

July 25, 2025

Chair Walton, President Mandelman, and Supervisor Sherrill  
City Hall  
Legislative Chamber, Room 250  
San Francisco, CA

RE: Mayoral Appointment, Historic Preservation Commission – Eleanor Cox [Agenda Item 250750]

To the members of the Rules Committee:

Thank you for considering my nomination for the architectural historian seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. I am honored to be nominated by Mayor Lurie, and I regret that I will not be able to attend the hearing on July 28 as I am out of town for a pre-scheduled visit to the east coast. I will be happy to meet with your offices at your convenience in the future. **Since I cannot be there in-person, please allow me to provide this brief statement about my qualifications and interest.**

I began my career in San Francisco working at a preservation architecture firm, drafting historic context statements and historic resource evaluations. This experience was invaluable to me, as I had the opportunity to visit every corner of the City – from an Irish-Indian neighborhood bar in North Beach, to the mid-century, middle-income, rental housing at Parkmerced. During this time, I honed my knowledge of local and regional history and observed patterns in the distribution of historic resources in San Francisco. Unfortunately, city landmarks are more likely to be acknowledged as such in specific neighborhoods. **I know that our planning department is attempting to address this inequity through the city-wide historic context statements and the city-wide survey, and I look forward to helping advance that work as a member of the commission.**

Between 2016 and 2018 I resided in Washington, D.C., where I worked for a preservation non-profit and then the National Park Service. This time gave me a behind-the-curtains view of preservation administration that I believe will serve me well on the Historic Preservation Commission. Development and fundraising, as well as compliance and review processes, affect the feasibility of preservation projects. Bodies such as the Historic Preservation Commission are important components of a larger ecosystem of city planning and urban design, **and relationships and consensus building are critical aspects of navigating that system.**

Over the past seven years, I have worked as a private consultant based here in San Francisco. My clients are typically public agencies, with which I collaborate to preserve the essential character of public landscapes that span the United States from Virginia to Hawai'i. **As an architectural historian, I take a holistic approach to my work that focuses on character, context, and access.** Maintaining this perspective within the framework of our ever-changing urban environment allows for a sustainable strategy that prioritizes preservation while allowing for sensitive growth and change.

I hope this statement provides a glimpse into the values I would contribute to the Historic Preservation Commission to help further our City's preservation goals. Thank you for taking the time to review my nomination, and for the opportunity to share this statement with your committee alongside my resume and letters of recommendation.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Cox  
Architectural and Landscape Historian

Attached: Resume – Eleanor Cox