural integrity of the African-American Arts & Cultural District, protect residents, support small businesses, and ensure the neighborhood grows in a way that reflects the values, voices, and history of this historic community.

The SFAAACD is a vibrant community rooted in African-American history, intergenerational families, and a legacy of cultural resilience, creativity, and activism. Yet without culturally informed policies and planning tools, this identity is at risk. The district faces increasing threats from displacement, rising housing costs, commercial turnover, and systemic neglect. The CHHESS report provides a clear and community-driven path forward. Supporting the CHHESS report is necessary to honor the lived experiences of those who built and sustained the African-American Arts & Cultural District and to advance a city that proactively values culture, equity, and belonging.

I urge you to recommend to the Full Board of Supervisors that San Francisco adopt and implement the SFAAACD CHHESS recommendations and work closely with local organizations, residents, and community stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Emily M. Murase'.

Emily M. Murase, PhD
Executive Director



LEATHER & LGBTQ CULTURAL DISTRICT

September 16, 2025
Land Use and Transportation Committee
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District to express our strong support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District's (SFAAACD) Cultural History, Housing, Equity, and Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report, along with its findings and recommendations.

As a sibling Cultural District, we believe it is critical that we uplift and implement the CHHESS framework to preserve the cultural integrity of the African-American Arts & Cultural District, protect long-standing residents, support small businesses, and ensure the neighborhood grows in a way that reflects the values, voices, and history of its community.

The African-American Arts & Cultural District is a vibrant community rooted in African-American history, intergenerational families, and a legacy of cultural resilience, creativity, and activism. Yet without culturally informed policies and planning tools, this identity is at risk. Like many marginalized communities, the district faces increasing threats from displacement, rising housing costs, commercial turnover, and systemic neglect.

The CHHESS report provides a clear and community-driven path forward. Since our District's CHHESS was approved by the Board of Supervisors last year, it has been an invaluable tool for strategizing and prioritizing our programs and events. We urge the Land Use and Transportation Committee to provide this tool which is critical to the long-term vitality of the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District

Supporting the CHHESS report is a necessary step to honor the lived experiences of those who built and sustained the African-American Arts & Cultural District and to advance a city that proactively values culture, equity, and belonging. We respectfully urge you to adopt and implement the CHHESS recommendations for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District and to work in close partnership with local organizations, residents, and community stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

Sincerely,

Bob Goldfarb
Executive Director, , LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District



San Francisco's
Filipino Cultural Heritage District

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Transportation Committee
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 18, 2025

RE: Support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District CHHESS Report

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Land Use and Transportation Committee:

SOMA Pilipinas would like to express our strong support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District's (SFAACD) Cultural History, Housing, Equity, and Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report, along with its findings and recommendations. As a fellow Cultural District in San Francisco, we believe it is critical that we uplift and implement the CHHESS framework to preserve the cultural integrity of the African-American Arts & Cultural District, protect long-standing residents, support small businesses, and ensure the neighborhood grows in a way that reflects the values, voices, and history of its community.

The African-American Arts & Cultural District is a vibrant community rooted in African-American history, intergenerational families, and a legacy of cultural resilience, creativity, and activism. Yet without culturally informed policies and planning tools, this identity is at risk. The district faces increasing threats from displacement, rising housing costs, commercial turnover, and systemic neglect. The CHHESS report provides a clear and community-driven path forward. We urge the Land Use and Transportation Committee to prioritize its recommendations across its six key areas critical to the long-term vitality of the San Francisco African-American Arts Cultural District.

SOMA Pilipinas respectfully urges you to adopt and implement the CHHESS recommendations for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District and to work in close partnership with local organizations, residents, and community stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

Sincerely,
Raquel Redondiez
Director, SOMA Pilipinas - San Francisco's Filipino Cultural Heritage District.



September 17, 2025

SF Land Use and Transportation Committee
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District to express our strong support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District's (SFAACD) Cultural History, Housing, Equity, and Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report, along with its findings and recommendations.

As a sibling cultural district, we very much agree that gentrification and displacement are detrimental to underserved communities in San Francisco. To counter this, the work of all cultural districts is important. Moreover, the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District acknowledges the critical nature of cultural districts forming alliances and partnerships that can inform coalition building work that is needed today and in the future.

Similar to how our report centers LGBTQIA+ people, places, and culture, SFAACD's report represents important priorities that will serve to preserve the cultural integrity of Black culture in the Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods and all of San Francisco. Since our District's CHHESS was approved by the Board of Supervisors last year, it has been an invaluable tool for strategizing and prioritizing our programs and events. We urge the Land Use and Transportation Committee to provide this tool that is critical to the long-term vitality of the SFAACD.

Mission: The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is committed to preserving, sustaining, and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Castro and its significance to San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community and beyond. Our goals are to highlight the structures and sites important to our history; foster racial, ethnic, gender and cultural diversity among residents and businesses; and create a safe, beautiful, and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ and allied communities, to visit from around the world and call the Castro home. The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is a fiscally sponsored project of the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina Aguirre". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tina Aguirre
Director, Castro LGBTQ Cultural District

www.castrolgbtq.org



SUNSET CHINESE CULTURAL DISTRICT 日落區中華文化區

September 19, 2025

Land Use and Transportation Committee

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District CHHESS Report

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Sunset Chinese Cultural District to express our strong support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District's (SFAAACD) Cultural History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report, along with its findings and recommendations.

As a sister Cultural District with aligned goals and priorities, I believe we must uplift and implement the CHHESS framework to preserve the cultural integrity of the African-American Arts & Cultural District, protect long-standing residents, support small businesses, and ensure the neighborhood grows in a way that reflects the values, voices, and history of its community. The SFAAACD has spent countless hours engaging with their community to identify priorities for stabilization; we must support their community voice and have their community lead the way for their vision for the future.

The African-American Arts & Cultural District is a vibrant community rooted in African-American history, intergenerational families, and a legacy of cultural resilience, creativity, and activism. Yet without culturally informed policies and planning tools, this identity is at risk. The district faces increasing threats from displacement, rising housing costs, commercial turnover, and systemic neglect.

The CHHESS report provides a clear and community-driven path forward. I urge the Land Use and Transportation Committee to prioritize its recommendations across six key areas critical to the long-term vitality of the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District:

1. **Historic and Cultural Preservation:** Preserve and uplift the rich history of African-Americans in San Francisco by honoring those who overcame systemic racism,

highlighting early contributions, and supporting local merchants, artists, and community-led cultural events.

2. Housing Access and Stabilization: Promote responsible development that honors the neighborhood's heritage, ensures affordability, and protects the needs of existing residents.
3. Economic and Workforce Development: Strengthen the district's economic future by supporting small businesses, fostering youth entrepreneurship, and expanding job opportunities through community-based partnerships.
4. Land Use: Center community voices in decisions surrounding land use to ensure that developments reflect the needs, values, and identity of the district's residents.
5. Arts and Culture: Invest in cultural spaces and programming that celebrate African-American heritage, share the district's stories of migration and resilience, and cultivate intergenerational pride and connection.
6. Cultural Competency: Ensure all services are accessible, culturally responsive, and grounded in meaningful community engagement and documentation.

Supporting the CHHESS report is a necessary step to honor the lived experiences of those who built and sustained the African-American Arts & Cultural District and to advance a city that proactively values culture, equity, and belonging.

I respectfully urge you to adopt and implement the CHHESS recommendations for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District and to work in close partnership with local organizations, residents, and community stakeholders to bring this vision to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lily Wong', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lily Wong
Director
Sunset Chinese Cultural District

From: [Lily Wong](#)
To: myna.melgar@sfgov.org; [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#)
Cc: [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [April Spears](#); [Pardue-Bishop, Imani \(MYR\)](#); [Lee, Grace \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support - SFAAACD CHHESS Report
Date: Friday, September 19, 2025 3:01:41 PM
Attachments: [SFAAACD Letter of Support - SCCD.pdf](#)

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

Hello, Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee:

Please see attached for the Sunset Chinese Cultural District's letter of support for the SF African-American Arts & Cultural District's CHHESS Report.

We are thrilled that our sister cultural district has reached this milestone and hope you can give unanimous approval for this legislation!

Lily



Lily Wong 黃麗瑜

Director of Community Engagement 社區聯繫總監

Sunset Chinese Cultural District Director 日落區中華文化區總監

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sfscdd.org

Direct: (707) 653-5813



SUNSET CHINESE CULTURAL DISTRICT 日落區中華文化區

September 19, 2025

Land Use and Transportation Committee

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District CHHESS
Report**

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Lily Wong
Director
Sunset Chinese Cultural District

From: [Emily Murase](#)
To: myna.melgar@sfgov.org; [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [ChenStaff](#); [Mahmood, Bilal \(BOS\)](#); [MahmoodStaff](#); [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#); shaman.walton@sfgov.org; [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [April Spears](#); [Pardue-Bishop, Imani \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: [Japantown Cultural District] Support for the SFAAACD before 9/29 LUT Committee
Date: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 4:26:01 PM
Attachments: [25.09.16 JCD Letter of Support for SFAAACD.pdf](#)

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

Please see the Japantown Cultural District's Letter of Support for the SF African American Arts & Cultural District Cultural History, Housing, Equity, and Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report. This item is scheduled to go before the Land Use & Transportation Committee on Monday, 9/29. I urge a positive recommendation from the Committee to the full Board of Supervisors!

Emily

Emily M. Murase, PhD
ムラセ エミリー
Executive Director
Japantown Task Force, Inc.

[1765 Sutter Street, 3rd Floor](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94115](#)
www.japantowntaskforce.org

To find out what's happening in San Francisco Japantown, sign up for our weekly newsletter at our [website](#) (bottom of the homepage)!



**San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Transportation Committee VIA E-MAIL**

September 16, 2025

RE: Support for the San Francisco African-American Arts & Cultural District CHHESS Report

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Yours sincerely,

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Emily M. Murase, PhD
Executive Director