

1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Bob Ross House]

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3 **Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for**
4 **the Bob Ross House, 4200 20th Street, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 2696 Lot No. 014A.**

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6 WHEREAS, Under Planning Code, Section 1004.1, the Board of Supervisors may by
7 Resolution initiate landmark designation; and

8 WHEREAS, Planning Code, Section 1004.2(b), requires the Historic Preservation
9 Commission to respond to historic district or individual landmark designations initiated by the
10 Board of Supervisors within 90 days, and authorizes the Board, by Resolution, to extend the
11 time within which the Historic Preservation Commission is to render its decision; and

12 WHEREAS, The Bob Ross House, located at 4200 20th Street, Assessor's Parcel
13 Block No. 2696 Lot No. 014A, is significant for its historical association with San Francisco's
14 LGBTQ community as the home of Bob Ross, co-founder of the Bay Area Reporter; and

15 WHEREAS, Bob Ross co-founded the Bay Area Reporter in 1971 and remained the
16 publisher of the Bay Area Reporter until his death in 2003; and

17 WHEREAS, Bob Ross also co-founded the Tavern Guild, which raised money and
18 provided support for numerous pro-gay politicians; and

19 WHEREAS, Bob Ross held frequent political and professional events at the subject
20 property; and

21 WHEREAS, Bob Ross was instrumental in helping Harvey Milk win the election and
22 was one of four names on Milk's short list to replace him if he died in office; and

23 WHEREAS, Bob Ross was appointed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein to help undertake a
24 joint investigation into the police response after the riot that erupted in the wake of the Dan
25 White verdict; and

1 WHEREAS, Bob Ross also served on the board of the Gay Games and co-founded the
2 LGBTQ mental health organization Operation Concern; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2016 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted the
4 Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco which provided
5 frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites for historical significance and integrity
6 associated with San Francisco's diverse and robust LGBTQ histories; and

7 WHEREAS, The Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History was prepared
8 by qualified historians in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards; and

9 WHEREAS, Through applying the evaluative framework as outlined in the Citywide
10 Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History, the property can be considered as an
11 individually eligible historic resource based on its strong association with LGBTQ History; and

12 WHEREAS, The 2017 Eureka Valley Historic Context Statement identifies
13 the 4200 20th Street as a potentially eligible historic resource as the home of Bob Ross and
14 frequent site of political and professional events for the LGBTQ community; and

15 WHEREAS, The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District's 2024 Cultural History, Housing and
16 Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) report includes the strategy, "Ensure the
17 Historic Preservation Commission and/or the Board of Supervisors prioritize further municipal
18 landmarking and state and national nominations of Castro LGBTQIA+ historical sites...";
19 including this house specifically; and

20 WHEREAS, The building exterior remains identifiable as the location of the Bob Ross
21 House, as it did during his tenure; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors hereby initiates landmark designation of the
23 Bob Ross House under Planning Code, Section 1004.1; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board requests that the Planning Department prepare a
25 landmark designation report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission for its

1 consideration of the full historical, architectural, aesthetic, and cultural interest and value of
2 the Bob Ross House; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
4 Preservation Commission consider whether the Bob Ross House warrants landmark
5 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
6 Planning Code.