



# LANDMARK RESOLUTION RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION NO. 1224

**HEARING DATE: JANUARY 19, 2022**

**Record No.:** 2021-009311DES  
**Project Address:** Clay Theatre (2261 Fillmore Street)  
**Zoning:** Upper Fillmore Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD)  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
**Block/Lot:** 0630/002  
**Project Sponsor:** SF Planning Department  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
**Property Owner:** Jaiswal Family Revocable Trust 2008  
481 Kings Mountain Road  
Woodside, CA 94062-3660  
**Staff Contact:** Pilar LaValley (628-652-7372)  
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RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE CLAY THEATRE (2261 FILLMORE STREET) LOCATED WITHIN ASSESSOR'S PARCEL BLOCK NO. 0630, LOT NO. 002, AS LANDMARK NO. XXX CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES AND STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10

1. WHEREAS, on June 15, 2021, Supervisor Stefani introduced a proposed Resolution under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File No. 210726 to initiate the Landmark designation process for the Clay Theatre, located at 2261 Fillmore Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0630, Lot No. 002; and
2. WHEREAS, on July 26, 2021, the Board of Supervisors at its Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting recommended unanimously to recommend to the full Board approval of the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation and to extend the prescribed time within which the Historic Preservation Commission may render its decision by 90 days, for a total of 180 days (Board File No. 210726); and
3. WHEREAS, on July 27, 2021, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution to initiate Landmark Designation, and on August 4, 2021 with the Mayor's signature, Resolution No. 383-21 became effective (Board File No. 210726); and

4. WHEREAS, Department Staff, who meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, prepared the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for the Clay Theatre, which was reviewed for accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10; and
5. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission, at its regular meeting of January 19, 2022, reviewed Department staff's analysis of the historical significance of the Clay Theatre pursuant to Article 10 as part of the Landmark Designation Executive Summary dated January 12, 2022, and recommended Landmark designation through this Resolution; and
6. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the nomination of the Clay Theatre as a Landmark is in the form prescribed by the Historic Preservation Commission and contains supporting historic, architectural, and/or cultural documentation; and
7. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the Clay Theatre, constructed in 1913 as a nickelodeon movie theater and one of the oldest single-screen nickelodeon movie houses in San Francisco, is eligible for local designation for its association with the initial development of neighborhood theaters during the pioneering period of moving picture theaters and the development of the film industry in San Francisco in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; and
8. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the Clay Theatre is also proper given its historical significance as the first dedicated foreign film theater in San Francisco and as an important exhibitor of foreign and independent art house films through the late 1980s; and
9. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the designation of the Clay Theatre is also proper given its architectural and historical significance as a building that embodies distinctive characteristics of both an early 20<sup>th</sup> century nickelodeon and a single-screen neighborhood movie theater, increasingly rare building types that are vibrant features of the built environment and important and unique cultural institutions in San Francisco; and
10. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the Clay Theatre meets the eligibility requirements of Section 1004 of the Planning Code and warrants consideration for Article 10 landmark designation; and
11. WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission finds that the boundaries and the list of character-defining features, as identified in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, should be considered for preservation under the proposed landmark designation as they relate to the building's architectural and historical significance and retain historical integrity; and
12. WHEREAS, the proposed designation is consistent with the General Plan priority policies pursuant to Planning Code, Section 101.1 and furthers Priority Policy No. 7, which states that landmarks and historic buildings be preserved, and will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302; and
13. WHEREAS, the Department has determined that landmark designation is exempt from environmental review, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15308 (Class Eight - Categorical); and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends to the Board of Supervisors approval of landmark designation of the Clay Theatre, located at 2261 Fillmore Street, in Assessor's Parcel Block No. 0630, Lot No. 002, consistent with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting on January 19, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin  
*Commission Secretary*

AYES: Wright, Black, Johns, So, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Foley

ADOPTED: January 19, 2022