

[Initiating Landmark Designation - Alexandria Theatre]

Resolution initiating a landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code for the Alexandria Theatre, at 5400 Geary Boulevard, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1450, Lot No. 048.

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

WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre, located at 5400 Geary Boulevard, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 1450, Lot No. 048, is representative of Neighborhood Movie Palaces in San Francisco, known for their bright lights and elaborate character; and

WHEREAS, The construction and operation of the Alexandria Theatre was undertaken by the Levin family, owners of San Francisco Theaters, Inc., as part of the family's circuit of San Francisco neighborhood theaters; and

WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre was the Levin family's flagship theater amongst the other neighborhood theaters in San Francisco that were erected, owned, and operated by San Francisco Theaters, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre was built in 1923 in the Egyptian Revival architectural style, and designed by one of San Francisco's leading architectural firms, Reid Brothers; and

WHEREAS, Reid Brothers, after beginning their career in Illinois, became one of the most successful firms in San Francisco, designing numerous important buildings in San Francisco and California including the Fairmont Hotel, the Cliff House, and many movie theaters in the Bay Area; and

1 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre was remodeled in 1941 in the Streamline
2 Moderne style by architect Alexander Aimwell (A.A.) Cantin, one of California's first registered
3 architects, and a prominent San Francisco architect with an active career that included design
4 of several other notable movie theaters; and

5 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre is a representative and significant example of the
6 work of architectural firm of merit, Reid Brothers, and of architect of merit, A.A. Cantin; and

7 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theater had a special significance for its sheer magnitude,
8 with one of the largest capacities of any neighborhood theater in San Francisco; and

9 WHEREAS, The original 2000-seat interior of the Alexandria Theatre was converted to
10 a three-screen multi-plex in 1976; and

11 WHEREAS, While the Alexandria Theatre was, for much of its life, a second-run
12 neighborhood theater, in the late 1950s it was converted to a first-run, reserved seat operation
13 with several films running for nearly a year or more; and

14 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre was constructed within a neighborhood
15 commercial strip, and falls into the period of significance for Neighborhood Movie Palaces as
16 documented in the draft report of San Francisco Neighborhood Movie Theater Non-
17 Contiguous Multiple Property Historic District Context Statement; and

18 WHEREAS, Many of San Francisco's single-screen movie theaters and Neighborhood
19 Movie Palaces have closed or have been converted to other uses in the past few decades
20 and these Neighborhood Movie Palaces are important and unique cultural
21 institutions in San Francisco; and

22 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre had served as a beacon to the central and outer
23 Richmond District neighborhoods, drawing in people from around the city to watch a movie
24 and frequent local small businesses; and

1 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre was a cultural hub for the Richmond District
2 community, as a central point where neighbors would come to socialize and patronize the
3 Geary Boulevard corridor; and

4 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre exhibits and retains many of the character-
5 defining features of a Neighborhood Movie Palace; and

6 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theater was found eligible for listing on the California
7 Register of Historical Resources individually and as part of a historic district in a CEQA
8 evaluation determined by the Planning Department; and

9 WHEREAS, The Alexandria Theatre's physical structure, with blade sign, marquee,
10 chandelier, Egyptian revival motif murals, and the six rounded columns also holds unique
11 architectural and aesthetic interest and value; and

12 WHEREAS, The landmark should preserve generally all of its particular exterior
13 features, including the features described as the blade sign, the marquee, the chandelier, and
14 the murals; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of the Alexandria
16 Theatre, built in 1923, and located at 5400 Geary Boulevard; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Planning
18 Department prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation
19 Commission for its consideration of the unique historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest
20 and value of property and existing structure; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests that the Historic
22 Preservation Commission consider whether the Alexandria Theatre warrants landmark
23 designation and submit its recommendation to the Board according to Article 10 of the
24 Planning Code.
25



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 230266

Date Passed: March 14, 2023

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March 14, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 230266

I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 3/14/2023 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Calvillo".

A Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

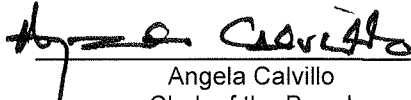
London N. Breed
Mayor

3/24/2023

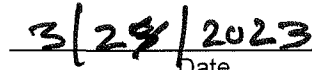
Date Approved

File No. 230266

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board



Date