

From: [Sloane Buckley](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Sloane Buckley
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:18:43 PM

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Apr 19, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Sloane Buckley

Zip: 94107

Date/Time: Apr 19, 2023 at 9:17:58 PM

From: [Jonathan Kahn](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jonathan Kahn
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:17:16 PM

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Apr 18, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Jonathan Kahn

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 8:16:58 PM

From: [Sally Stone](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Sally Stone
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:50:25 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Sally Stone

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 7:49:54 PM

From: [Dakota Hare](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Dakota Hare
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 6:53:20 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Dakota Hare

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 6:52:59 PM

From: [Martin Strauss](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Martin Strauss
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:26:01 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Martin Strauss

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 3:25:44 PM

From: [Patrick O'Neill](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Patrick O'Neill
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:20:18 PM

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Apr 18, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Patrick O'Neill

Zip: 94806

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 1:19:57 PM

From: [Erin Reynolds](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Erin Reynolds
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:31:53 AM

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Sincerely,

Name: Erin Reynolds

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 11:31:36 AM

From: [Eric Mori](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Eric Mori
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:15:14 AM

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Apr 18, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Eric Mori

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 9:14:59 AM

From: [Steve Rochon](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Steve Rochon
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:35:58 AM

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Apr 18, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Steve Rochon

Zip: 94610

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 7:35:34 AM

From: [Mark Macy](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Mark Macy
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:36:06 AM

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Sincerely,

Name: Mark Macy

Zip: 94118

Date/Time: Apr 18, 2023 at 2:35:40 AM

From: [Nori Tong](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Nori Tong
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:20:48 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Nori Tong

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 9:20:19 PM

From: [Alvin Chua](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Alvin Chua
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:41:06 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Alvin Chua

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 7:40:44 PM

From: [Derek Wright](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Derek Wright
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:28:38 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Derek Wright

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 7:28:16 PM

From: [Duncan Wardlaw](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Duncan Wardlaw
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 6:57:46 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Duncan Wardlaw

Zip: 94501

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 6:57:24 PM

From: [Manuel Apolonio](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Manuel Apolonio
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 6:35:34 PM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Manuel Apolonio

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 6:35:14 PM

From: [Debby Paiz](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Debby Paiz
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 2:48:13 PM

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Apr 17, 2023

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- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Debby Paiz

Zip: 91387

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 2:47:52 PM

From: [Douglas Phillips](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Douglas Phillips
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:50:35 PM

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



Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Douglas Phillips

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 12:50:13 PM

From: [Scott Goldman](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Subject: public comment re: Landmark Designation Amendment - 429-431 Castro Street (the Castro Theatre)]
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:20:05 PM

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

My name is Scott Goldman and I live in District 8, less than a 10 minute walk from the Castro Theater. I support the renovation of the theater, and support passing the landmark designation without the fixed seating amendment. I enjoy concerts and live events, and would love to see a great venue in our neighborhood. It is my opinion that The Independent and the Fox Theater are among the best venues in the Bay Area. Having the same folks manage the Castro Theater would be incredible. It's tough to argue with people who bring knee-jerk negativity and feel that nothing in San Francisco should ever change. While I also enjoy watching movies, there are already 2 great theaters within walking distance: Alamo Drafthouse and The Roxie. I would love to have the opportunity for more nightlife in the neighborhood and making room for some at the Castro Theater would be a good way to do that.

Thank you for your consideration,
Scott Goldman

From: [Kathy Rose O'Regan](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:20:29 AM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023 — that is, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

The Castro Theatre is an absolute jewel, one of the vanishingly few movie palaces remaining in the Bay Area. To allow a massive reconfiguration of the theater's auditorium would be to utterly and permanently negate the Castro's intended usage as a cinema. The Bay Area is overflowing with excellent, world famous music venues. What would SF be for music lovers without the Fillmore?

The Castro Theatre is also world famous, as a spectacularly beautiful and important film exhibition space. I am a film restorationist, and recently returned from a trip to Europe. During this trip, I attended film festivals in Ireland and Scotland, and visited film laboratories and archives in the Netherlands. In every location, the first thing people asked me on hearing I was a San Franciscan was "What's happening with the Castro?". Some of these people had attended film festivals at the Castro. Others had gone to screenings when in the city vacationing. Some had never set foot on American soil, but had heard of our magnificent movie palace. What an honor, what a joy, to be able to boast of such a wonder within our city limits! And how desperately sad to have to tell these worldwide admirers that we just don't know if they will ever have another opportunity to watch film within its walls.

To omit a protection of the theatrical seating configuration at the Castro is to open the Castro up to exploitation. Exploitation as nothing more than a large space to cram with people, shoulder to shoulder at a concert. A very occasional concert, if the programming over the past year and a half is anything to go by. Without a provision in the Landmark Designation to keep the sloped floor and theatrical seating integral to the cinematic experience, there is no onus whatsoever on any current or future operator of the Castro Theatre to screen a film there ever again.

I don't know anyone who opposes the idea of a multi-use Castro. What I and many in the film community fear is that film will no longer be a part of the Castro at all. Such a loss, such an avoidable loss, does not serve the people of San Francisco. It only serves the pockets of the few.

Yours respectfully,

Kathy Rose O'Regan

From: john.bengtson@gmail.com
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Save the Castro - APE Obstacle Course
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:25:09 AM
Attachments: [Castro - APE Obstacle Course.pdf](#)

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston:

We must Save the Seats – for posterity, for community, but also for **public safety**.

Look closely – APE proposes an obstacle course. Covering a smooth gently sloped floor with platforms, risers, and stairs will fill the theatre with trip and fall hazards.

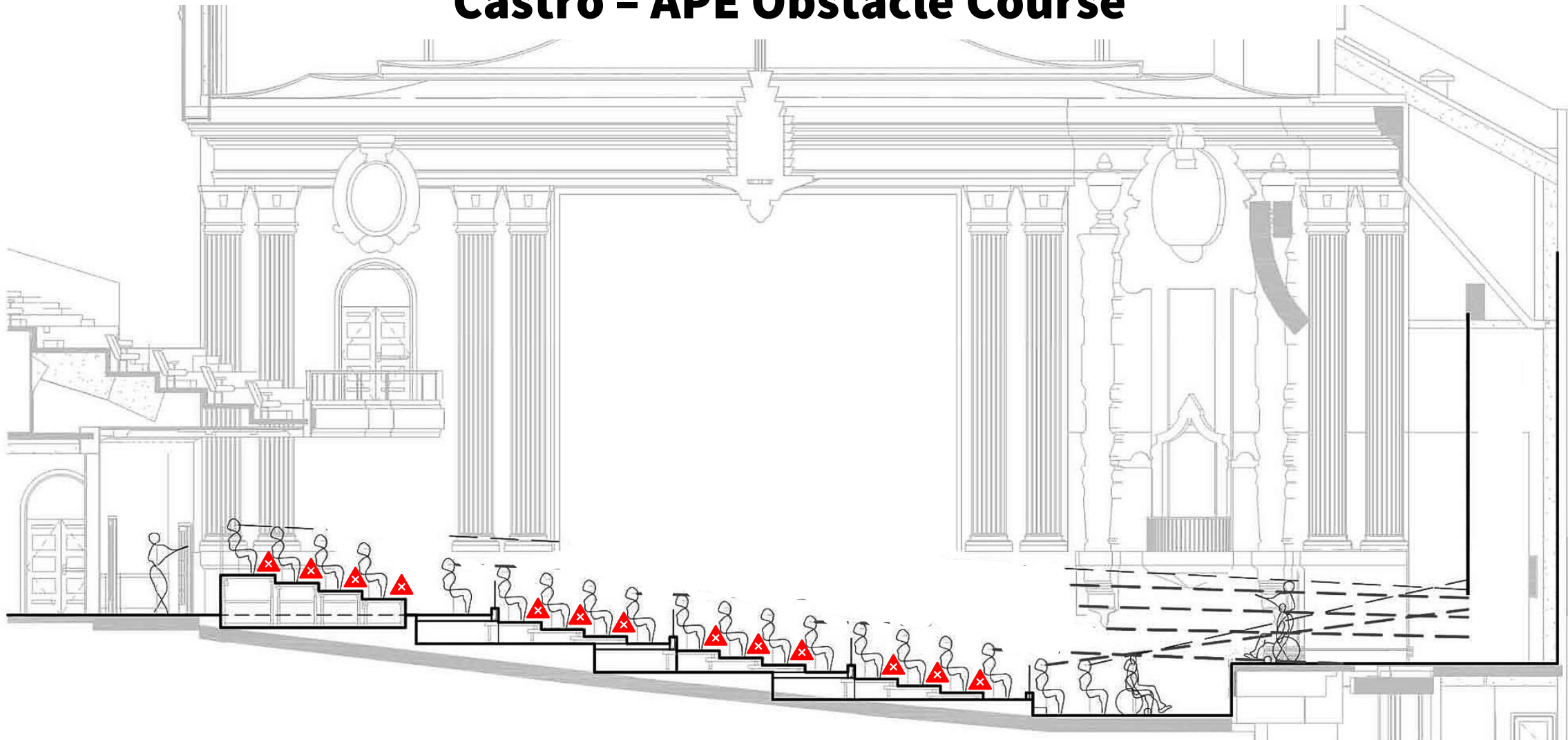
These updated illustrations show APE’s plans actually *limit* access to many patrons, especially with limited mobility, and will expose the public to far greater risk throughout the theatre, all while destroying 285 seats.

Doesn’t “the presence of seating” imply the presence of *safe* seating?

The Castro is a movie palace, not a nightclub obstacle course. Safety First – Save the Seats.

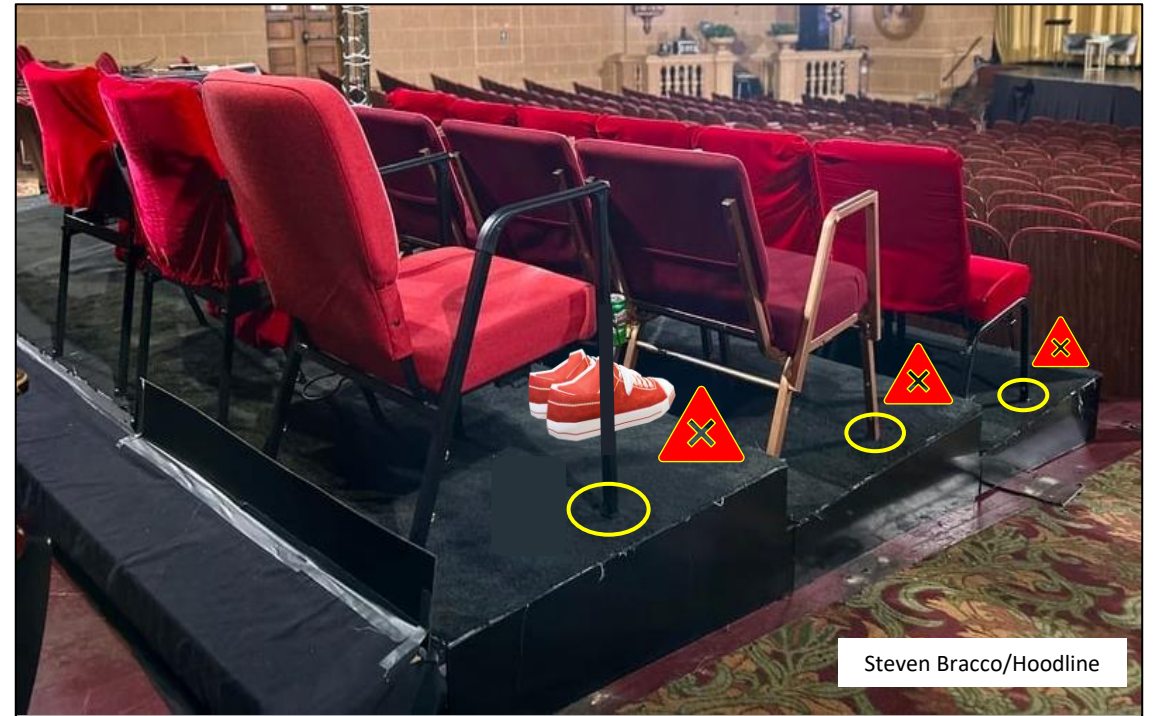
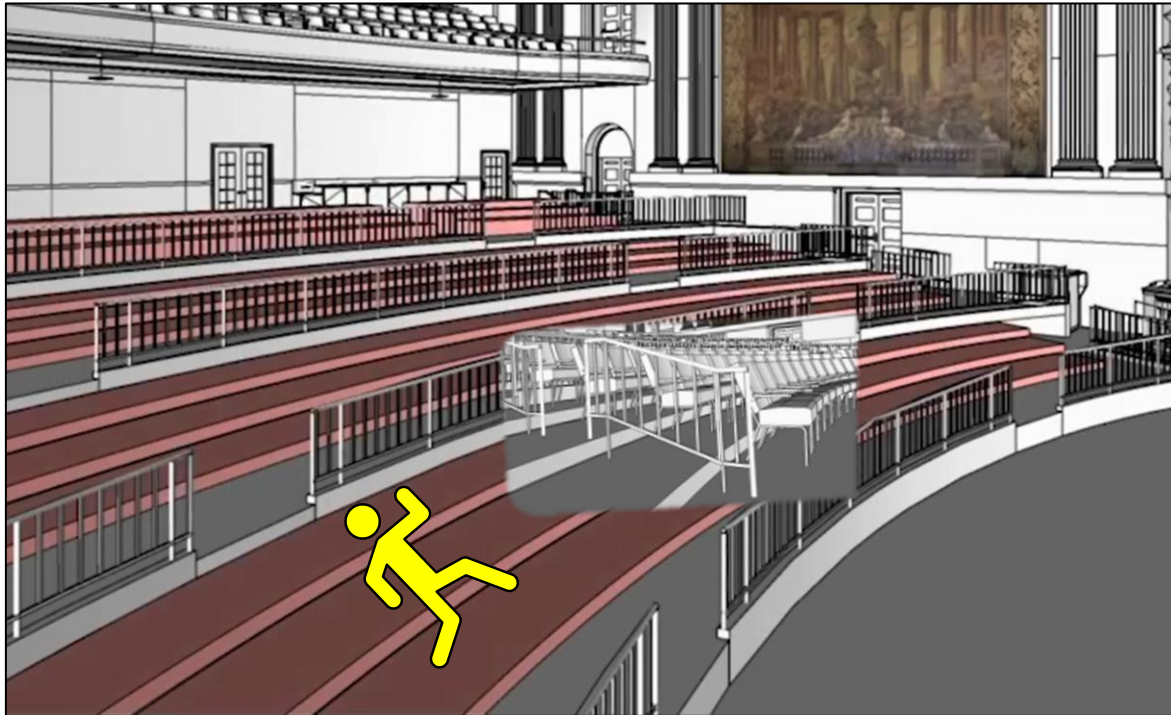
Respectfully submitted,
John Bengtson, Castro Theatre Conservancy Secretary/Treasurer

Castro - APE Obstacle Course



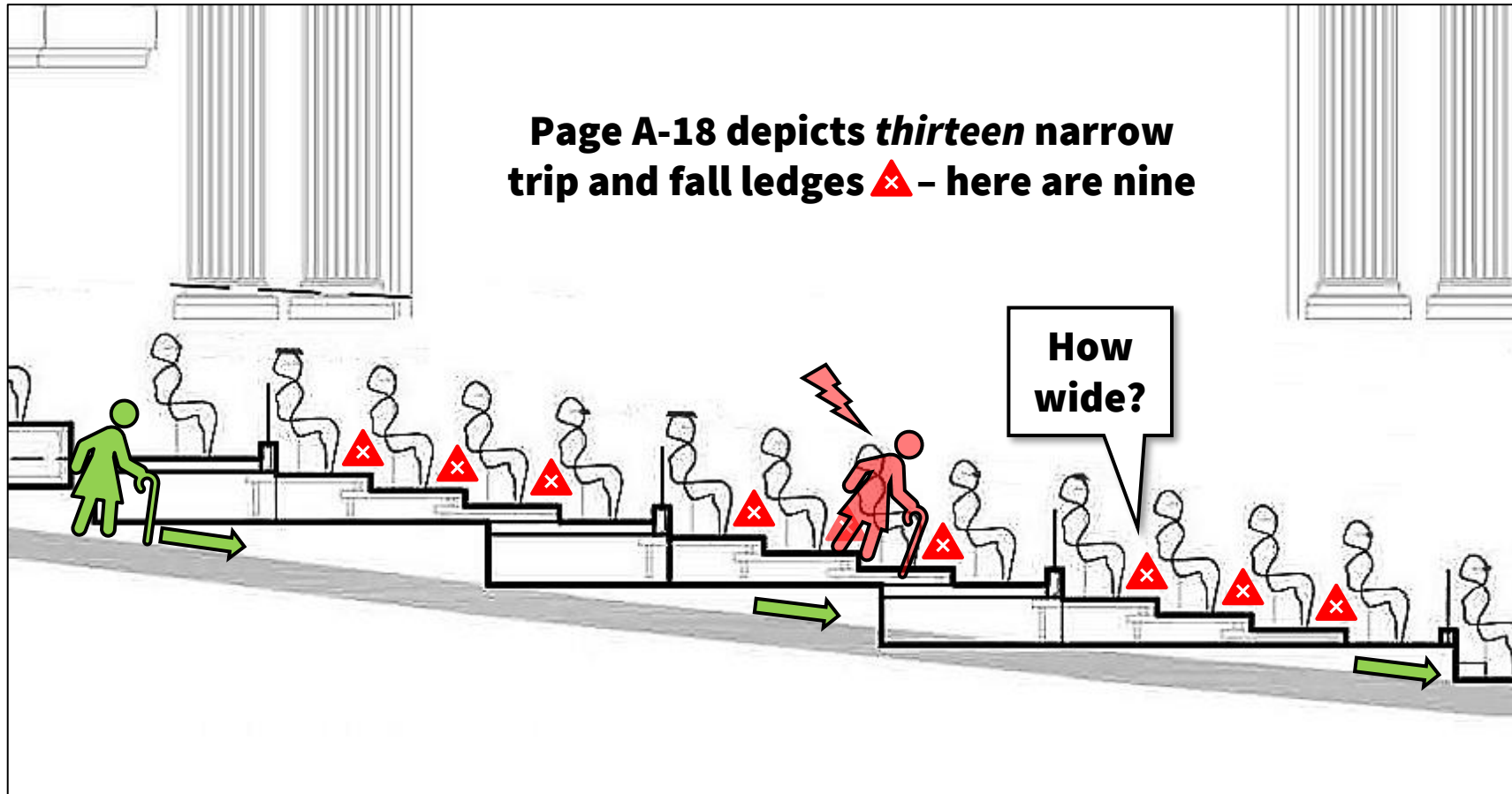
APE proposes an obstacle course, covering the smooth gently sloped floor with platforms, risers, and *thirteen* narrow trip and fall ledges 

Castro – APE Obstacle Course



APE's platforms, risers, and stackable chairs with legs fill the theatre with trip and fall hazards. Most chairs sit on risers with **open unprotected front edges, putting everyone at risk. People might trip over the chair legs, knock over a chair, or fall off the narrow open edges, especially in the dark.**

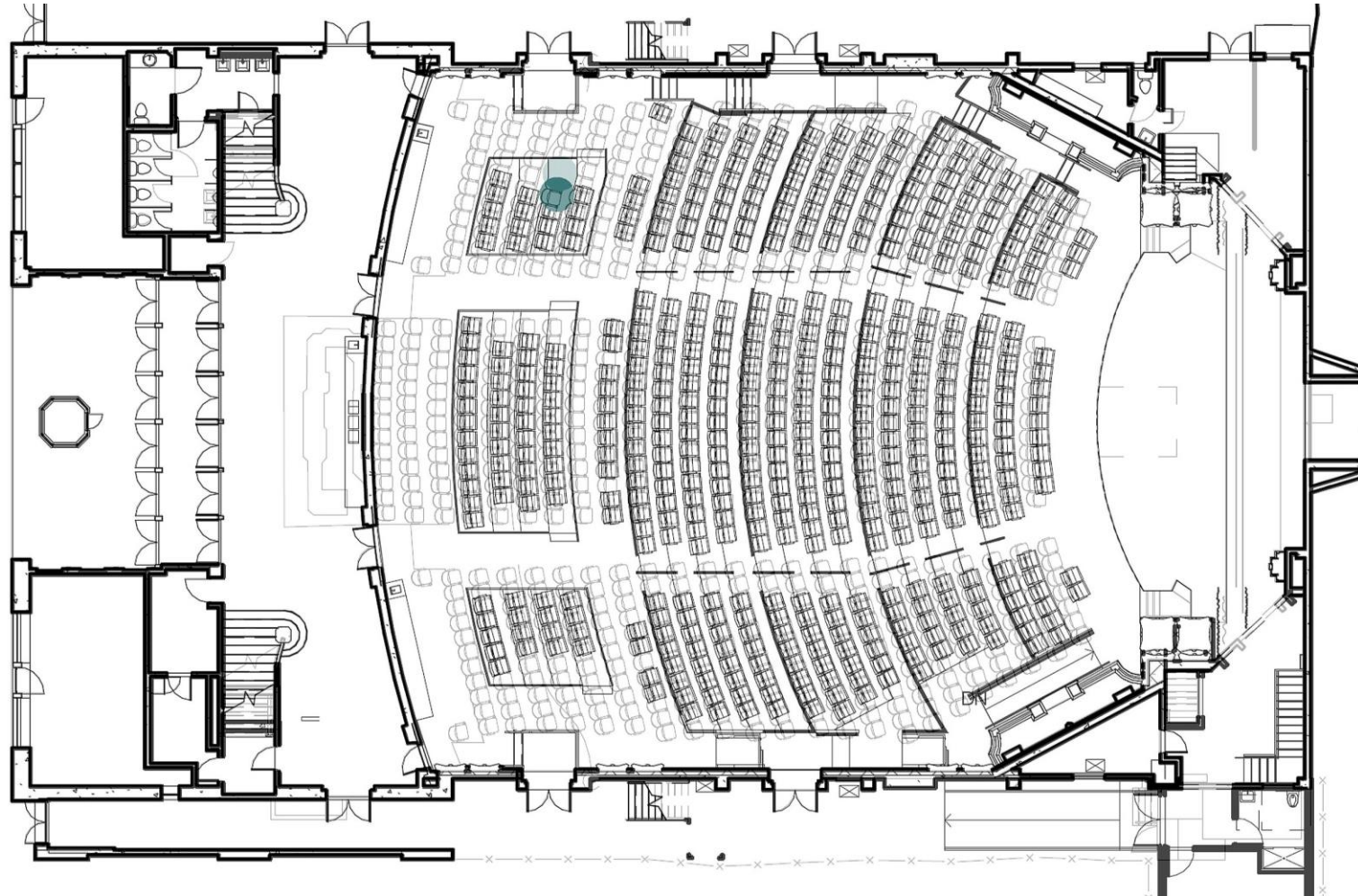
Castro - APE Obstacle Course



Theatres are dark. **Today** people with limited mobility may carefully navigate the smooth sloped floor to any row in the theatre. The seats fold up to ease access across each row. Aside from APE's risers and stairs, to move across a row people with limited mobility must navigate a hazardous *narrow* path between protruding chair legs and open ledges.

Castro - APE Obstacle Course

**802 permanent seats (24 rows) vs ~517 stackable chairs (20 rows)
a net loss of 4 rows, 285 seats (outlined) - 186 seats lost at back**



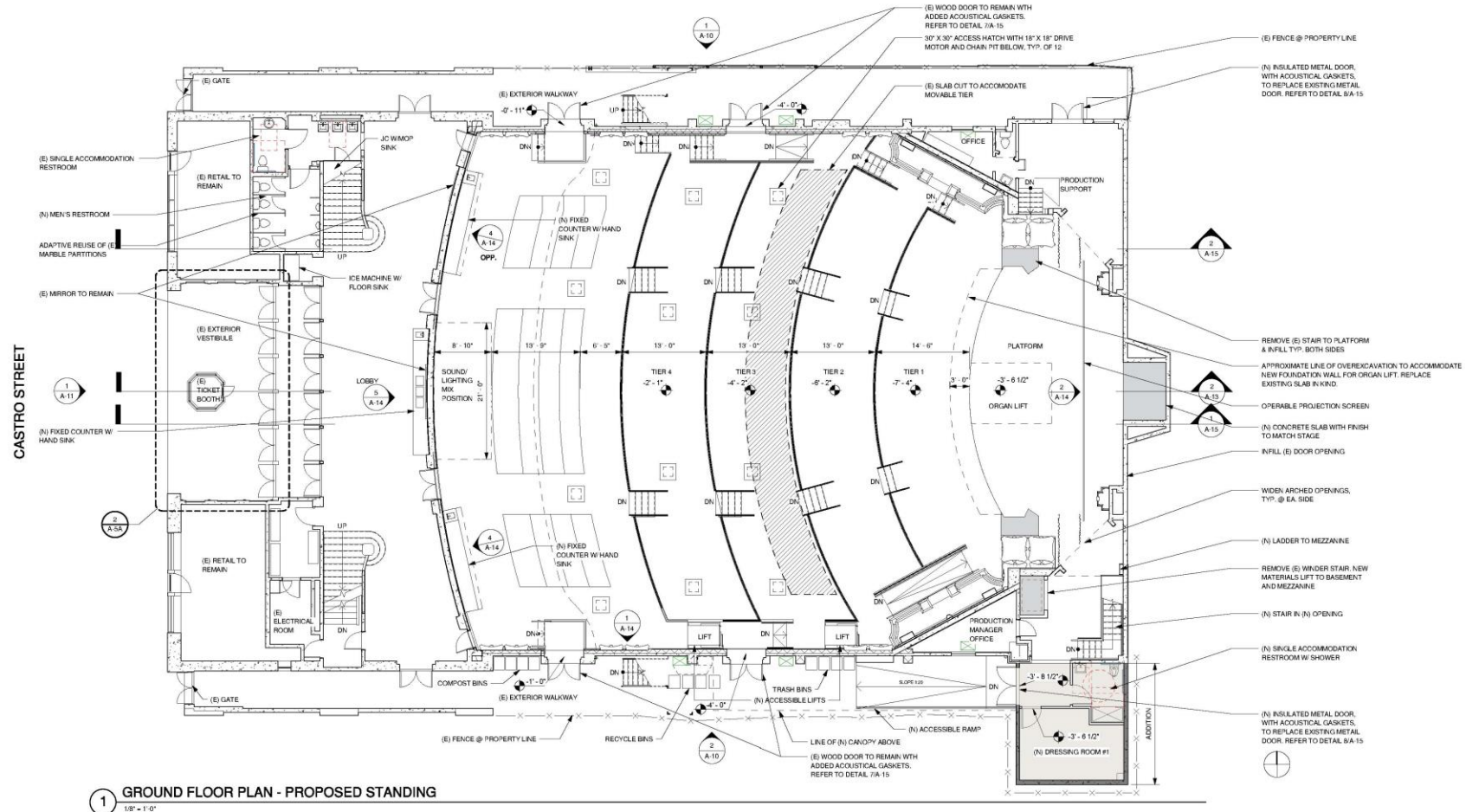
Castro – APE Obstacle Course

Page A-5A does not provide wheelchair access to the stage or the balcony. APE proposes an obstacle course, covering the smooth gently sloped floor with platforms, risers, and stairs. The proposed lifts and ramp along the south wall provide little relief. APE’s restrictive trip and fall plans will be less accessible to the public overall.

STAMP

CONSULTANTS

▲ MILESTONE DATE



1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING
1/8" = 1'-0"

PROJECT NAME

CASTRO THEATER

429 CASTRO ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

SHEET TITLE

GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING

PROJECT NO. 21-008

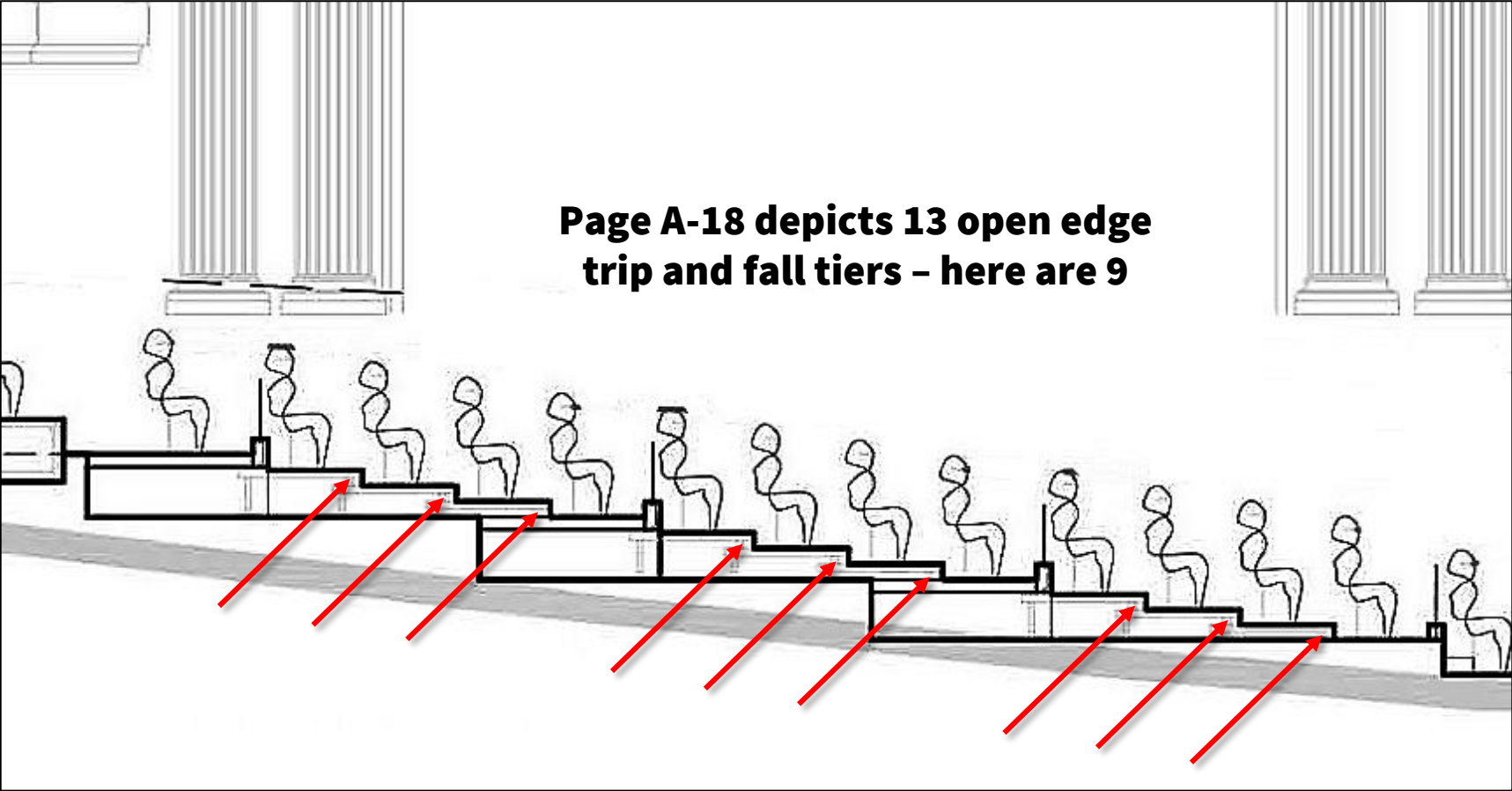
DRAWN BY KS, PS

CHECKED BY KW, CW

SHEET

A-5A

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

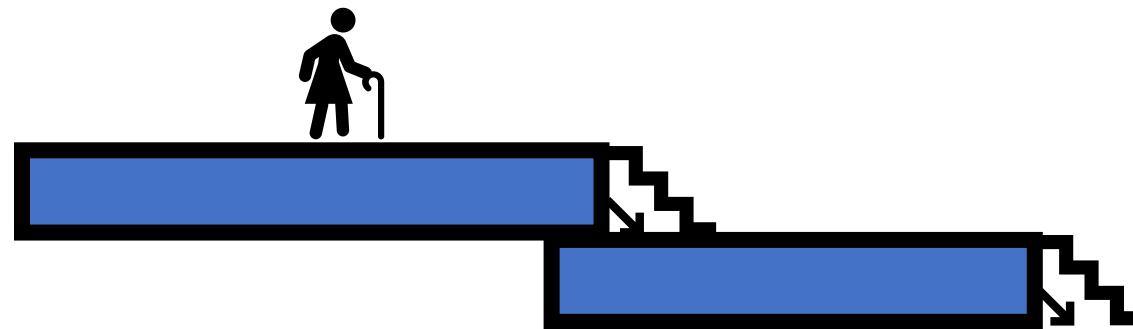


Will people trip in the dark along these narrow open edge tiers?

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

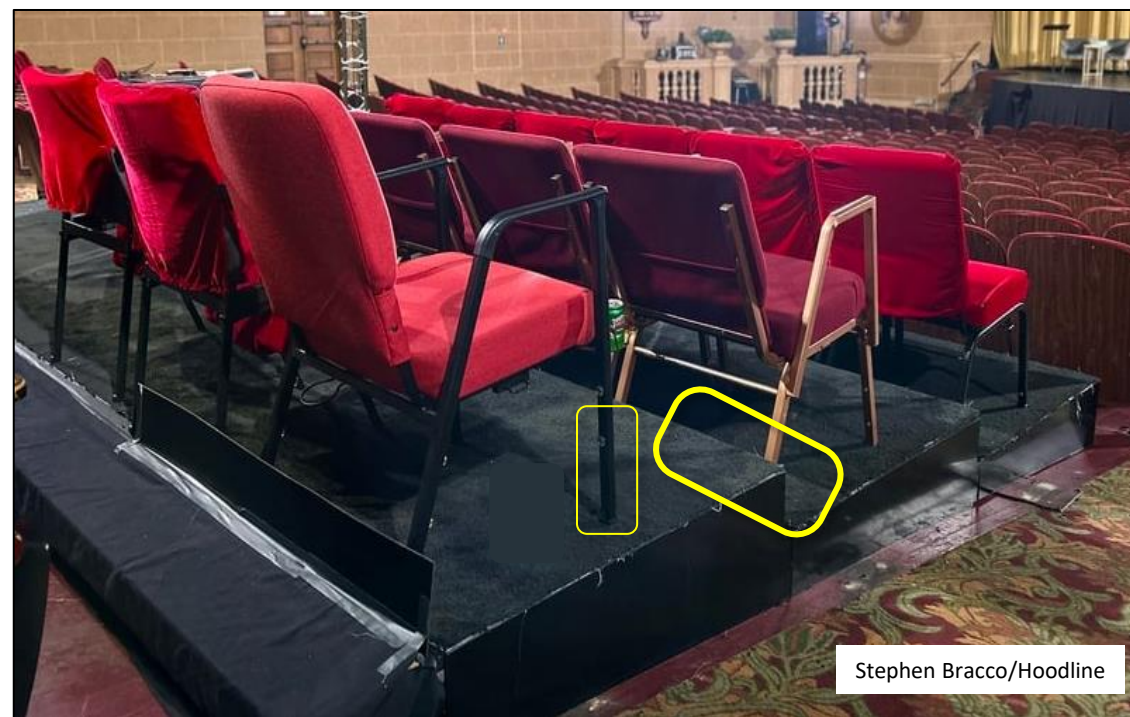
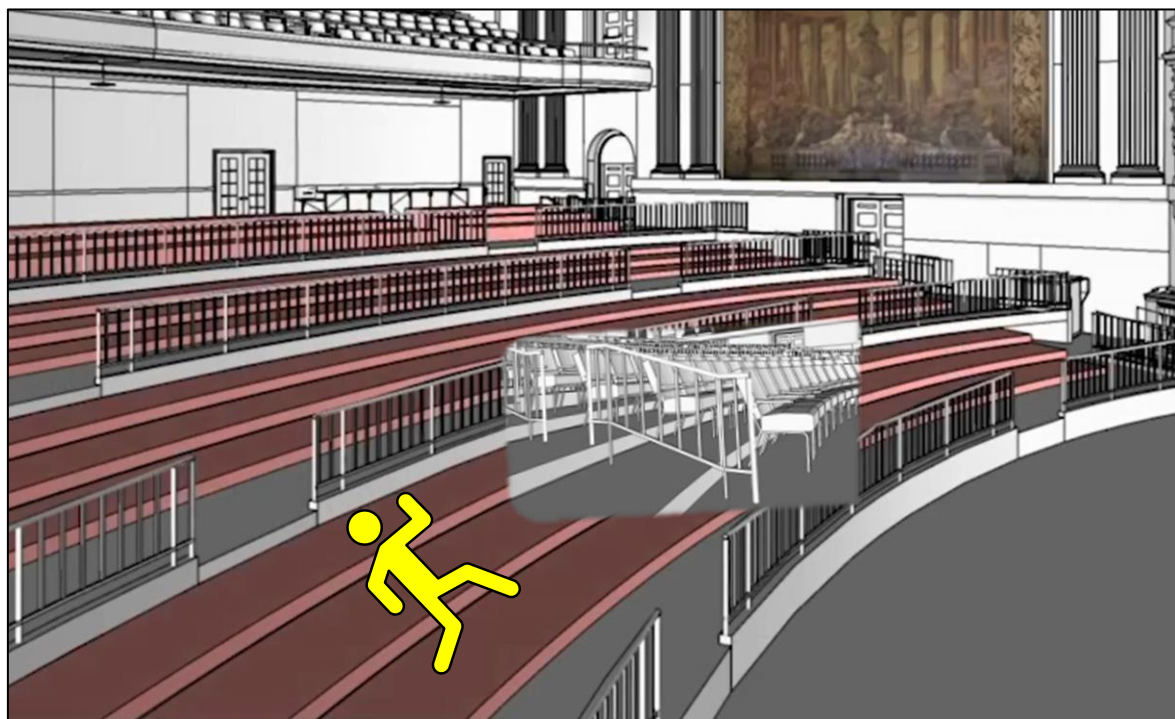


Today people with limited mobility may carefully navigate the smooth sloped floor to any row of the theatre. The seat bottoms fold up with no protruding chair legs blocking the wide rows. People who struggle sitting down and rising up are safer with permanently attached seats.



Under proposed plans people with limited mobility must navigate steps from platform to platform, 8 steps to the center of theatre, 14 steps to reach the front.

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall



Stephen Bracco/Hoodline

The plans replace 24 rows of 802 permanent seats with 20 rows of ~517 stackable chairs, most sitting on risers with open **unprotected front edges, creating trip and fall hazards. People might step off the narrow open edges, especially in the dark. The chairs' protruding front legs create other tripping hazards. Can stackable chairs be secured safely enough for people who struggle with sitting and rising?**

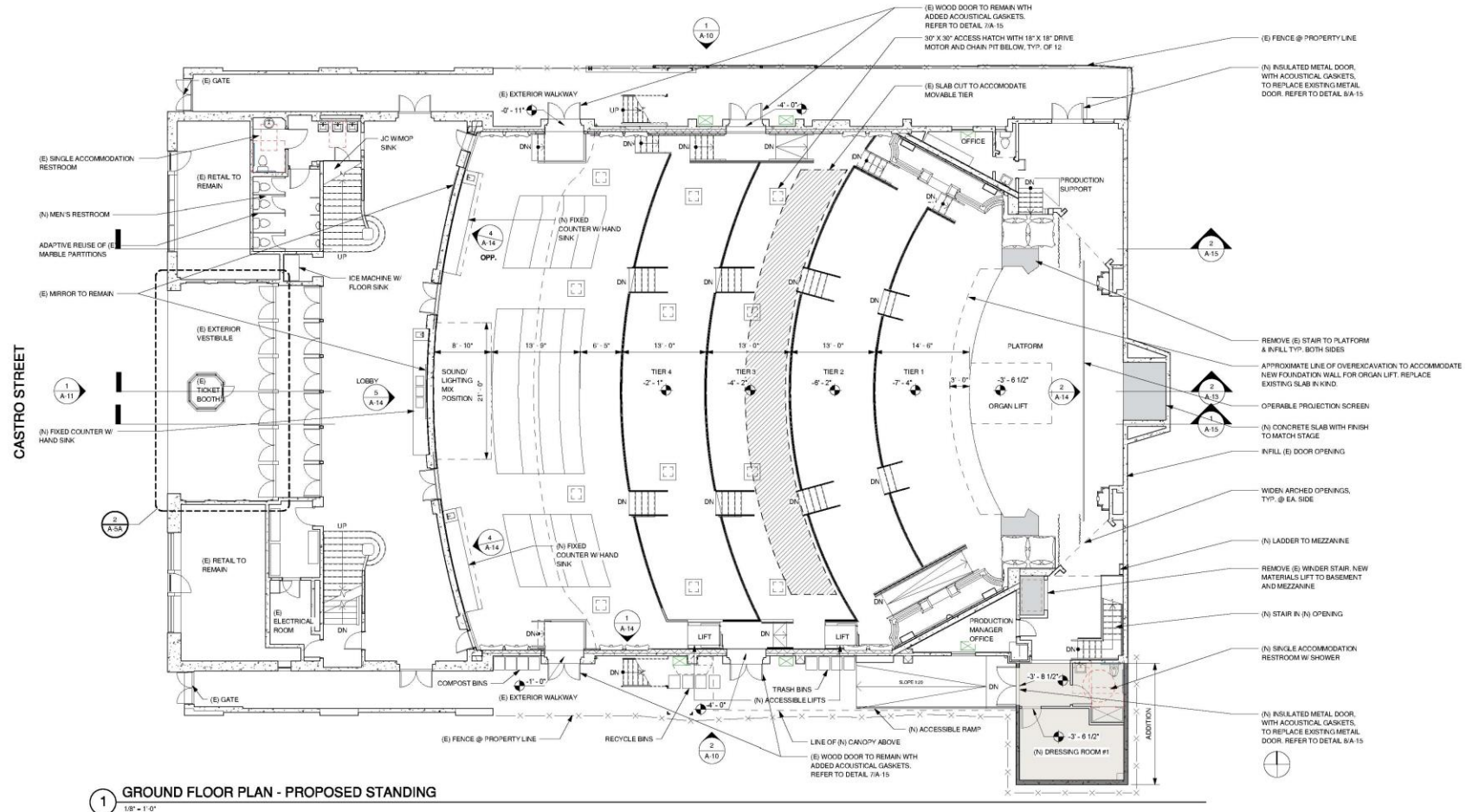
Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

Page A-5A does not provide wheelchair access to the stage or the balcony. The proposed ADA lifts and ramps are necessitated because the smooth floor slope is covered with risers and stairs

STAMP

CONSULTANTS

▲ MILESTONE DATE



1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING
1/8" = 1'-0"

PROJECT NAME

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429 CASTRO ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

SHEET TITLE

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PROJECT NO. 21-008

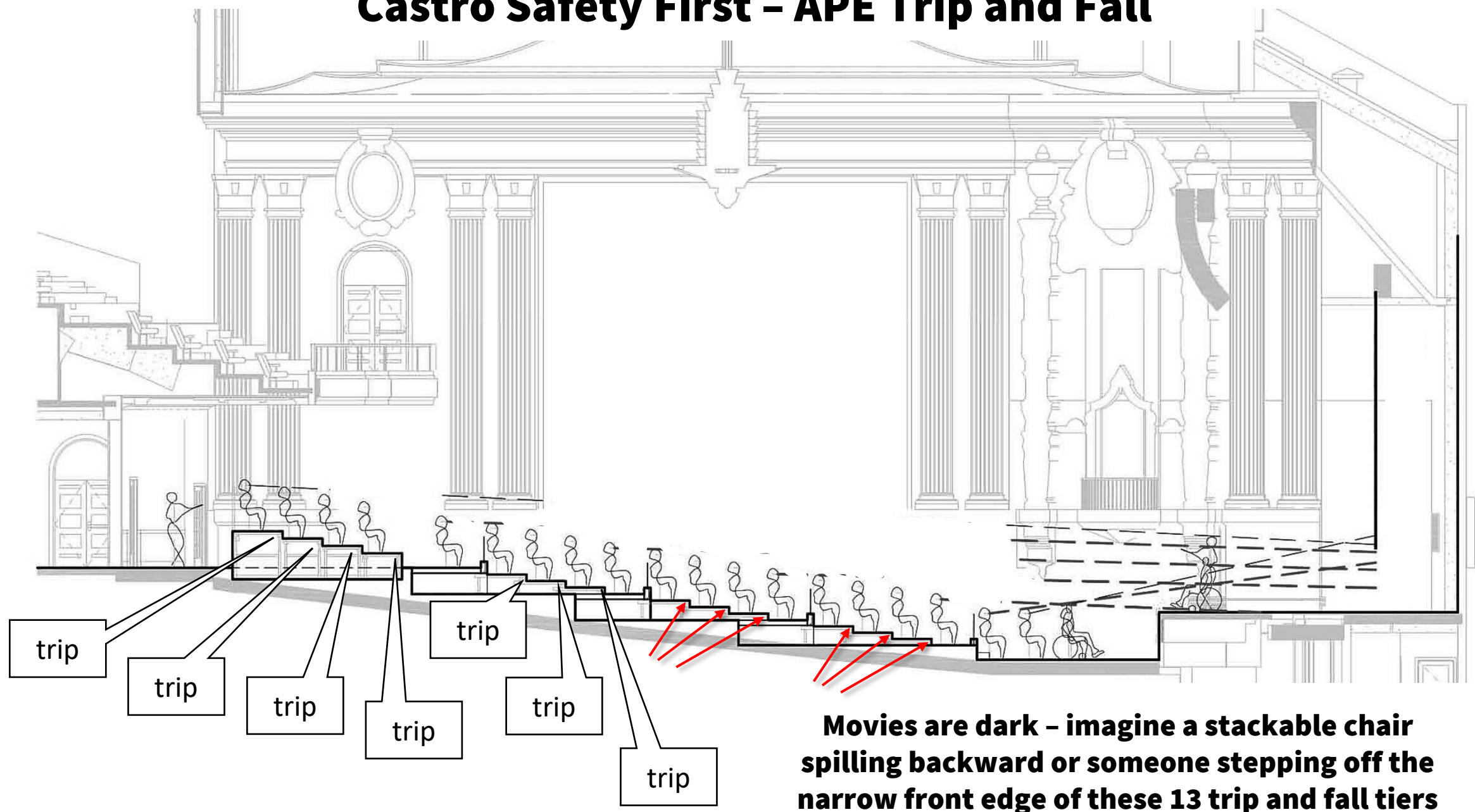
DRAWN BY KS, PS

CHECKED BY KW, CW

SHEET

A-5A

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall



Movies are dark - imagine a stackable chair spilling backward or someone stepping off the narrow front edge of these 13 trip and fall tiers

From: zocoytal@gmail.com
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Save The Castro Theatre Orchestra Seating
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:24:11 PM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Native San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. **With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Oakland managed to save the Paramount. We cannot afford to lose the last Grand Movie Place left in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Diane Peers
755 40th Ave
SF CA 94121

From: [Maureen Russell](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: The Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting April 17, 2023 re: Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:03:55 AM

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

The Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting April 17, 2023 re: Castro Theatre

Dear Committee Members:

I've been attending the Castro Theatre for films and other events for thirty-five years. While I appreciate Another Planet Entertainment's plans to take on long overdue maintenance and safety issues and to restore decorative features, I disagree about removing the permanent seating. I am in support of this committee approving the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre.

The Nasser Family and APE claim that only having film screenings will not bring in enough income. But the Castro has hosted a variety of events in addition to regular film programming for many years: these suit the community while using the theatre style seating—comedy, drag shows, the Moth, etc. APE's call for flexibility to hold weddings and corporate events to bring in income is not an appropriate use of this architectural treasure. Their confusing and changing seating plans would remove the soul of the theater, limiting the number of patrons if there are less seats, making it harder for promoters to bring affordable events. The proposed stackable chairs, with metal arm rests or none at all, are hardly a worthy substitute.

APE is running a growing number of San Francisco's music venues. The Castro is the only one with orchestra seating intact. This would be a great opportunity to host live music for seated audiences. We don't need tiered seating to accommodate multiple bars to serve drinks inside the orchestra. By updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style," community needs will be served. I do not agree that whatever APE comes up with is the last opportunity for the Castro, or it will close.

As San Francisco's last remaining neighborhood movie palace, the character and charm of Timothy Pflueger's interior should remain, including the raked floors and attached seating with its excellent sight lines. I would like to continue attending film festivals and patronizing Castro merchants, keeping the home of LGBTQ heritage intact.

Regards,

Maureen Russell

San Francisco 94103

From: [Lily Wong](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Stephen Torres](#); [Tina Aguirre](#); [Jen Reck](#)
Subject: Letter of Support: Castro LGBTQ Cultural Districts Efforts
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 6:00:19 PM
Attachments: [Castro Theatre LGBTQCD Letter.pdf](#)

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

Honorable members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

Please find a letter of support of the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District's efforts for community engagement regarding the historic Castro Theatre attached.

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

Wah Mei School 華美學校 | wahmei.org
1400 Judah Street. San Francisco, CA 94122
Office: (415) 665-4212
Direct: (707) 653-5813
Pronouns: She/Her
[SIGN UP FOR Sunset Chinese Cultural District Updates!](#)

color_wahmei_logo.pdf



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If there is no struggle, there is no progress...Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

-Fredrick Douglass



April 14, 2023

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

The Sunset Chinese Cultural District is writing in support of the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District's efforts for community engagement regarding the historic Castro Theatre.

San Francisco's cultural districts were legislated and passed by voters in 2018 to address the increased displacement of vulnerable communities. We are created to be a place-making and place-keeping entity that preserves, strengthens, and promotes cultural communities. The goals of all cultural districts include the preservation, maintenance, and development of unique and cultural assets, like the Castro Theatre. This building exemplifies the assets we are tasked to preserve that provide elements or characteristics that contribute to the history of the community.

We stand with our sister cultural district, who has worked tirelessly to preserve the community-serving cultural programs and activities found at the Castro Theatre. We believe they are working in good faith with the new owners.

The Sunset Chinese Cultural District is monitoring this issue, as the decisions made in this matter will set a precedent for how the City-wide cultural district strategies are being taken into account by city agencies and policymakers. We hope the Historic and Preservation Commission and Planning Commission will stand with the residents, stakeholders, and the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District and their work to maintain the Castro as the safe haven for the LGBTQ community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lily Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Lily Wong
Sunset Chinese Cultural District Director

Also sent to the SF Planning Commission and SF Historical Preservation Commission

From: [Julie Richter](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letters of support via the Castro Theatre Conservancy
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:30:08 PM
Attachments: [Letters from Castro Theatre Conservancy Supporters.pdf](#)

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

Hi Erica,

As I mentioned, the Castro Theatre Conservancy was copied on letters sent to the Land Use and Transportation Committee over the past month, all in favor of saving the seats. Because you and the general BoS email were not copied on some of them, I have combined them all into the attached PDF. I also forwarded a few to you, so those are not included in this document.

Thank you so much,
Julie Richter

Julie Richter

PR & Communications



T: [480.818.8022](tel:480.818.8022) E: julie@julierichter.co

julierichter.co

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

Castro Theater: "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

From: Scott Louis <scott@scottlouis.com>

[sent from](#) eigbox.net

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 9:30 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco District 5 resident (and supporter of Supervisor Preston - thank you!) and one of the many supporters of preserving the current seating configuration of The Castro Theatre.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my **support** for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre. I am requesting that the committee update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the **movie palace-style seating** as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the **orchestra configuration** and the **movie-palace seating** for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" or at least wording that specifies an overwhelming percentage of seating conforms to that wording.

With this change, the Committee will clarify the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Scott Clancy

District 5 SF resident

Castro Theatre

From: Stacy J <ss921@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 9:34 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely, Stacy Jeremias

Castro Theatre

From: cher <cher_roadrunner@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:14 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael M

I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.

Once the historic current seating arrangement is gone, along with the raking as designed by the architect, it is gone forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cher Evans

Fwd: Castro - "as is"

From: Connie B <connkoul@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:26 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Connie B** <connkoul@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 2:16 PM

Subject: Castro - "as is"

To: <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>

I was born in San Francisco. My son-in-law, a filmmaker, has presented at Castro theater. I've seen Jesus Christ Superstar there - fabulous!! I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, **updating "presence of seating"** to the more **accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."** Please, please !

Connie Burton, age 75

Fwd: Save the Seats / Save the Castro Theatre

From: Nina Elkin <nina.artist@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 11:48 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nina Elkin** <nina.artist@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 8:47 PM

Subject: Save the Seats / Save the Castro Theatre

To: <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>

Cc: <nfo@savethecastrotheatre.org>, <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>

Dear Supervisor Preston,

My partner and I personally have had many memorable times spent at the Castro. For example, for many years running attending the phenomenal annual Silent Film Festival which is unique in its presentation of silent films with live performances in such an iconic and beautiful venue. We love the organist and the experience provided by the well-designed sloping floor which improves the visibility of the screen. We have brought our out-of-town guests to the Castro and in turn, supported the other restaurants and businesses in the area.

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQIA+ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQIA+ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Nina

Fwd: Save the seats at the Castro!

From: zococtal@gmail.com

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 10:40 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: zococtal@gmail.com

Subject: Save the seats at the Castro!

Date: April 2, 2023 at 7:35:18 PM PDT

To: myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

To: Myrna Melgar,

I am a native San Francisco resident who has been attending movies and events at the Castro Theater since the 1970s. The "Castro" is the last intact grand historic theater left in San Francisco, The rest have all been torn down.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema.

Without the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating it is no longer *a theater*.

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Thank you for your consideration,
Diane Peers
Resident of D1 San Francisco

Land Use and Transportation Committee: SAVE THE CASTRO THEATRE

From: Paulann Sternberg <centsayuma@pacbell.net>

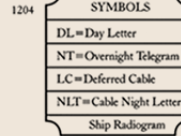
Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 3:52 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



URGENT: DELIVER WITHOUT DELAY
TELEGRAM
EXPRESS MESSAGE.



Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am 76 years old and have been a San Francisco resident since 1973. The Castro Theatre has been a treasured part of my life for half a century: as a film lover, an architectural history buff, and someone who thrives on the creative and social energy of the diverse members of the community that The Castro Theatre has fostered over these many decades.

Some of my fondest memories include: attending a 6-week Wednesday matinee festival of Katherine Hepburn movies; schmoozing with friends and strangers while waiting on line every July for a seat at The SF Jewish Film Festival; seeing actor Ed Harris on stage in person and asking him about his baseball affiliations rather than his life as a film star; experiencing the beauty of silent films accompanied by live music from local innovators like The Clubfoot Orchestra; immersing myself in the stark black-and-white world of *film noir* at Eddie Muller's

internationally acclaimed annual Film Noir Festival (the highlight one year was my winning a dvd of the film *Asphalt Jungle* during a trivia quiz between films). Each of these transformative experiences was only possible inside the magical walls and ensconced in the theater seating of a bona fide movie palace. Sadly symptomatic of what has befallen The Castro Theatre and its loyal audiences, Eddie Muller had to relocate his festival this year to the Grand Lake in Oakland because of the uncertain status of The Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic

movie palace and a site of international significance for
LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Paulann Sternberg
San Francisco



AT&T Yahoo Mail Stationery

Landmarking the castro Theater

From: Charles Beal <charleybeal@mac.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 5:38 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael Mandelman

San Francisco Supervisors

My name is Charles Beal. I am the president of the Gilbert Baker Foundation. Gilbert Baker created the iconic LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag in 1978 with the help of over 30 dedicated volunteers. Presently, his flag flies proudly over Harvey Milk Plaza across the street from another great San Francisco icon, The Castro Theater. Because of our efforts to landmark the flagpole and flag that Gilbert created at Harvey Milk Plaza, I believe I have a unique viewpoint concerning the desire by the new owners of the Castro Theater to alter its landmark status.

It is one thing to consider changes to the physical properties of the theater. But one also has to look beyond the mere physical changes that the new theater managers have requested and consider the real harm these changes will cause. There is a deep spiritual bond between the Castro Theater and the City of San Francisco that goes beyond the nuts and bolts that make up the seating, the proscenium, or any other physical part of the building. There is a connection to the community that surrounds and supports this theater that exists in the soul of the people who live in San Francisco.

I find this situation analogous to the Rainbow Flag across the street that I have mentioned. That flag installation is not mere fabric and thread, steel and chain. It is a work of art whose meaning exceeds its physical presence. So it is with the Castro theater and its current seating configuration. It is bound to the community in ways that are deep and spiritual. It is like a church to the local community and its new owners are trying to rip out the pews. Please do not let them do this.

I would also like to add that my connection to the Castro Theater goes beyond my involvement with the Gilbert Baker Foundation. In 2007 - 2008 I was the art director on the movie MILK which premiered at the Castro Theater. Back in 2007 I was involved with the effort to restore the

badly damaged neon sign and marquis when I was tasked with returning the Castro theater back to how it appeared in the 1970s. Thus, I am intimately familiar with the building and its history as I worked with the past owners, researching it's history and appearance. I was also responsible for converting over 50 storefronts to their historical state in the 1970s and worked closely with many of the merchants and property owners there. Their cooperation was crucial and their support was voluminous as they all dug deep into their archives and helped in the massive community effort that was needed to produce this award winning film. This unique experience gave me a deep understanding of the history of this amazing community of which the Castro Theater has always been the beating heart.

And finally, I will conclude by stating that I am a customer as well. Whenever I am in San Francisco, my husband and I make a point of going to the movies in this fabled building. Whether we are singing along with Julie Andrews in *The Sound Of Music* or cringing through *Mommy Dearest*, we cherish these memories like old friends.

Of course, times change and the economic challenges of maintaining a movie theater in the current economic climate are not to be dismissed. However, it is important to find a balance that will satisfy the new management and still preserve this cherished local landmark.

Respectfully

Charles Beal

He/Him

President of The Gilbert Baker Foundation

charley@gilbertbaker.com

917-557-0731

Please save our LGBTQ+ cultural heritage

From: BRIAN SPRINGFIELD <springfield_sf@comcast.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 2:31 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

The Castro's LGBTQ+ community--in fact, the entire city--values the Castro Theatre as an architectural and cultural jewel in our city's crown. Despite attempts to engage Another Planet Entertainment (APE), they have been unwilling to meet with the Castro LGBTQ+ Cultural District to discuss concerns around the preservation and continuation of LGBTQ+ culture at the theater. Instead, they appear to be working behind-the-scenes to ensure that vague language inserted into the updated landmark designation will work in their favor.

This type of behavior is undemocratic and distorts the influence of wealthy corporations and those that are politically connected. The 10 Cultural Districts created in our city are intended to give marginalized communities some ability to counter the powerful forces of development, gentrification, and cultural displacement.

Please do not reward APE's bad behavior by allowing the vague language in the updated landmark language to remain.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind,

I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Brian Springfield
2081 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 378-9577

Please Save the Castro Seats! Change the "presence of seating" language.

From: Deborah Chalfie <dmchalfie@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 9:33 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am active in historic preservation issues in the Washington, DC area. The Castro Theatre may be just a local theatre to you, but I hope that you know that people across the country care about the Castro and the Castro Theatre. Not only is the theater architecturally significant and an iconic, historic movie palace, but it is also a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage, and it a symbol of the evolution of the Castro District.

The theatre's movie palace-style seating is a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema.

Thus, it's not good enough for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance to simply say "presence of seating." I urge you change the language in a way that accurately reflects the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet. Please change and clarify the language to say the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Sincerely,

Deborah Chalfie

Takoma Park, MD

PLEASE Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Jennifer Urbain <jennurbain@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:54 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Jennifer Urbain

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Urbain

2141 Kirkham Street

San Francisco, CA 94122

Please Save the Castro Theatre

From: Pamela Masten <pamelamasten@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:42 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Masten

Please save the historic Castro Theater with proper seating

From: troy barber <finocchio68@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 9:56 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Troy Barber

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'm a Castro theater attendee since 1998 and saw movies there about 3-4 times a month before the Nasser family and APE irresponsibly decided to not reopen after the pandemic and let the place lay fallow. It's FALSE that people don't want to see movies there. While other theaters closed, the Castro (because it's a unique jewel) remained popular right up to the pandemic. Stuff was going on there every night before March 2020. I encourage you to PROTECT this SF gem as a world renowned movie palace. It's one of a kind... let's not ruin it!

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a **request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet**, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, **I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.**

Many movie palaces are able to stay vibrant as venues for live entertainment AND film while maintaining what makes them special.. the beautiful historic interior. Please do not allow APE to rip out the theater seats to create FLAT tiered floors just so they can squeeze every last dollar out of this place with extra booze sales. We deserve better. We have plenty of concert venues like that already. Please don't trash this national treasure.

Please protect this important San Francisco landmark.

Sincerely,

Troy Barber

1115 Divisadero St. #3 **[That's happily still District 5 after re-districting, Supervisor Preston!]**

Please vote to save Castro Theatre Landmark

From: Laurie Gordon <Decobelle@me.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:57 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Dear Dean Preston,

We know that you were so helpful in the ability to save the DeLuxe Club in the Haight last year...and now we need your help again.

We have learned that the Land Use and Transportation Committee meets today and will discuss the Castro Theatre. "Land Use" in this case is especially significant .

Preservation must be more than merely carving out shells of buildings or maintaining facades! The hope is that important experiences can be maintained through the preservation of interior spaces as well.

We worked on fundraising efforts for the Fox Oakland and had high hopes for the kinds of ongoing programming that would take place there but in the past 14 years since the grand re-opening in 2009 it has proven to only serve one type of entertainment... "stand up contemporary rock concerts:". This is less of a problem in Oakland where the Paramount is right around the corner, the Grand Lake Theatre is nearby and where the Fox had been shuttered for decades. but the CASTRO is a place that has a great following of supporters who have enjoyed FILM and film festivals, sing alongs, seated musical events, LGBTQ gatherings, community events and more.

Please do not be swayed by promises of "bringing in seats" for various events. It is neither sustainable nor viable to have to bring in theater seating stored offsite- the cost and complication will become a major deterrent and you will find film festivals and movies going to other cities instead.

Help save this one-and-only San Francisco Movie Palace now 100 years old by voting to change the language in the landmarking update from "the presence of seating" to " ***fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style***"

Sincerely,

Laurie Gordon
San Francisco Resident
Founding Member Art Deco Society of California
decobelle@me.com

Please! Save the Castro Theatre

From: Sara Murphy <saraemmurphy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 5:00 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a longtime San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro. The Castro Theatre is a jewel and deserves our protection and support — I strongly believe that by preserving the Castro Theatre we are protecting San Francisco's past and future by ensuring this iconic building and community space can remain the stunning historic landmark it is.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. I hope you will listen to me and the many residents like me who have been moved by the films and cultural events hosted at this gorgeous, living piece of history and protect the key external AND internal characteristics that are now so rare. The awe and wonder experienced by those of us who have gone to events, be they on the big screen or live on stage, is much to do with the many beautiful, intricate, historic elements of this theater — from the marquee to the mighty Wurlitzer the seating.

Sincerely,

Sara Murphy

PLS SAVE THE CASTRO MOVIE THEATER SEATING

From: Jone S <jonestebbins@mac.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:31 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

It is truly a rare gem and a vital piece of history and also of community. As a long time Bay Area resident, I believe we need to preserve what we can to maintain the beautiful, historic places still left here.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update **a specific phrase** that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage.

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate **“fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jone Stebbins

San Francisco Movie Theaters and their culture are disappearing at an alarming rate - Save the Castro Theatre.

From: Stephen Somerstein <ssomerstein@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 2:53 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER

Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee

Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

CC: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Members,

One by one our great San Francisco theaters with their cultural and architectural heritage and large screen projection are disappearing. Sometimes with the wrecking ball and sometimes slowly, with destructive graffiti, and other times by removing the one important aspect of all theaters, their seats.

The Castro Theater cannot survive as a movie theater if the essential requirement of seats are removed. It will then simply become a performance box for live performers with the audience standing. This will become neither a movie theater nor a playhouse for legitimate theater and lectures.


The community will have lost one more cultural landmark.

In comparison, I just returned from New York, where theaters are flourishing and the city is filled with movie theaters of all sizes and styles.

What a remarkable difference! difference!

P.S. Why are city officials paying no attention to former movie emporiums, such as the Alexandria Theatre, which have joined the roster of graffiti strewn buildings marring Geary Boulevard? Have they no sense of pride in their city?

[Alexandria Theatre - San Francisco](#)

 Alexander theater
on Geary Blvd, SF,
Ca from
www.outsidelands.org

Alexandria Theatre. 5400 Geary Boulevard at 18th Avenue

STEPHEN SOMERSTEIN
810 33RD AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121
(415) 305-0300
[SSOMERSTEIN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ssomerstein@hotmail.com)

Save Castro Theater

From: Jessica Ainsworth <jessica_ainsworth@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:24 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisor Dean Preston,

A strong supporter of the LGBTQ community and a person who adores classic films and the camaraderie found in enjoying movies with many others, I have enjoyed and found solace in watching films on the big screen at the Castro theater over the past 44 years.

I continue to be a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ainsworth

Save Castro Theatre

From: Carla Normand <rsjo@sonic.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 1:22 am

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

 [Patreon Button Full Name reduced.jpg](#) (27.1 KB)

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.


I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Carla Normand

 Vintage Jazz & Swing in the San Francisco Bay Area 🎷

Royal Society Jazz Orchestra

707-775-1600

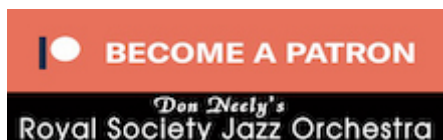
rsjo@sonic.net

www.rsjo.com

P.O. Box 750663

Petaluma, CA 94975

<http://www.patreon.com/royalsocietyjazzorchestra>



Save The Castro Theater

From: Vicki Engel <vickieng@umich.edu>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 5:34 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

As a San Francisco resident for three decades and patron of the beautiful Timothy Pflueger-designed Castro Theater - I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Engel

Save the Castro Theater

From: Lillian "Lil" <lillian_k_lee@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:24 pm

To: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Mark and I are SF Natives born, raised, and currently residing in Eureka Valley. We are among many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

We are writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

There are plenty of venues to have concerts in the city. Please do not take away the last grand movie theater in our beloved city.

Sincerely,

Lillian and Mark

Save The Castro Theater

From: Celeste Hong <celestehong13@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 5:21 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Celeste Hong

Celeste Hong
celestehong13@gmail.com

Save the Castro Theater

From: Juliana Mojica <mojicaarts@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:56 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Save the Castro Theatre, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

As a former San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I lived in the SF Castro neighborhood (around the corner from the Castro Theater) back in the late 70's and frequented the Castro Theater, and later returned to SF in the 80's til about six years ago. At one point I was publicist for the Cine Acción Film Festival and we screened for opening night, West Side Story, with Rita Moreno as our guest and for Q&A (she had just recently moved to the Bay Area). It was a very special night for everyone. That's only one event of so many memorable events that have passed thru the Castro Theater. Many times I looked forward to attending a film screening that had the live organ playing before the show.

Aside from film screenings, there have also been countless events with speakers and usage for commemorating special events. It's a very special place and one of the few remaining single theaters with a live orchestra space, and seating arranged for a movie-style palace. It would be a shame and a tremendous loss to the city for the possibility of undoing any of its current historic & cultural value to SF and internationally.

Therefore, I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Juliana Mojica

Save the Castro Theater

From: Roxane Osborne <roxane.osborne@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:07 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Roxane Osborne

SAVE THE CASTRO THEATER

From: onecinemafan <onecinemafan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 7:59 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I have many favorite cinematic memories of going to the Castro Theater, including introducing future generations to seeing films on the big screen with the organ accompanying the silent films.

Sincerely,

Jolene Huey

Save The Castro Theater

From: carl same <carlsames17@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 12:39 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I was a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Same

Save the Castro Theater

From: Elisabeth Derby <eaderby@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Mar 11, 2023 at 10:43 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident and onetime regular patron of the Castro Theater. I urge you to take action to protect what makes this theater so very special and even magical. Allowing it to become yet another expensive corporate concert and private party venue would be a heartbreaking tragedy. This theater is one of the best things about San Francisco, and it is because of the heart and soul of the place—the daily film screenings and other events that brought people from the immediate neighborhood and beyond together in such a meaningful way—as much as the beautiful architecture and adornments that contain them. Taking out the seats will surely be the end of that era, and the community that belongs in this theater will be occasional visitors only.

I am sure that the theater owners and APE can make much more profit by taking out the seats. But I cannot believe it's the only way to preserve the theater. Even in this era of almost no access to the Castro Theater, I have been at very well attended, film focused events like those produced by SF Sketchfest, the SF Film Festival, and others. As you know, the community has showed up in a huge way to advocate for this theater and I have no doubt the community can raise the funds for physical repairs if given the opportunity. And there are many examples of theaters being revitalized to host concerts and other mixed uses while retaining permanent fixed seating.

This is why I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Derby

3931 Mission Street

Save the Castro Theater

From: Jeanne Crawford <jeannecrawford@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 5:10 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Crawford. 331 Gambier Street, SF 94134

Save the Castro Theater

From: Teri Kota <terrikota@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 7:10 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Please protect the movie palace style seating to ensure one of the last remaining movie going experiences left in the City. Sure there are cushier seats, and fancier theaters with more food options but the Castro is all about experiencing the movie and every seat is a good seat at a reasonable price. I realize the movie experience isn't so profitable anymore so maybe it's time the City was even more proactive and finds and helps form a non-profit to manage the theater. I think if the Castro theater is showing movies regularly that this would be more supportive to the communities and businesses there and more people would come into the neighborhood more often thus benefiting the businesses that are there. The Castro got expensive long ago and most lesbians moved away and now there aren't any movies playing so there is no compelling reason for me to go there.

Please don't let them change the seating this would be the death of the movies at the Castro.

Sincerely,

Terri Nuqui

Save the Castro Theater

From: Roland Greedy <rolandgreedy@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:28 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Roland Greedy

Save the Castro Theatre as a Movie Palace

From: David Wiegleb <djwiegleb@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 12:20 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Although I am not a San Francisco resident, I ran Fields Book Store on Polk St for 13 years in Supervisor Peskin's district. I have been attending film screenings at the cultural touchstone of the Castro Theatre for over thirty years, practically living at the theatre during the Silent Film Festival and (recently decamped to Oakland) Noir City Film Festival, coming in from Pleasant Hill every day during these packed-house festivals. I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Having attended the various presentations of the architect on the proposed seating changes, I believe these proposed changes to be permanently destructive to its function as a historical movie palace. The plan of taking out the present raked floor with its fixed seating with cinema sightlines, and replacing it with terraces, incredibly expensive mechanical tiers (likely to break down, with little incentive to fix), and temporary seating (that needs to be stored somewhere and with set-up and removal costs for every film screening), is not a practical plan — attendees at film festivals are in those seats up to 10-12 hours a day. The architect has not been able to point to a single instance anywhere in the world where such a set-up is functioning in support of film festivals and screenings. The present seating arrangement does **not** preclude live music and other performances, as can be demonstrated with many multi-use movie palaces around the world. (Let's be honest: The only reason they want to tear the seating out is to increase liquor sales.)

San Francisco is blessed with a unique treasure in the Castro Theatre as a movie palace, which people travel from around the world to visit. Tearing out seating that supports its vital purpose of film screening will kill it so that its corpse can be beautifully embalmed. It further snuffs the life from San Francisco culture, which has already lost so much of its cultural fabric due to housing costs. Please don't let this happen on your watch.

Sincerely,

David J Wiegleb

Save the Castro Theatre in it's current form!

From: Julie Lord <decogirl320@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 8:46 pm

To: myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org, aaron.peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am an Australian citizen but my husband & I have been visiting California, the Bay area & San Francisco, twice yearly for many years now. Like many San Francisco residents, we are strong supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which has a long & proud history.

Opening in 1922, it was designed by architect Timothy Pflueger, who would go on to design a number of other movie theatres, including the Paramount in Oakland, along with some iconic San Francisco interiors such as the Top of the Mark cocktail lounge. In the beginning, the Castro showed silent films, often accompanied by live music from a variety of instruments, including its own Wurlitzer organ. From what we've read, it catered primarily to the working-class community in the Eureka Valley.

Obviously, no supporter of the theatre can be completely against progress. Changes are part of the Castro history - **but in the past such changes were able to be done without needing to radically alter the main auditorium space**, which is what is now being proposed with the intended removal of the fixed theatrical seating, configured in a movie-palace style.

As sound arrived in film, speakers were installed into a hole in the wall behind the then square movie screen. Further changes were made when movies went to wide-screen. Another screen was installed just a few feet in front of the original screen & proscenium. Whilst the old screen was forgotten, we believe it remains visible backstage, if you can climb the stairs.

I am now writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express our support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I would ask that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

As you know, while still owned by descendants of the original Nasser brothers, the Castro theatre emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic under new management - Another Planet Entertainment (APE). APE plans to renovate the theatre, with this work to include removal of the fixed movie theatre-style seating, along with addition of tiered sections for standing-room concerts. Such alterations would, I feel, be in direct contravention of the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance, particularly the removal of the current fixed seating. In addition, the removal of this seating could also disenfranchise those in the Castro and broader community with some types of physical disability.

However, by updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" the Committee will greatly assist in the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE, and also as a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I therefore URGE the Committee to make this key amendment as soon as possible.

Kind regards
Julie Lord
Melbourne, Australia

FYI - please find below various further details I've collated on the theatre:

1. With 1,400 seats, the Castro was considered small for the time period. The now lost El Capitan on Mission Street had double the seats of the Castro, while the Fox Theatre that once occupied by

the Fox Plaza clocked in at 4,651 seats. Today the average movie theatre in the USA has, I believe, approximately 150 seats. Back in the 1920s & 30s, venues like the Fox and El Capitan would show big blockbusters or first-run pictures, whilst the Castro's programming was mostly 2nd or 3rd-run pictures — films that had already played at the larger theatres.

2. The demographics of the Castro theatre audience changed in the '50s & '60s, with more of the gay community moving into the Castro area. It's reasonably well documented that Mel Novikoff, who was the Castro Theatre's programmer in those days, quickly discovered a strategy for getting the neighbourhood's rapidly growing gay community into the theatre by bringing back old films, mixed with art house films and foreign films. Such programming was particularly popular with the gay community who, at the time, didn't feel safe to be openly gay, but did feel more so at the Castro.
3. In 1977, the Castro Theatre was recognised as a beacon for the LGBTQ community when it became San Francisco's 100th historic landmark, protecting the exterior from demolition or alteration. The advent of the AIDS epidemic then saw the Castro become a 'chapel' to the gay community living in the Castro, and beyond, and grieving for the loss of a generation of young men.
4. Throughout the '90s and 2000s, the theatre continued to expand its engagement with the LGBTQ community. Then in 2008, the Harvey Milk biopic, *Milk* (much of which takes place in the Castro), held its world premiere at the theatre. Before the premiere, the theatre received a facelift of its exterior, funded by the movie studio, which restored it to its 1970's glory.

Save the Castro Theatre--Save the classic movie palace seating

From: Barbara Bagot-López <sanfranfan0-bb@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:12 pm

To: aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Hillary Ronen, info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Bernal Heights resident and a supporter of preserving the Castro Theatre. I am one of the 11,000+ signers of the petition to Save the Castro.

I had not been to the Castro since the start of the pandemic, but ventured there for the West Coast Premiere of "Say Hey, Willie Mays!" hosted by the Giants in November. The film and panel discussion were awesome, and the experience of viewing it in this magnificent movie palace was profound.

I am writing to you, the members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee **clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

Save the Castro Theatre, PLEASE!

From: Cynthia Mortensen <cyndi.mortensen@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:42 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre. I have attended meetings and given my written testimony at City Hall, and signed petitions to Save the Castro Theatre.

Saving the Castro Theatre to include the sloping floor and the seats will ensure its place as the ONLY classic movie palace left in San Francisco. Keeping this seating will not interfere in live music or theatre presentation (the beautiful Paramount in Oakland is set up this way and is very successful). But most importantly, keeping the floor & seats will ensure continued use of the Castro as the home of many important film festivals, and allow it to continue a repertory film program. It's a win-win. Removing the historic floor & seats also removes the hopes of continuing to show film. The proposed solution of sliding floors & temporary seats is completely unrealistic.

I am imploring the Land Use and Transportation Committee for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre to PLEASE update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you so much,

Cynthia Mortensen
566 Waller St
San Francisco, CA 94117

SAVE the Castro Theatre, please

From: David Landis <davidlandissf@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 6:18 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Save the Castro Theatre, Catherine Stefani, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Aaron, Dean Myrna, Catherine (and Rafael):

I am a San Francisco resident (2032 Scott St., SF, 94115), and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Cheers,

David Landis

Pronouns: He/Him

The Gay Gourmet, SF Bay Times

www.gaygourmetsf.com

www.sfbaytimes.com

415-517-9887

davidlandissf@gmail.com

2032 Scott St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Instagram: @gaygourmetsf

Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Jeff Shelby <jeffshelby1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 4:35 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a longtime San Francisco resident and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre. I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. My sincere hope is that this action will lead to an eventual return to the daily repertory film schedule that has been an essential part of the magic of the Castro Theatre. The Castro Theatre is the happiest place on earth for me. Please do not allow Another Planet Entertainment to destroy it.

Thank you for your attention.

Jeff Shelby

148 Gold Mine Drive

SF, CA 94131

Phone (415) 505-8456

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Valerie A Francisco-Menchavez <vfm@sfsu.edu>

Sent: Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 12:49 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,
I am the Assistant Dean of Restorative and Transformative Racial Justice at San Francisco State University. I write to join the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Valerie Francisco-Menchavez, PhD
Assistant Dean of Restorative and Transformative Racial Justice
College of Health and Social Sciences
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue, HSS 336a
San Francisco, CA 94132
Valeriefm.com

For meeting times, please visit: calendly.com/vfm

Author of *The Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in the Digital Age* (University of Illinois Press, 2018). [Bit.ly/laborofcare](https://bit.ly/laborofcare)

Save The Castro Theatre's Movie Palace Seating and Raked Floor

From: Marisa Vela <marisavela@sonic.net>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 7:19 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee ,

I am writing today to ask you to clarify the language about "presence of seating " downstairs at the Castro Theater, and update it to include the raked floor and movie palace style seating and configuration.

The Castro Theatre is the only movie palace we have left in San Francisco. Please preserve this cultural icon.

Sincerely,
Marisa Vela

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Sam Hull <samhull96@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Apr 8, 2023 at 12:34 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a resident of the Castro, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I inadvertently signed an automated letter supporting the renovations to the Castro Theatre. This mistake arose because I assumed that such an egregious plan to destroy a core part of the neighborhood would not have the gall to operate a public letter-writing campaign—unfortunately, I was wrong. When I realized my mistake, I knew I had to write directly to all of you to clarify that I oppose the proposed changes to the Castro Theatre, and to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Sam Hull

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Edna Molina <edna.molina13@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 9:31 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a San Franciscan, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely, Edna Molina

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Kay Weinstein <kayweinstein@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 2:46 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am an East Bay resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

**Kay Weinstein
1809 Central Ave., Apt. E
Alameda, CA 94501**

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Brittany Stonesifer <brittanystonesifer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Apr 5, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Brittany Stonesifer

Cell: (415) 913-9391

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Moya Stone <agathasprose@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco native, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Moya Stone

Moya Stone

she/her

Freelance Writer

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/moya-stone/1a/202/187>

<http://overdressedforlife.com/>

Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Anne Smatla <amsmatla@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 3:46 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

**Sincerely,
Anne Marie Smatla**

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Heather Ripley <heathercripley@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 10:54 am

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I was a San Francisco resident for 17 years and now only work and play in the City, but I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,
Heather Ripley
Preservation Committee Member
Art Deco Society of California

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Justin Lisanckie <justin.lisanckie@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 10:24 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Justin Lisanckie
Bernal Heights Resident, SF

Save the Castro Theatre

From: twistee2u2@gmail.com

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 2:31 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| **ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER**

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a long time San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Fiona Friedland



Virus-free www.avast.com

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jessica Thrasher <jessica.thrasher@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 1:31 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident and one of the many supporters of preserving the historic and world renowned Castro Theatre. I've attended hundreds of events at the Castro since 2008 and it is my favorite place to be in the city. The Castro Theatre was a major influence on the fact that I now live nearby.

I attended the Historic Preservation Commission meetings and have given testimony regarding the Castro's landmark status, and I'm one of over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

One of the key takeaways from hours of sincere and passionate public comment was this: Other historic film palaces that have had their **permanent** seating removed are no longer film palaces.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Let's protect our last surviving film palace in San Francisco!

Sincerely,

Jessica Thrasher
80 Villa Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94114

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Paul Worobec <psparo@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 4:04 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Hello:

For thirty years the Castro Theater has provided me a source of not just education and entertainment through film but also the deepest reassurance and fulfillment of the belief of countless millions that film and its public purpose and accessibility are the richest artistic and cultural contribution of the twentieth century.

The Castro Theater is globally recognized as just what you call it...a beacon. To allow APE, or anything or anyone else, to steer the Castro Theater off its decades-old providential course would be a cultural travesty and ruinous to San Francisco's reputation, from any perspective.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Paul Worobec

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a San Franciscan, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Holly Stump <hstump@pacbell.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:05 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Holly

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Francisco Mijango <miocid1988@aol.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Francisco Mijango

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jonathan Belmares <ebelmares@comcast.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 1:57 pm

To:

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Belmares

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jessica Dillon <jessica.wynne.dillon@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 6:09 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'm a native San Franciscan and I've been attending the Castro since I was a child. My mother took me to the second ever San Francisco Silent Film Fest, which was one of many early experiences that shaped my love for the San Francisco arts scene and our city's culture. And I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

My concern with the current plan for removal of the seats is that music venues in the Bay Area are rarely open. Not only would this plan further devastate the state of film in San Francisco, I believe that the current plan would not be as economically beneficial to the neighborhood as leaving the seats in. If the seats are kept for films, the theater could be open every day of the week. APE has stated that they do not intend to set out seats for repertory films to keep the theater open 365 days a year to bring foot traffic to the neighborhood consistently.

APE has discussed hosting podcasts and comedy events, which could easily keep the seats (I know James Acaster sold out the current seating in November). And there are plenty of musicians who will play to seated audiences. APE themselves have pointed this out in both the community meeting and small business planning meeting, when they talked about the past 10 years of (seated) concerts at the Castro. I know many others have catalogued the large number of historic theaters operating successfully as film and live show theaters with permanent seating. (And, frankly, I don't think we should be letting Knoxville or Phoenix show us up when it comes to being a world-class arts destination.)

The current plan would also be disastrous to small business entertainers. Frameline might be able to afford a seating set-up cost of \$1,200 amortized over 50 screenings, but this cost would be prohibitive to smaller businesses, not to mention the loss of profit to those businesses from the up to 250 seats that would be lost in this plan (as stated by APE in the community meeting). I believe this would particularly impact queer artists, although others can speak with more authority than I on the Castro's legacy in the LGBTQ community.

Finally, APE has discussed bringing in galas and weddings and I fail to see how closing the theater for those types of events would bring business to other Castro merchants, nor how this plan would enhance the San Francisco community. San Francisco has plenty of event venues. We have one Castro Theater.

I love live music. It is soul-restoring to me. I love the Fox for what it is (as well as our many other standing stages) and I attend Outside Lands every year. But repertory film is similarly necessary, and it needs its venues. I do want to see the Castro restored, but it can be of more use to other Castro small businesses, to the LGBTQ community, to arts patrons, and to San Francisco without destroying the seats and without destroying the nation's premiere movie palace. I cannot understate the importance of the Castro Theater as a San Francisco landmark. I beg of you to ensure it stays a movie palace for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dillon

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Taylor Stephens <takstephe@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 11:15 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I live in the North Beach, and I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Nowhere else feels as magical to watch movies, especially silent films. I have watched silent films at other theaters and never really felt anything special until I saw a performance at the Castro theater. It was mind blowing! If the seating changes, this now unique experience will disappear for San Francisco residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylor Stephens

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Terry Beswick <tmbeswick@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Mandelman, Rafael (BOS), Castro Merchants Board, Erica.Major@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| **ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER**

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, a member of the Castro Merchants Association Board of Directors, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, **with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.**

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Terry Beswick



Terry Beswick
Founder/Principal
Grants & Things, LLC
584 Castro Street #425
San Francisco, CA 94114
www.grantsandthings.com
terry@grantsandthings.com
415-756-4920 - text/phone

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Cayla McGrail <cjmcgrl@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 12:12 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Queer Historic Preservationist, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. LGBTQ cultural heritage, history, and lives are in extreme levels of danger this year. However, I hope that by working to protect the Castro Theatre we can continue showing that queer people have always been here, and will continue to be here.

Thank you,

Cayla McGrail

Secretary | Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Gregory Sykes <gsykes@sonic.net>

Sent: Sun, Mar 26, 2023 at 9:32 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

In my 30+ years living in San Francisco, the Castro Theatre has been a source of cultural nourishment. I have attended countless movies, both at festivals and when the theater owners still cared enough to program movies on a regular schedule. It has been heartbreaking to see the neighborhood gradually dying without the crowds that the theater used to draw. It seems that APE and the Nasser family are determined to let the theater and the neighborhood rot until they get their way. Their behavior has been shockingly corrupt and stunningly arrogant.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style." With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Gregory Sykes

Save The Castro Theatre

From: Elizabeth K <eokenison@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 10:43 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee today to support the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, and in particular to urge you to update one particular phrase to make sure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

The specific movie palace-style seating in the Castro Theatre is a crucial aspect of the space as a historical landmark and as an example of a historic cinema. It is a significant, defining aspect of this historic structure which serves as not only an important example of 1920s movie palace architecture but also as a site of significant LGBT cultural heritage. I urge the Committee to clarify the Landmark Designation Ordinance's language, updating "presence of seating" to the more specific and accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will help to protect the Castro Theatre as both a historic cinema and as a site of local, national, and international significance for LGBT cultural history.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kenison

Save the Castro Theatre

From: David Kimei Yogi <davidyogi@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 6:19 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I hope this message finds you well. My wife and I are San Francisco Castro residents, and two of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,300 petition signers to Save the Castro.

We are writing to you to express support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

The Castro Theater represents an affordable place for all in an inspiring venue. Turning it into an event venue (of which the City has many, many of already) will:

1. Restrict access to only those with means to pay the high ticket fees for events
 2. Again limit footfall in the neighborhood-- [The recent proposed plan reported on by the Chronicle](#) by Another Planet only calls for events less than 1/2 of the year-- of this, only 1/4 (of the 1/2) would be for LGBTQ programming-- laughable window-dressing--and films would be shown less than once a week). Many businesses have closed in the neighborhood, drug use is high, and morale is very low--it's embarrassing seeing tourists in the neighborhood.
- There are many good examples of how theaters can be sustainable (The Balboa Theater, for example, has been very successful since launching its film programming and has expanded operations to the Four-Star Theater in 2023. [Look at the Roxie Theater's performance as well.](#))
 - The owners knew the theater's role and significance for the community when they bought it.
 - Reverting the Castro Theater to a **majority-dormant** "events" space with some movies is a money-grab that will hurt an already struggling neighborhood---more movies means more business for the Castro neighborhood.

Sincerely,
David and Laura Yogi

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Nancy K. Fishman <nancykfishman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 3:35 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a former San Francisco resident of many years (and a current resident of the East Bay), a film festival worker and publicist and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. There are many venues in the Bay Area for live music. There is only one temple of cinema in San Francisco. It, like the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, can accommodate both live music and movies with fixed seating. Please protect one of San Francisco's jewels of architecture and one of its cultural landmarks.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Fishman

Nancy K. Fishman

T: (510) 290-0255

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Juliana Mojica <mojicaarts@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 1:14 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a former San Franciscan who still loves the city and its history – especially the Castro Theater, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

Juliana Mojica

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Charly Zukow <charlyzukow@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 1:47 pm

To:

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Mandelman, Rafael (BOS)

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, living in the Castro, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Charly Zukow

charlyzukow@gmail.com

415.309.2009

he/him

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Cheryl Rosenthal <truetolifefilms@me.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 2:29 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rosenthal

Save the Castro Theatre

From: cjm <nonutdasa@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 1:28 am

To: aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Savethecastrotheatre Info, rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident in District 8 and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Connie Jeung-Mills

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Marina Chu <chu.marina@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 12:12 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a proud San Francisco native and former employee of the Castro Theatre prior to the operations change to Another Planet Entertainment, and one of the many supporters of preserving this magnificent historic theater, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “**presence of seating**” to the more accurate “**fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.**”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Marina Chu

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Renee Monte <rmonte@icloud.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 10:11 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident living in the Outer Richmond who loves going to the Castro Theatre after having dinner at one of the neighborhood restaurants. I stand (and sit) with the 11,000 petition signers who are part of the Save the Castro movement.

Memories of going to the Castro include Silent Film festivals, Noir festivals, and Sing-A-Longs. We took my 80 something mom to a Little Mermaid Sing-A-Long and posed for photos wearing our crowns outside the theatre. I went to the Sound Of Music Sing-A-Long more than once mostly to hiss the Baroness. I was also selected at one of those performances to parade across that fabulous stage in my 'Raindrops on Roses' costume. One of the features of the theatre that makes it the Castro and not another venue somewhere is the seating. I like sitting low with great sight lines while watching and listening to the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra provide live accompaniment to Buster Keaton's brilliance.

And now, I am writing to the three of you as members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023. Specifically, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Thanks,
Renee Monte

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Netta Fedor <nettaffedor@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 6:36 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Save the Castro Theatre, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Netta F. Fedor

Netta F. Fedor
1970 Sutter Street, Apartment 111
San Francisco, CA 94115
415.559.6946
nettaffedor@gmail.com

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Doug McKirahan <ratt57@pacbell.net>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 4:32 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Save the Castro Threater!!

From: Bob Carasik <bobcarasik@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 8:18 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre. I ask that you update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Bob Carasik

Bernal Hts.

Save the Castro, please!

From: Carolyn Tillie <carrie@carolyntillie.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 3:59 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Aaron, Myrna, Dean, and Rafael,

I moved to the Bay Area from Southern California in 1999. One of the reasons I decided to relocate was the truly extraordinary history, architecture, arts, and "spirit" that inhabited San Francisco which I found wanting in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County. Relying on the Castro Theatre for classic cinema and film festivals filled my heart and fed my soul.

Please accept this correspondence as my support of the Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre to maintain its historical integrity. I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language; updating *presence of seating* to a more accurate, *fixed theatrical seating configured for a movie-palace* style of architecture.

I entreat you to help maintain the historical prevalence of the Castro Theatre as a beloved San Francisco landmark.

With kindest personal regards,

Carolyn Tillie

www.carolyntillie.com

707-688-0297

2480 Mission St., Ste. 212

San Francisco, CA 94037

Save the Castro!

From: Victoria75 <starrynight817@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:34 am

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

My name is Victoria Golden and I am greatly concerned about the cultural and sociological loss from proposal to remove seating at the Castro Theatre. It would be a tragic loss as this a major location with importance to the LGBTQ community and would impact the types of events that are possible for this community. The Castro Mission District also has long connections with the Latino community and the building design celebrates the cultural fusion that is part of mission revival architecture. This theater is a beautiful historic treasure as its and seating arrangement is how the architect intended it to be experienced. The theater was listed on the City's historic register to protect the historic building from proposals that impact its historic value. The architect Timothy Pflueger was an interior designer and is tied to the very history at the core of what makes the City of San Francisco special; the Bay Bridge, Fairmont Hotel, St. Francis etc. With so few original theaters intact from the Art Deco period in the City of San Francisco, I close asking for a vote to reject this proposal in order to protect and maintain this site for future generations to experience in all its original grandeur.

Starrynight817@yahoo.com

Save the Historic Castro Theater

From: Shana Barchas <shanabarchas@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:24 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Shana Barchas

P.S. This is the last theater of its kind in SF. It is beloved by so many people and a link to our collective past. Please do not forfeit its cultural and historical significance to make a buck.

Save the seats

From: S F <stefisk@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 1:38 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I would like to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

My support for this decision arises from having attended well over 1000 screenings in the Bay Area's repertory theaters over the past decade, and from co-founding a website that serves as a consolidated calendar of repertory, festival, and exclusive film screenings in theaters across the Bay Area. I am very invested in the promotion and survival of the Bay Area's film repertory and festival community. To replace fixed seating with portable chairs fit for a hotel conference room would be a desecration of one of the most famous theaters in the world, for no tangible benefit beyond increased alcohol sales and banquet rental opportunities for APE.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Stephen Fisk

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

From: Dan Karkoska <djdanksf@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 5:03 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Dan Karkoska

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save the Castro Theatre Seats
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:34 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "Tanya Zimbardo (she/her)" <tzimbardo@SFMOMA.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:49pm
To: "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org" <Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "info@savethecastrotheatre.org" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, "Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org" <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre Seats

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a fifth-generation San Francisco native and a resident of Glen Park. My love of cinema was fostered by numerous visits to the Castro Theatre since I was a teenager. It was where I was introduced to a wider range of movies, from remastered foreign films to historic noir and silent films. I have since taken members of my family, from my niece at the age of 3 to experience "Sing-a-long Little Mermaid" to my 90-year-old father to watch together "West Side Story" in all its glory on the big screen, among other programs. Cinema at the Castro Theatre undoubtedly contributed to my professional interests and expertise. I currently curate moving image work at SFMOMA for gallery and screening contexts and have guest-curated artist film/video screenings at nonprofits locally. SFMOMA and a range of cultural organizations have partnered with the Castro Theatre in the past to offer select special event screenings.

Too many theatres in San Francisco have shuttered. There is only one Castro Theatre, and this magnificent movie palace needs to be saved! The proposed removal of seats will be a devastating blow to film festivals to be able to even consider this venue again and for any regular film programming schedule to continue. We cannot lose this invaluable community gem simply because APE wishes to install more bars...

I, therefore, am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro. I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Tanya Zimbardo

Current exhibitions:

[Susan Philipsz: Songs Sung in the First Person
on Themes of Longing, Sympathy and Release](#)

SFMOMA Floor 7 Terrace

Ongoing

[Ragnar Kjartansson: The Visitors](#)

SFMOMA Floor 6

Through May 2024

Tanya Zimbardo (she/her)
Assistant Curator of Media Arts

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Enjoy our spacious, art-filled galleries. Tickets available at [SFMOMA.org](https://www.sfmoma.org)

415.357.4081
tzimbardo@sfmoma.org
151 Third Street | San Francisco, CA 94103

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From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save the Castro Theater
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:49 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: "Leigh Ausiello" <leigh.ausiello@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:08pm
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save the Castro Theater

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, **I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Leigh Ausiello

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save The Castro Theatre
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:56 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "Terride3@earthlink.net" <terrider3@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 12:46pm
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: "Save the Castro Theatre" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save The Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'd like to start by saying I'm a long-time San Francisco resident, a loving patron of the Castro Theatre and most importantly a VOTER.

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Terri DeSalvo
407 Fair Oaks
San Francisco, CA 94110
Long-time San Francisco Resident and VOTER

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save The Castro!
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:03:32 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "John Flanagan" <friscoflan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:56am
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save The Castro!

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston, thank you for your time.

I'm a San Franciscan, and will keep this short. The Castro Theatre is one of the great movie palaces left on this planet, and that's not hyperbole. It's the truth. It's a landmark that needs to stay the way it is. You don't lose the things that make a city great. Please do whatever's in your power to make this happen.

sincerely, john flanagan

494 27th Ave. #53
San Francisco, CA 94121
415 519 1962

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:28 PM
Attachments: [Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall.pdf](#)

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "John Bengtson" <John@silentechoes.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:48pm
To: "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "myrna.melgar@sfgov.org" <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org" <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston:

Community and preservation issues aside, APE's plans to convert the beloved Castro Theatre movie palace into a nightclub will also flood the theatre with trip and fall hazards.

The theatre currently has a smooth, gently sloped floor with permanently affixed seats.

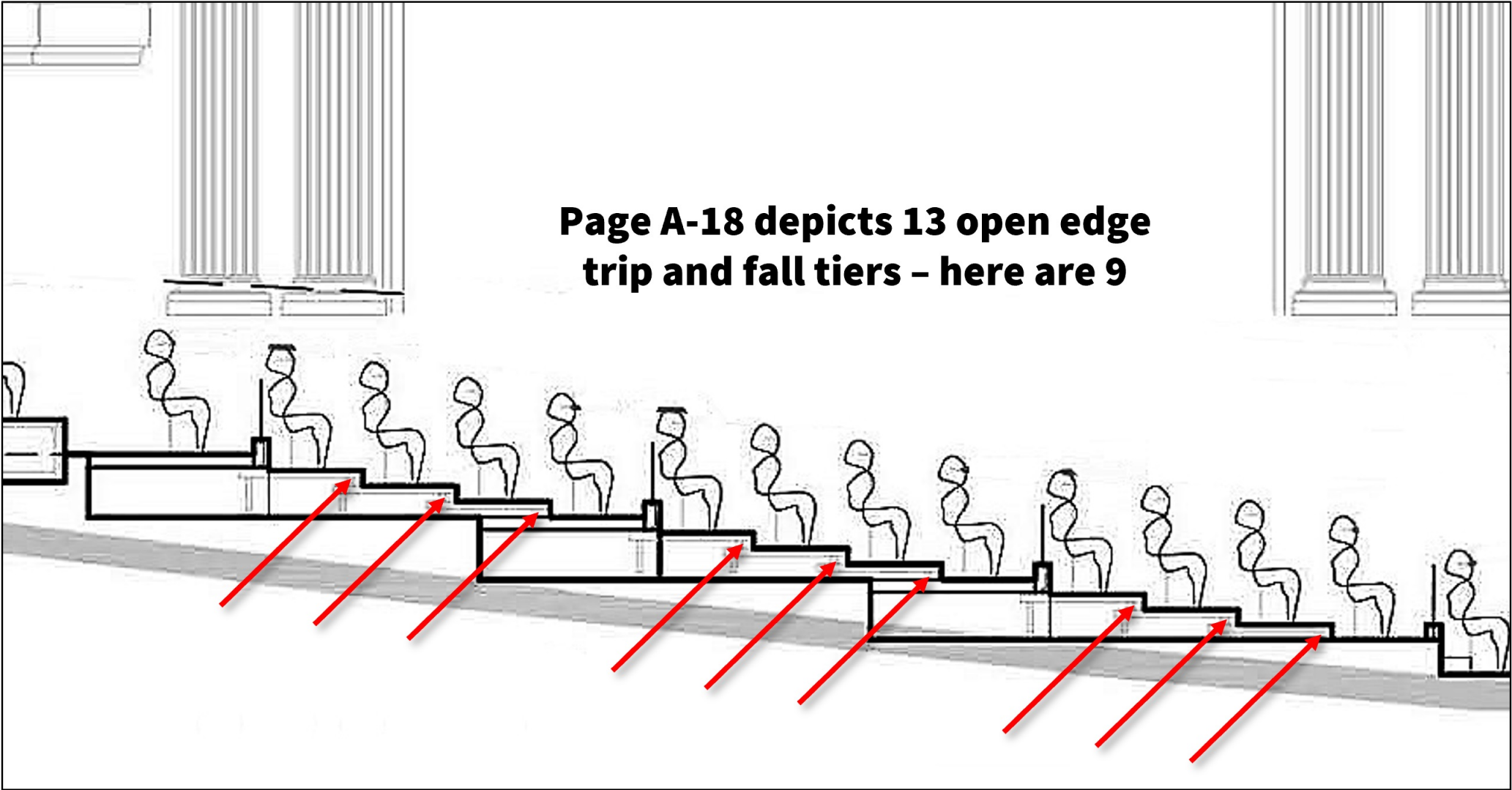
As shown by these illustrations, common sense dictates replacing a smooth floor with platforms, risers, stairs, and stackable chairs, will limit access to many patrons, and greatly **increase** the trip and fall risk for all patrons.

APE's complicated and expensive plans to "solve" an unnecessary self-inflicted problem will expose the public to far greater risk throughout the theatre.

Doesn't "the presence of seating" imply the presence of *safe* seating? It would be far easier, cheaper, and **safer** to Save the Seats.

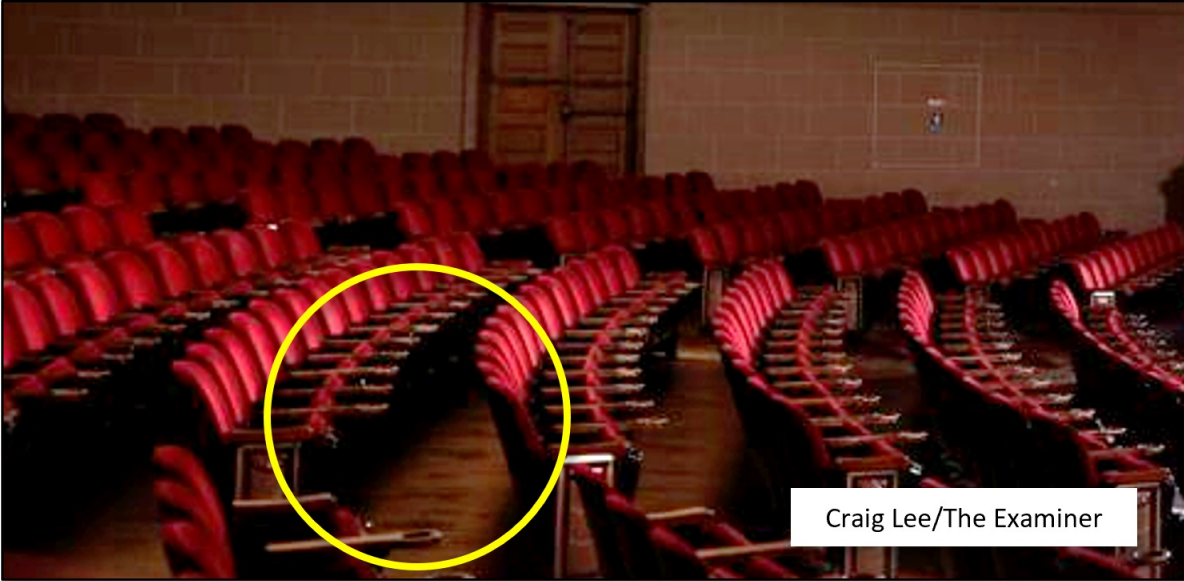
Respectfully submitted,
John Bengtson, Castro Theatre Conservancy Secretary/Treasurer

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

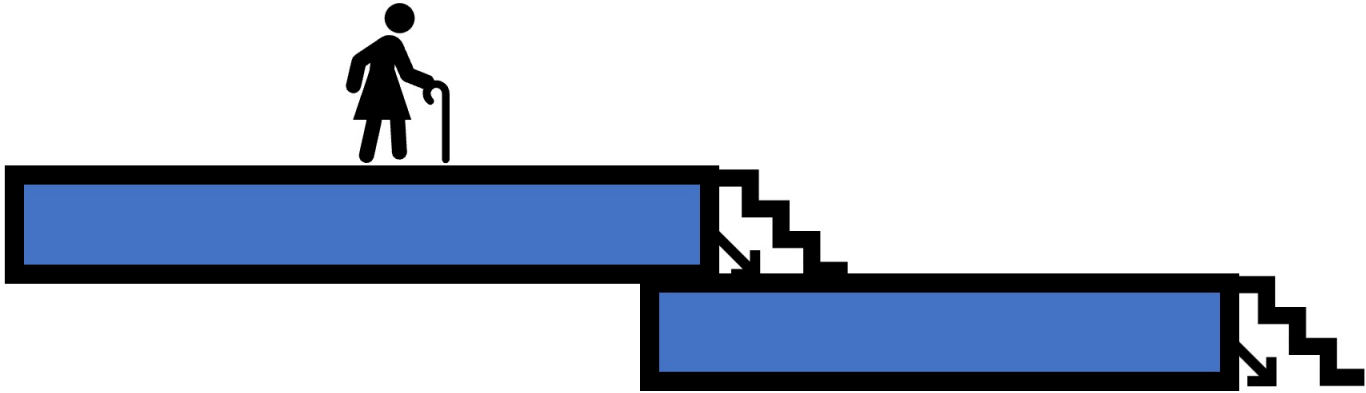


Will people trip in the dark along these narrow open edge tiers?

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

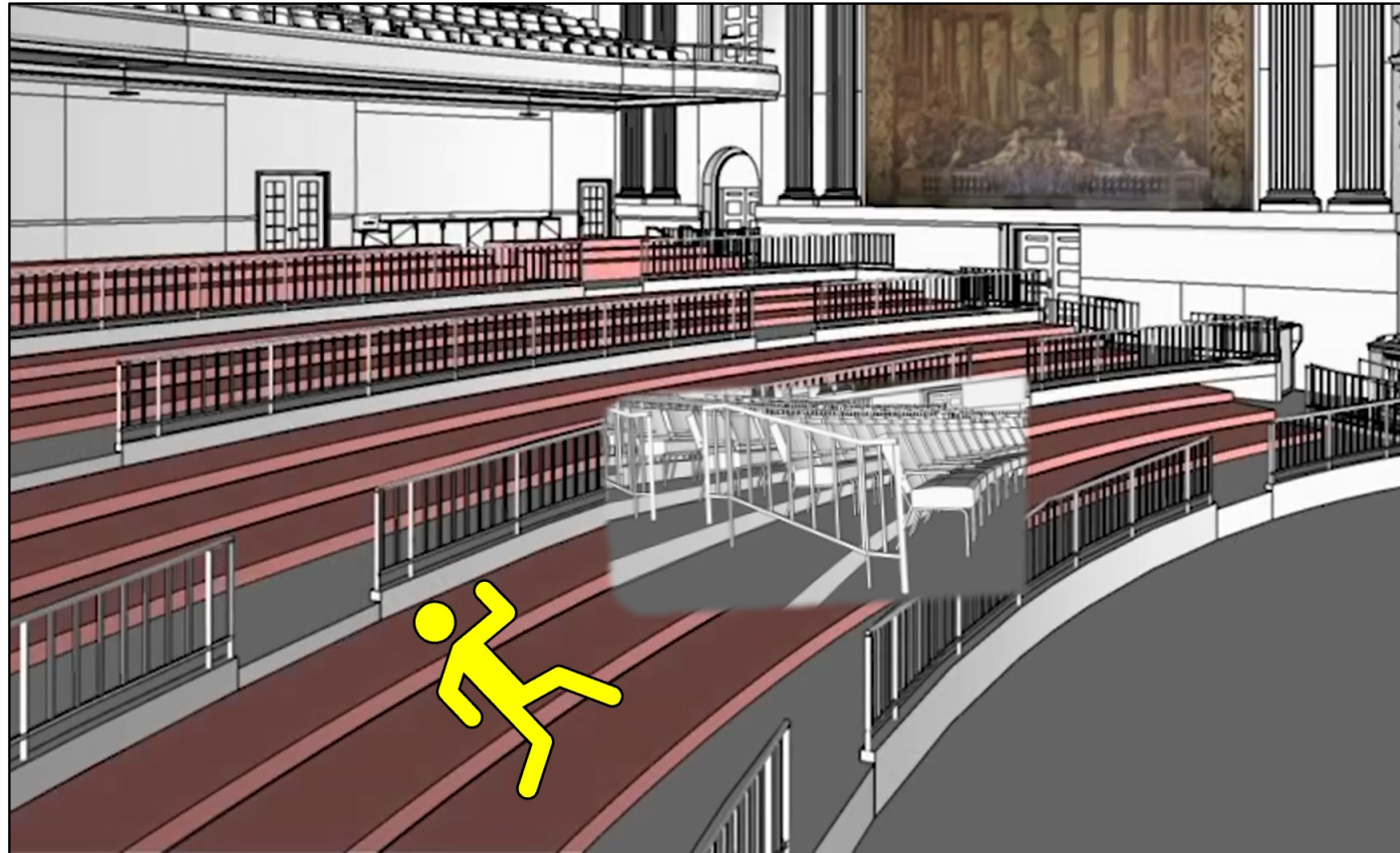


Today people with limited mobility may carefully navigate the smooth sloped floor to any row of the theatre. The seat bottoms fold up with no protruding chair legs blocking the wide rows. People who struggle sitting down and rising up are safer with permanently attached seats.



Under proposed plans people with limited mobility must navigate steps from platform to platform, 8 steps to the center of theatre, 14 steps to reach the front.

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall



Stephen Bracco/Hoodline

The plans replace 24 rows of 802 permanent seats with 20 rows of ~517 stackable chairs, most sitting on risers with open **unprotected front edges, creating trip and fall hazards. People might step off the narrow open edges, especially in the dark. The chairs' protruding front legs create other tripping hazards. Can stackable chairs be secured safely enough for people who struggle with sitting and rising?**

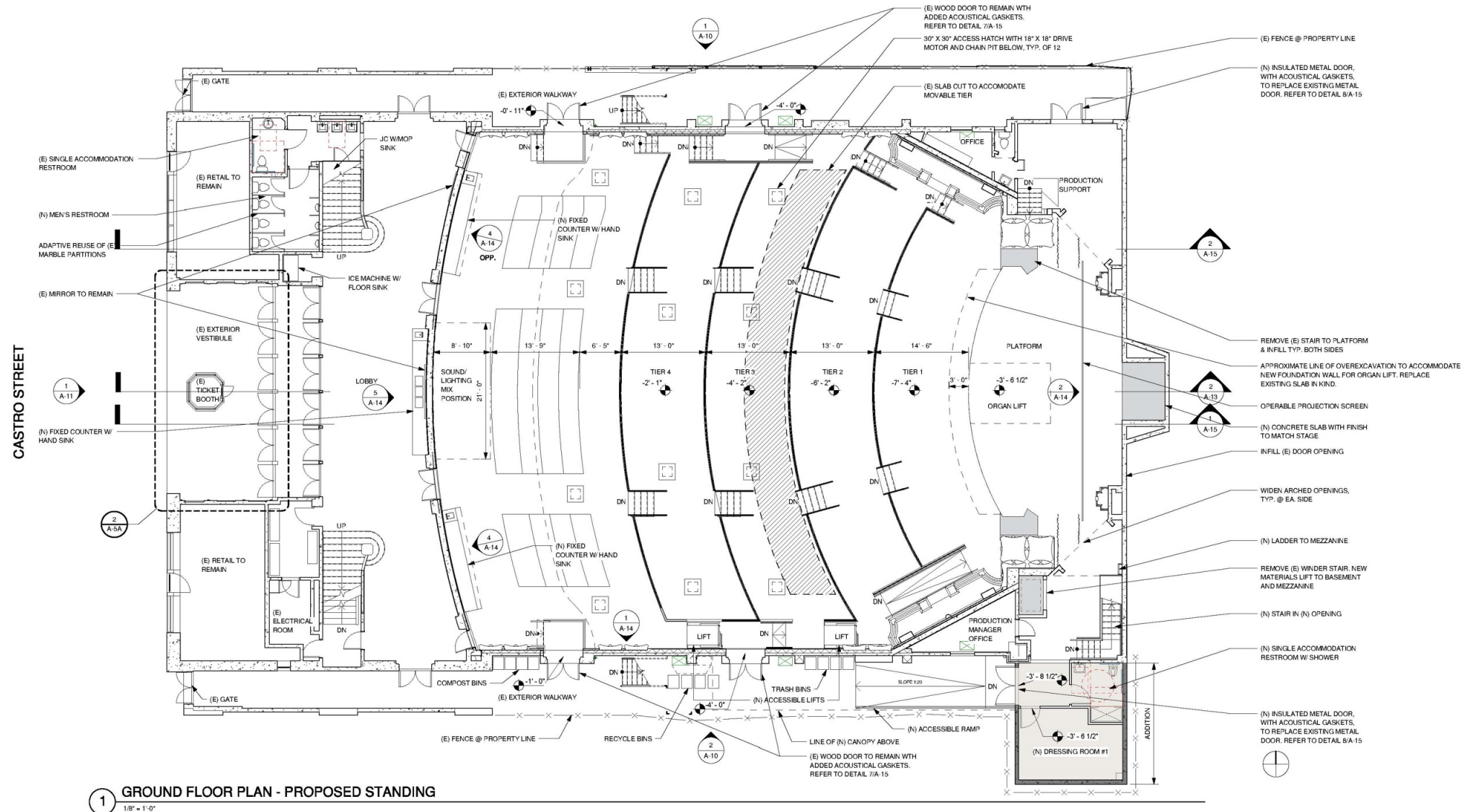
Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

Page A-5A does not provide wheelchair access to the stage or the balcony. The proposed ADA lifts and ramps are necessitated because the smooth floor slope is covered with risers and stairs

STAMP

CONSULTANTS

MILESTONE DATE



1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING
1/8" = 1'-0"

PROJECT NAME
CASTRO THEATER

429 CASTRO ST, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

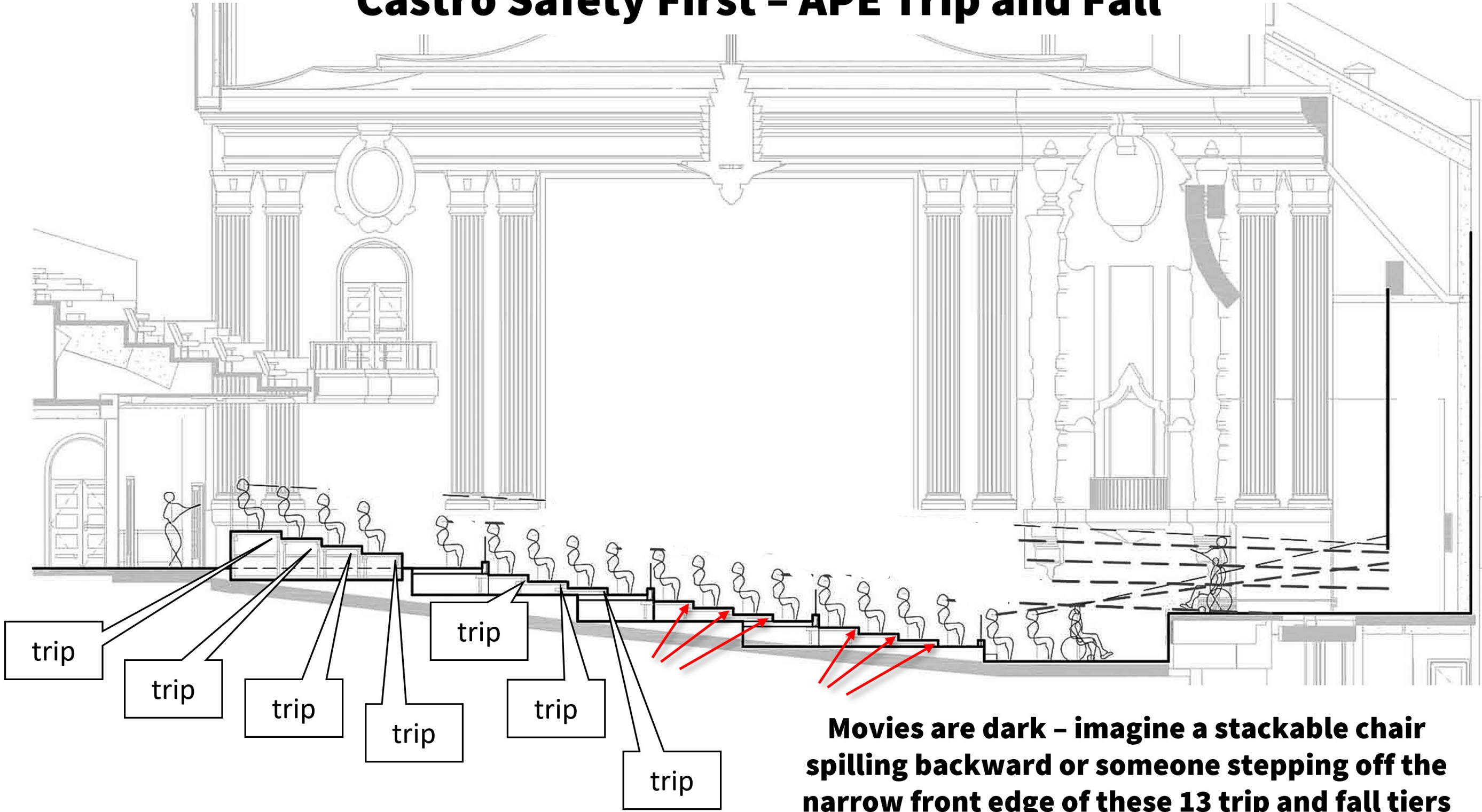
SHEET TITLE
GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING

PROJECT NO: 21-008
DRAWN BY: KS, PS
CHECKED BY: KW, CW

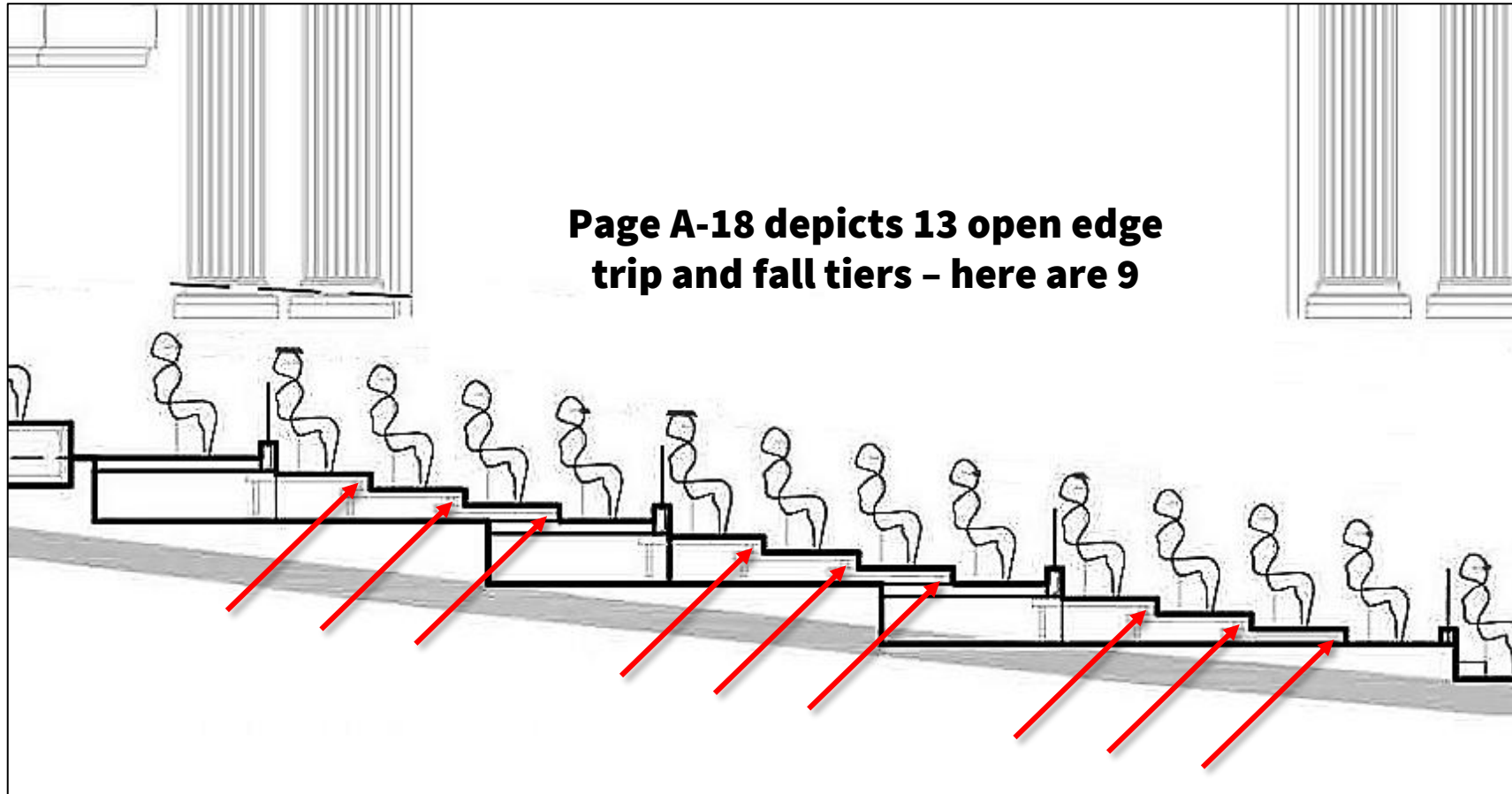
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3/24/2023 4:01:50 PM

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall



Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

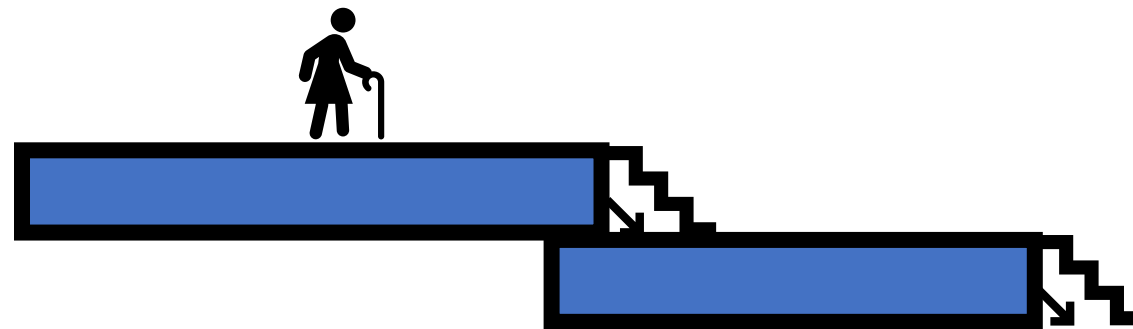


Will people trip in the dark along these narrow open edge tiers?

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

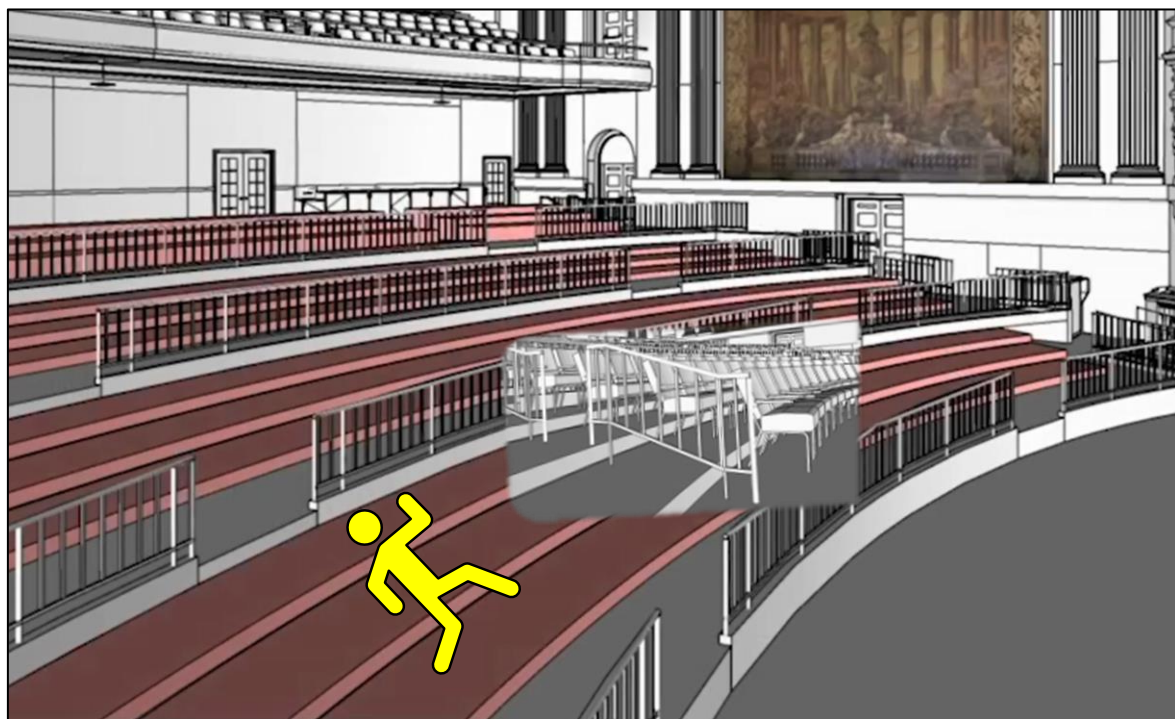


Today people with limited mobility may carefully navigate the smooth sloped floor to any row of the theatre. The seat bottoms fold up with no protruding chair legs blocking the wide rows. People who struggle sitting down and rising up are safer with permanently attached seats.



Under proposed plans people with limited mobility must navigate steps from platform to platform, 8 steps to the center of theatre, 14 steps to reach the front.

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall



The plans replace 24 rows of 802 permanent seats with 20 rows of ~517 stackable chairs, most sitting on risers with open **unprotected front edges, creating trip and fall hazards. People might step off the narrow open edges, especially in the dark. The chairs' protruding front legs create other tripping hazards. Can stackable chairs be secured safely enough for people who struggle with sitting and rising?**

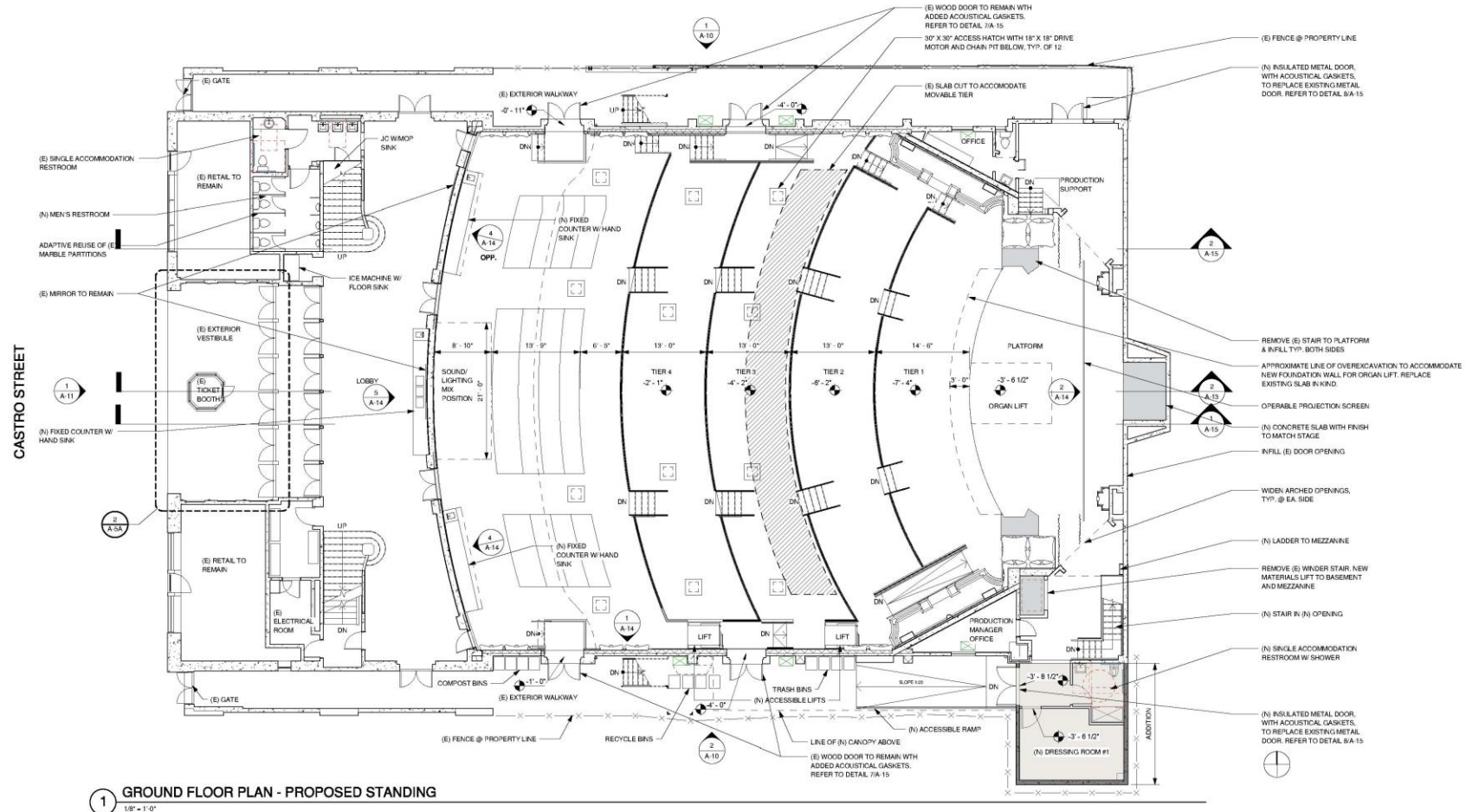
Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

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CONSULTANTS

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CA 94114

SHEET TITLE

GROUND FLOOR PLAN -
PROPOSED STANDING

PROJECT NO. 21-008

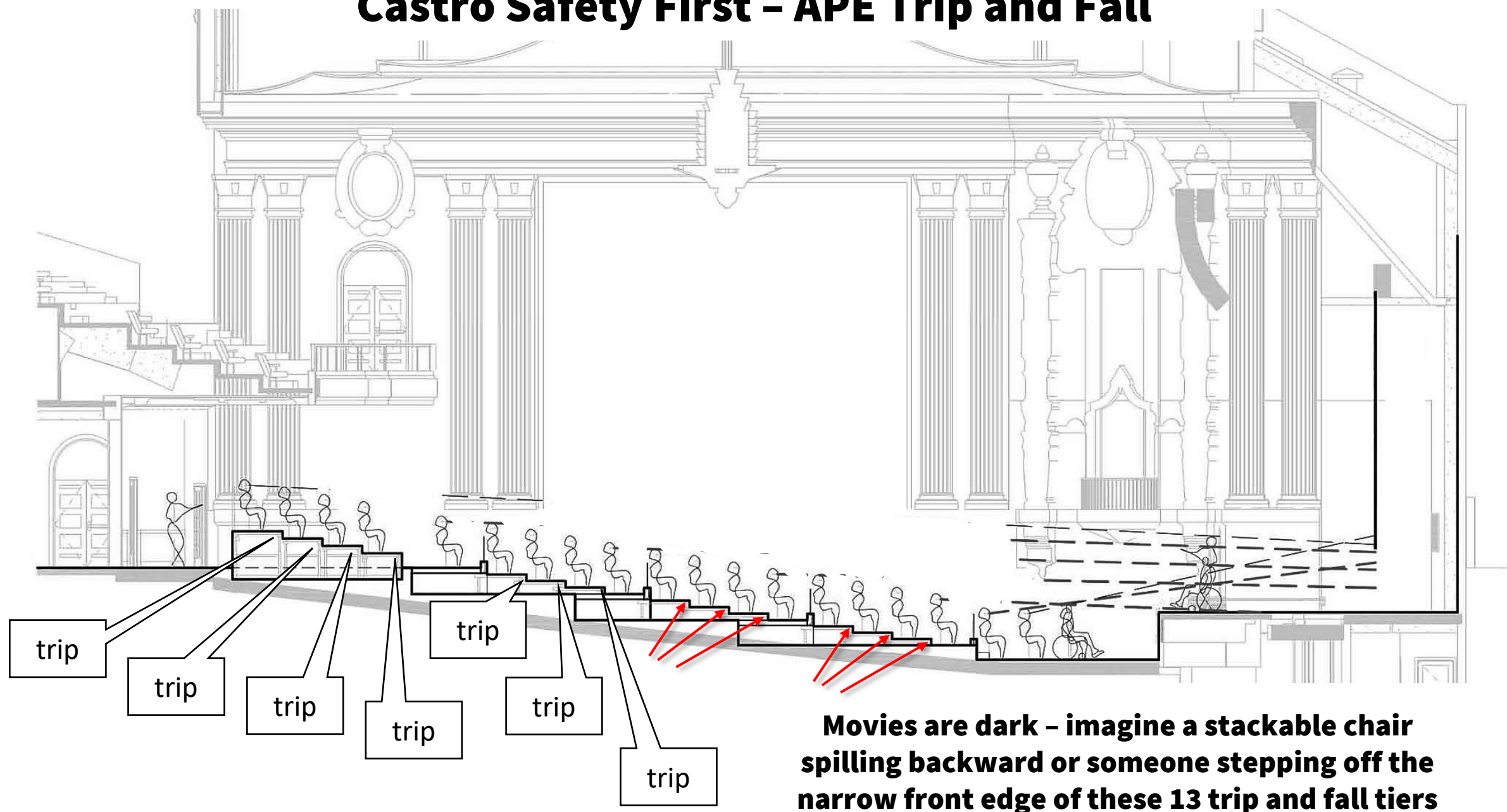
DRAWN BY KS, PS

CHECKED BY KW, CW

SHEET

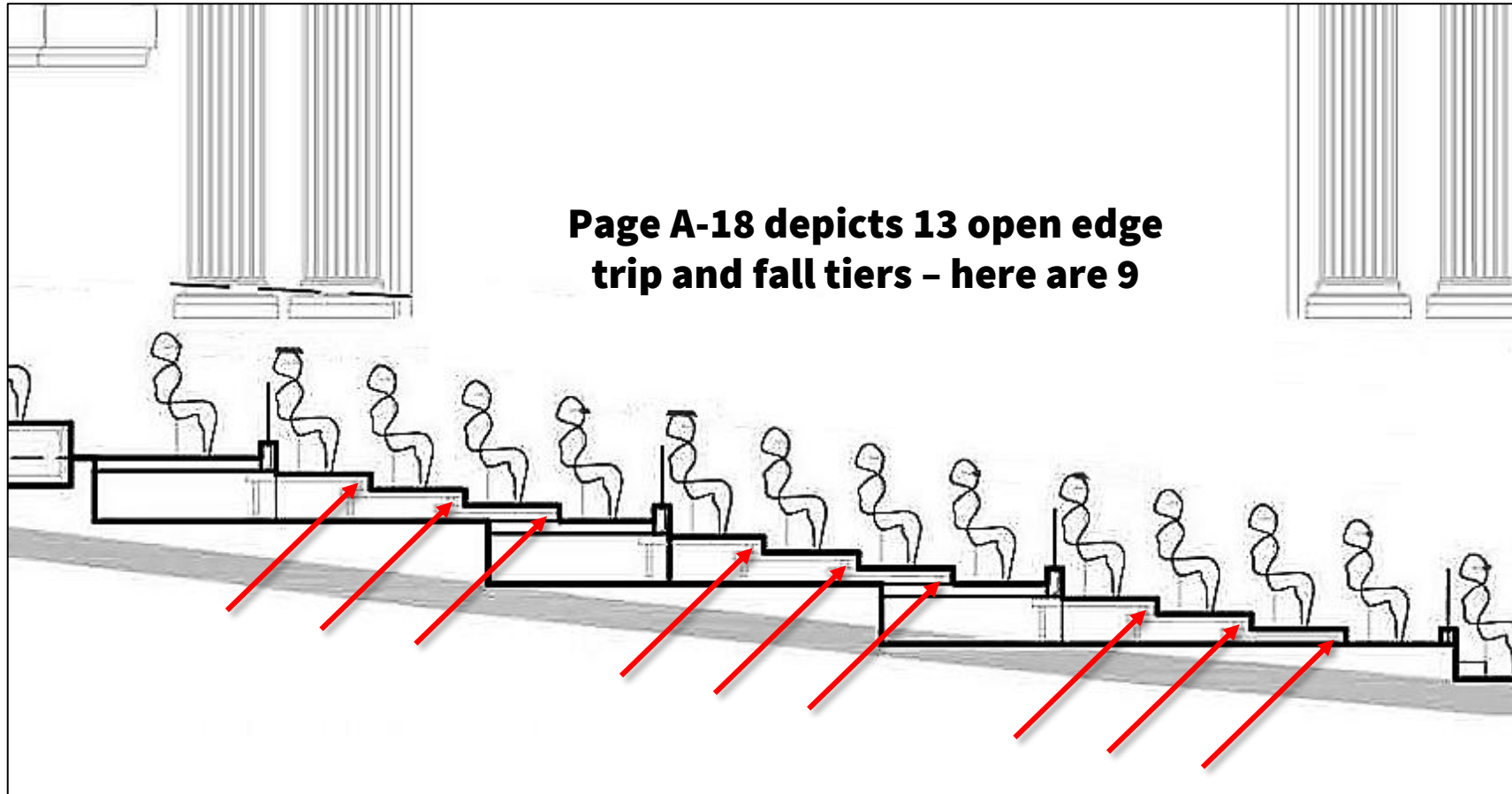
A-5A

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall



Movies are dark - imagine a stackable chair spilling backward or someone stepping off the narrow front edge of these 13 trip and fall tiers

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

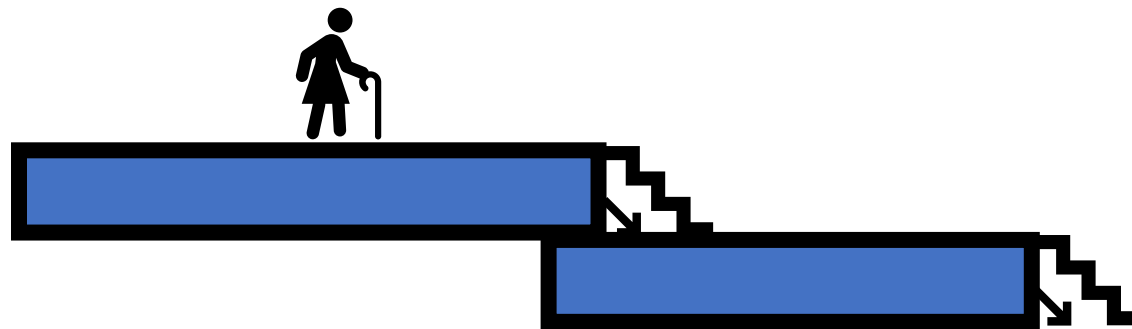


Will people trip in the dark along these narrow open edge tiers?

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

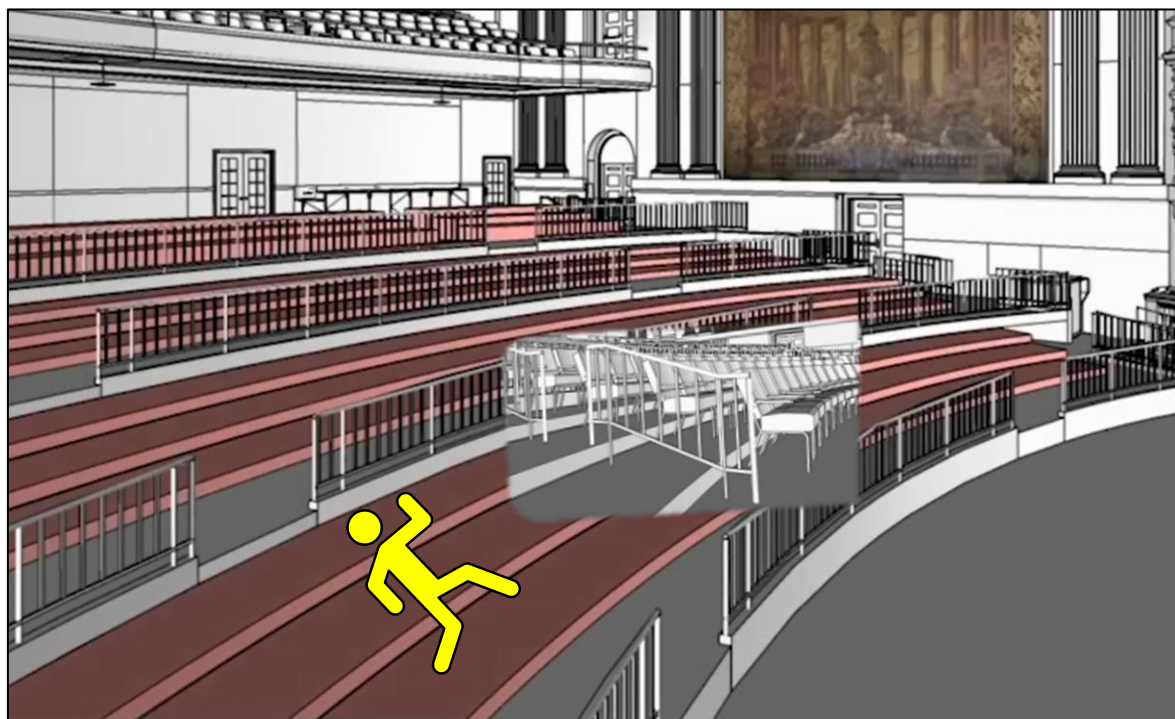


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Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall



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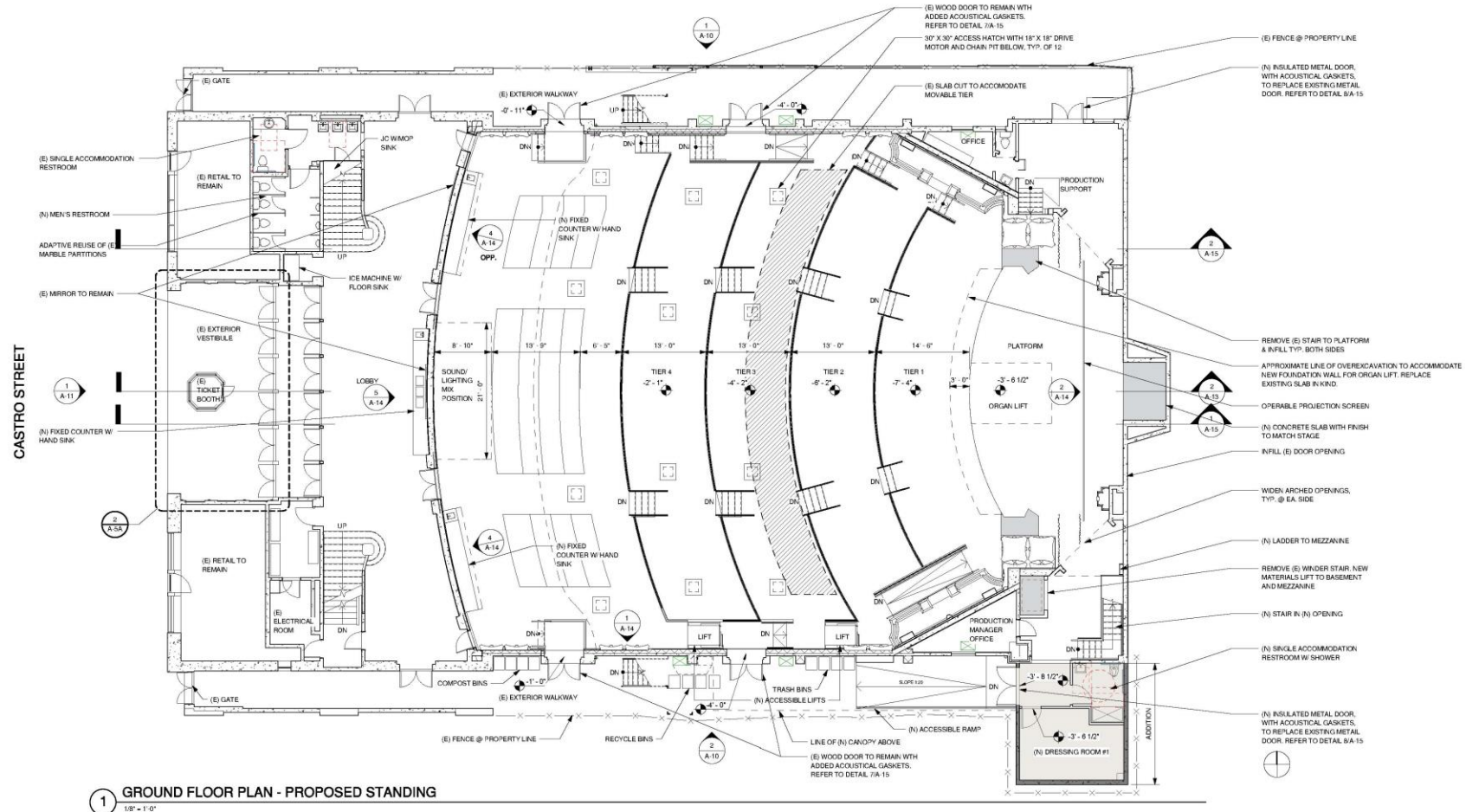
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SHEET TITLE

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PROJECT NO. 21-008

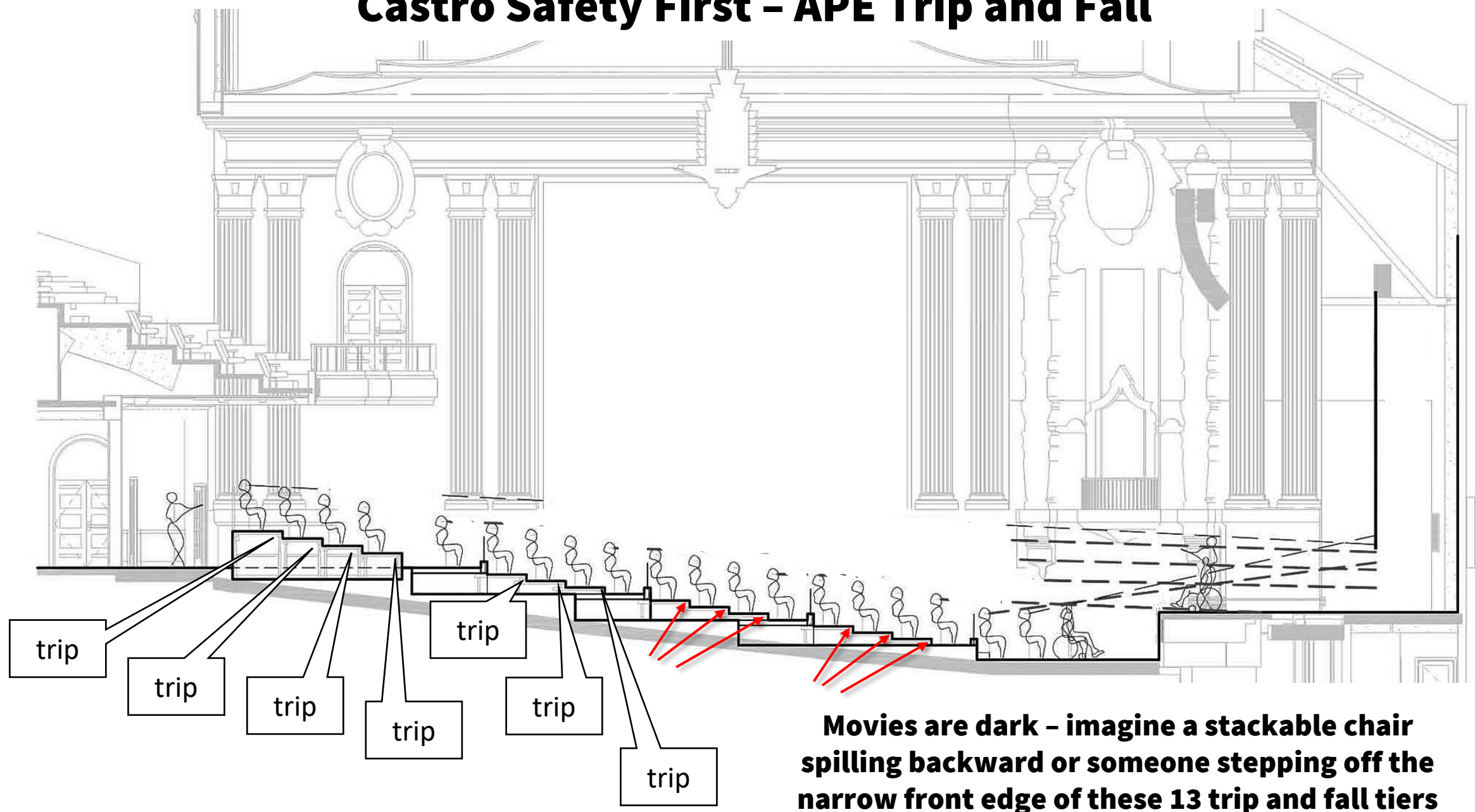
DRAWN BY KS, PS

CHECKED BY KW, CW

SHEET

A-5A

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall



Movies are dark - imagine a stackable chair spilling backward or someone stepping off the narrow front edge of these 13 trip and fall tiers

From: [Mya Byrne](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); info@savethecastrotheatre.org
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:02:38 PM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston, along with the Board:

I am a filmmaker and musician who is trans and queer; part of the SF-based Periwinkle Cinema collective. I live in San Francisco and New York, and am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 12,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

When I moved to the Bay in 2015, a friend gave me a ticket to see Fassbinder's *Querelle* at the Castro, the very first weekend I was in town. I walked into the theatre, a newly out queer person with very little community or exposure to queer culture, and was breathless as I gazed at the interior, the beautiful sloping floor guiding me down, like the theatres of my youth before the multiplex era. The seats enveloped me, and I watched that film and thought to myself, "How important this place is, and what a sense of place; how many of my queer ancestors sat where I sit, feeling what I am feeling right now?" And I felt home, and held, and like all the hard decisions and travails I had to go through to get to that very moment of wholeness were completely worth it all. In that nubby, warm theatre seat I began to cry, the first of many tears I've shed in that theatre while experiencing queer and trans joy through cinema with our beautiful multigenerational community.

San Francisco is a special place. And there are wonderful uses for the Castro that could certainly include evening programming of live music or entertainment, as there always have been. The Castro needs more of that. But it must be done with our community in mind, and to change the Castro's very essence by removing fixed theatrical seating in a movie palace style is not the answer. We will lose so much, and we've already lost enough. People's tears are embedded in those seats, in that floor. The spirits of our lost brothers, sisters, and siblings sit with us as we watch our films openly holding hands with our partners, or sing along with our friends and children, or laugh at drag shows, or commune at performances. I beg of you to ensure that future generations will be able to come to the Castro and finally feel at home, just like I did nearly a decade ago.

When you sit in a movie palace, it is a temple of awe and wonder. You become a child again, those seats like a comforting parent. That's what they were designed to do; they are places of wonder and imagination. Of hope.

And as one of the very few single-screen movies theatres in the WORLD remaining in close to its original movie palace configuration, the Castro is living history. It must be kept that way. With the other large movie palaces in the Bay that can run 35mm or that can premiere movies having closed in the last two years—including Deco masterpiece the California Theatre, which along with the Castro was essential for the presentations of film-based directors like Christopher Nolan and Quentin Tarantino—we also guarantee that San Francisco's reputation as a prominent home for cinematic excellence will die.

Thus, I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I further ask that the Committee and Board of Supervisors work with APE to rehire the many legacy Castro staff that were laid off in 2020-2021—including the programmers—as they, too, are essential to the past, present, and future of our great City and this great cultural institution.

Sincerely,

Mya Byrne

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Castro Theatre Movies ARE good for Castro small business
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:01:48 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: "Lynn Cursaro" <tomango3000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:46pm
To: "aaron.peskin@sfgov.org" <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>, "myrna.melgar@sfgov.org" <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>, "dean.preston@sfgov.org" <dean.preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "info@savethecastrotheatre.org" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, "rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org" <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Castro Theatre Movies ARE good for Castro small business

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Movies and other events at the Castro ARE good for the area's small businesses.

The first time I attended a screening at the Castro Theatre was as a teenager on a Wednesday matinee of *The Women* (1939), Summer of 1978. I was visiting for the day from the suburbs to shop at Aquarius Records, a destination record store then located on Castro.

The raucous screening made the day of shopping and eating in this vibrant neighborhood extra special.

The following Summer I moved to San Francisco where I have lived (almost) ever since. Castro Street has remained my Main Street for all these years.

Back when things were normal and I'd find myself in need of certain household items, I'd think immediately about the upcoming Castro Theatre screenings I was planning on seeing because I knew I could get light bulbs and such (and have more fun) at Cliff's.

I don't order books from Amazon, I buy or order them from Fabulosa and have done so since they were Dog-Eared Books. Although I live in the Western Addition, Castro is one of my main shopping streets.

Maybe it's just me, but I have NEVER shopped for housewares, books or coffee beans on the way to see live music. Gum and a cocktail maybe, but not a new desk lamp.

But I've picked items like that and so much more before screenings, after matinees and between halves of a double bill. (Even with a dark Castro I still shop the 'Stro, but less often.)

Fresh fruit from Buffalo Foods, sandwiches from Rossi's and burritos from La Tortilla have sustained me through countless events, from double bills to film fests.

APE does not allow ins and outs for its music events, which is a reasonable policy, but doesn't do Marcello's Pizza any good.

Keeping the Castro Theatre's capacity as a movie venue by preserving the raked will keep the area a vital place for all sorts of commerce.

Thank you for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,
Lynn Cursaro

From: [Brandon Chin](#)
Subject: [Planning Code - Landmark Designation Amendment - 429-431 Castro Street (the Castro Theatre)]
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:40:08 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,



I am more willing to spend money at Castro Theatre than a tech-rental space.

The Castro's LGBTQ+ community--in fact, the entire city--values the Castro Theatre as an architectural and cultural jewel in our city's crown. Despite attempts to engage Another Planet Entertainment (APE), they have been unwilling to meet with the Castro LGBTQ+ Cultural District to discuss concerns around the preservation and continuation of LGBTQ+ culture at the theater. Instead, they appear to be working behind-the-scenes to ensure that vague language inserted into the updated landmark designation will work in their favor.

This type of behavior is undemocratic and distorts the influence of wealthy corporations and those that are politically connected. The 10 Cultural Districts created in our city are intended to give marginalized communities some ability to counter the powerful forces of development, gentrification, and cultural displacement.

Please do not reward APE's bad behavior by allowing the vague language in the updated landmark language to remain.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage.

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style” used in the supporting documentation.

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Brandon Chin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Chin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the end of the last name.

From: [Kelsey Schimmelman](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Subject: public comment re: Landmark Designation Amendment - 429-431 Castro Street (the Castro Theatre)
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:41:51 PM

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My name is Kelsey Schimmelman and I live a 10 minute walk from the Castro theater, and work in the events and hospitality industry. I love live events and I think they're a net positive for any neighborhood. I think that spaces where all people can gather are essential to fostering community. The fact that the Castro will shut down altogether if this project isn't allowed to move forward is extremely galling to me — the idea that we would rather have nothing happening there and have this gorgeous historic building completely deactivated, rather than revitalized into a gathering space for the arts, is shocking to me and antithetical to the values I associate with the Castro and with San Francisco in general.

Another Planet is a homegrown Bay Area organization with a creative and inclusive ethos, and I resent the idea that's being propagated that they're some kind of soulless mega corporation on par with Live Nation or Ticketmaster. It seems like we have two choices; either Another Planet is allowed to continue with their development project and create a vibrant and high-quality live entertainment venue that still honors the historic and aesthetic grandeur of the Castro Theater, or it becomes yet another shuttered storefront, a mausoleum to a moment in time where nothing ever happens, and that people simply walk past. It is unbelievably depressing to me that there are those who would choose to block all movement in favor of stagnation and decay. I think it is hugely insulting to the cultural legacy of the Castro. Given the choice, I choose progress and I choose fun. I think it would be a benefit to the entire neighborhood to have the iconic Castro Theater active and open for future generations to enjoy.

From: [Donald Climent](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theater
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:31:42 PM

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SAVE THE SEATS!!

Don Climent
Castro resident for nearly 50 years!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Aimee Pavy](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: AMEND Item#230192 - Land Use and Transportation Committee
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 2:54:59 PM

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

RE: Item#230192 : Planning Code - Landmark Designation Amendment - 429-431 Castro Street (the Castro Theatre)

Land Use and Transportation Committee members,

Please AMEND the Landmark Designation Amendment for the Castro Theater to replace “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

Failure to amend to this more accurate and specific language will leave room for a grave and permanent defacing of this cathedral of San Francisco.

I have been an SF resident for 25 years and am currently a resident of District 5. I have also been going to The Castro neighborhood and theater for that entire time on a regular basis. While multi-use is most definitely a necessity for long term viability for the theater, there is absolutely no reason this cannot be accomplished with fixed theatrical seating in its current configuration. There are hundreds if not thousands of historical theaters like this all over the world that have concerts, events, and other such use with permanent, fixed seating.

Further, it is rather transparent that Another Planet Entertainment will use the ‘costs’ of moving non-fixed seating in and out of the theater as a pretext to rarely offering seated events and then only when the event producers are able to pay high costs to do such - **thereby completely locking out local event producers not to mention any film nights.**

Their desire for maximum profit at the expense of the community AND local business would rather leave the theater dark most days of the week than to offer film offerings on dark nights with minimal profit but WILL help local business traffic. Something that they could have been doing for the last year, but have failed the community. It only requires a bare minimum staff of around 7 people to show films.

PLEASE, clarify the language and PROTECT The Castro Theater from irreparable harm.
Thank you for your considered deliberation and vote.

~Aimee Pavy
District 7 resident

Aimee Pavy
415.336.7448
aimee.pavy@gmail.com
<https://www.aimeepavy.com>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aimeepavy>

From: [tim doherty](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - tim doherty
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 11:37:06 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: tim doherty

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 11:36:44 AM

From: [Dewayne Washington](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Dewayne Washington
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 11:31:58 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Dewayne Washington

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 11:31:46 AM

From: [Tobias Quaranta](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Tobias Quaranta
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:45:38 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Tobias Quaranta

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 10:45:18 AM

From: [Jennifer Benz](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jennifer Benz
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:28:48 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Jennifer Benz

Zip: 94107

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 9:28:26 AM

From: [Barbara Thompson](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Barbara Thompson
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:22:22 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Barbara Thompson

Zip: 94118

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 8:22:05 AM

From: [Rainbow Chatman](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Rainbow Chatman
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:19:13 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Rainbow Chatman

Zip: 94109

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 7:18:45 AM

From: [Brian Flynn](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Brian Flynn
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 7:02:16 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Brian Flynn

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 7:00:46 AM

From: [Paul Hastings](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Paul Hastings
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 6:14:37 AM

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Apr 17, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Paul Hastings

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 17, 2023 at 6:14:21 AM

From: [Joseph Wood](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Joseph Wood
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:40:06 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Joseph Wood

Zip: 94102

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:39:41 PM

From: [Robert Peluso](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Robert Peluso
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:33:51 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Peluso

Zip: 94107

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:33:29 PM

From: [Elaine Nasser Padian](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Elaine Nasser Padian
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:18:01 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Elaine Nasser Padian

Zip: 94015

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 7:17:43 PM

From: [Michael Griffin](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Michael Griffin
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 5:24:15 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Michael Griffin

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 5:23:50 PM

From: [Joy Woo](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Joy Woo
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 5:02:01 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Joy Woo

Zip: 94109

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 5:01:39 PM

From: [Darren Murphy](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Darren Murphy
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 4:08:00 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Darren Murphy

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 4:07:41 PM

From: [Craig Vaughan](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Craig Vaughan
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 1:22:47 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Craig Vaughan

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 1:22:33 PM

From: [Chris Mitchell](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Chris Mitchell
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 1:15:16 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Chris Mitchell

Zip: 94115

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 1:14:51 PM

From: [Onur Uras](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Onur Uras
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 12:40:17 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Onur Uras

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 12:39:53 PM

From: [Tighe Flatley](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Tighe Flatley
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 12:14:38 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Tighe Flatley

Zip: 94133

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 12:14:17 PM

From: [Brad Harris](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Brad Harris
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 12:13:24 PM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Brad Harris

Zip: 94133

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 12:13:03 PM

From: [Rufus McLain](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Rufus McLain
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:58:07 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Rufus McLain

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:57:52 AM

From: [James Hudson](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - James Hudson
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:52:07 AM

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Sincerely,

Name: James Hudson

Zip: 94704

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:51:47 AM

From: [Joanne Slaboch](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Joanne Slaboch
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:32:13 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Joanne Slaboch

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:31:50 AM

From: [Helen Ortiz](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Helen Ortiz
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:14:44 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Helen Ortiz

Zip: 94121

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:14:28 AM

From: [Stephen Engblom](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Stephen Engblom
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:07:39 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Stephen Engblom

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 10:07:13 AM

From: [Ghazal Karimpour](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Ghazal Karimpour
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 9:33:23 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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Sincerely,

Name: Ghazal Karimpour

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 9:33:02 AM

From: [Lance Relicke](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Lance Relicke
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 9:17:18 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Lance Relicke

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 9:17:02 AM

From: [Lindsey Husband](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Lindsey Husband
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 8:03:58 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Lindsey Husband

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 8:03:35 AM

From: [Karena Fowler](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Karena Fowler
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:27:58 AM

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Apr 16, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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Sincerely,

Name: Karena Fowler

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 16, 2023 at 7:27:41 AM

From: [Norman Aguon](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Norman Aguon
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 8:12:26 PM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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Sincerely,

Name: Norman Aguon

Zip: 60657

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 8:12:01 PM

From: [Christopher Kerby](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Christopher Kerby
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 5:59:30 PM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Christopher Kerby

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 5:59:10 PM

From: [Bruce Westland](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Bruce Westland
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 5:06:27 PM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Bruce Westland

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 5:06:03 PM

From: [Mario Ramirez](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Mario Ramirez
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 2:54:46 PM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Mario Ramirez

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 2:54:31 PM

From: [Miguel Lopez](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Miguel Lopez
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 12:53:49 PM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Miguel Lopez

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 12:53:31 PM

From: [Jon Carroll](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jon Carroll
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 11:00:20 AM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Jon Carroll

Zip: 94104

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 10:59:58 AM

From: [Jason Mandell](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jason Mandell
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 12:51:39 AM

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Apr 15, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Jason Mandell

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 15, 2023 at 12:51:18 AM

From: [Olivia Bernadel-Huey](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Olivia Bernadel-Huey
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 6:09:19 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Olivia Bernadel-Huey

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 6:08:55 PM

From: [David Karraker](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - David Karraker
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 4:39:20 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

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Sincerely,

Name: David Karraker

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 4:38:57 PM

From: [Laurel Robinson](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Laurel Robinson
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:45:29 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Laurel Robinson

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 3:43:34 PM

From: [David Hart](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - David Hart
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:41:50 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: David Hart

Zip: 94104

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 3:41:34 PM

From: [Travis Felsing](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Travis Felsing
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:37:42 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Travis Felsing

Zip: 94103

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 3:37:30 PM

From: [Carolyn Thomas](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Carolyn Thomas
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:16:04 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Carolyn Thomas

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 3:15:42 PM

From: [Josh HoffmaN](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Josh HoffmaN
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:25:24 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Josh HoffmaN

Zip: 94526

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 2:25:03 PM

From: [Benjamin Bellayuto](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Benjamin. Bellayuto
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:39:25 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Benjamin. Bellayuto

Zip: 94102

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 1:39:05 PM

From: [Stuart McFaul](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Stuart McFaul
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:25:45 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Stuart McFaul

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 1:25:24 PM

From: [Brady Wood](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Brady Wood
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:22:52 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Brady Wood

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 1:22:33 PM

From: [Joseph Metzler](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Joseph Metzler
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:47:23 PM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Joseph Metzler

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 12:47:11 PM

From: [Garrett Meitzenheimer](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Garrett Meitzenheimer
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:07:21 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Garrett Meitzenheimer

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 8:07:05 AM

From: [Andrew Sawyer](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Andrew Sawyer
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 8:00:56 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Andrew Sawyer

Zip: 94103

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 8:00:37 AM

From: [Brian Urmanita](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Brian Urmanita
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 7:33:56 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Brian Urmanita

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 7:33:42 AM

From: [Dan Spaeth](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Dan Spaeth
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 7:33:31 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Dan Spaeth

Zip: 94105

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 7:33:12 AM

From: [Vince Gamboa](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Vince Gamboa
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 4:34:31 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
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Sincerely,

Name: Vince Gamboa

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 4:34:06 AM

From: [Rogério Polezze](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Rogério Polezze
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 3:44:10 AM

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Apr 14, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Rogério Polezze

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 3:43:47 AM

From: [Jay Cruz](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jay Cruz
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:23:22 AM

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- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Jay Cruz

Zip: 89139

Date/Time: Apr 14, 2023 at 2:22:54 AM

From: [James Frieberg](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - James Frieberg
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:20:21 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: James Frieberg

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 11:17:28 PM

From: [Ryan Ochsner](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Ryan Ochsner
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:13:31 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Ryan Ochsner

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 11:13:14 PM

From: [Amy Hung](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Amy Hung
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 11:07:36 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Amy Hung

Zip: 95129

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 11:07:15 PM

From: [Michael Wells](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Michael Wells
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:32:37 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Michael Wells

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 10:32:16 PM

From: [Caroline Raffanti](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Caroline Raffanti
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:23:18 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Caroline Raffanti

Zip: 95409

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 10:22:57 PM

From: [Andrea Sonnenberg](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Andrea Sonnenberg
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:07:14 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Andrea Sonnenberg

Zip: 94131

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 10:06:57 PM

From: [John Cavellini](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - John Cavellini
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 9:01:54 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: John Cavellini

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 9:01:31 PM

From: [Robert Marlin](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Robert Marlin
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:45:37 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Marlin

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 8:45:18 PM

From: [Ali Barsamian](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Ali Barsamian
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:21:03 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Ali Barsamian

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 8:20:31 PM

From: [Sam Campione](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Sam Campione
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:59:42 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Sam Campione

Zip: 94122

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 7:59:26 PM

From: [Fernando Pantoja](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Fernando Pantoja
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:43:33 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Fernando Pantoja

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 7:43:16 PM

From: [Mark Davis](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Mark Davis
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:23:29 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Mark Davis

Zip: 94109

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 7:23:10 PM

From: [Ryan Ginja](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Ryan Ginja
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:09:49 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Ryan Ginja

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 7:09:36 PM

From: [Chris Garvin](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Chris Garvin
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:52:41 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Chris Garvin

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:52:15 PM

From: [Daniel Tabib](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Daniel Tabib
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:39:42 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Daniel Tabib

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:39:20 PM

From: [Dustin Maberry](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Dustin Maberry
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:20:32 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Dustin Maberry

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:19:11 PM

From: [Dustin Maberry](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Dustin Maberry
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:20:31 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Dustin Maberry

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:19:11 PM

From: [Alex Goodkind](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Alex Goodkind
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:12:07 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Alex Goodkind

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:11:54 PM

From: [Greer Deselover](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Greer Deselover
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:10:08 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Greer Deselover

Zip: 94403

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 6:09:42 PM

From: [Adam Bruner](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Adam Bruner
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:55:35 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Adam Bruner

Zip: 94102

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:53:13 PM

From: [Adam Bruner](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Adam Bruner
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:55:29 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Adam Bruner

Zip: 94102

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:53:13 PM

From: [Alex Solomon](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Alex Solomon
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:55:23 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Alex Solomon

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:52:28 PM

From: [Zac Eggers](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Zac Eggers
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:51:39 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Zac Eggers

Zip: 94124

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:51:17 PM

From: [Nicholas Yoswa](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Nicholas Yoswa
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:41:31 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Nicholas Yoswa

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:41:08 PM

From: [Daniel Whitcombe](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Daniel Whitcombe
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:30:39 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Daniel Whitcombe

Zip: 94133

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:30:18 PM

From: [David Ramsay](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - David Ramsay
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:21:11 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: David Ramsay

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:20:53 PM

From: [Jared Goldfine](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jared Goldfine
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 5:09:17 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Jared Goldfine

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 5:09:03 PM

From: [Ian Hunter](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Ian Hunter
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:51:11 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
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Sincerely,

Name: Ian Hunter

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 4:50:52 PM

From: [Jon Vargas](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Jon Vargas
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:51:44 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Jon Vargas

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 3:51:27 PM

From: [Erik Peterson](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Erik Peterson
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:47:15 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Erik Peterson

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 3:47:00 PM

From: [James Ashenhurst](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - James Ashenhurst
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:19:05 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
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Sincerely,

Name: James Ashenhurst

Zip: 94103

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 3:18:52 PM

From: [Emmanuelle Legoff](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Emmanuelle Legoff
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:42:59 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Emmanuelle Legoff

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 2:42:40 PM

From: [Daniel Gildenhuis](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Daniel Gildenhuis
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:29:05 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Daniel Gildenhuis

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 2:28:46 PM

From: [Robb Marsee](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Robb Marsee
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:10:28 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Robb Marsee

Zip: 9411;

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 2:08:23 PM

From: [Drew Wilhite](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Drew Wilhite
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:02:05 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Drew Wilhite

Zip: 94103

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 2:01:20 PM

From: [Rubinder Sethi](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Rubinder Sethi
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:01:01 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Rubinder Sethi

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 2:00:42 PM

From: [Keith Wainschel](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Keith Wainschel
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 1:41:30 PM

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Sincerely,

Name: Keith Wainschel

Zip: 94306

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 1:41:11 PM

From: [Terry Tsipouras](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Terry Tsipouras
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:44:02 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

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Sincerely,

Name: Terry Tsipouras

Zip: 94801

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 12:43:43 PM

From: [Charlie Yang](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Charlie Yang
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:23:23 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

RE: Support for Another Planet Entertainment & the Castro Theatre

Commissioners,

I am submitting this letter to support Another Planet Entertainment's vision and proposal to revitalize the Castro Theatre to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future.

Another Planet Entertainment is deeply committed to its role as affirming and engaging stewards of the Castro Theatre while recognizing the importance of being good neighbors and uplifting those in the film, music, comedy, LGBTQ+, and surrounding communities. However, for Another Planet and the Castro Theatre to continue acting in this capacity and honoring the communities it serves, critical infrastructure improvements are needed to create a flexible and inviting space that provides appropriate settings for various types of events.

I commend Castro Theatre's commitment to hosting events that highlight LGBTQ+ performers, promote local businesses to event-goers, and dedicate at least a third of their programming to showing movies and hosting film festivals. These community benefits will not only empower and provide an influential platform for the performing arts, but also create a viable source of revenue to help keep this iconic theatre's doors open. Another Planet's commitments and the success of the Castro Theatre will undoubtedly leave a positive lasting impact on the Castro in a tangible, meaningful, and thoughtful manner.

I firmly believe that Another Planet's plans to reinvigorate the theatre by upgrading and fixing aspects of the theatre that are underutilized or in disrepair are essential to the future success of this historic theatre. For these reasons and more, I urge your support for the Castro Theatre renovation plans proposed by APE.

Sincerely,

Name: Charlie Yang

Zip: 94110

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 12:23:03 PM

From: [Connor Gilbert](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Connor Gilbert
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:10:33 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Connor Gilbert

Zip: 94114

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 12:06:49 PM

From: [Eryn Hales](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Eryn Hales
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:05:21 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Eryn Hales

Zip: 94102

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 12:01:32 PM

From: [Cecily Dumas](#)
To: [Diamond, Susan \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Imperial, Theresa \(CPC\)](#); [Ruiz, Gabriella \(CPC\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Support for the Castro Theatre Renovation Plans - Cecily Dumas
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:00:17 PM

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Apr 13, 2023

- The Office of Commission Affairs
- Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission
- San Francisco Planning Department
- City & County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee

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Sincerely,

Name: Cecily Dumas

Zip: 94117

Date/Time: Apr 13, 2023 at 11:55:23 AM

From: [Juanita MORE!](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please do not reward APE's bad behavior
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:47:16 PM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

The Castro's LGBTQ+ community--in fact, the entire city--values the Castro Theatre as an architectural and cultural jewel in our city's crown. Despite attempts to engage Another Planet Entertainment (APE), they have been unwilling to meet with the Castro LGBTQ+ Cultural District to discuss concerns around the preservation and continuation of LGBTQ+ culture at the theater. Instead, they appear to be working behind-the-scenes to ensure that vague language inserted into the updated landmark designation will work in their favor.

This type of behavior is undemocratic and distorts the influence of wealthy corporations and those that are politically connected. The 10 Cultural Districts created in our city are intended to give marginalized communities some ability to counter the powerful forces of development, gentrification, and cultural displacement.

Please do not reward APE's bad behavior by allowing the vague language in the updated landmark language to remain.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind,

I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" used in the supporting documentation.

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Loads of Love,
Juanita

From: [Halbig, Benjamin T.](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theater
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:54:13 PM

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

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Preston, Melgar, and Clerk Major:

I'm a proud 94114 resident. I am writing in regard to Another Planet Entertainment's ("APE") proposed changes to the Castro Theater. **I fully support APE's plans** and I am excited for their proposed restorations and support their proposal to replace the fixed seating on the main floor that allows for standing and flexible seating arrangements (and a mix of both). These are the same plans that the Gay Men's Chorus supports, as well as Frameline, the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ film festival in the world, headquartered right here in SF.

I want to emphasize - **our community is in agreement - we support APE's plans**. I invite you to take a walk in the Castro - ask anyone. There is BROAD agreement in our neighborhood. APE's plans are supported - the community has come together!!!

Please do not accept an amendment to add fixed seating. Please let us help our neighborhood. Allow the heart of The Castro to thrive and adapt so it can survive for the next 100 years. We're doing everything we can do to save our neighborhood. We have a unique opportunity to reinvigorate the Theatre - and the neighborhood. It would be a disservice to the Castro - and the Theater itself - to give a hollow nod to preservation via fixed seating (which, itself, will not save film programming) rather than allowing this space to grow into the future and live on as the historic palace that it is. **PLEASE consider the future of the Castro Theater and its impact in our neighborhood.** Our community wants APE's plans approved. Please support our efforts to revitalize our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Ben Halbig

Benjamin T. Halbig

Jenner & Block LLP
455 Market Street
Suite 2100, San Francisco, CA 94105-2453 | jenner.com
+1 628 267 6834 | TEL
+1 415 652 4913 | MOBILE

Pronouns: He / Him

BHalbig@jenner.com

[Download V-Card](#) | [View Biography](#)

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From: [Jen Reck](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance - please clarify language
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 7:39:32 AM
Attachments: [Letter-Land Use and Transportation Committee_220417.pdf](#)

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

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Melgar, and Preston -
Please add the attached letter to the supporting materials for your April 17th Agenda item regarding the Castro Theatre.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Jen Reck

Jen Reck, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology and Sexuality Studies
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132
Office: HSS 377
Pronouns: she/her/hers

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

April 14, 2023

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am writing regarding an item on your committee's agenda for April 17th – the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre. I would like to request that you support this ordinance while adding an important clarification to the language in it.

In your vote, please ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023. To that end, **I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language by updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

The findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which were developed by renowned community historians and the San Francisco Planning Department, demonstrate that the current configuration of the movie palace-style seating is a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. A core element of what makes it a character-defining feature is the centrality of this space in the production of LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage for almost 50 years.

The Castro is a world-renowned movie palace and the configuration of the orchestra and fixed movie-palace seating are an instrumental element of this historic space. By clarifying the language in this ordinance, your committee will provide clear guidance to align the ordinance with federal preservation policy. Further, you will ensure that the Castro Theatre remains an accessible community asset that can host a diverse range of programming for the community.

I extend great appreciation to your committee for considering this change, which will ensure the Castro Theatre remains a historic movie palace, mixed-use performance space, and a site of worldwide significance for LGBTQ cultural production.

Best Regards,

Jen Reck, Ph.D.

Executive Co-Chair, Castro LGBTQ Cultural District
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Sexuality Studies, San Francisco State University

From: [Terry Asten Bennett](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Thornhill, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Jenn Meyer](#)
Subject: Castro Merchants and Another Planet
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 11:16:32 AM
Attachments: [Castro Merch APE.docx](#)

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April 14, 2023

Attn: Board of Supervisors

Re: Castro Merchants and Another Planet Entertainment

To Whom It May Concern:

It was brought to my attention that Terrance Alan submitted a letter to the Board on behalf of the Castro Merchants withholding the support of the Castro Merchants. This letter does not accurately reflect the vote that was taken by the membership on Thursday April 6th, nor the general sentiment of the members in attendance.

The notification of the vote was not in compliance with customs or standards of The Castro Merchants. The notification sent to members was for a yes or no vote only. At the time of the meeting Mr. Alan presented a conditional motion. Per customs and standards set forth by years of precedent and by-laws if he wanted to make a motion with conditions, he needed to notify the membership with 5 days advance notice. He refused to take the motion off the floor, telling the members that if they didn't like it to vote no. He also kept saying he could just stop the meeting whenever he liked. The proposed motion was altered to make it palatable to the membership. The membership in the room did not believe that Mr. Alan would give us the opportunity for a simple Yea or Nay vote, and feared he would further misrepresent the membership by saying we did not support Another Planet.

MOTION: Castro Merchants will endorse Another Planet Entertainment's proposed plans for the restoration and remodeling of the Castro Theatre with two conditions:

- 1) That Castro Merchants will accept the economic impact report that APE has prepared, pending that it is acceptable by Supervisor Mandelman's office. If it is not acceptable, then APE will enter into good-faith negotiations with the Supervisor's office in order to have acceptable impact reports prepared; and

2) That APE agrees to continue good-faith participation in the negotiations convened by Supervisor Mandelman's office.

The sentiment of the vote was very clear. The membership of the Castro Merchants supports allowing Another Planet Entertainment to move forward with their restoration and remodeling of the Castro Theater. We request that they work with Supervisor Mandelman's Office to overcome outstanding concerns and issues. All other commentary supplied by Mr. Alan in his letter should be disregarded as they do not reflect the majority opinion or vote of the Castro Merchants.

Thank You for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry Asten Bennett
Cliff's Variety
Partner/ General Manager

--

Terry Asten Bennett
General Manager
Cliff's Variety
(415) 431-5365
www.cliffsvariety.com

Please consider making a donation to the AIDS Lifecycle
giving.aidslifecycle.org/participant/mom2023



479 Castro Street San Francisco CA 94114

415-431-5365 ext. 4

Terry@CliffsVariety.com

April 14, 2023

Attn: Board of Supervisors

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479 Castro Street San Francisco CA 94114

415-431-5365 ext. 4

Terry@CliffsVariety.com

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Thank You for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Asten Bennett".

Terry Asten Bennett
Cliff's Variety
Partner/ General Manager

From: [Scott Emblidge](#)
To: [Major Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Preservation of the Castro Theatre"s Fixed Theatrical Seating
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 5:12:59 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[2023 04 07 Letter to Committee.docx](#)

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I should have copied you on the email below. Please include the attached letter in the Board's files regarding Item 6 on Monday's Committee agenda. Thank you.

Scott

From: Scott Emblidge
Sent: Friday, April 7, 2023 11:02 AM
To: MelgarStaff@sfgov.org; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; dean.preston@sfgov.org
Cc: Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Preservation of the Castro Theatre's Fixed Theatrical Seating

Dear Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter from the Preservation Policy and Practice Working Group of the Friends of the Castro Theatre Coalition.

Scott Emblidge

Moscone Emblidge & Rubens LLP
220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2100, San Francisco, California 94104
Phone 415.362.3591 | Fax 415.362.2006 | Email: emblidge@mosconelaw.com
www.mosconelaw.com

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April 7, 2023

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar & Supervisor Preston,

We are professionals in the fields of LGBTQ history, architectural history, and historic-preservation policy and practice. We wrote to you on March 2, 2023, but we write again to update that letter in light of certain comments made at the April 3 meeting of the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Committee members debated whether to add language to the Ordinance that would amend the Landmark Designation for the Castro Theatre to more appropriately reflect the importance of the orchestra seating form and configuration which have existed in the theatre for a century. The Committee appeared to tentatively conclude what should be obvious to anyone truly interested in historic preservation—that an ordinance vaguely identifying “presence of seating” as a character-defining feature of the theatre is woefully inadequate.

The Committee need look no further than the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet prepared by the Planning Department and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission for the appropriate language to add to the Ordinance. As your proposed Ordinance already notes:

- “All preparers [of the Fact Sheet] meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for historic preservation program staff, as set forth in Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Part 61, Appendix A.”
- The Fact Sheet “was reviewed for accuracy and conformance with the purposes and standards of Article 10 of the Planning Code.”
- The “Board hereby incorporates by reference the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.”
- “The particular features that should be preserved, or replaced in-kind as determined necessary, are those shown in photographs and/or described in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet . . . [and] are incorporated in this designation by reference as though fully set forth herein.”

So, what does the Fact Sheet say about the importance of the historic seating configuration? On page 31, the Fact Sheet states:

The seating constitutes a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema, configured in classic movie palace fashion in gently curved rows. On the orchestra (main floor) level, the seats are affixed to a raked concrete floor overlaid with wood. An aisle runs along each side wall, and two further aisles divide the seating into left, center and right sections.... The sweep of the seating across the orchestra and the balcony not only creates a visual ambiance which immediately marks the space as a grand movie theater but also provides excellent sight lines for viewing films and live performances.

On page 26, the Fact Sheet includes further factual findings regarding the orchestra seating:

The orchestra continues to mark the Castro Theatre as a classic movie palace. The raked floors and sloping aisles are original; although the stage alterations and new seats were installed later, they fall within the second period of significance identified in this landmark designation. Through in-person testimonials, public historian Gerard Koskovich has documented the linkages of these features with the [LGBTQ] intangible

cultural heritage of the space, and how the configuration lended to community building, audience participation, cultural production, and personal meaning for theatre goers.

Given the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet which are already incorporated by reference into the Ordinance and given the exceptional significance of the theatrical seating form and configuration for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage, the Committee's path is clear. The Committee should clarify the language in Section 4(c)(2)(D) of the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance as follows:

Strike the words “presence of seating” and substitute the words “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

As an aspect of the historic built environment which is central to conveying the significance of the Castro Theatre as a landmarked movie palace, the fixed theatrical seating must be specifically identified and protected.

We urge the Board not to let this character-defining feature be used as a bargaining chip in behind-the-scenes negotiations about the future of this vital landmark which stands as San Francisco's last remaining single-screen movie palace and as a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. This character-defining feature key to the form and the heritage of the theater must not be negotiated away in exchange for ephemeral business proposals unrelated to the goals and purposes of historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Scott Emblidge
Land Use & Historic Preservation Attorney
Moscone Emblidge & Rubens LLP
220 Montgomery St., Suite 2100
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Gerard Koskovich
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Shayne Watson
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(408) 472-8948
shayneewatson@gmail.com

From: [Christopher P Bettinger](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Hulya Gurtuna](#); [Katie Manbachi](#); [A. Ikaika Gleisberg](#); [Clare Sears](#); [Andreana Clay](#)
Subject: draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theater
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 5:32:13 PM
Attachments: [Letter - Land Use and Transportation Committee.pdf](#)

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

Attached, please find a letter we hope you find useful in your deliberations.

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

We write regarding the draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theater. We are a group of urban scholars from San Francisco State University, and some of the work we regularly draw on in our research and teaching address a problem you currently face.

Reviewing historical and economic research on theater preservation and neighborhood economics, we have concluded that the best way to preserve the Castro Theatre and support neighborhood business is to maintain the current interior configuration of the orchestra, raked aisles, and fixed seating. As such, **we ask that you change the language in the Landmark Designation Ordinance from describing “presence of seating” to the clearer designation of “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

As we understand it, there is a clear, narrow disagreement between various Castro preservationist groups and Another Planet Entertainment concerning fixed versus removable seating in the main floor. Preservationists desire "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style," suggesting that description be adopted in the Ordinance in order to ensure the Castro Theater retains its historical function in the community. Another Planet Entertainment prefers the less specific "presence of seating" in order to retain flexibility it feels it needs in order to make the Castro Theater a functional economic entity.

This disagreement is not novel. Many historic districts in numerous cities have contended with similar disagreements, even disagreements specifically about movie theaters. The research literature supports the concerns of both the preservationists and Another Planet Entertainment. However, we believe the particular situation of the Castro Theater favors the arguments offered by the preservationists.

In general, fixed seating is integral to the historic character of theaters, and shifting this key element does irreparable harm.^[1] This is even true when we are considering the preservation of negative aspects of our history. Robert Weyeneth, for example, points out that the seating of segregated Jim Crow era theaters must be preserved if we are to understand how the layout of these spaces reinforced White supremacy.^[2] Losing the historic character of a preserved building diminishes its public value and, more seriously perhaps, damages the draw of other historic buildings in a cultural district.^[3]

On the other hand, historic preservation is not always successful. The South Street Seaport in New York and the Lower Ninth revitalization project in New Orleans are two examples where theaters, among other things, were preserved and turned into attractions that ended up never actually attracting much attention. Both efforts ended up as failed “revitalization” efforts.^[4]

Cases like these bolster the logic behind Another Planet Entertainment's desire for flexibility to meet the challenge of economic viability. Nothing would be worse for all involved than to limit Another Planet's operations only to have the theater and surrounding area fall into decay.

In our judgment, there is only modest reason to be concerned about the economic fortunes of the Castro. It is clearly much better off than New York's Seventh Street or New Orleans's poorest ward. In fact, the better comparison points are efforts like New York's 42nd Street revitalization and Toronto's downtown revitalization. "In New York City, the preservation of historic theaters mobilized support for office development by redefining the 42nd Street Development Project as an effort to restore the theater district known as the Great White Way in an area symbolizing urban decline." The effort was an unmitigated success.^[5] Similarly, in Toronto, Shipley and Snyder demonstrate that the economic vitality of that city in the 1990s helped cultural preservation and spurred commerce throughout the area.^[6]

We feel confident in our assessment of the vitality of the Castro District, and we believe the superior path should be to take up the language suggested by the preservationists. This conclusion is absolutely supported by the extensive findings from community historians and San Francisco Planning, who documented the importance of the fixed theater seating to the production of LGBTQ intangible culture. These findings make this language clarification and support of this Ordinance particularly important for protection of this vital community asset. We believe limiting the seating in the Castro Theater to fixed movie seating will better protect our heritage and will not damage the economic fortunes of Another Planet Entertainment.

Best Regards,

Hülya Gürtuna, Lecturer Faculty, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Katie Manbachi, Lecturer Faculty, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

A. Ikaika Gleisberg, Assistant Professor, Sociology & Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Clare Sears, Associate Professor, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Andreana Clay, Professor, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Chris Bettinger, Associate Professor, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Karen Hossfeld, Professor Emerita, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

Allen Leblanc, Professor, Sociology and Sexuality Studies, SFSU

[1] Stacey, Beverley Anne Schlosser. 1992. "A Theatre Is Not Just a Building: Civic Response and the Preservation of Historic Movie Theatres." University of British Columbia. <https://doi.org/10.14288/1.0098950>.

Mualam, Nir, and Martin Sybblis. 2016. "The Functional Threshold of Modern Heritage: Form versus Function and the Struggle over Tel Aviv's Concert Hall." *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 22 (2): 145–64. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2015.1103299>

[2] Weyeneth, Robert R. 2005. "The Architecture of Racial Segregation: The Challenges of Preserving the Problematical Past." *The Public Historian* 27 (4): 11–44. <https://doi.org/10.1525/tph.2005.27.4.11>.

[3] Yung, Esther Hiu Kwan, Qi Zhang, and Edwin H. W. Chan. 2017. "Underlying Social Factors for Evaluating Heritage Conservation in Urban Renewal Districts." *Habitat International* 66 (August): 135–48. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2017.06.004>.

[4] Metzger, John T. 2001. "The Failed Promise of a Festival Marketplace: South Street Seaport in Lower Manhattan." *Planning Perspectives* 16 (1): 25–46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665430010000760>.

[5] Reichl, Alexander J. 1997. "Historic Preservation and Progrowth Politics in U.S. Cities." *Urban Affairs Review* 32 (4): 513–35. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107808749703200404>.

[6] Shipley, R., and M. Snyder. 2013. "The Role of Heritage Conservation Districts in Achieving Community Economic Development Goals." *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 19 (3): 304–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2012.660886>.

From: [Steven Bracco](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment SF BOS Land Use Committee Meeting - Castro Theatre Landmark Designation Amendment
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:14:51 PM
Attachments: [2023.04.14 Steven Bracco - Castro Theatre Land Use Committee Meeting.pdf](#)

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar & Supervisor Preston,

I'm writing to you in support of amending the language of the Castro Theatre Landmark Designation Amendment to **change "the presence of seating" to "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."**

For anyone keeping score at home, **there have been ZERO shows at The Castro Theatre since the April 3, 2023 Land Use Committee meeting.** There have been no events. There hasn't been a show since January 28. The Castro Theatre has sat dark for nearly three months.

Since Another Planet Entertainment (APE) [took over the programming of the Castro Theatre](#), the theatre has been open for 30 days. Prior to COVID and APE's takeover, the theatre was closed approximately once a month.

Two weeks ago, I stated that you can't have "presence of seating" without any seats. Unless you count the temporary seats that will be stored in some new area of the theatre and not used.

The Castro Theatre is not an auditorium, hall, event space, or banquet room - it's a movie theatre.

In 1977, the City and County of San Francisco designated [The Castro Theatre landmark 100](#). We felt it was that important to protect and preserve.

Preserving the fixed theatrical seating is not about our feelings - it's about historical facts.

One neighborhood group of property owners say they want to **"restore the historic theatre back to its original glory"** but they want to rip out the seats which have been a character defining feature of the theatre since it opened in 1922.

Another Castro resident will tell you that many of the elements we recognize with the Castro Theatre aren't original - the organ, blade & marquee were installed in 1937. While they support preserving those elements, they want to pick and choose which features to save.

I'm living a real-life example of my favorite movie - Back to the Future. You all remember the lady asking for quarters to "Save the Clock Tower!" **Today we're here to Save The Castro Theatre!**

Lightning struck The Castro Theatre 100 years ago - Timothy Plueger built a magnificent movie palace that has been neglected by its owners. We all agree it needs to be renovated and updated.

We have the chance to Save The Castro Theatre by “Saving The Seats.” We urge you today to update the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet to include ‘fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.’

In the words of Doc Brown, Great Scott - Save The Seats!

Thank you for your time,

Steven Bracco | he/him

[Castro LGBTQ Cultural District Advisory Board](#)

Executive Member at Large

Steven.bracco@castrolgbtq.org

From: [Peter Pastreich](#)
To: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: The Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:59:26 AM

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

Dear Supervisor Preston,

I assume that you know that APE did not take advantage of the two-week continuance, granted to them by the Land Use and Transportation Committee, in order that they make a good faith effort to find ways to cooperate with the Castro community and the Castro Theatre Conservancy - particularly to assure that the theater will be open more than the several days per month contemplated by APE. APE's response was to offer the Conservancy "40 dates of Film in a calendar year" (the Conservancy had proposed 180 dates, which would still have left significantly more dark days and nights at the Castro than in any non-Covid year before APE's management), at "\$4,500 per day plus a \$2 per ticket Theatre preservation fee...but not less than \$1,000 per day" plus "costs...for labor and expenses." This is a substantially higher rental fee than was suggested by Mary Conde during the negotiating session, and far more than what Supervisor Mandelman said that he thought reasonable or likely. And APE insisted that the Castro's theatrical seating must be replaced by flat floors and stacking chairs, an arrangement that we believe will not work for film audiences, and will permanently end the Castro Theatre's existence as one of the most important movie theaters in the United States.

The Castro Theatre Conservancy, and I personally, request that the Land Use and Transportation Committee change the words "presence of seating" to "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" in the landmarking resolution at the Committee's April 17 meeting.

No one (not even those who maintain that audiences for opera and symphony concerts are dying) would suggest tearing out the seats of the War Memorial Opera House or Davies Symphony Hall. Why would we countenance that desecration of the Castro Theatre, an equally iconic and beloved building of about the same age?

We urge that you landmark, and require the retention, of the Castro Theatre's traditional theatrical seating.

With a proper landmarking of the Castro's character-defining features, we believe that the Castro can remain a vital cultural institution with or without APE's participation. Should APE withdraw from management of the Castro Theatre, we are certain that a non-profit organization can be found to run the theatre with virtually daily programming that serves the community as it has been served for almost one hundred years. The Castro Theatre Conservancy stands ready to be that non-profit, if necessary.

Thank you for your concern for San Francisco's last remaining movie palace, for the community it has served long and well, and for the Castro's future as a multi-use theater and a San Francisco cultural center.

Peter Pastreich
Executive Director
Castro Theatre Conservancy

From: [Peter Pastreich](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: The Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 7:57:35 AM

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

Dear Supervisor Melgar,

I assume that you know that APE did not take advantage of the two-week continuance, granted to them by the Land Use and Transportation Committee, in order that they make a good faith effort to find ways to cooperate with the Castro community and the Castro Theatre Conservancy - particularly to assure that the theater will be open more than the several days per month contemplated by APE. APE's response was to offer the Conservancy "40 dates of Film in a calendar year" (the Conservancy had proposed 180 dates, which would still have left significantly more dark days and nights at the Castro than in any non-Covid year before APE's management), at "\$4,500 per day plus a \$2 per ticket Theatre preservation fee...but not less than \$1,000 per day" plus "costs...for labor and expenses." This is a substantially higher rental fee than was suggested by Mary Conde during the negotiating session, and far more than what Supervisor Mandelman said that he thought reasonable or likely. And APE insisted that the Castro's theatrical seating must be replaced by flat floors and stacking chairs, an arrangement that we believe will not work for film audiences, and will permanently end the Castro Theatre's existence as one of the most important movie theaters in the United States.

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Thank you for your concern for San Francisco's last remaining movie palace, for the community it has served long and well, and for the Castro's future as a multi-use theater and a San Francisco cultural center.

Peter Pastreich
Executive Director
Castro Theatre Conservancy

From: ray_castro@place.com
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Thornhill, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Romwald Connolly](#)
Subject: Castro Businesses Petition in Support of API's Restoring the Castro Theater - VOTE YES
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023 5:12:04 PM
Attachments: [Castro Merchants Signed Petitions.pdf](#)

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

Attn: Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of all the business owners and management listed below along with the attached petition to let the Board of Supervisors know that we STRONGLY SUPPORT Another Planet Entertainment, APE's plans to renovate the iconic Castro Theatre.

FedEx Pet Food Company Whole Foods Castro The Apothecarium Dispensary Castro Salon Baobao Pilsner Inn The Slice Pizza PhotoWorks SF Mail Access UnderGlass Custom Picture Framing Barry's Castro Wela Thai Massage FitnessSF Castro Erik Y Garra, NS Tan Bella Live Fit Gym Schlomer Haus Gallery Red Jade Handy Handyman Hardware Detour Becks Motor Lodge Walgreens Right Style Salon Queenbee Nails Henry Alford Entour Koheba Gifts Catch SF Chadwick's Gyro Xpress Knob's SF Brand X Antiques Cafe Mystique Belles & Whistles	RockHard Oz Pizza Rossi's Deli Church Street Cafe Willkommen by Black Hammer Brewing Castro Village Wine Company ZGO Perfumery How's it Hanging Yankee Clipper Travel Phantom Engel & Volkers San Francisco The Sausage Factory Blush! Wine Bar Hansen's Laundry Castro Village Cleaners Buffalo Whole Food Grocery Brick and Morter Real Estate Services Vanguard Properties Orphan Andy's Resturant Cafe de Cosa Restaurant Castro Coffee Castro Smoke Shop Anchor Oyster Bar Eureka Sky Millay Wine Store Twilight Smoke Shop Bottle Bucchanal Local Take Not Just Flowers Does Your Mother	The Edge Sui Generis Designer Consignment Wicked 6 Bar Raptor Communications MX3 Fitness The Cove on Castro Jungle Red 2358MRKT Gallery Nick Engel & Company Hot Johnnie's Kokak Chocolates Cliff's Variety The Academy Canela Bistro & Wine Bar Tanglad Poesia Osteria Italiana Poesia Cafe Starbelly The Castro Room The Lobby Bar Castro Theater Blackbird Hi Tops Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub The Hotel Castro Castro CBD Max Muscle Nutrition Cafe De Nord Wooden Spoon Woodhouse Fish Company Wells Fargo Bank Niji Sushi Bar
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Swirl on Castro	Know? Rouse Relational Therapy Deki Jewels Vico Cavone Stag & Manor Five Star Truffles	Castro Indian Restaurant and Bar Smoke Plus 18th Street
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We've learned that Terrance Alan and Terry Beswick have sent letters out with unreasonable conditions for APE to meet, after we, the Castro businesses and management, have given our support to APE's plans to renovate Castro Theatre on April 16, 2023, general meeting.

Unfortunately, it appears that two individuals have taken upon themselves to go against the merchants of Castro's support of APE and these two board members have decided to contradict the voice of Castro Business owners and management. The business above stand together in SUPPORT!

We, the business owners/members of Castro Merchant Association want to let the Board know that Terrance Allan and Terry Beswick's letters directed to the Board of Supervisors are not the views and opinions of the Castro Business Community; and these letters and requests should not even be

entertained as evidence for lack of support for APE. The letters hold zero credibility in our views.

We, business owners and members of Castro Business community, have all the confidence that APE, in good faith, will work with both Rafael Mandelman and the Castro Merchant Association to bring vibrancy, foot traffic and entertainment to the Castro neighborhood. The Castro Business community is very disappointed and confused with the letters from T Allan and T Beswick since we, the business owners, never agreed to any of the conditions as outlined in their letters.

As you can see from the enclosed signed petition, the support for APE is loud and clear. As business owners, members of the Castro Merchant Association, and concerned residents of Castro, we ask The Board of Supervisors to act swiftly by supporting and approving APE's project to renovate The Castro Theatre. Please vote YES!

Thank you for your attention and support on this important matter.

Kind regards,

[Ray T. Connolly](#)

Founder

[EurekaSky.com](#)

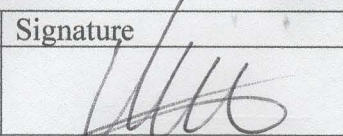
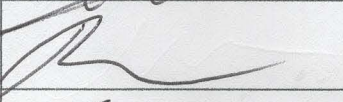
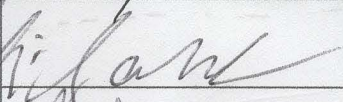
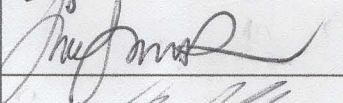
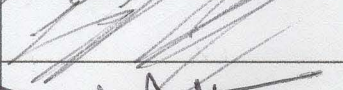

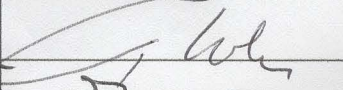

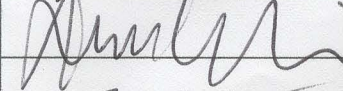
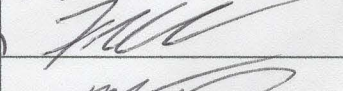

[SeaWeedsf.com](#)

415 706 7759

Petition In Support of Another Planet Entertainment's Proposal to Restore the Castro

We, the undersigned, support Another Planet Entertainment's proposal to restore the historic Castro Theatre. Another Planet is committing \$15 M to restore the historic theatre back to its original glory. They have also committed to 33% of its programming devoted to film screenings and festivals and to 25% of its programming devoted to LGBT programming.




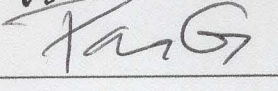
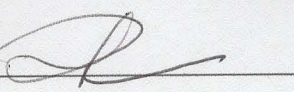
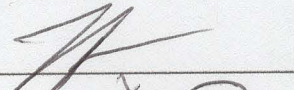
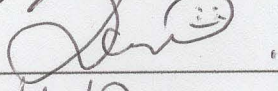
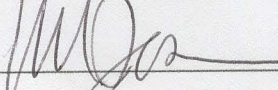
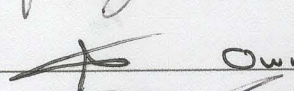
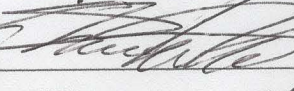
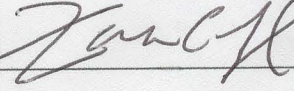
We, the undersigned, believe APE's plan will deliver a world-class entertainment venue that will attract a large number of visitors to the Castro District, who will in-turn patronize our local businesses helping to revitalize the economic vitality of the Castro neighborhood.

Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Volkan Akoglu		Gyro Xpress	03/24/23
Ryan Hill		Knobs	3/24/23
Timothy J. Flint	Timothy J. Flint	Brand X Antigua	3/24/23
Sam Hefner		Cap & Mystique	3/24/23
Jennifer Schroer		Belles & Whistles	3/24/23
Casey Bowers		Swirl on Castro	3/24/23
Don Metzler		Beckitaro	3/27/23
Omar Othman		Oz Pizza	3/27/23
Sam Dughman		Rossis Deli	3/28/23
HANK LIM		Church St. Cafe	3/30/23
Trevor McMillen		Willkommen by Black Hammer Brewing	3/30/23
MATT PORIA		Castro Village Wine Co	3/30/23

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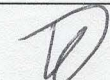


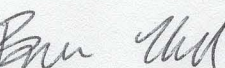
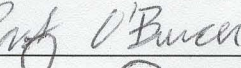
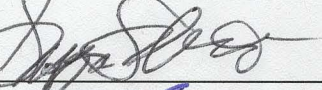

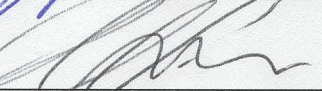
Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Umar Hayat		Manager	3/31/23
Jane Fenn		Manager Pet Social Express	3/31/23
Ryan Rospre		Manager wpm	3/31/23
Pamela Grande		AGM Apothecarium	3/31/2023
BAOTON		Salon barba	3/31/23
Bryan Hoff		Pilsner Inn Owner	3/31/23
David M.		THE SLICE PIZZA	3/31/23
Mike Josepher		photo works	3/31/23
A. Shulay		owner Mail Access	3/31/23
Jane (Cato)		UNDERGLASS FRAMING	3/31/23
Zach Hartzell		BARRY'S - manager	3/31/23

Fede

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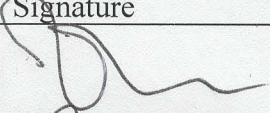
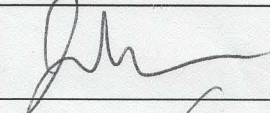
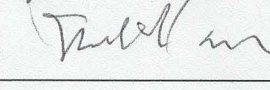
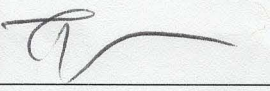
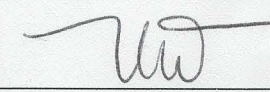
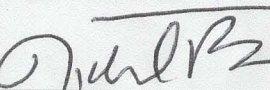
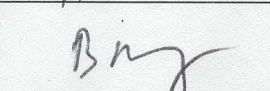
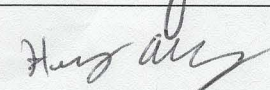
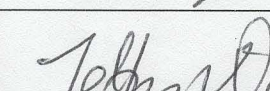
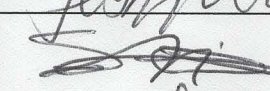
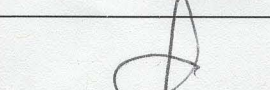
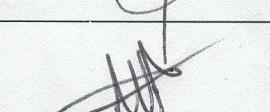
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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Vannasany Romsok		Wela Thai Massage	3/23/23
Nirisara Jakkhum		Wela Thai Massage	3/23/23
Areeya Onananudat		Wela Thai Massage	3/23/23
Kate Bilo		fitness sf	3/23/23
Erik Kyburva Paul Kucen		NA	3/28/23
Surila Ortiz		Tan Bella	3/23/22
Briana Krull		Live Fit Gym	3/28/23
Pat O'Brien		Live Fit Gym	3/28/23
STEFAN SCHARR		Schlomerhaus Salby	3/28/23
Bitao Chen		Red Jade	3/31/23
David Rija		Hardy Handyman	3/31/23

Petition In Support of Another Planet Entertainment's Proposal to Restore the Castro

We, the undersigned, support Another Planet Entertainment's proposal to restore the historic Castro Theatre. Another Planet is committing \$15 M to restore the historic theatre back to its original glory. They have also committed to 33% of its programming devoted to film screenings and festivals and to 25% of its programming devoted to LGBT programming.

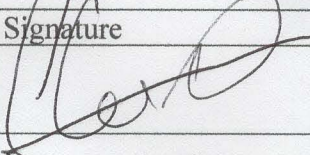

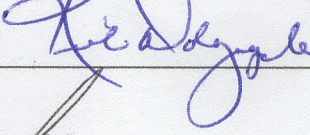
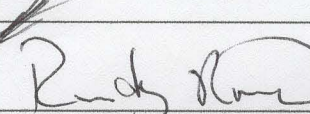
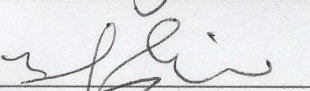
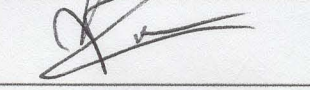

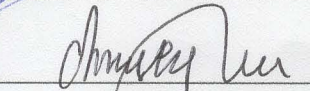
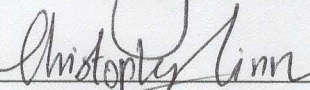
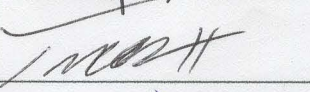
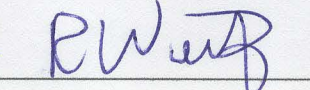
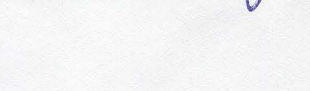
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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Veronica Taormina		Detour	3/22
JAMES WOO		Retour	3/22
Svetlana Campos		BECKS	3/23
Tristan Storm		Walsgreen	3/23
Thao Tram		Right Styl Salon	3/23-
Michel Paz		Queen	3/23
Bry			3/23
Henry Alford		GoHealth Urgent Care	3/23
Jeffrey Wang		Entour	3/23
Seifedine		KOHeba Gift	03/23
Jose M		catch R.	03/23
AARON VAN ARSDALE		Chadwick's	3/24

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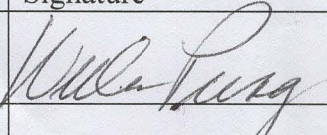
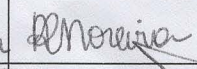
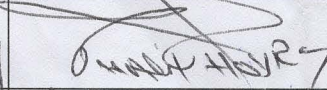
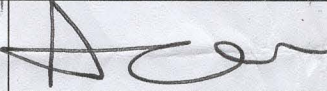
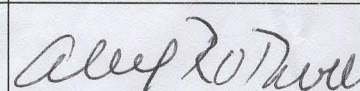
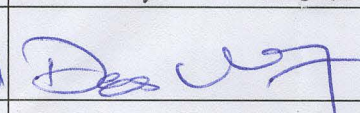
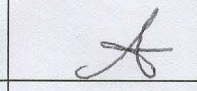
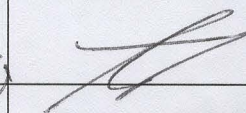
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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
CHAUDE GRATIARRE		ZSO PERFUMERY	03/17/23
Thomas Corpine		How's it Hanging	03/17/23
KIRK DALRYMPLE		YANKEE CUPPER LEVEL	3/20/23
Gary Knight		Phantom	03/23/23
R. Rana		Engel + Villars	3/23/23
Mario Azzolino		The Sausage Factory	3/23/23
Blush J. NICOLAS		476 CASTRO	3/23/23
Kevin Chen		Hansen's Laundry	3/24/23
Christy Wu		Castro Village Diner	3/24/23
Christopher Linn		Buffalo whole food	3/24/23
Tomas Hassler		Brick and Mortar RS	3/24/23
Rodney Weitz		Vanguard Properties	3/24/23

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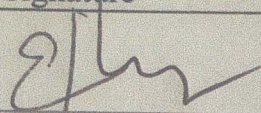
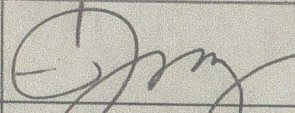
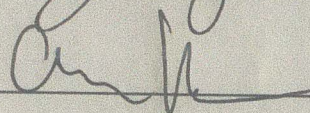
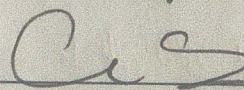
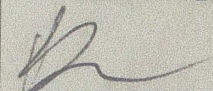
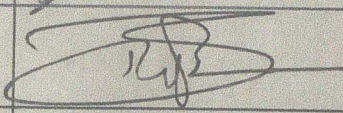
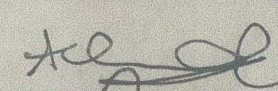
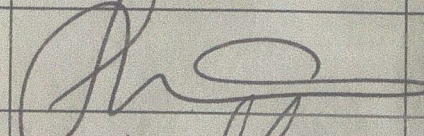
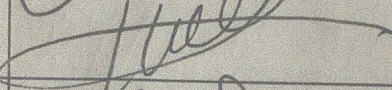
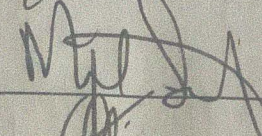

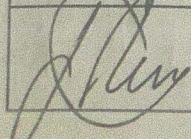
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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
William Pung		Orphan Alley	3/20/23
Amanda R. Morcia		Cafe de Cosa	3/20/23
KHALIL KHOURY		Castro Coxxee	3/20/2023
Dean Naster		Castro Smoke House	3.20.2023
Alex Rothwell		Anchor Oyster Bar	3-20-2023
Desmond Morgan		Eureka Sky	3/22/23
Angel Davis		Millay	3/29/23
Som Khaci		Smok shop	3/31/23

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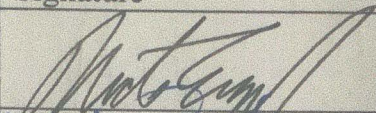
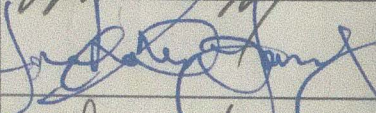
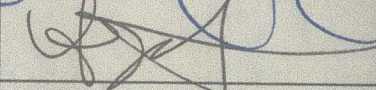
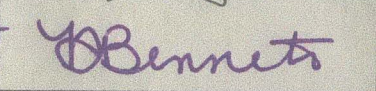
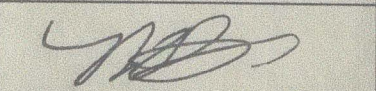
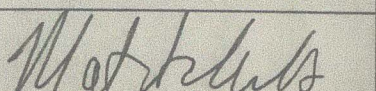
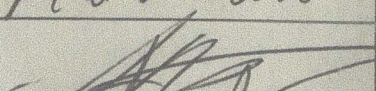
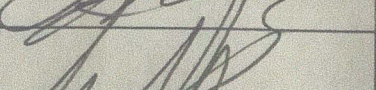
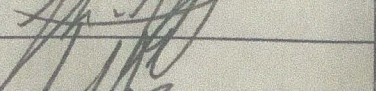
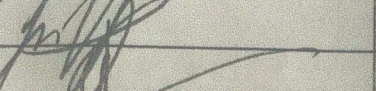
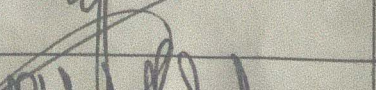
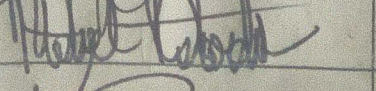
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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Beth Hughes		Bottle Buchanan	3/16/23
Jenn Meyer		Local Take	3/17/23
Andrei Krylov		Not Just Flowers	3/17/23
Andie Stees		DJMK	3/17/23
David White		Roux Reborn	3/17/23
Deki Jewels		DEKI JEWELS	3/17/23
Alex Bee		VKO CAVES	3/17/23
Seth Morrison		STAR & MANOR	3/23/23
SANTOS EVAR		FIVE STAR TRUFFLES	3-23-23
Michael Schant		The Edge	3/23/23
Miguel Lopez		Sibeneris Inc.	3/23/23
	JUSTIN MOWES	Wicked 6 Bar	3/24/23

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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
✓ Nick Engel		Nick ENGEL & CO.	3-24-23
Hot Johnnie's Brittan Young		Hot Johnnie's	3/24/23
(Kokak) Fanny Guan		Kokak Chocolates	3/24/23
✓ Terry Asten Bennett		Cliff's Variety	3/24/23
✓ NATE BOURG		The Academy	3/24/23
✓ Mat Schuster		Canela	3/25/23
Stephen Muñoz		Tanguel	3/27/23
Francesco d'ippolit.		POESIA/POESIA CAFE	03/27/23
Francesco d'ippolito		POESIA CAFE	03/27/23
Adam Timney		Starbelly	3/27/23
Michael Richardson		The Castro Room	3/27/23
Kelly L. Corso		The Lobby Bar	3/31/23

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Table with 4 columns: Your Name, Signature, Business, Date Signed. Row 1: Dylan MacNiven, [Signature], Cafe Du Nord, Wooden Spoon, Woodhouse Fish Co, 3/28/23



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Your Name	Signature	Business	Date Signed
Anurag Uppal		WFB	3/31/2023

Wells
Fargo
Bank
Manager
ETC

Submission	First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Signature	Business Name
13-Apr-23	Daniel	Aranas	dsupps1@g	https://www	Max Muscle Nutrition
5-Apr-23	Chris	Hastings	chris@lookc	https://www	Lookout
4-Apr-23	Shawn	Vergara	shawn@det	https://www	Blackbird/The Detour
4-Apr-23	Shawn	Vergara	shawn633@	https://www	Blackbird
31-Mar-23	Jesse	Woodward	jesse@hito	https://www	Hi Tops
31-Mar-23	Daniel	Bergerac	danielberge	https://www	Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub
31-Mar-23	Gannon	Tidwell	gannon@pc	https://www	The Hotel Castro
30-Mar-23	Andrea	Aiello	andrea@ca	https://www.jotform.com/uploads/Jenn587/230875	

From: [cher](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Comment on the interior landmarking of the Castro Theatre being considered today
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:10:58 AM

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

I was born and raised in San Francisco, and being a senior, I have unfortunately witnessed the loss of many beautiful buildings over the years.

Let's not lose another one; no one has ever regretted preserving historical buildings, but there's nothing but regret about landmarks which we lost due to not being on the right side of history.

I am specifically asking that you change the language referring to the seating to "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" which was what was recommended and submitted in the extensive study submitted to the historical preservation committee.

If we lose these interior features due to vague language, we lose what makes the Castro Theatre what it is: the only grand movie palace left in San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cher Evans

From: [LORI FELDMAN](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theater
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 5:34:14 AM

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

Hello, I am writing to keep the Castro Theater historic, with the fixed comfortable chairs and sloping floor. As a short person, I so enjoy programs and films at the Castro Theater because I can see the screen and stage from almost any seat. I don't care how old the seats are, I need to be able to see. My fear is with the remodeling they want to do, the floor will not be sloped and hard, uncomfortable folding chairs, or the like, will be brought in.

Please keep the seats and floors the way they have always been!

Thank you,

Lori Feldman, LCSW
San Francisco, CA
415-285-9770
QuitSmartSanFrancisco@gmail.com

From: [Julie Ann Brown](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:48:29 AM

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

Supervisor Major,

I am a resident of the East Bay, but am a devoted fan of the Castro Theatre. I have seen many films and shows there and am distressed that there is a consideration to remove the original fixed seating in this historic theatre.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

**Sincerely,
Julie Ann Brown
aka Miss Silver Starlight**

From: [Maureen Russell](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: The Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting April 17, 2023 re: Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:03:56 AM

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

The Land Use & Transportation Committee Meeting April 17, 2023 re: Castro Theatre

Dear Committee Members:

I've been attending the Castro Theatre for films and other events for thirty-five years. While I appreciate Another Planet Entertainment's plans to take on long overdue maintenance and safety issues and to restore decorative features, I disagree about removing the permanent seating. I am in support of this committee approving the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre.

The Nasser Family and APE claim that only having film screenings will not bring in enough income. But the Castro has hosted a variety of events in addition to regular film programming for many years: these suit the community while using the theatre style seating—comedy, drag shows, the Moth, etc. APE's call for flexibility to hold weddings and corporate events to bring in income is not an appropriate use of this architectural treasure. Their confusing and changing seating plans would remove the soul of the theater, limiting the number of patrons if there are less seats, making it harder for promoters to bring affordable events. The proposed stackable chairs, with metal arm rests or none at all, are hardly a worthy substitute.

APE is running a growing number of San Francisco's music venues. The Castro is the only one with orchestra seating intact. This would be a great opportunity to host live music for seated audiences. We don't need tiered seating to accommodate multiple bars to serve drinks inside the orchestra. By updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style," community needs will be served. I do not agree that whatever APE comes up with is the last opportunity for the Castro, or it will close.

As San Francisco's last remaining neighborhood movie palace, the character and charm of Timothy Pflueger's interior should remain, including the raked floors and attached seating with its excellent sight lines. I would like to continue attending film festivals and patronizing Castro merchants, keeping the home of LGBTQ heritage intact.

Regards,

Maureen Russell

San Francisco 94103

From: [Ted Whipple](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre interior landmarking - APE's altering the fixed seating & raking a non-starter
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:09:57 AM

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

To the Board of Supervisors Landmark & Transportation Committee,

Altering the fixed seating and the raking of the auditorium is a non-starter.

As a San Francisco resident since 1970, I can see that the Castro's future as an historic, world class movie theater depends on keeping the fixed seating and sloping.

The language of the draft ordinance needs to state this clearly, unambiguously.

APE's behavior has been akin to a hostile takeover, relying on paid lobbyists to counter and belittle community opposition, with frequent ad hominem attacks in social media.

APE's advocates claim that the changes to the auditorium's seating to facilitate & prioritize the theater's use for concerts is the only economically viable path forward.

But elsewhere how have theaters like the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium or The Fox in Oakland helped those neighborhoods and businesses?

The darker reality is that APE will shutter the theater most of the time -- and make the cost of putting on an event there prohibitive. That minimizes the benefit to the neighborhood and its businesses. The area still in decline since Covid will not get a noticeable boost by APE's takeover--in contrast to the theater's numerous week-long film festivals in the past now faced with relocating to Oakland.

Unlike other Bay Area APE-run theaters, the Castro Theater serves as a cultural and community center. APE was caught off guard and dismayed by community blow-back. And yet APE has doubled down on its plans, despite opposition of a scale that no other San Francisco theater has incited in many years.

The City should not be bullied by APE.

Ted Whipple

From: [Sandra](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Save the Seats
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 10:38:08 PM

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

Hello,

I'm a lifelong resident of the Bay Area and grew up coming with my parents to matinees at the Castro. I lived in town in the 80s and 90s (I returned to the Peninsula to be closer to family) and frequently went to films and very special film festivals. This is THE LAST grand movie theater in town. Please respect its history and let the original seats stay.

Too much of the City's culture has been wiped away by the crazy growth with the tech boom. We need to do better to retain some of SF's history.

Thank you for your time and attention to this culturally significant battle for historic San Francisco.

Sandra Althouse.

Sent from my iPhone

From: zococtal@gmail.com
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Save The Castro Theatre Orchestra Seating
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:30:48 PM

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

Dear Erica Major,

I am a native San Francisco resident who has been attending movies and events at the Castro Theater since the 1970s. The “Castro” is the last intact grand historic theater left in San Francisco, The rest have all been torn down.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema.

Without the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating it is no longer **a theater.**

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

Thank you for your consideration,
Diane Peers
Resident of D1 San Francisco

From: zocoytal@gmail.com
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Save The Castro Theatre Orchestra Seating
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 7:24:11 PM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Native San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. **With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Oakland managed to save the Paramount. We cannot afford to lose the last Grand Movie Place left in San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Diane Peers
755 40th Ave
SF CA 94121

From: [Jesse Oliver Sanford](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre -- please accept Preston's amendment
Date: Sunday, April 16, 2023 11:42:52 AM

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

Dear Chair Melgar, President Peskin, and cc Supervisor Preston,

I have been participating in the public conversation regarding the Castro Theatre since early 2022. While I serve as co-chair of Land Use for the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District, I am writing entirely in my personal capacity as a 17-year resident of the Castro, where I live half a block from the theater.

Please clarify the landmark update legislation by changing "presence of seating" to "**fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.**"

To me, the most fundamental reason we should favor a community-centered, potentially non-profit, Castro Theatre is about exploitation and democracy. The larger the organization, the less likely its interests will align with those of the LGBTQ community. Oppressed communities need to discover (and teach the next generation) who they are and what their interests are. They need their own face-to-face communication in their own places of assembly. This is especially so in the LGBTQ community, since our parents are often ill-equipped to help us learn who we are.

In the Castro, with LGBTQ visitors from all over the world, we are working everyday to connect, educate, and inspire our community's global civil rights movement. The highest and best use of the Castro Theatre would be as the nation's premiere *LGBTQ-centered* theatre ("The Radio City Music Hall for gay people", said John Waters). This will require owners and management who know the community and are relentless in working toward this goal. A long-term vision for the Castro Theatre that centers the LGBTQ community would represent an investment in what makes San Francisco unique, and in a global social justice movement of which we are a birthplace.

Moreover, the Bay Area needs inexpensive destinations appropriate for grandparents and children. Under the management of Mel Novikoff and Anita Monga, the Castro Theatre's programming reflected their needs as well as the LGBTQ community. As late as 2019 there were 29 all-ages singalongs. An ongoing repertory film and sing-along program at the theatre, adjunct to live events, would serve the entire Bay Area and bring sorely-needed frequent, sober, moderate daytime foot traffic to the Castro that occasional night time concerts, on their own, would not.

Another Planet showed up as a bully in the Castro because they were already a bully: as an organization, they choose friends and enemies, chilling out all those who don't get in line with their priorities. Their business model is about vertical monopolization: they both represent artists and control the venues those artists need. Artists and producers become financially and logistically dependent, fearing retribution if they speak out. It's a business model overdue for regulation.

Some see the empty storefronts, hear promises of investment — investment that the Nassers, who reportedly netted as much \$1M each year from theatre operations, would not make — and conclude the future means gutting the past. But with live entertainment attendance still down after the pandemic, the 1-2 night/week calendar typical of APE's other venues, and in-house liquor sales, the economic benefit of APE's proposal for the rest of the neighborhood looks dubious, and certainly less than we need. The social impact looks even worse: the theater empty on many dark nights, seats likely stored offsite to be trucked in for special occasions, and random crowds who don't know the neighborhood or its norms.

In this context, it is essential that we preserve the raked floor and fixed theatrical movie palace-style seating in the Castro Theatre orchestra. **I ask that you accept Supervisor Preston's amendment summarizing accurately the**

findings of historic significance.

Respectfully yours,

Jesse Oliver Sanford PhD

From: [Therese Poletti](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter re Land Use Committee meeting today/Agenda Item No. 6, The Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 8:15:28 AM
Attachments: [Letter to SF Land Use Committee FINAL 4_14.pdf](#)

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

Attached please find a letter from the Art Deco Society of California regarding the Castro Theatre for today's Land Use and Transportation Committee meeting.

Thanks very much.

Therese Poletti
Art Deco Society of California



ART DECO SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

PO Box 5539 Berkeley, CA 94705

April 14, 2023

Supervisor/President Aaron Peskin
Supervisor Dean Preston
Supervisor Myrna Melgar
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use and Transportation Committee

Re: The Castro Theatre, April 17 meeting

Dear Supervisors:

Thank you for your time and attention to the landmarking amendment for the Castro Theatre.

The Castro Theatre is an irreplaceable jewel of San Francisco and the heart of the Castro district. As you know it is also architect Timothy Pflueger's first movie theatre and after this project, Pflueger went on to lead the design of some of the city's most iconic buildings of his era, most of which are landmarked or are considered historical resources. The city has deemed Pflueger's work so important that in 2008, this land use committee heard me speak about the merits of honoring Pflueger by renaming a small alley in the back of his iconic 450 Sutter building to Timothy Pflueger Place. Late that year, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed and it was an honor to have Supervisor Peskin read the proclamation at the street naming party. Pflueger is still, I believe, the only San Francisco architect to have a local street named in his honor.

In addition to being the city's last extant movie palace, the Castro Theatre is also the most architecturally intact one, complete in its fantastic 1920s eclecticism and melange of architectural styles. The raked floors, the aisles, the fixed theatrical seating in a movie palace configuration and the general sweeping grandeur of the theatre's auditorium are key character-defining features of the Castro Theatre.

We at the Art Deco Society of California wholeheartedly support amending the Castro Theatre's current landmark status to include its interior and second period of historic significance to include its long association with the LGBTQ community. **Please ensure that the language in the amendment includes fixed theatrical seating in a movie palace configuration and remove the vague phrase "presence of seating" to ensure that the Castro can remain a church and sanctuary for the film, the neighborhood and LGBTQ community.**

Preserving this space to support LGBTQ+ programming and long-time local and international film festivals is of great importance to keep the city's unique cultural fabric intact, and to help sustain the fund-raising efforts of many non-profit organizations in the Bay Area. We do not oppose live music events at the Castro, but we believe live events can be more easily hosted with fixed seating in the theatre, easing the time and cost burden on the event hosts, especially non-profits.

As a non-profit organization that seeks to preserve architecture and design of the Art Deco era in the Bay Area and beyond, we at the Art Deco Society of California appreciate many of the plans that Another Planet Entertainment has to restore the theatre. But we are also concerned about APE's plans for a change of use of the theatre, to turn it into a full-time nighttime entertainment venue, and believe that more study should be done on the potentially adverse impact on the surrounding Castro neighborhood, which has a very large residential population, both on and in the area surrounding the main commercial corridor.

Sincerely,

Therese Poletti
Preservation Director
Art Deco Society of California

From: [Susan Call](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re Castro Landmark Designation
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:23:01 AM

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

Dear Committee,

As a decades-long resident of Noe Valley, I've enjoyed countless evenings at the Castro, enjoying repertory movie programming, film festivals, and occasional live events. Having a vintage movie palace in my neighborhood, and in the city, is important for my quality of life and enjoyment of San Francisco. When my husband and I went to the Castro, we picked up something at Cliffs, had a drink, got a slice of pizza, had coffee, bought a cookie, etc.

Post-pandemic, the neighborhood is suffering. The fact that the Castro has been dark for so long seems to really cut down the casual neighborhood traffic that supported so many local businesses. Even when we were ready to return to the movies, our favorite theater was dark, or showing something banal for \$25.

The decision to effectively eliminate regular movies at the Castro, removing movie seating, would be a sad change for the neighborhood, telling locals and SF residents that their historic gathering place is to be sacrificed for greater profits built on irregular concert traffic. Having the theater dark at least half the time will mean residents go elsewhere for their casual drinking, dining, and shopping.

This is a neighborhood doom loop that can be mitigated by maintaining the Castro as a movie theater, with movie seating, and movies being shown to take advantage of that setup. Please landmark the current seating arrangement at the Castro along with the other features of the landmark designation.

Respectfully,

Susan Call
4124 23rd Street

From: [Daniel Cohen](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre - I support APE's plans
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:38:14 AM

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

Hello,

My name is Daniel Cohen. I am an LGBT resident of the Castro and a voter in District 8 who has never missed an election since moving to SF 8 years ago.

I'm writing in regard to Another Planet Entertainment's proposed changes to the Castro Theater. **I fully support APE's plans** and I am excited for their proposed restorations and support their proposal to replace the fixed seating on the main floor that allows for standing and flexible seating arrangements (and a mix of both). These are the same plans that the Gay Men's Chorus supports, as well as Frameline, the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ film festival in the world, headquartered right here in SF!

I want to emphasize - **the community is in agreement - we support APE's plans**. I invite you to take a walk in the Castro - ask anyone. There is BROAD agreement in The Castro. APE's plans are supported - the community has come together!!!

Please do not accept an amendment to add fixed seating. Please let us help our neighborhood. Allow the heart of The Castro to thrive and adapt so it can survive for the next 100 years. We're doing everything we can do to save our neighborhood. We have a unique opportunity to reinvigorate the Theatre - and the neighborhood. It would be a disservice to the Castro - and the Theater itself - to give a hollow nod to preservation via fixed seating (which, itself, will not save film programming) rather than allowing this space to grow into the future and live on as the historic palace that it is. **PLEASE consider the future of the Castro Theater and its impact in our neighborhood.** The residents of the Castro want APE's plans approved. Please support our efforts to revitalize our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel

From: [Kathy Rose O'Regan](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org; [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 10:20:29 AM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023 — that is, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

The Castro Theatre is an absolute jewel, one of the vanishingly few movie palaces remaining in the Bay Area. To allow a massive reconfiguration of the theater's auditorium would be to utterly and permanently negate the Castro's intended usage as a cinema. The Bay Area is overflowing with excellent, world famous music venues. What would SF be for music lovers without the Fillmore?

The Castro Theatre is also world famous, as a spectacularly beautiful and important film exhibition space. I am a film restorationist, and recently returned from a trip to Europe. During this trip, I attended film festivals in Ireland and Scotland, and visited film laboratories and archives in the Netherlands. In every location, the first thing people asked me on hearing I was a San Franciscan was "What's happening with the Castro?". Some of these people had attended film festivals at the Castro. Others had gone to screenings when in the city vacationing. Some had never set foot on American soil, but had heard of our magnificent movie palace. What an honor, what a joy, to be able to boast of such a wonder within our city limits! And how desperately sad to have to tell these worldwide admirers that we just don't know if they will ever have another opportunity to watch film within its walls.

To omit a protection of the theatrical seating configuration at the Castro is to open the Castro up to exploitation. Exploitation as nothing more than a large space to cram with people, shoulder to shoulder at a concert. A very occasional concert, if the programming over the past year and a half is anything to go by. Without a provision in the Landmark Designation to keep the sloped floor and theatrical seating integral to the cinematic experience, there is no onus whatsoever on any current or future operator of the Castro Theatre to screen a film there ever again.

I don't know anyone who opposes the idea of a multi-use Castro. What I and many in the film community fear is that film will no longer be a part of the Castro at all. Such a loss, such an avoidable loss, does not serve the people of San Francisco. It only serves the pockets of the few.

Yours respectfully,

Kathy Rose O'Regan

From: [ROBERT CALL](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: PLEASE SAVE THE SEATS!
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:51:02 AM

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

Here we go again. Time to write another letter. What else can I do? I have lived in Noe Valley for over 30 years. The first lonely Christmas I spent here, I spent at the Castro watching the Wizard of Oz. Over the years, I have seen countless movies at The Castro. I saw an amazing program of 3-D footage, including an accidental 3-D clip shot by Melies when he was using multiple cameras for practical reasons. Where else would you be able to see Joan Crawford's home movies? I have attended film festivals and special events, but what I have missed over the past three years was seeing movies on the big screen. Instead of braving transit or parking issues, when a new worthwhile movie came out, I waited about a month, and almost always it played at the Castro. I could walk, or take the 24. Please save our neighborhood movie theatre for movies!

My two favorite San Francisco things are the Ferry Building Farmers' Market, and the Castro. We do not need another music space that will be dark over half the time. Keep the Castro seats. It was built to show movies. Save the seats. Robert A. Call, 4124 23rd St

From: [Owen Stephens](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [PrestonStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Land Use and Transportation Committee - 230192 Castro Theater
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:51:58 AM

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

Good morning,

I am writing to offer support for the landmark designation recommendation that includes indoor features of the Castro Theater related to any and all protections of the balcony, wall and ceiling décor. I do not support any amendment that would designate a fixed seating style - not in a world where theaters are grappling with change and sustainability all around the world and need flexibility to do so.

I want this theater space to thrive and be flexible. Large, classic theaters around the country are learning that they must be flexible to stay relevant. Not just movie theaters, but live performance theaters too, are realizing that upcoming generations are going to have significantly more options than the film industry, establishing in the last 100 years that the film medium has existed. Flexibility is key to keeping any theater alive, and too many restrictions will not be sustainable in the long run. The Castro Theater is a massive space and even before the pandemic defied logic by staying open even as the space has slowly but surely decayed.

Having watched performance spaces around the country grapple with the changing times, I think designating a historic seating style to the Castro Theater that prevents flexibility is folly. Change happens, and theater and film industries are changing. The Castro has to be vibrant and flexible in future chapters.

I know there is a lot of support for Save the Seats, but while the outrage is hot, I don't see them offering models for sustainability that the current managers of the theater can embrace - nor any future manager of the theater. Please do not lock the practical use space of the theater into a situation that isn't sustainable.

Approving any definitions of "distinctive features" that would go so far as to include the actual current seating, which were installed less than 20 years ago, as they do not have a historic value. Seats must be updated from time to time for a still working business. I also don't support any definition that would limit "rake" to mean only the current cement floor can serve as the primary flooring for the theater auditorium. It does not offer the same level of craftsmanship as other features in the building, and the sense of a rake can be maintained through newer technology and flexible options.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Owen Stephens
Resident District 8, San Francisco, CA

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:56 PM
Attachments: [Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall.pdf](#)

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "John Bengtson" <John@silentechoes.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:48pm
To: "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "myrna.melgar@sfgov.org" <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org" <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston:

Community and preservation issues aside, APE's plans to convert the beloved Castro Theatre movie palace into a nightclub will also flood the theatre with trip and fall hazards.

The theatre currently has a smooth, gently sloped floor with permanently affixed seats.

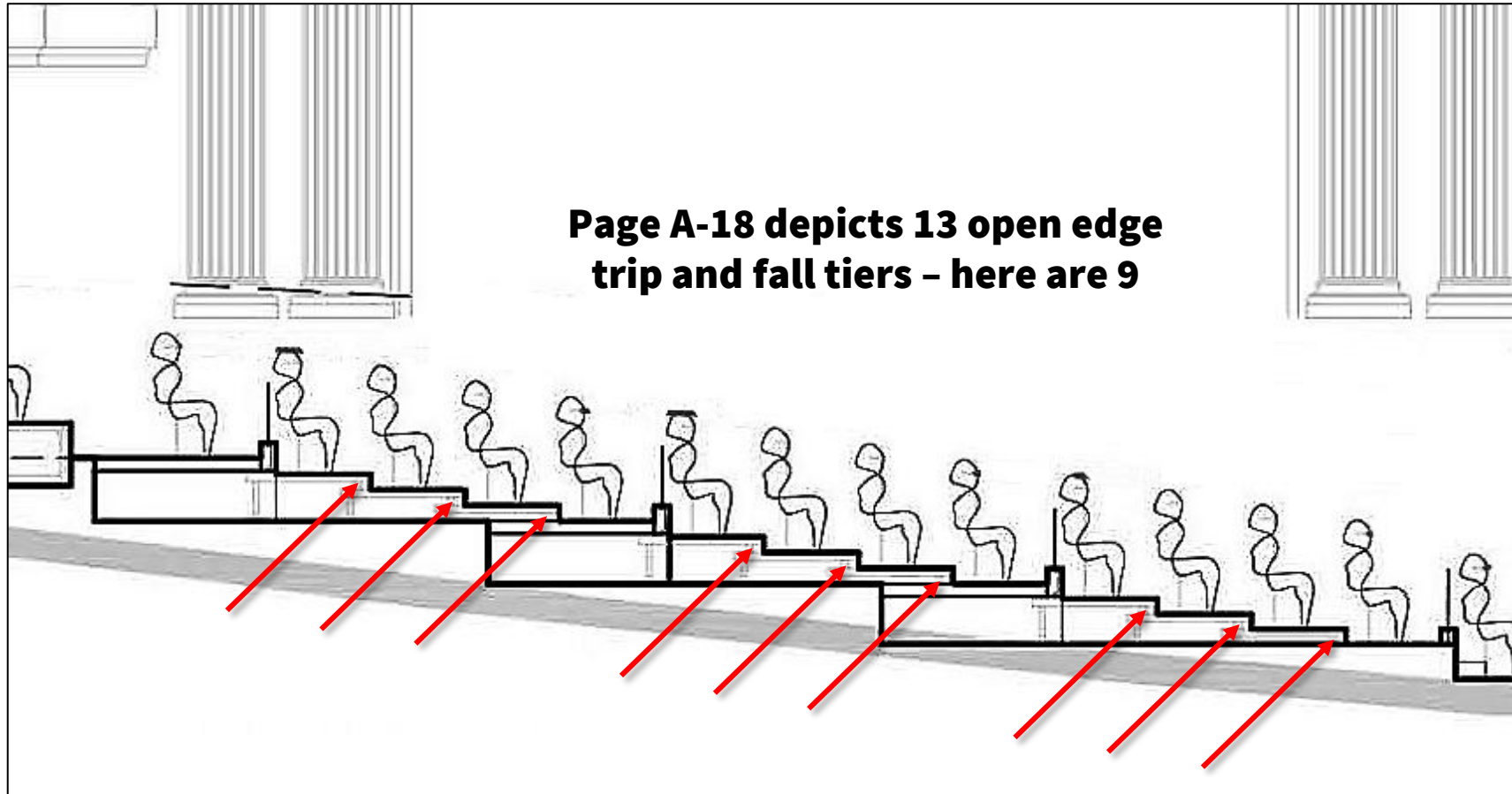
As shown by these illustrations, common sense dictates replacing a smooth floor with platforms, risers, stairs, and stackable chairs, will limit access to many patrons, and greatly **increase** the trip and fall risk for all patrons.

APE's complicated and expensive plans to "solve" an unnecessary self-inflicted problem will expose the public to far greater risk throughout the theatre.

Doesn't "the presence of seating" imply the presence of *safe* seating? It would be far easier, cheaper, and **safer** to Save the Seats.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bengtson, Castro Theatre Conservancy Secretary/Treasurer

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

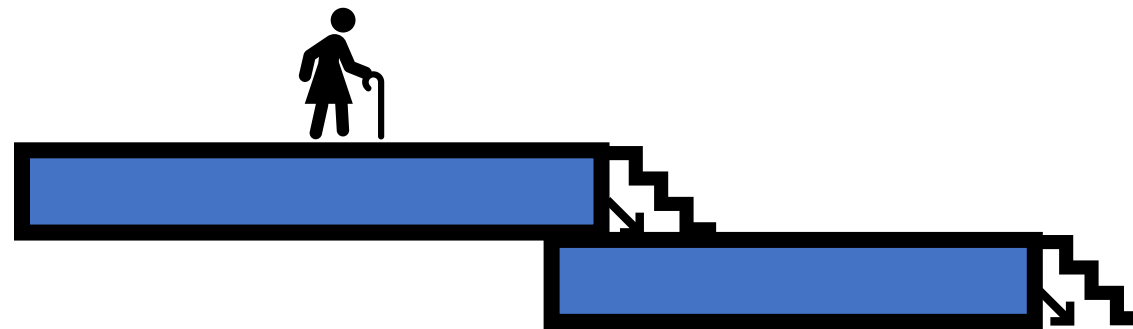


Will people trip in the dark along these narrow open edge tiers?

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

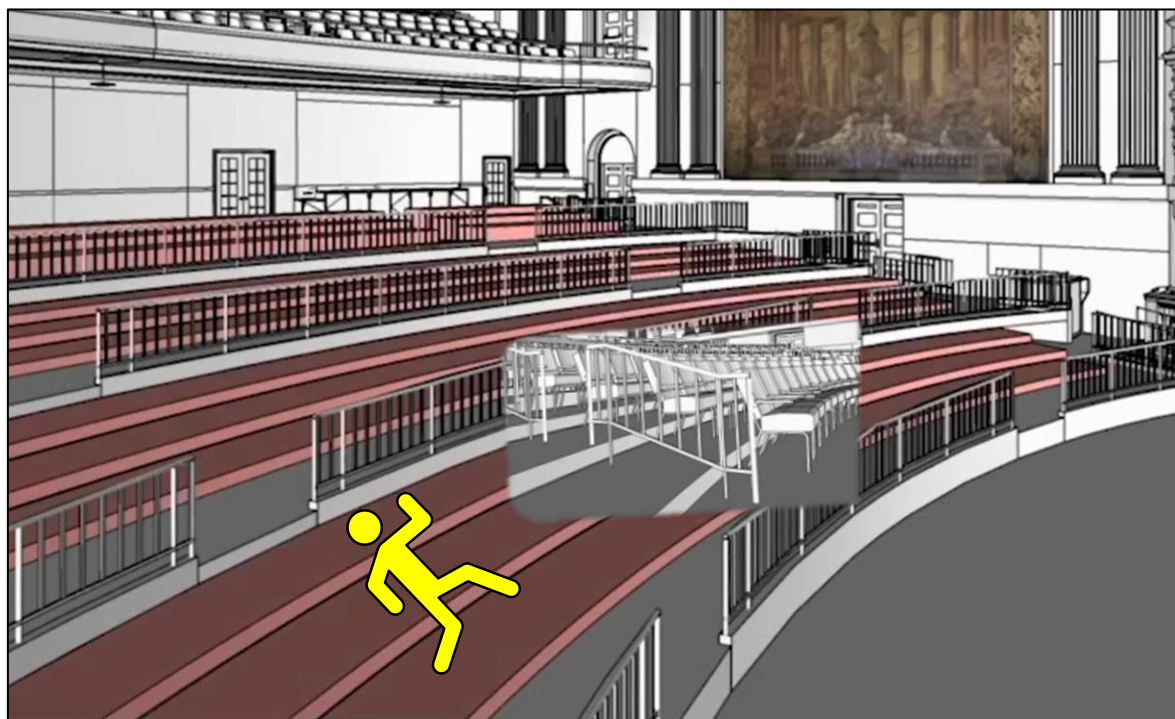


Today people with limited mobility may carefully navigate the smooth sloped floor to any row of the theatre. The seat bottoms fold up with no protruding chair legs blocking the wide rows. People who struggle sitting down and rising up are safer with permanently attached seats.



Under proposed plans people with limited mobility must navigate steps from platform to platform, 8 steps to the center of theatre, 14 steps to reach the front.

Castro Safety First – APE Trip and Fall

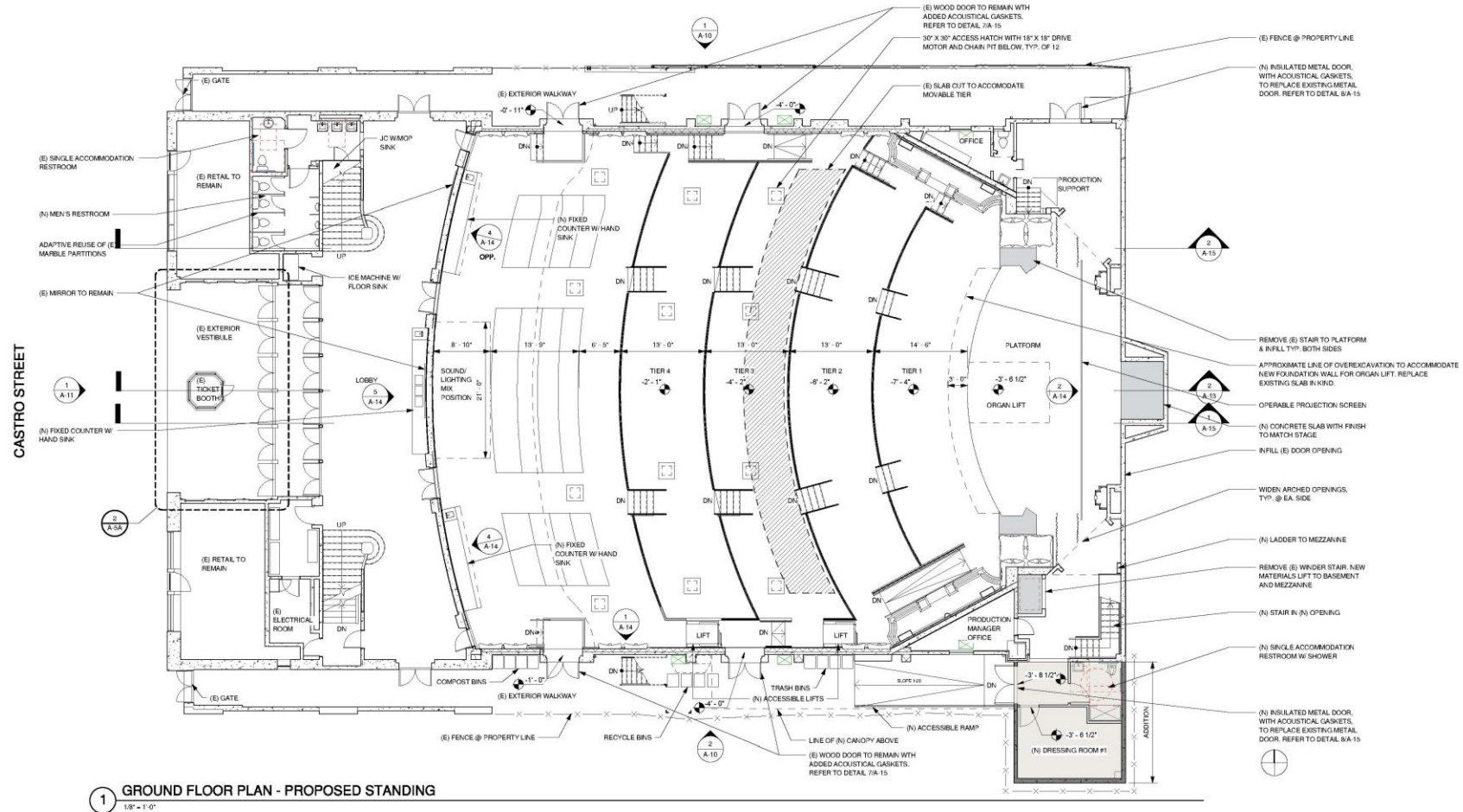


Stephen Bracco/Hoodline

The plans replace 24 rows of 802 permanent seats with 20 rows of ~517 stackable chairs, most sitting on risers with open **unprotected front edges, creating trip and fall hazards. People might step off the narrow open edges, especially in the dark. The chairs' protruding front legs create other tripping hazards. Can stackable chairs be secured safely enough for people who struggle with sitting and rising?**

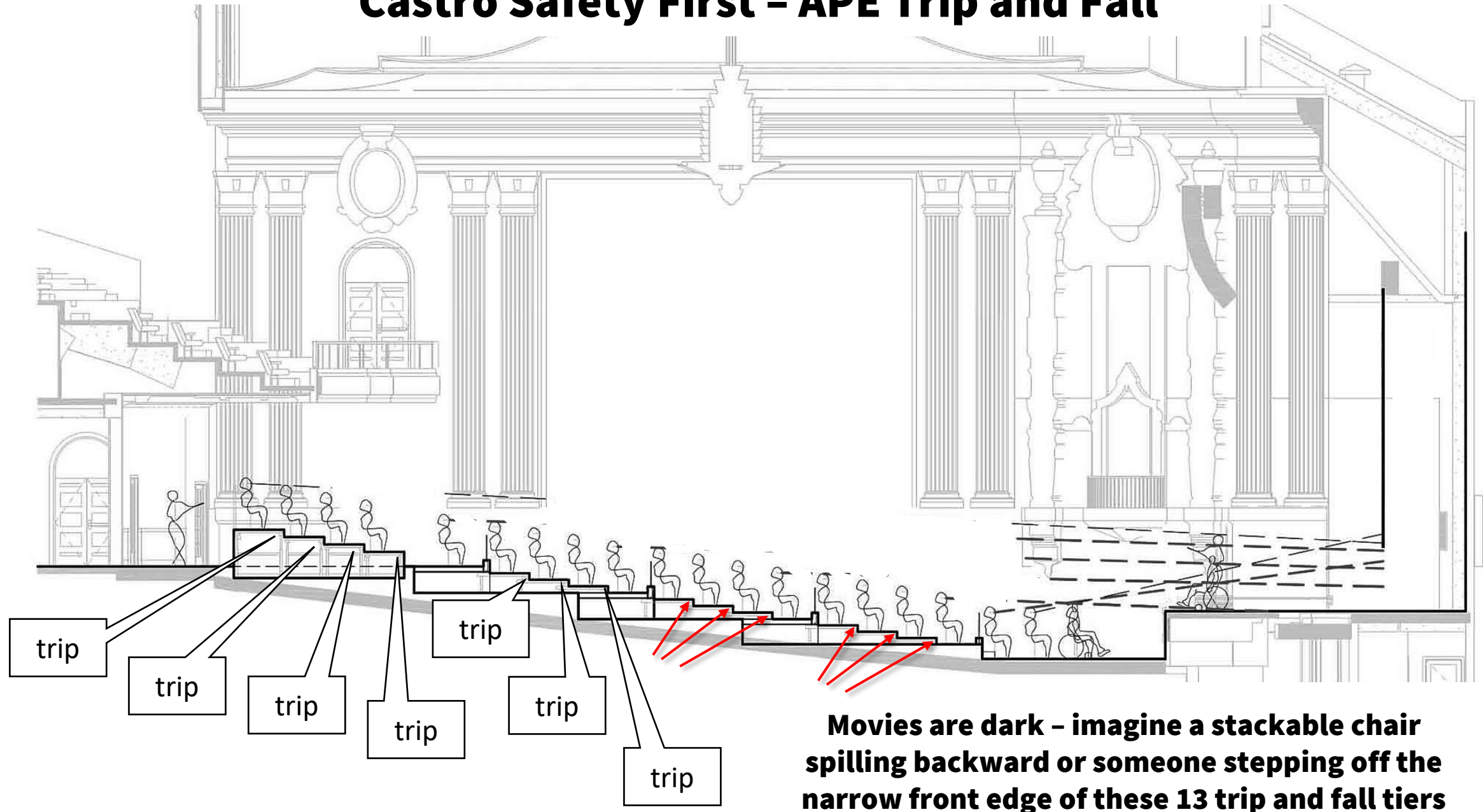
Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall

Page A-5A does not provide wheelchair access to the stage or the balcony. The proposed ADA lifts and ramps are necessitated because the smooth floor slope is covered with risers and stairs



1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN - PROPOSED STANDING
1/8" = 1'-0"

Castro Safety First - APE Trip and Fall



Movies are dark - imagine a stackable chair spilling backward or someone stepping off the narrow front edge of these 13 trip and fall tiers

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save the Castro Theatre Seats
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:11 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "Tanya Zimbardo (she/her)" <tzimbardo@SFMOMA.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:49pm
To: "Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org" <Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org>, "Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org" <Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org>, "Dean.Preston@sfgov.org" <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "info@savethecastrotheatre.org" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, "Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org" <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre Seats

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a fifth-generation San Francisco native and a resident of Glen Park. My love of cinema was fostered by numerous visits to the Castro Theatre since I was a teenager. It was where I was introduced to a wider range of movies, from remastered foreign films to historic noir and silent films. I have since taken members of my family, from my niece at the age of 3 to experience "Sing-a-long Little Mermaid" to my 90-year-old father to watch together "West Side Story" in all its glory on the big screen, among other programs. Cinema at the Castro Theatre undoubtedly contributed to my professional interests and expertise. I currently curate moving image work at SFMOMA for gallery and screening contexts and have guest-curated artist film/video screenings at nonprofits locally. SFMOMA and a range of cultural organizations have partnered with the Castro Theatre in the past to offer select special event screenings.

Too many theatres in San Francisco have shuttered. There is only one Castro Theatre, and this magnificent movie palace needs to be saved! The proposed removal of seats will be a devastating blow to film festivals to be able to even consider this venue again and for any regular film programming schedule to continue. We cannot lose this invaluable community gem simply because APE wishes to install more bars...

I, therefore, am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro. I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Tanya Zimbardo

Current exhibitions:

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on Themes of Longing, Sympathy and Release](#)

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Ongoing

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From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Castro Theatre Movies ARE good for Castro small business
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:01:41 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "Lynn Cursaro" <tomango3000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:46pm
To: "aaron.peskin@sfgov.org" <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>, "myrna.melgar@sfgov.org" <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>, "dean.preston@sfgov.org" <dean.preston@sfgov.org>
Cc: "info@savethecastrotheatre.org" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, "rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org" <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>
Subject: Castro Theatre Movies ARE good for Castro small business

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Movies and other events at the Castro ARE good for the area's small businesses.

The first time I attended a screening at the Castro Theatre was as a teenager on a Wednesday matinee of *The Women* (1939), Summer of 1978. I was visiting for the day from the suburbs to shop at Aquarius Records, a destination record store then located on Castro.

The raucous screening made the day of shopping and eating in this vibrant neighborhood extra special.

The following Summer I moved to San Francisco where I have lived (almost) ever since. Castro Street has remained my Main Street for all these years.

Back when things were normal and I'd find myself in need of certain household items, I'd think immediately about the upcoming Castro Theatre screenings I was planning on seeing because I knew I could get light bulbs and such (and have more fun) at Cliff's.

I don't order books from Amazon, I buy or order them from Fabulosa and have done so since they were Dog-Eared Books. Although I live in the Western Addition, Castro is one of my main shopping streets.

Maybe it's just me, but I have NEVER shopped for housewares, books or coffee beans on the way to see live music. Gum and a cocktail maybe, but not a new desk lamp.

But I've picked items like that and so much more before screenings, after matinees and between halves of a double bill. (Even with a dark Castro I still shop the 'Stro, but less often.)

Fresh fruit from Buffalo Foods, sandwiches from Rossi's and burritos from La Tortilla have sustained me through countless events, from double bills to film fests.

APE does not allow ins and outs for its music events, which is a reasonable policy, but doesn't do Marcello's Pizza any good.

Keeping the Castro Theatre's capacity as a movie venue by preserving the raked will keep the area a vital place for all sorts of commerce.

Thank you for your hard work on this issue.

Sincerely,
Lynn Cursaro

From: [Mya Byrne](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); info@savethecastrotheatre.org
Subject: Save the Castro Theatre
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 12:02:38 PM

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

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston, along with the Board:

I am a filmmaker and musician who is trans and queer; part of the SF-based Periwinkle Cinema collective. I live in San Francisco and New York, and am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 12,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

When I moved to the Bay in 2015, a friend gave me a ticket to see Fassbinder's *Querelle* at the Castro, the very first weekend I was in town. I walked into the theatre, a newly out queer person with very little community or exposure to queer culture, and was breathless as I gazed at the interior, the beautiful sloping floor guiding me down, like the theatres of my youth before the multiplex era. The seats enveloped me, and I watched that film and thought to myself, "How important this place is, and what a sense of place; how many of my queer ancestors sat where I sit, feeling what I am feeling right now?" And I felt home, and held, and like all the hard decisions and travails I had to go through to get to that very moment of wholeness were completely worth it all. In that nubby, warm theatre seat I began to cry, the first of many tears I've shed in that theatre while experiencing queer and trans joy through cinema with our beautiful multigenerational community.

San Francisco is a special place. And there are wonderful uses for the Castro that could certainly include evening programming of live music or entertainment, as there always have been. The Castro needs more of that. But it must be done with our community in mind, and to change the Castro's very essence by removing fixed theatrical seating in a movie palace style is not the answer. We will lose so much, and we've already lost enough. People's tears are embedded in those seats, in that floor. The spirits of our lost brothers, sisters, and siblings sit with us as we watch our films openly holding hands with our partners, or sing along with our friends and children, or laugh at drag shows, or commune at performances. I beg of you to ensure that future generations will be able to come to the Castro and finally feel at home, just like I did nearly a decade ago.

When you sit in a movie palace, it is a temple of awe and wonder. You become a child again, those seats like a comforting parent. That's what they were designed to do; they are places of wonder and imagination. Of hope.

And as one of the very few single-screen movies theatres in the WORLD remaining in close to its original movie palace configuration, the Castro is living history. It must be kept that way. With the other large movie palaces in the Bay that can run 35mm or that can premiere movies having closed in the last two years—including Deco masterpiece the California Theatre, which along with the Castro was essential for the presentations of film-based directors like Christopher Nolan and Quentin Tarantino—we also guarantee that San Francisco's reputation as a prominent home for cinematic excellence will die.

Thus, I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I further ask that the Committee and Board of Supervisors work with APE to rehire the many legacy Castro staff that were laid off in 2020-2021—including the programmers—as they, too, are essential to the past, present, and future of our great City and this great cultural institution.

Sincerely,

Mya Byrne

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save The Castro!
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:03:32 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "John Flanagan" <friscoflan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:56am
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save The Castro!

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston, thank you for your time.

I'm a San Franciscan, and will keep this short. The Castro Theatre is one of the great movie palaces left on this planet, and that's not hyperbole. It's the truth. It's a landmark that needs to stay the way it is. You don't lose the things that make a city great. Please do whatever's in your power to make this happen.

sincerely, john flanagan

494 27th Ave. #53
San Francisco, CA 94121
415 519 1962

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save The Castro Theatre
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:56 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: "Terride3@earthlink.net" <terrider3@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 12:46pm
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: "Save the Castro Theatre" <info@savethecastrotheatre.org>, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save The Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'd like to start by saying I'm a long-time San Francisco resident, a loving patron of the Castro Theatre and most importantly a VOTER.

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Terri DeSalvo
407 Fair Oaks
San Francisco, CA 94110
Long-time San Francisco Resident and VOTER

From: info@savethecastrotheatre.org
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Save the Castro Theater
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 1:02:45 PM

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

-----Original Message-----

From: "Leigh Ausiello" <leigh.ausiello@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:08pm
To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
Subject: Save the Castro Theater

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, **I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Leigh Ausiello

Castro Theater: "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

From: Scott Louis <scott@scottlouis.com>

[sent from](#) eigbox.net

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 9:30 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco District 5 resident (and supporter of Supervisor Preston - thank you!) and one of the many supporters of preserving the current seating configuration of The Castro Theatre.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my **support** for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre. I am requesting that the committee update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the **movie palace-style seating** as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the **orchestra configuration** and the **movie-palace seating** for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" or at least wording that specifies an overwhelming percentage of seating conforms to that wording.

With this change, the Committee will clarify the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Scott Clancy

District 5 SF resident

Castro Theatre

From: Stacy J <ss921@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 9:34 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely, Stacy Jeremias

Castro Theatre

From: cher <cher_roadrunner@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:14 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael M

I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.

Once the historic current seating arrangement is gone, along with the raking as designed by the architect, it is gone forever.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cher Evans

Fwd: Castro - "as is"

From: Connie B <connkoul@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:26 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Connie B** <connkoul@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 2:16 PM

Subject: Castro - "as is"

To: <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>

I was born in San Francisco. My son-in-law, a filmmaker, has presented at Castro theater. I've seen Jesus Christ Superstar there - fabulous!! I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, **updating "presence of seating"** to the more **accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."** Please, please !

Connie Burton, age 75

Fwd: Save the Seats / Save the Castro Theatre

From: Nina Elkin <nina.artist@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 11:48 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nina Elkin** <nina.artist@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 8:47 PM

Subject: Save the Seats / Save the Castro Theatre

To: <Dean.Preston@sfgov.org>

Cc: <nfo@savethecastrotheatre.org>, <Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org>

Dear Supervisor Preston,

My partner and I personally have had many memorable times spent at the Castro. For example, for many years running attending the phenomenal annual Silent Film Festival which is unique in its presentation of silent films with live performances in such an iconic and beautiful venue. We love the organist and the experience provided by the well-designed sloping floor which improves the visibility of the screen. We have brought our out-of-town guests to the Castro and in turn, supported the other restaurants and businesses in the area.

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQIA+ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQIA+ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Nina

Fwd: Save the seats at the Castro!

From: zocooyal@gmail.com

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 10:40 pm

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Begin forwarded message:

From: zocooyal@gmail.com

Subject: Save the seats at the Castro!

Date: April 2, 2023 at 7:35:18 PM PDT

To: myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

To: Myrna Melgar,

I am a native San Francisco resident who has been attending movies and events at the Castro Theater since the 1970s. The "Castro" is the last intact grand historic theater left in San Francisco, The rest have all been torn down.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema.

Without the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating it is no longer *a theater*.

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Thank you for your consideration,
Diane Peers
Resident of D1 San Francisco

Land Use and Transportation Committee: SAVE THE CASTRO THEATRE

From: Paulann Sternberg <centsayuma@pacbell.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 3:52 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

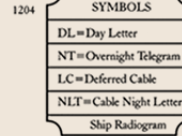
Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



URGENT: DELIVER WITHOUT DELAY

TELEGRAM

EXPRESS MESSAGE.



Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am 76 years old and have been a San Francisco resident since 1973. The Castro Theatre has been a treasured part of my life for half a century: as a film lover, an architectural history buff, and someone who thrives on the creative and social energy of the diverse members of the community that The Castro Theatre has fostered over these many decades.

Some of my fondest memories include: attending a 6-week Wednesday matinee festival of Katherine Hepburn movies; schmoozing with friends and strangers while waiting on line every July for a seat at The SF Jewish Film Festival; seeing actor Ed Harris on stage in person and asking him about his baseball affiliations rather than his life as a film star; experiencing the beauty of silent films accompanied by live music from local innovators like The Clubfoot Orchestra; immersing myself in the stark black-and-white world of *film noir* at Eddie Muller's

internationally acclaimed annual Film Noir Festival (the highlight one year was my winning a dvd of the film *Asphalt Jungle* during a trivia quiz between films). Each of these transformative experiences was only possible inside the magical walls and ensconced in the theater seating of a bona fide movie palace. Sadly symptomatic of what has befallen The Castro Theatre and its loyal audiences, Eddie Muller had to relocate his festival this year to the Grand Lake in Oakland because of the uncertain status of The Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic

movie palace and a site of international significance for
LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Paulann Sternberg
San Francisco



AT&T Yahoo Mail Stationery

Landmarking the castro Theater

From: Charles Beal <charleybeal@mac.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 5:38 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael Mandelman

San Francisco Supervisors

My name is Charles Beal. I am the president of the Gilbert Baker Foundation. Gilbert Baker created the iconic LGBTQ+ Rainbow Flag in 1978 with the help of over 30 dedicated volunteers. Presently, his flag flies proudly over Harvey Milk Plaza across the street from another great San Francisco icon, The Castro Theater. Because of our efforts to landmark the flagpole and flag that Gilbert created at Harvey Milk Plaza, I believe I have a unique viewpoint concerning the desire by the new owners of the Castro Theater to alter its landmark status.

It is one thing to consider changes to the physical properties of the theater. But one also has to look beyond the mere physical changes that the new theater managers have requested and consider the real harm these changes will cause. There is a deep spiritual bond between the Castro Theater and the City of San Francisco that goes beyond the nuts and bolts that make up the seating, the proscenium, or any other physical part of the building. There is a connection to the community that surrounds and supports this theater that exists in the soul of the people who live in San Francisco.

I find this situation analogous to the Rainbow Flag across the street that I have mentioned. That flag installation is not mere fabric and thread, steel and chain. It is a work of art whose meaning exceeds its physical presence. So it is with the Castro theater and its current seating configuration. It is bound to the community in ways that are deep and spiritual. It is like a church to the local community and its new owners are trying to rip out the pews. Please do not let them do this.

I would also like to add that my connection to the Castro Theater goes beyond my involvement with the Gilbert Baker Foundation. In 2007 - 2008 I was the art director on the movie MILK which premiered at the Castro Theater. Back in 2007 I was involved with the effort to restore the

badly damaged neon sign and marquis when I was tasked with returning the Castro theater back to how it appeared in the 1970s. Thus, I am intimately familiar with the building and its history as I worked with the past owners, researching it's history and appearance. I was also responsible for converting over 50 storefronts to their historical state in the 1970s and worked closely with many of the merchants and property owners there. Their cooperation was crucial and their support was voluminous as they all dug deep into their archives and helped in the massive community effort that was needed to produce this award winning film. This unique experience gave me a deep understanding of the history of this amazing community of which the Castro Theater has always been the beating heart.

And finally, I will conclude by stating that I am a customer as well. Whenever I am in San Francisco, my husband and I make a point of going to the movies in this fabled building. Whether we are singing along with Julie Andrews in *The Sound Of Music* or cringing through *Mommy Dearest*, we cherish these memories like old friends.

Of course, times change and the economic challenges of maintaining a movie theater in the current economic climate are not to be dismissed. However, it is important to find a balance that will satisfy the new management and still preserve this cherished local landmark.

Respectfully

Charles Beal
He/Him
President of The Gilbert Baker Foundation
charley@gilbertbaker.com
917-557-0731

Please save our LGBTQ+ cultural heritage

From: BRIAN SPRINGFIELD <springfield_sf@comcast.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 10, 2023 at 2:31 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

The Castro's LGBTQ+ community--in fact, the entire city--values the Castro Theatre as an architectural and cultural jewel in our city's crown. Despite attempts to engage Another Planet Entertainment (APE), they have been unwilling to meet with the Castro LGBTQ+ Cultural District to discuss concerns around the preservation and continuation of LGBTQ+ culture at the theater. Instead, they appear to be working behind-the-scenes to ensure that vague language inserted into the updated landmark designation will work in their favor.

This type of behavior is undemocratic and distorts the influence of wealthy corporations and those that are politically connected. The 10 Cultural Districts created in our city are intended to give marginalized communities some ability to counter the powerful forces of development, gentrification, and cultural displacement.

Please do not reward APE's bad behavior by allowing the vague language in the updated landmark language to remain.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind,

I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Brian Springfield
2081 15th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 378-9577

Please Save the Castro Seats! Change the "presence of seating" language.

From: Deborah Chalfie <dmchalfie@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 9:33 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am active in historic preservation issues in the Washington, DC area. The Castro Theatre may be just a local theatre to you, but I hope that you know that people across the country care about the Castro and the Castro Theatre. Not only is the theater architecturally significant and an iconic, historic movie palace, but it is also a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage, and it a symbol of the evolution of the Castro District.

The theatre's movie palace-style seating is a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema.

Thus, it's not good enough for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance to simply say "presence of seating." I urge you change the language in a way that accurately reflects the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet. Please change and clarify the language to say the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Sincerely,

Deborah Chalfie

Takoma Park, MD

PLEASE Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Jennifer Urbain <jennurbain@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:54 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Jennifer Urbain

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Urbain

2141 Kirkham Street

San Francisco, CA 94122

Please Save the Castro Theatre

From: Pamela Masten <pamelamasten@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:42 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Masten

Please save the historic Castro Theater with proper seating

From: troy barber <finocchio68@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 9:56 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Troy Barber

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'm a Castro theater attendee since 1998 and saw movies there about 3-4 times a month before the Nasser family and APE irresponsibly decided to not reopen after the pandemic and let the place lay fallow. It's FALSE that people don't want to see movies there. While other theaters closed, the Castro (because it's a unique jewel) remained popular right up to the pandemic. Stuff was going on there every night before March 2020. I encourage you to PROTECT this SF gem as a world renowned movie palace. It's one of a kind... let's not ruin it!

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a **request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet**, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, **I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.**

Many movie palaces are able to stay vibrant as venues for live entertainment AND film while maintaining what makes them special.. the beautiful historic interior. Please do not allow APE to rip out the theater seats to create FLAT tiered floors just so they can squeeze every last dollar out of this place with extra booze sales. We deserve better. We have plenty of concert venues like that already. Please don't trash this national treasure.

Please protect this important San Francisco landmark.

Sincerely,

Troy Barber

1115 Divisadero St. #3 **[That's happily still District 5 after re-districting, Supervisor Preston!]**

Please vote to save Castro Theatre Landmark

From: Laurie Gordon <Decobelle@me.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:57 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Dear Dean Preston,

We know that you were so helpful in the ability to save the DeLuxe Club in the Haight last year...and now we need your help again.

We have learned that the Land Use and Transportation Committee meets today and will discuss the Castro Theatre. "Land Use" in this case is especially significant .

Preservation must be more than merely carving out shells of buildings or maintaining facades! The hope is that important experiences can be maintained through the preservation of interior spaces as well.

We worked on fundraising efforts for the Fox Oakland and had high hopes for the kinds of ongoing programming that would take place there but in the past 14 years since the grand re-opening in 2009 it has proven to only serve on type of entertainment... "stand up contemporary rock concerts:". This is less of a problem in Oakland where the Paramount is right around the corner, the Grand Lake Theatre is nearby and where the Fox had been shuttered for decades. but the CASTRO is a place that has a great following of supporters who have enjoyed FILM and film festivals, sing alongs, seated musical events, LGBTQ gatherings, community events and more.

Please do not be swayed by promises of "bringing in seats" for various events. It is neither sustainable nor viable to have to bring in theater seating stored offsite- the cost and complication will become a major deterrent and you will find film festivals and movies going to other cities instead.

Help save this one-and-only San Francisco Movie Palace now 100 years old by voting to change the language in the landmarking update from "the presence of seating" to " ***fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style***"

Sincerely,

Laurie Gordon
San Francisco Resident
Founding Member Art Deco Society of California
decobelle@me.com

Please! Save the Castro Theatre

From: Sara Murphy <saraemmurphy@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 5:00 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a longtime San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro. The Castro Theatre is a jewel and deserves our protection and support — I strongly believe that by preserving the Castro Theatre we are protecting San Francisco's past and future by ensuring this iconic building and community space can remain the stunning historic landmark it is.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. I hope you will listen to me and the many residents like me who have been moved by the films and cultural events hosted at this gorgeous, living piece of history and protect the key external AND internal characteristics that are now so rare. The awe and wonder experienced by those of us who have gone to events, be they on the big screen or live on stage, is much to do with the many beautiful, intricate, historic elements of this theater — from the marquee to the mighty Wurlitzer the seating.

Sincerely,

Sara Murphy

PLS SAVE THE CASTRO MOVIE THEATER SEATING

From: Jone S <jonestebbins@mac.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:31 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

It is truly a rare gem and a vital piece of history and also of community. As a long time Bay Area resident, I believe we need to preserve what we can to maintain the beautiful, historic places still left here.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update **a specific phrase** that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage.

With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate **“fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jone Stebbins

San Francisco Movie Theaters and their culture are disappearing at an alarming rate - Save the Castro Theatre.

From: Stephen Somerstein <ssomerstein@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 2:53 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER

Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee

Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

CC: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Members,

One by one our great San Francisco theaters with their cultural and architectural heritage and large screen projection are disappearing. Sometimes with the wrecking ball and sometimes slowly, with destructive graffiti, and other times by removing the one important aspect of all theaters, their seats.

The Castro Theater cannot survive as a movie theater if the essential requirement of seats are removed. It will then simply become a performance box for live performers with the audience standing. This will become neither a movie theater nor a playhouse for legitimate theater and lectures.


The community will have lost one more cultural landmark.

In comparison, I just returned from New York, where theaters are flourishing and the city is filled with movie theaters of all sizes and styles.

What a remarkable difference! difference!

P.S. Why are city officials paying no attention to former movie emporiums, such as the Alexandria Theatre, which have joined the roster of graffiti strewn buildings marring Geary Boulevard? Have they no sense of pride in their city?

[Alexandria Theatre - San Francisco](#)

 Alexander theater
on Geary Blvd, SF,
Ca from
www.outsidelands.org

Alexandria Theatre. 5400 Geary Boulevard at 18th Avenue

STEPHEN SOMERSTEIN
810 33RD AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94121
(415) 305-0300
[SSOMERSTEIN@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:ssomerstein@hotmail.com)

Save Castro Theater

From: Jessica Ainsworth <jessica_ainsworth@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:24 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisor Dean Preston,

A strong supporter of the LGBTQ community and a person who adores classic films and the camaraderie found in enjoying movies with many others, I have enjoyed and found solace in watching films on the big screen at the Castro theater over the past 44 years.

I continue to be a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ainsworth

Save Castro Theatre

From: Carla Normand <rsjo@sonic.net>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 1:22 am

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

 [Patreon Button Full Name reduced.jpg](#) (27.1 KB)

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.


I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Carla Normand

 Vintage Jazz & Swing in the San Francisco Bay Area 🎷

Royal Society Jazz Orchestra

707-775-1600

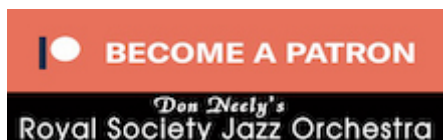
rsjo@sonic.net

www.rsjo.com

P.O. Box 750663

Petaluma, CA 94975

<http://www.patreon.com/royalsocietyjazzorchestra>



Save The Castro Theater

From: Vicki Engel <vickieng@umich.edu>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 5:34 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

As a San Francisco resident for three decades and patron of the beautiful Timothy Pflueger-designed Castro Theater - I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Engel

Save the Castro Theater

From: Lillian "Lil" <lillian_k_lee@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:24 pm

To: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Mark and I are SF Natives born, raised, and currently residing in Eureka Valley. We are among many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

We are writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

There are plenty of venues to have concerts in the city. Please do not take away the last grand movie theater in our beloved city.

Sincerely,

Lillian and Mark

Save The Castro Theater

From: Celeste Hong <celestehong13@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 5:21 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Celeste Hong

Celeste Hong
celestehong13@gmail.com

Save the Castro Theater

From: Juliana Mojica <mojicaarts@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:56 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, Save the Castro Theatre, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

As a former San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I lived in the SF Castro neighborhood (around the corner from the Castro Theater) back in the late 70's and frequented the Castro Theater, and later returned to SF in the 80's til about six years ago. At one point I was publicist for the Cine Acción Film Festival and we screened for opening night, West Side Story, with Rita Moreno as our guest and for Q&A (she had just recently moved to the Bay Area). It was a very special night for everyone. That's only one event of so many memorable events that have passed thru the Castro Theater. Many times I looked forward to attending a film screening that had the live organ playing before the show.

Aside from film screenings, there have also been countless events with speakers and usage for commemorating special events. It's a very special place and one of the few remaining single theaters with a live orchestra space, and seating arranged for a movie-style palace. It would be a shame and a tremendous loss to the city for the possibility of undoing any of its current historic & cultural value to SF and internationally.

Therefore, I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Juliana Mojica

Save the Castro Theater

From: Roxane Osborne <roxane.osborne@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:07 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Roxane Osborne

SAVE THE CASTRO THEATER

From: onecinemafan <onecinemafan@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 7:59 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I have many favorite cinematic memories of going to the Castro Theater, including introducing future generations to seeing films on the big screen with the organ accompanying the silent films.

Sincerely,

Jolene Huey

Save The Castro Theater

From: carl same <carlsames17@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 28, 2023 at 12:39 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I was a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Same

Save the Castro Theater

From: Elisabeth Derby <eaderby@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Mar 11, 2023 at 10:43 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident and onetime regular patron of the Castro Theater. I urge you to take action to protect what makes this theater so very special and even magical. Allowing it to become yet another expensive corporate concert and private party venue would be a heartbreaking tragedy. This theater is one of the best things about San Francisco, and it is because of the heart and soul of the place—the daily film screenings and other events that brought people from the immediate neighborhood and beyond together in such a meaningful way—as much as the beautiful architecture and adornments that contain them. Taking out the seats will surely be the end of that era, and the community that belongs in this theater will be occasional visitors only.

I am sure that the theater owners and APE can make much more profit by taking out the seats. But I cannot believe it's the only way to preserve the theater. Even in this era of almost no access to the Castro Theater, I have been at very well attended, film focused events like those produced by SF Sketchfest, the SF Film Festival, and others. As you know, the community has showed up in a huge way to advocate for this theater and I have no doubt the community can raise the funds for physical repairs if given the opportunity. And there are many examples of theaters being revitalized to host concerts and other mixed uses while retaining permanent fixed seating.

This is why I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Derby

3931 Mission Street

Save the Castro Theater

From: Jeanne Crawford <jeannecrawford@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 5:10 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Crawford. 331 Gambier Street, SF 94134

Save the Castro Theater

From: Teri Kota <terrikota@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 7:10 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Please protect the movie palace style seating to ensure one of the last remaining movie going experiences left in the City. Sure there are cushier seats, and fancier theaters with more food options but the Castro is all about experiencing the movie and every seat is a good seat at a reasonable price. I realize the movie experience isn't so profitable anymore so maybe it's time the City was even more proactive and finds and helps form a non-profit to manage the theater. I think if the Castro theater is showing movies regularly that this would be more supportive to the communities and businesses there and more people would come into the neighborhood more often thus benefiting the businesses that are there. The Castro got expensive long ago and most lesbians moved away and now there aren't any movies playing so there is no compelling reason for me to go there.

Please don't let them change the seating this would be the death of the movies at the Castro.

Sincerely,

Terri Nuqui

Save the Castro Theater

From: Roland Greedy <rolandgreedy@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:28 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Roland Greedy

Save the Castro Theatre as a Movie Palace

From: David Wiegleb <djwiegleb@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 12:20 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

Although I am not a San Francisco resident, I ran Fields Book Store on Polk St for 13 years in Supervisor Peskin's district. I have been attending film screenings at the cultural touchstone of the Castro Theatre for over thirty years, practically living at the theatre during the Silent Film Festival and (recently decamped to Oakland) Noir City Film Festival, coming in from Pleasant Hill every day during these packed-house festivals. I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Having attended the various presentations of the architect on the proposed seating changes, I believe these proposed changes to be permanently destructive to its function as a historical movie palace. The plan of taking out the present raked floor with its fixed seating with cinema sightlines, and replacing it with terraces, incredibly expensive mechanical tiers (likely to break down, with little incentive to fix), and temporary seating (that needs to be stored somewhere and with set-up and removal costs for every film screening), is not a practical plan — attendees at film festivals are in those seats up to 10-12 hours a day. The architect has not been able to point to a single instance anywhere in the world where such a set-up is functioning in support of film festivals and screenings. The present seating arrangement does **not** preclude live music and other performances, as can be demonstrated with many multi-use movie palaces around the world. (Let's be honest: The only reason they want to tear the seating out is to increase liquor sales.)

San Francisco is blessed with a unique treasure in the Castro Theatre as a movie palace, which people travel from around the world to visit. Tearing out seating that supports its vital purpose of film screening will kill it so that its corpse can be beautifully embalmed. It further snuffs the life from San Francisco culture, which has already lost so much of its cultural fabric due to housing costs. Please don't let this happen on your watch.

Sincerely,

David J Wiegleb

Save the Castro Theatre in it's current form!

From: Julie Lord <decogirl320@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 8:46 pm

To: myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org, aaron.peskin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am an Australian citizen but my husband & I have been visiting California, the Bay area & San Francisco, twice yearly for many years now. Like many San Francisco residents, we are strong supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which has a long & proud history.

Opening in 1922, it was designed by architect Timothy Pflueger, who would go on to design a number of other movie theatres, including the Paramount in Oakland, along with some iconic San Francisco interiors such as the Top of the Mark cocktail lounge. In the beginning, the Castro showed silent films, often accompanied by live music from a variety of instruments, including its own Wurlitzer organ. From what we've read, it catered primarily to the working-class community in the Eureka Valley.

Obviously, no supporter of the theatre can be completely against progress. Changes are part of the Castro history - **but in the past such changes were able to be done without needing to radically alter the main auditorium space**, which is what is now being proposed with the intended removal of the fixed theatrical seating, configured in a movie-palace style.

As sound arrived in film, speakers were installed into a hole in the wall behind the then square movie screen. Further changes were made when movies went to wide-screen. Another screen was installed just a few feet in front of the original screen & proscenium. Whilst the old screen was forgotten, we believe it remains visible backstage, if you can climb the stairs.

I am now writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express our support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I would ask that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

As you know, while still owned by descendants of the original Nasser brothers, the Castro theatre emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic under new management - Another Planet Entertainment (APE). APE plans to renovate the theatre, with this work to include removal of the fixed movie theatre-style seating, along with addition of tiered sections for standing-room concerts. Such alterations would, I feel, be in direct contravention of the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance, particularly the removal of the current fixed seating. In addition, the removal of this seating could also disenfranchise those in the Castro and broader community with some types of physical disability.

However, by updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style" the Committee will greatly assist in the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE, and also as a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

I therefore URGE the Committee to make this key amendment as soon as possible.

Kind regards
Julie Lord
Melbourne, Australia

FYI - please find below various further details I've collated on the theatre:

1. With 1,400 seats, the Castro was considered small for the time period. The now lost El Capitan on Mission Street had double the seats of the Castro, while the Fox Theatre that once occupied by

the Fox Plaza clocked in at 4,651 seats. Today the average movie theatre in the USA has, I believe, approximately 150 seats. Back in the 1920s & 30s, venues like the Fox and El Capitan would show big blockbusters or first-run pictures, whilst the Castro's programming was mostly 2nd or 3rd-run pictures — films that had already played at the larger theatres.

2. The demographics of the Castro theatre audience changed in the '50s & '60s, with more of the gay community moving into the Castro area. It's reasonably well documented that Mel Novikoff, who was the Castro Theatre's programmer in those days, quickly discovered a strategy for getting the neighbourhood's rapidly growing gay community into the theatre by bringing back old films, mixed with art house films and foreign films. Such programming was particularly popular with the gay community who, at the time, didn't feel safe to be openly gay, but did feel more so at the Castro.
3. In 1977, the Castro Theatre was recognised as a beacon for the LGBTQ community when it became San Francisco's 100th historic landmark, protecting the exterior from demolition or alteration. The advent of the AIDS epidemic then saw the Castro become a 'chapel' to the gay community living in the Castro, and beyond, and grieving for the loss of a generation of young men.
4. Throughout the '90s and 2000s, the theatre continued to expand its engagement with the LGBTQ community. Then in 2008, the Harvey Milk biopic, *Milk* (much of which takes place in the Castro), held its world premiere at the theatre. Before the premiere, the theatre received a facelift of its exterior, funded by the movie studio, which restored it to its 1970's glory.

Save the Castro Theatre--Save the classic movie palace seating

From: Barbara Bagot-López <sanfranfan0-bb@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 5:12 pm

To: aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Hillary Ronen, info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Bernal Heights resident and a supporter of preserving the Castro Theatre. I am one of the 11,000+ signers of the petition to Save the Castro.

I had not been to the Castro since the start of the pandemic, but ventured there for the West Coast Premiere of "Say Hey, Willie Mays!" hosted by the Giants in November. The film and panel discussion were awesome, and the experience of viewing it in this magnificent movie palace was profound.

I am writing to you, the members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee **clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."**

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bagot-López

Save the Castro Theatre, PLEASE!

From: Cynthia Mortensen <cyndi.mortensen@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:42 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre. I have attended meetings and given my written testimony at City Hall, and signed petitions to Save the Castro Theatre.

Saving the Castro Theatre to include the sloping floor and the seats will ensure its place as the ONLY classic movie palace left in San Francisco. Keeping this seating will not interfere in live music or theatre presentation (the beautiful Paramount in Oakland is set up this way and is very successful). But most importantly, keeping the floor & seats will ensure continued use of the Castro as the home of many important film festivals, and allow it to continue a repertory film program. It's a win-win. Removing the historic floor & seats also removes the hopes of continuing to show film. The proposed solution of sliding floors & temporary seats is completely unrealistic.

I am imploring the Land Use and Transportation Committee for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre to PLEASE update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you so much,

Cynthia Mortensen
566 Waller St
San Francisco, CA 94117

SAVE the Castro Theatre, please

From: David Landis <davidlandissf@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 6:18 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Save the Castro Theatre, Catherine Stefani, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Aaron, Dean Myrna, Catherine (and Rafael):

I am a San Francisco resident (2032 Scott St., SF, 94115), and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Cheers,

David Landis

Pronouns: He/Him

The Gay Gourmet, SF Bay Times

www.gaygourmetsf.com

www.sfbaytimes.com

415-517-9887

davidlandissf@gmail.com

2032 Scott St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Instagram: @gaygourmetsf

Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Jeff Shelby <jeffshelby1@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 4:35 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a longtime San Francisco resident and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre. I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. My sincere hope is that this action will lead to an eventual return to the daily repertory film schedule that has been an essential part of the magic of the Castro Theatre. The Castro Theatre is the happiest place on earth for me. Please do not allow Another Planet Entertainment to destroy it.

Thank you for your attention.

Jeff Shelby

148 Gold Mine Drive

SF, CA 94131

Phone (415) 505-8456

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Valerie A Francisco-Menchavez <vfm@sfsu.edu>

Sent: Tue, Apr 11, 2023 at 12:49 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,
I am the Assistant Dean of Restorative and Transformative Racial Justice at San Francisco State University. I write to join the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Valerie Francisco-Menchavez, PhD
Assistant Dean of Restorative and Transformative Racial Justice
College of Health and Social Sciences
San Francisco State University
1600 Holloway Avenue, HSS 336a
San Francisco, CA 94132
Valeriefm.com

For meeting times, please visit: calendly.com/vfm

Author of *The Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in the Digital Age* (University of Illinois Press, 2018). [Bit.ly/laborofcare](https://bit.ly/laborofcare)

Save The Castro Theatre's Movie Palace Seating and Raked Floor

From: Marisa Vela <marisavela@sonic.net>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 7:19 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee ,

I am writing today to ask you to clarify the language about "presence of seating " downstairs at the Castro Theater, and update it to include the raked floor and movie palace style seating and configuration.

The Castro Theatre is the only movie palace we have left in San Francisco. Please preserve this cultural icon.

Sincerely,
Marisa Vela

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Sam Hull <samhull96@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Apr 8, 2023 at 12:34 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a resident of the Castro, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I inadvertently signed an automated letter supporting the renovations to the Castro Theatre. This mistake arose because I assumed that such an egregious plan to destroy a core part of the neighborhood would not have the gall to operate a public letter-writing campaign—unfortunately, I was wrong. When I realized my mistake, I knew I had to write directly to all of you to clarify that I oppose the proposed changes to the Castro Theatre, and to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Sam Hull

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Edna Molina <edna.molina13@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 9:31 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a San Franciscan, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely, Edna Molina

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Kay Weinstein <kayweinstein@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Apr 7, 2023 at 2:46 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am an East Bay resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

**Kay Weinstein
1809 Central Ave., Apt. E
Alameda, CA 94501**

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Brittany Stonesifer <brittanystonesifer@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Apr 5, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Brittany Stonesifer

Cell: (415) 913-9391

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Moya Stone <agathasprose@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco native, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Moya Stone

Moya Stone

she/her

Freelance Writer

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/moya-stone/1a/202/187>

<http://overdressedforlife.com/>

Save the Castro Theatre!

From: Anne Smatla <amsmatla@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 3:46 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

**Sincerely,
Anne Marie Smatla**

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Heather Ripley <heathercripley@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 10:54 am

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I was a San Francisco resident for 17 years and now only work and play in the City, but I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,
Heather Ripley
Preservation Committee Member
Art Deco Society of California

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Justin Lisanckie <justin.lisanckie@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 10:24 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Justin Lisanckie
Bernal Heights Resident, SF

Save the Castro Theatre

From: twistee2u2@gmail.com

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 2:31 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| **ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER**

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a long time San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Fiona Friedland



Virus-free www.avast.com

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jessica Thrasher <jessica.thrasher@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 1:31 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident and one of the many supporters of preserving the historic and world renowned Castro Theatre. I've attended hundreds of events at the Castro since 2008 and it is my favorite place to be in the city. The Castro Theatre was a major influence on the fact that I now live nearby.

I attended the Historic Preservation Commission meetings and have given testimony regarding the Castro's landmark status, and I'm one of over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

One of the key takeaways from hours of sincere and passionate public comment was this: Other historic film palaces that have had their **permanent** seating removed are no longer film palaces.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Let's protect our last surviving film palace in San Francisco!

Sincerely,

Jessica Thrasher
80 Villa Terrace
San Francisco, CA 94114

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Paul Worobec <psparo@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 4:04 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Hello:

For thirty years the Castro Theater has provided me a source of not just education and entertainment through film but also the deepest reassurance and fulfillment of the belief of countless millions that film and its public purpose and accessibility are the richest artistic and cultural contribution of the twentieth century.

The Castro Theater is globally recognized as just what you call it...a beacon. To allow APE, or anything or anyone else, to steer the Castro Theater off its decades-old providential course would be a cultural travesty and ruinous to San Francisco's reputation, from any perspective.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Paul Worobec

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a San Franciscan, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Holly Stump <hstump@pacbell.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:05 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Holly

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Francisco Mijango <miocid1988@aol.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 2:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

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With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Francisco Mijango

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jonathan Belmares <ebelmares@comcast.net>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 1:57 pm

To:

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco Bay Area resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Belmares

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Jessica Dillon <jessica.wynne.dillon@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 6:09 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I'm a native San Franciscan and I've been attending the Castro since I was a child. My mother took me to the second ever San Francisco Silent Film Fest, which was one of many early experiences that shaped my love for the San Francisco arts scene and our city's culture. And I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

My concern with the current plan for removal of the seats is that music venues in the Bay Area are rarely open. Not only would this plan further devastate the state of film in San Francisco, I believe that the current plan would not be as economically beneficial to the neighborhood as leaving the seats in. If the seats are kept for films, the theater could be open every day of the week. APE has stated that they do not intend to set out seats for repertory films to keep the theater open 365 days a year to bring foot traffic to the neighborhood consistently.

APE has discussed hosting podcasts and comedy events, which could easily keep the seats (I know James Acaster sold out the current seating in November). And there are plenty of musicians who will play to seated audiences. APE themselves have pointed this out in both the community meeting and small business planning meeting, when they talked about the past 10 years of (seated) concerts at the Castro. I know many others have catalogued the large number of historic theaters operating successfully as film and live show theaters with permanent seating. (And, frankly, I don't think we should be letting Knoxville or Phoenix show us up when it comes to being a world-class arts destination.)

The current plan would also be disastrous to small business entertainers. Frameline might be able to afford a seating set-up cost of \$1,200 amortized over 50 screenings, but this cost would be prohibitive to smaller businesses, not to mention the loss of profit to those businesses from the up to 250 seats that would be lost in this plan (as stated by APE in the community meeting). I believe this would particularly impact queer artists, although others can speak with more authority than I on the Castro's legacy in the LGBTQ community.

Finally, APE has discussed bringing in galas and weddings and I fail to see how closing the theater for those types of events would bring business to other Castro merchants, nor how this plan would enhance the San Francisco community. San Francisco has plenty of event venues. We have one Castro Theater.

I love live music. It is soul-restoring to me. I love the Fox for what it is (as well as our many other standing stages) and I attend Outside Lands every year. But repertory film is similarly necessary, and it needs its venues. I do want to see the Castro restored, but it can be of more use to other Castro small businesses, to the LGBTQ community, to arts patrons, and to San Francisco without destroying the seats and without destroying the nation's premiere movie palace. I cannot understate the importance of the Castro Theater as a San Francisco landmark. I beg of you to ensure it stays a movie palace for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jessica Dillon

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Taylor Stephens <takstephe@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 11:15 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I live in the North Beach, and I am one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Nowhere else feels as magical to watch movies, especially silent films. I have watched silent films at other theaters and never really felt anything special until I saw a performance at the Castro theater. It was mind blowing! If the seating changes, this now unique experience will disappear for San Francisco residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylor Stephens

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Terry Beswick <tmbeswick@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 4:03 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Mandelman, Rafael (BOS), Castro Merchants Board, Erica.Major@sfgov.org



Images not displayed.

SHOW IMAGES

| **ALWAYS SHOW IMAGES FROM THIS SENDER**

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, a member of the Castro Merchants Association Board of Directors, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, **with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.**

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Terry Beswick



Terry Beswick
Founder/Principal
Grants & Things, LLC
584 Castro Street #425
San Francisco, CA 94114
www.grantsandthings.com
terry@grantsandthings.com
415-756-4920 - text/phone

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Cayla McGrail <cjmcgrl@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 12:12 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a Queer Historic Preservationist, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. LGBTQ cultural heritage, history, and lives are in extreme levels of danger this year. However, I hope that by working to protect the Castro Theatre we can continue showing that queer people have always been here, and will continue to be here.

Thank you,

Cayla McGrail

Secretary | Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Gregory Sykes <gsykes@sonic.net>

Sent: Sun, Mar 26, 2023 at 9:32 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

In my 30+ years living in San Francisco, the Castro Theatre has been a source of cultural nourishment. I have attended countless movies, both at festivals and when the theater owners still cared enough to program movies on a regular schedule. It has been heartbreaking to see the neighborhood gradually dying without the crowds that the theater used to draw. It seems that APE and the Nasser family are determined to let the theater and the neighborhood rot until they get their way. Their behavior has been shockingly corrupt and stunningly arrogant.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style." With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Gregory Sykes

Save The Castro Theatre

From: Elizabeth K <eokenison@gmail.com>

Sent: Sat, Mar 25, 2023 at 10:43 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee today to support the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, and in particular to urge you to update one particular phrase to make sure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.

The specific movie palace-style seating in the Castro Theatre is a crucial aspect of the space as a historical landmark and as an example of a historic cinema. It is a significant, defining aspect of this historic structure which serves as not only an important example of 1920s movie palace architecture but also as a site of significant LGBT cultural heritage. I urge the Committee to clarify the Landmark Designation Ordinance's language, updating "presence of seating" to the more specific and accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will help to protect the Castro Theatre as both a historic cinema and as a site of local, national, and international significance for LGBT cultural history.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kenison

Save the Castro Theatre

From: David Kimei Yogi <davidyogi@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 17, 2023 at 6:19 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I hope this message finds you well. My wife and I are San Francisco Castro residents, and two of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,300 petition signers to Save the Castro.

We are writing to you to express support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

The Castro Theater represents an affordable place for all in an inspiring venue. Turning it into an event venue (of which the City has many, many of already) will:

1. Restrict access to only those with means to pay the high ticket fees for events
 2. Again limit footfall in the neighborhood-- [The recent proposed plan reported on by the Chronicle](#) by Another Planet only calls for events less than 1/2 of the year-- of this, only 1/4 (of the 1/2) would be for LGBTQ programming-- laughable window-dressing--and films would be shown less than once a week). Many businesses have closed in the neighborhood, drug use is high, and morale is very low--it's embarrassing seeing tourists in the neighborhood.
- There are many good examples of how theaters can be sustainable (The Balboa Theater, for example, has been very successful since launching its film programming and has expanded operations to the Four-Star Theater in 2023. [Look at the Roxie Theater's performance as well.](#))
 - The owners knew the theater's role and significance for the community when they bought it.
 - Reverting the Castro Theater to a **majority-dormant** "events" space with some movies is a money-grab that will hurt an already struggling neighborhood---more movies means more business for the Castro neighborhood.

Sincerely,
David and Laura Yogi

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Nancy K. Fishman <nancykfishman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 3:35 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a former San Francisco resident of many years (and a current resident of the East Bay), a film festival worker and publicist and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage. There are many venues in the Bay Area for live music. There is only one temple of cinema in San Francisco. It, like the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, can accommodate both live music and movies with fixed seating. Please protect one of San Francisco's jewels of architecture and one of its cultural landmarks.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Fishman

Nancy K. Fishman

T: (510) 290-0255

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Juliana Mojica <mojicaarts@gmail.com>

Sent: Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 1:14 pm

To: diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, ruchira.nageswaran@sfgov.org, kate.black@sfgov.org, chris.foley@sfgov.org, richard.se.johns@sfgov.org, lydia.so@sfgov.org, jason.wright@sfgov.org, Rachael.Tanner@sfgov.org, kathrin.moore@sfgov.org, sue.diamond@sfgov.org, joel.koppel@sfgov.org, theresa.imperial@sfgov.org, gabriella.ruiz@sfgov.org, Alex.westhoff@sfgov.org, Audrey.merlone@sfgov.org, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org, ChanStaff@sfgov.org, DorseyStaff@sfgov.org, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org, Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org, Rich.hillis@sfgov.org, Richard.sucre@sfgov.org, Jonas.ionin@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Supervisors, Historical Preservation Commission, and Planning Commission,

As a former San Franciscan who still loves the city and its history – especially the Castro Theater, I am deeply concerned about the future of the Castro Theatre—a vital community resource and a beacon for film, and the LGBTQ+ community, within the City and around the world. The Castro must not be valued mainly for its ability to earn money for a corporate entity.

I am writing to urge you to help save the Castro for the community, by including the sloped floor and orchestra seats in the update of the Theatre's landmark designation. San Francisco has many chairless, flat-floored venues for live music, but only the Castro Theatre—San Francisco's last surviving single-screen movie palace and an iconic community building—can present film and community events to large audiences.

The sloped floor and seats are key historical characteristics that define the venue as a cinema and performance space. There are dozens of historic movie houses across the country that have undergone renovations and maintained their sloped floor and orchestral seating, while thriving as multi-use spaces, including the United Palace and the Beacon in NYC, the Orpheum and the Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles, the Fox Theaters in Atlanta, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Oakland Paramount.

Expanding the landmark designation will protect the Castro's soul. It will ensure that film festivals, luminaries of the world of cinema, and LGBTQ+ and other community events are able to continue using the theatre at affordable prices.

Sincerely,

Juliana Mojica

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Charly Zukow <charlyzukow@gmail.com>

Sent: Wed, Mar 8, 2023 at 1:47 pm

To:

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Mandelman, Rafael (BOS)

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, living in the Castro, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Charly Zukow

charlyzukow@gmail.com

415.309.2009

he/him

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Cheryl Rosenthal <truetolifefilms@me.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 2:29 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rosenthal

Save the Castro Theatre

From: cjm <nonutdasa@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 1:28 am

To: aaron.peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, dean.preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Savethecastrotheatre Info, rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident in District 8 and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Connie Jeung-Mills

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Marina Chu <chu.marina@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 12:12 am

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a proud San Francisco native and former employee of the Castro Theatre prior to the operations change to Another Planet Entertainment, and one of the many supporters of preserving this magnificent historic theater, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “**presence of seating**” to the more accurate “**fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.**”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Marina Chu

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Renee Monte <rmonte@icloud.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 10:11 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, myrna.melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident living in the Outer Richmond who loves going to the Castro Theatre after having dinner at one of the neighborhood restaurants. I stand (and sit) with the 11,000 petition signers who are part of the Save the Castro movement.

Memories of going to the Castro include Silent Film festivals, Noir festivals, and Sing-A-Longs. We took my 80 something mom to a Little Mermaid Sing-A-Long and posed for photos wearing our crowns outside the theatre. I went to the Sound Of Music Sing-A-Long more than once mostly to hiss the Baroness. I was also selected at one of those performances to parade across that fabulous stage in my 'Raindrops on Roses' costume. One of the features of the theatre that makes it the Castro and not another venue somewhere is the seating. I like sitting low with great sight lines while watching and listening to the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra provide live accompaniment to Buster Keaton's brilliance.

And now, I am writing to the three of you as members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023. Specifically, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

Thanks,
Renee Monte

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Netta Fedor <nettaffedor@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 6:36 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Save the Castro Theatre, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Netta F. Fedor

Netta F. Fedor
1970 Sutter Street, Apartment 111
San Francisco, CA 94115
415.559.6946
nettaffedor@gmail.com

Save the Castro Theatre

From: Doug McKirahan <ratt57@pacbell.net>

Sent: Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 4:32 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Save the Castro Threater!!

From: Bob Carasik <bobcarasik@gmail.com>

Sent: Tue, Mar 7, 2023 at 8:18 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre. I ask that you update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Bob Carasik

Bernal Hts.

Save the Castro, please!

From: Carolyn Tillie <carrie@carolyntillie.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 2, 2023 at 3:59 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org, info@savethecastrotheatre.org

Dear Aaron, Myrna, Dean, and Rafael,

I moved to the Bay Area from Southern California in 1999. One of the reasons I decided to relocate was the truly extraordinary history, architecture, arts, and "spirit" that inhabited San Francisco which I found wanting in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County. Relying on the Castro Theatre for classic cinema and film festivals filled my heart and fed my soul.

Please accept this correspondence as my support of the Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre to maintain its historical integrity. I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language; updating *presence of seating* to a more accurate, *fixed theatrical seating configured for a movie-palace* style of architecture.

I entreat you to help maintain the historical prevalence of the Castro Theatre as a beloved San Francisco landmark.

With kindest personal regards,

Carolyn Tillie

www.carolyntillie.com

707-688-0297

2480 Mission St., Ste. 212

San Francisco, CA 94037

Save the Castro!

From: Victoria75 <starrynight817@yahoo.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:34 am

To: info@savethecastrotheatre.org

My name is Victoria Golden and I am greatly concerned about the cultural and sociological loss from proposal to remove seating at the Castro Theatre. It would be a tragic loss as this a major location with importance to the LGBTQ community and would impact the types of events that are possible for this community. The Castro Mission District also has long connections with the Latino community and the building design celebrates the cultural fusion that is part of mission revival architecture. This theater is a beautiful historic treasure as its and seating arrangement is how the architect intended it to be experienced. The theater was listed on the City's historic register to protect the historic building from proposals that impact its historic value. The architect Timothy Pflueger was an interior designer and is tied to the very history at the core of what makes the City of San Francisco special; the Bay Bridge, Fairmont Hotel, St. Francis etc. With so few original theaters intact from the Art Deco period in the City of San Francisco, I close asking for a vote to reject this proposal in order to protect and maintain this site for future generations to experience in all its original grandeur.

Starrynight817@yahoo.com

Save the Historic Castro Theater

From: Shana Barchas <shanabarchas@gmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 4:24 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org,
info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a HISTORIC MOVIE PALACE and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Shana Barchas

P.S. This is the last theater of its kind in SF. It is beloved by so many people and a link to our collective past. Please do not forfeit its cultural and historical significance to make a buck.

Save the seats

From: S F <stefisk@gmail.com>

Sent: Fri, Mar 31, 2023 at 1:38 pm

To: Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I would like to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

My support for this decision arises from having attended well over 1000 screenings in the Bay Area's repertory theaters over the past decade, and from co-founding a website that serves as a consolidated calendar of repertory, festival, and exclusive film screenings in theaters across the Bay Area. I am very invested in the promotion and survival of the Bay Area's film repertory and festival community. To replace fixed seating with portable chairs fit for a hotel conference room would be a desecration of one of the most famous theaters in the world, for no tangible benefit beyond increased alcohol sales and banquet rental opportunities for APE.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating "presence of seating" to the more accurate "fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style."

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,
Stephen Fisk

SUBJECT: Save the Castro Theatre

From: Dan Karkoska <djdanksf@gmail.com>

Sent: Sun, Mar 12, 2023 at 5:03 pm

To: Dean.Preston@sfgov.org, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org, Myrna.Melgar@sfgov.org

Cc: info@savethecastrotheatre.org, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar, and Supervisor Preston,

I am a San Francisco resident, and one of the many supporters of preserving the Castro Theatre, which includes hundreds who have attended meetings and given their testimony at City Hall, and over 11,000 petition signers to Save the Castro.

I am writing to the Land Use and Transportation Committee to express my support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre, with a request to update a specific phrase that will ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet, which the Historic Preservation Commission approved on February 1, 2023.

The Landmark Designation Fact Sheet outlines the importance of the movie palace-style seating as a defining characteristic of the space as a historic cinema. Additionally, it demonstrates the significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage. With that in mind, I am requesting that the Committee clarify the language, updating “presence of seating” to the more accurate “fixed theatrical seating configured in movie-palace style.”

With this change, the Committee will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Dan Karkoska