

From: [Maureen Russell](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Subject: Support of Supervisor Mandelman's resolution to expand landmark status of the Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 4:16:07 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing in strong support of Supervisor Mandelman's resolution to expand landmark status of the Castro Theater as it approaches its 100th birthday. As a Castro regular since the 1990s, I've been concerned about the theater's status since the owners wanted to turn the theater into a concert venue, run by APE. I've been to the theater again since last November, and was pleased to see two of the three film festivals I attend back there, although I don't know about the future of holding them there. APE has done beautiful restoration work since taking over management of the Fox in Oakland, but the Fox no longer shows films. I've seen APE struggle with handling the concessions stand during film festivals at the Castro.

Further concerns:

-
- APE has plans to remove all or most of the seating in the main theater, and to replace them with removable seats. The Castro replaced the downstairs seats not long ago. The sight lines are excellent and the seats comfortable enough for those of us attending all-day and multiple-day festivals.
- What is the status of the organ? The temporary organ is in place (I last saw it played at a November 2021 event for SFFILM). A fundraiser helped to get the Wurlitzer refurbished. The theater owners dropped the ball on getting it back in place. The pipes are currently taken out, with new lighting in front of the pipe panels.
- The Castro is one of the theaters left that can handle a number of projection needs. The projectors and booth need to stay.
- I hope the concession stand can be adjusted to better accommodate film and event goers.
- If the Castro is mainly used for concerts, what about the local merchants that get boosts of business (including mine) during regular film screenings and other events?

I was relieved to see that APE got NeonWorks to repair the faded paint and neon on the marquee.

Thank you,

Maureen Russell
San Francisco 94103

From: [Jane McIntyre](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Preserving the Castro Theater
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 10:20:39 AM

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Dear Ms. Major,

I understand there is going to be official discussion today with regards to the Castro Theater. In short, this voter would like to have their landmark status enhanced so that the theater seating is preserved. Removing those seats would completely change the movie-goers experience. Many San Franciscans rely on the Castro Theater for their movie-going pleasures. There are very few movie houses left in the city and for San Francisco to lose out on hosting film festivals like "Noir City" would be tragic.

Nothing can match the beauty of the Castro Theater, as well as it's importance to the community it serves,.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane McIntyre

From: [Kathy Rose O'Regan](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 10:18:27 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my unequivocal support of the amendment of the Castro Theatre's landmark designation. Protecting the interior of the Castro Theatre is vital not just from a historical perspective, but from a cultural one.

Yes, the interior of the Castro is beautiful, striking, and a superb example of Pflueger's work. However, the value of the theater runs far beyond the aesthetic. The Castro Theatre has been a hub for both the film and the queer communities of San Francisco for decades. To alter the interior of the Castro, even in a "reversible" way, such as with the introduction of tiered seating, is to show massive disrespect to the communities that have cherished this space throughout its first century.

True, you can save and restore a physical space, but if you strip it of its cultural worth - in this case, the capacity to function as a cinema - can you really say it has been "saved"? I do not believe so.

Yours respectfully,

Kathy Rose O'Regan

--



Kathy Rose O'Regan I Co-Owner
info@sunsetmediapreservation.com
(628) 256-0373

From: [Carolyn Kiernat](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#)
Cc: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Bintliff, Jacob \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Sucre, Richard \(CPC\)](#); [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: EverGreene Architectural Arts - Castro Theatre Letter of Support
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 10:11:13 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20220523_Castro Letter from Evergreene.pdf](#)

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

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Peskin and Preston:

Please see attached letter of support from EverGreen Architectural Arts for the proposed rehabilitation effort at the Castro Theatre.

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Kiernat, AIA
Principal
415.593.3218 (direct)
415.931.2128 (cell)

From: Carolyn Kiernat
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:38 AM
To: myrna.melgar@sfgov.org; MelgarStaff@sfgov.org; Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org;
Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Cc: rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org; jacob.bintliff@sfgov.org; Erica.Major@sfgov.org; Rich Sucre
(richard.sucre@sfgov.org) <richard.sucre@sfgov.org>; Westhoff, Alex (CPC)
<alex.westhoff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Castro Theatre Letter of Support

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Peskin and Preston:

Please see attached letter of support from Page & Turnbull for the proposed rehabilitation effort at the Castro Theatre.

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Kiernat, AIA
Principal

PAGE & TURNBULL

170 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California 94108
415.593.3218 (direct) | 415.362.5154 (main) | 415.931.2128 (cell)
kiernat@page-turnbull.com | www.page-turnbull.com

May 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the upcoming restoration of the landmark Castro Theatre. EverGreene was asked to perform a plaster and finished investigation of the Castro theater in 2019 as part of a larger initiative undertaken by Page & Turnbull Preservation Architects to understand the current conditions and preservation needs of this magnificent 1922 Timothy Pflueger theater, the first of several he designed for the Nasser brothers.

EverGreene Architectural Arts had previously worked on several other Pflueger designed theaters and buildings both in San Francisco and Northern California in general, and therefore our team possesses a wide knowledge and understanding of his aesthetic and historical working methods. These theaters and buildings include: the Alameda theater, the Mission Theater, 450 Sutter lobby, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph building and the Cascade theater in Redding.

EverGreene's research and investigation in 2019 revealed the extent of the plaster damage and the need for plaster stabilization and repair to the main auditorium ceiling. Additionally, the study determined the deterioration mechanisms and the overall state of the three main defining characteristics or design features of the Castro theater. First, the monumental "Tent ceiling" with its murals and decorative painted elements, now sadly obscured by insensitive overpainting and badly darkened varnish. Second, the unique sgraffito murals on either side of the auditorium and thirdly, the overall decorative scheme consisting of faux Ashlar blocks, gilding, glazing, stenciling and other hand painted decorative elements which unite and harmonize the entire interior. During our investigation, EverGreene was able to determine which elements were original to each of the various principal decorative campaigns, which elements were viable candidates for conservation, and how to reinstate Pflueger's overall original design intent.

In 2021, EverGreene was again contacted by Page and Turnbull and Another Planet Entertainment to discuss our study and to prepare a proposal to faithfully conserve and restore the Castro to its original, authentic decorative scheme. EverGreene has taken a conservation approach which follows the standards and ethics of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. This approach emphasizes the preservation of the original fabric and reversibility of materials. Towards that end, I believe that the finishes restoration of the Castro will return the principal character-defining features of this magnificent historic theater to a state which would bring the theater back in keeping with Pflueger's original design and allow the theater to continue to function as a valued asset of the community.

I might add overall, that based on my experience restoring over 400 theaters, both large and small, as well as through my experience as a National board member of both LHAT (League of Historic American Theatres) and THS (Theatre Historical Society), that I can testify to the fact that historic theaters are a valuable community and neighborhood asset. They are a unique and infinitely malleable building type, which can continue adapting to evolving functions while maintaining their historic character and thus, continuing to serve as both repositories of memories shared by the audiences over time as well as serving as a positive feature and symbol of the personalities of the neighborhoods they inhabit and help define. I am sure that the current restoration plans will continue to allow the Castro to endure and thrive in this capacity as well.

Best Regards,



Jeff Greene
Chairman & Founder of EverGreene Architectural Arts

253 36th Street, Suite 5C Brooklyn, NY 11232 212.244.2800 212.244.6204 fax

NEW YORK • CHICAGO • WASHINGTON DC • LOS ANGELES

www.evergreene.com

CONSERVATION
SOLUTIONS

From: [Sunset Media Preservation](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Marstaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Preserve the Castro Theater
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 10:08:57 AM

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

The Castro Theater is the heart of San Francisco's film and queer communities. As a member of both communities, a 15 year resident of SF and a local small business owner, I respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to designate the interior of the Castro Theater as a landmark.

Please preserve SF heritage!

Thank you

-- George Fox



George Fox I Co-Owner
(628) 256-0373 I info@sunsetmediapreservation.com
2962 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Anita Monga](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Supervisor Mandelman's resolution to amend existing Castro Theatre landmark status
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 10:07:34 AM

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Dear Erica Majors,

I cannot attend the meeting at City Hall today, but I wanted to voice support for Supervisor Mandelman's proposed amendment to the existing Castro Theatre landmark status. The interior of this iconic building is worthy of landmark status to protect its architectural features and, I hope, to protect its ability to present film events. The Castro is integral to the vibrant film culture in the Bay Area—the only large space that is capable of housing the area's many film festivals—and its reputation as a superb film house is international!

There are many examples of successful multi-use seated auditoriums that host concerts, dance, theater, and film. I hope the interior landmarking can maintain the seats and sloped flooring that make filmgoing a possibility at the Castro.

Yours truly,
Anita Monga

From: [Carolyn Kiernat](#)
To: [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Bintliff, Jacob \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Sucre, Richard \(CPC\)](#); [Westhoff, Alex \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre Letter of Support
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:38:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2022_05_23 Castro Theatre Letter of Support.pdf](#)

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

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Peskin and Preston:

Please see attached letter of support from Page & Turnbull for the proposed rehabilitation effort at the Castro Theatre.

Sincerely,

Carolyn

Carolyn Kiernat, AIA
Principal

PAGE & TURNBULL

170 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California 94108
415.593.3218 (direct) | 415.362.5154 (main) | 415.931.2128 (cell)
kiernat@page-turnbull.com | www.page-turnbull.com

To: San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Land Use and Transportation Committee May 23, 2022
From: Carolyn Kiernat, AIA, Principal
RE: Castro Theatre Rehabilitation Letter of Support

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Peskin, and Preston:

This letter is to express my support for the proposed rehabilitation effort at the Castro Theatre.

Page & Turnbull began working with the Nasser family in 2017 to assess the condition of historic features at the theater and to evaluate building systems, egress and accessibility compliance. Another Planet Entertainment (APE) is now taking the lead on implementing the repairs, improvements, and accessibility upgrades that are critical to the ongoing use of the theater.

In our role as Preservation Architect, we are working with APE and their Architect to ensure that the proposed project complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

I am confident that APE is sensitively and appropriately addressing the historic interior features of the building through the following efforts:

- APE is committed to restoring the ornate rear proscenium, an original feature of the building that hasn't been visible to the public for several decades.
- APE has hired EverGreene Architectural Arts, one of the preeminent art and architecture conservation firms in the country, to advise on the treatment of the decorative ceiling and other significant decorative features in the building.
- APE has hired CAW Architects to lead the design effort, a firm that has impeccable credentials in the reuse and revitalization of historic theaters and other community-focused spaces in the bay area.
- APE has initiated early consultation with the San Francisco Planning Department and SF Heritage to receive early feedback on their proposed project approach.

As the project moves forward, Page & Turnbull will continue to work with APE, CAW Architects, representatives from the Planning Department, and others in the community to ensure that the rehabilitation of the Castro Theatre meets preservation standards while allowing this important landmark to thrive again as a neighborhood destination.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Kiernat, AIA, Principal

kiernat@page-turnbull.com

cc: Richard Sucre, Deputy Director, Current Planning Division
Alex Westhoff, Senior Planner, Current Planning and Preservation

Imagining change in historic environments through
design, research, and technology

From: [Rosario Santos](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for the Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:37:08 AM
Attachments: [Support Ltr APE Castro Theater 05232022.pdf](#)

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Hi Erica,

Attached please find Local 16's letter relating to agenda item #3 220550 for the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Rosario Santos
IATSE Local 16
240 Second St
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel: (415) 441-6400
Fax: (415) 243-0179

From: [Erin Hurley](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 9:09:46 AM

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Hello Erica,

I'm writing out of an interest in preserving the Castro Theatre as a place to celebrate film and historic spaces in San Francisco. I'm voicing my support for continuing to include LGBTQIA programming at the theater and to expand protection for the full historical, architectural, aesthetic and cultural interest and value of the Castro Theatre by initiating landmark designation.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards,
Erin

From: [Jordan Menashe](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:16:48 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the amendment to the landmark designation of the Castro Theatre. As someone who has spent many years working in this beautiful venue with various film festivals (SFFILM, SF Jewish Film Festival, and more), I have had a special opportunity to engage with every inch of this historic, one of a kind space.

But I also love and respect the Castro simply as a movie-goer. There is nowhere else in San Francisco to experience cinema like the Castro Theater. And that has nothing to do with its (beautiful) facade. It's about the screen, the seats, the lack of a bar/concessions in the house itself. It's about how you can feel the history in the walls.

San Francisco does not need more concert venues. But hopefully we are able to preserve this incredible unique, specific-to-San Francisco venue in its historic glory and make sure any changes to the building are done thoughtfully, with the history, community, and cinematic viewing experience, as the priority.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Jordan Menashe
thejordanriver@gmail.com
818.259.9214

From: [Nicasio Nakamine](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: In support of Landmark Design Amendment for the Castro Theater
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 7:29:48 AM

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The Castro Theater is an extremely special place to me and to many of my fellow San Franciscans. I have spent countless days and nights there sitting in the dark while the screen flickers, scarfing popcorn into my maw, expanding my understanding of culture, and connecting with my fellow movie-goers. APE's stated plans will drastically diminish this experience.

I believe what makes the Castro Theater a landmark is not just its beautiful exterior, but the totality of it being the world's absolute best movie theater. While I have been to plenty of shows at the Castro that do not include films, the primary use of the theater is for movies and should remain so. Removing the seats and installing an in-auditorium bar will greatly diminish the status of the Castro as the movie-palace it has been for 100 years. Please work to amend the landmark designation to include all the elements that make the Castro Theater the special place it is including the seats, the organ, the beautiful interior, and the primacy of film exhibition to the public.

Thank you,

-Nicasio Nakamine

n.nakamine@gmail.com

415.259.9305

450 Irving St, San Francisco, CA 94122

From: [David Munro](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: PLEASE SUPPORT expansion of the Castro's landmark designation!
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022 1:22:14 AM

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Dear Ms. Major,

Please add my voice to those calling for the preservation of the Castro Theater's cultural legacy in our community. Culture and community go hand in hand, and the Castro's unique and defining programming is a crucial part of San Francisco's heritage. I would bet that many more SF lives are enriched with a \$15 ticket to a timely and relevant moving picture story than hundreds of dollars to hundred years old operas, but without deep pocket patrons, who will fight for this civic treasure?? I hope the supervisors will when they vote on the 24th.

Regards,
David Munro

From: [Will](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Save The Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 8:31:51 PM

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

I am emailing to voice my support for Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment for The Castro Theatre. Please do not let anyone tear up, remodel or change IN ANY WAY San Francisco's beloved landmark. We have a moral and ethical responsibility to preserve our past and remind our future of the actual good things we have done in our past FOR our future. We've already lost a lot of San Francisco to handing the keys of our city over to Big Tech. Please help preserve something beautiful about our city - our spirit, our creativity, our intelligence, our community, our legacy. Please preserve and save our Castro Theatre.

Thank you
-Will

From: [Nick Carpenter](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Landmark Castro
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 8:13:10 PM

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Hello Erica Major-

I am adding my voice to the chorus of those who will be devastated if the castro is not granted landmark status. It is one of the most iconic theaters in the USA, and a crown jewel of SF arts and culture.

Please do the right thing and support Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theater.

Thank you.

--

Nicholas Carpenter Locations 415-933-0053

From: [Kyle Griffin](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theater Landmark Designation Amendment
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 5:42:29 PM

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Hello.

My name is Kyle Griffin and I have lived in the Bay Area as a passionate filmgoer for 26 years, living in Berkeley and San Francisco. I often made the trip across the Bay with film screenings at the Castro as the main draw, always spending money at local businesses and restaurants when I did. One of the main reasons for my move to San Francisco was the proximity of the place I moved into to the Castro. While understanding the Castro will come back as an entertainment venue of some sort, I have seen some of the plans for the inside of the theater and there appear to be several design elements that would severely diminish it's appeal and practically as a movie screening venue. If the current plan for redesigning the interior of the theater goes forward, it's appeal will be severely diminished.

In this day of dwindling brick and mortar business, why mess with a good thing, a beautifully preserved piece of the City's history that has been a proven draw? Thank you for your help; I wholeheartedly endorse the new Landmark Extension measure!

Thank you,
Kyle Griffin

From: [Carter Gunn](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:49:06 PM

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I Hope this email finds you well

I'm writing to voice my support for The Castro Theatre to be considered for landmark status. The cultural and community events that have taken place at the Castro over the years are truly some of my greatest memories living in San Francisco. As a filmmaker and avid moviegoer, attending the many repertory events and festivals held at the Castro is the equivalent of cinematic church. This cornerstone of the city has brought me so much joy and I hope it can bring many San Franciscans the same in years to come.

Best, Carter Gunn

--

Carter Gunn
C: 1.917.596.0435

From: [Anne Smatla](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theater
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:43:13 PM

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

Dear Erica Major,

I am writing to urge you and the SF Board of Supervisors to protect and preserve San Francisco's Castro Theater.

When I learned of the Partnership/Management set forth by Another Planet Entertainment (APE) and the Nasser family, I was both outraged and saddened. For years, my friends and colleagues have frequented the Castro Theater (at least on a weekly basis before the Covid-19 pandemic hit); attending exceptionally-programmed cinematic screenings, festivals, and events that are only possible in a palace like The Castro! It has been my church, my place of escape, and where I have met some of the most wonderful people. Additionally, what I have learned about the Castro community and from guests who spark dialog from post-film discussions, intros, and interviews have been highly valuable. And where else can one hear the powerful theater organ music of David H. Hegarty while awaiting the raising of the curtain for the main attraction?!

I have previously worked for both Landmark Theaters and independent concert promoters within the walls of depression-era movie palaces, which have all been converted. While I am also a concert-goer and appreciate the revitalization of Oakland's Fox Theater, The Warfield, etc. those venues no longer hold that same aura of community that the Castro has. Too many of these decadent movie palaces have been razed or converted into concert venues - I've seen firsthand how these havens become devalued by the newcomers who are more interested to see a band, have a few drinks, and then leave. I fear APE's mindless corporate takeover will strip a nationally-recognized community and it's primary entertainment landmark of it's voice.

Removing the seats from the main floor and building a "concessions stand" (bar?) in the back is, in my opinion, a disrespectful defacing of our community space. Architect Timothy Pflueger designed the Bay Area's most grand Art Deco and Neo-Classical structures and we should be treating his much-loved Castro Theater with the same respect we have given to Oakland's Paramount Theater. Does The Castro need restoration? Yes. Does it need more restrooms? You bet! But does it need to be altered to feel like every other soul-less concert venue (of which there are too many to count)? NO!

Please join The Castro and Bay Area communities by preserving every square foot of this 100 year old treasure of a movie palace! It has served so many great events from Sketchfest to Frameline to Peaches Christ to the San Francisco Silent Film Festival to Noir City and beyond! We can go see the Fleet Foxes anywhere, but there is only one mecca left in this grand city where a 70mm screening of VERTIGO with Kim Novak in-person or the 7 1/2 hour restoration of WAR & PEACE can be appreciated by a packed house of movie lovers! We will do anything to support our community palace just as we have for the last 100 years.

Thank you for your time and I hope you'll do the right thing for the community of San Francisco's Castro District and beyond.

All the best,
Anne Smatla

From: [Tina T](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: In support of expanding the landmark designation for the Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 2:51:18 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for amending the Landmark designation of the Castro Theatre, specifically in support for expanding the designation to include the historic interior and the theatre's role as a community gathering space.

Castro Theatre is a historic movie palace and iconic LGBTQ resource. San Francisco has the most vibrant film culture in the country and the Castro is integral to that vibrancy. The Castro is the **ONLY** place in San Francisco capable of hosting large film festival crowds. Preserving the interior space, specifically the slope and seats, is crucial for the continued legacy of the Castro Theatre.

The Castro was built as a movie palace, so the slope of the floor and the interior acoustics are designed specifically for an ideal film viewing experience. I have had so many wonderful experiences seeing film at the theater and I would be so disappointed to see this experience degraded. (I have also had wonderful experiences seeing concerts, live events, etc. in the theater as it is!)

Thank you for your time,
Kristina

From: [J. Louise Makary](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 11:34:49 AM

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Dear Ms. Major:

I am writing to voice my support for the Amendment to Initiate Landmark Designation to the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Cinema history is important not just for the state of California but for the whole of America, and this extends beyond films themselves to its architectural spaces. Understanding how audiences experience cinema is essential to the field of film studies and part of the pleasure of seeing films; preserving movie palaces ensures that current and future audiences can have embodied experiences of cinema – with the acoustics, sights, colors, and smells in beautiful architectural spaces like the Castro – that connect us to our rich heritage as Californians, living in the seat of movie history.

Please add my name to the list of filmmakers, film scholars, and film lovers who value spaces like the Castro not only for their presence in the contemporary cultural arts market but also for their historical and educational merits.

Best,
J. Makary

J. Makary | Tel: (323) 823-3717
Ph.D Student, Art History / Film and Media Arts
Stanford University

From: [Barbara Bagot-López](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Ronen, Hillary](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 11:35:46 AM

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I support "Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre".

Sincerely,

BB

Barbara Bagot-López

From: [Rachel Bauer](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: File No. 220550 Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Sunday, May 22, 2022 11:06:45 AM

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Dear Ms. Major,

My name is Rachel Bauer. I am a resident of San Francisco, graduate of San Francisco State University's Cinema department, and moving image archivist, and I am writing to encourage the initiation of the landmark designation amendment for the Castro Theatre (File No. 220550).

When initial news reports of Another Planet Entertainment (APE) purchasing The Castro Theatre with the intention, per the San Francisco Chronicle headline (later amended), of turning the historic movie house into a music venue I was horrified. I love attending live music venues in this city, and am all for encouraging their flourishing and success here. However, single screen movie palaces are a dying breed worldwide, and the art of cinema deserves its own specialized exhibition spaces, just as music, dance and the visual arts deserve theirs.

The filed resolution notes the venue's importance to the Castro neighborhood, LGBTQ+ community generally, and cinema culture specifically, all of which is true and are legitimate reasons for amending the Castro's landmark status.

In addition to The Castro's importance to LGBTQ+ history and the community within San Francisco, I would like the Board of Supervisors to also take into account the venue's importance to the preservation and exhibition of cinema, period.

The theatre hosts Frameline, yes, but also has held screenings for, or been home to, the Jewish Film Festival, The San Francisco Silent Film Festival and Noir City. These festivals attract international audiences and are hubs for fans and professionals. Such events help local businesses and the city's attraction to tourists.

On a personal note, by attending the SF Silent Film Festival at the Castro as an SFSU student, I saw a flyer for the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation and it changed my life. I had wanted to be a film archivist since I was 16, but it seemed obscure and unobtainable. The Castro providing space for that festival not only gave me the opportunity for entertainment and art education, but showed me a path to turn a passion into a career.

Having pursued a career in media preservation, I authoritatively say that the Castro's projection booth being equipped to display 35mm and 70mm film prints, in addition to digital cinema packages (DCPs), enables access to a wider variety of motion pictures than the average megaplex theatre. The proliferation of streaming services and Fathom Events screenings of classic movies obscures the fact that not all movies produced and distributed on film have been transferred to modern digital formats. Being a commercial art, film studios are more apt to privilege popular titles for digital transfer, and indie movie rights holders may lack

the funds for such conversions, meaning hundreds, if not thousands, of cinematic works are only accessible via screenings of film prints. For full access to cinema's rich range and history, having a theatre equipped to project film remains essential..

Having a theatre like the Castro that is capable of displaying multiple cinematic formats is a draw to film festivals and cinefiles, which in addition to ideological and public relations cache translates into aiding local businesses.

San Francisco is a city that takes pride in its arts: we have an opera, ballet, symphony, fine arts museums and amongst other visual and performing arts venues. Cinema deserves to be treated with the same respect and considerations. I humbly encourage the Board of Supervisors to ratify this amendment and protect this historic and still vital movie palace.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Rachel E. Bauer
(she/her/hers)

--

Rachel E. Bauer
Rach.E.Bauer@gmail.com

From: [Marisa Vela](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Expand the Landmark Status of the Castro Theatre to Include the Interior
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:00:42 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing today to urge you to approve the proposal to amend the landmark status of the Castro theatre to include the interior.

The Castro is an architectural marvel, inside and out.

I am concerned about plans submitted by Another Planet Entertainment to tear out the downstairs seats and replace them with tiers, which would make it impossible to continue as a movie venue.

The Castro is a movie palace. Along with repertory programming, there are many festivals that rely on the venue.

What happens to Frameline? Are they supposed to move to a different neighborhood? Where does the SF Silent Film Festival go? The Castro is one of the only theaters with 35 mm variable speed projectors, which they rely on to show silent films at the proper speed. This is Frameline's 46th year. The Silent Film Festival just celebrated its 25th anniversary. The San Francisco International Film Festival, which also counts on the Castro, has been going for 65 years now, and CAAMFest, who hold screenings there too, just celebrated their 40th year. Then there are the Marc Huestis and Peaches Christ events, and the sing-a-longs, Noir City...

There's a rich cultural history that is in need of preservation too. People travel from all over the world to attend these events. The City can't afford to lose this.

Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,
Marisa Vela

From: [Ben Terrall](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: I support expanding historic protections for the Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:36:14 PM

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Dear Supervisors,

After moving to San Francisco in 1992, one of the first things that made me fall in love with this city was the Castro Theatre. Since the early 1990s I have seen countless films there, whether in repertory programming, at film festivals, or in first-run presentations.

In this age of home video and endless streaming options, there are few single screen movie palaces left, making the Castro an especially important cultural institution, and its new management should continue to prioritize showing motion pictures.

Another Planet Entertainment has turned many venues in the Bay Area into places to see popular musical acts. They already have enough properties which are presenting nothing but live music. With the "upgrade" they perform on the Castro they must maintain the integrity of the interior of the theater, and make it possible to continue showing films there on a regular basis. The film culture of San Francisco has suffered enough losses, and the historic importance of the Castro to one of the largest LGBTQ neighborhoods in the U.S. cannot be underestimated either.

Further, removing the seats downstairs, which has been mentioned as a possibility, would be the wrong thing to do.

I support Supervisor Mandelman's proposal to enhance the Castro's landmark status. Please do everything you can to help preserve the integrity of this majestic jewel of San Francisco's culture.

Sincerely,
Ben Terrall
415-670-0139

From: [Jessica Dillon](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 1:20:56 PM

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Hi Erica,

I'd like to voice my support for initiating the landmark designation amendment for the Castro Theatre.

The Castro is the premiere movie palace in the US and its landmark designation should include not only the facade, but all aspects of the interior, especially the excellent sloped seating. My mother used to take my brother and I as children to the Silent Film Festival in the 90s, and the Castro is where I fell in love with film. I cannot count the number of magical experiences I have had there over the years. We keep losing movie theaters in the city, and it is of paramount importance to protect the jewel in our crown.

Thank you,
Jessica Dillon
1225 20th Ave. #3, SF, CA 94122

From: [Kristin Lipska](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 1:04:37 PM

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Hello,

I'm a current D5 resident in the Inner Sunset. I'm writing to voice my support for the resolution initiating an amendment to the landmark designation of the Castro Theatre.

The Castro Theatre is a historic and gorgeous temple to cinema. It is known far beyond San Francisco as one of the best movie palaces in the world. It is one of only a few left. This amazing landmark needs to be preserved *as a cinema* to maintain its cultural and aesthetic value. Please support the resolution to add an amendment to the landmark designation.

Kristin Lipska

From: [Laura Dickson](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: expand the Castro theatre landmark status to include interior
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:56:20 AM

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

Hello,

I am writing to strongly urge the committee to expand the landmark status of the Castro Theatre to include the interior as well, not just the exterior as it currently stands.

I grew up in San Francisco. The memories I have of going to the Castro Theatre move beyond a typical movie-watching experience. The first time I ever went was for a Little Mermaid sing-a-long. People of all ages were all in attendance. The events at the Castro are special. Beyond the typical, and much needed, going-to-a-movie experience, the programming that takes place in this space is deeply community-based and attracts all generations of San Franciscans. Additionally, I can only imagine what someone visiting the city would think. Entering the theatre takes your breath away.

I learned of the plans to alter the interior when I attended the Silent Film Festival this year. It was my first time going, and I vowed to never miss a year moving forward. It was so cool, for lack of a better, more extravagant adjective. A great event which closed with this saddening news.

The purpose of landmark status is so vital in San Francisco. With everything constantly in flux, perpetual upgrades and modifications to this city, we must honor these beautiful achievements in architecture and the honest history that has taken place within these spaces. We must ensure that they are preserved. The functions of landmark buildings are varied. Some are museums, some hold offices and private companies, some are homes to many. We need the Castro to remain the Castro Theatre inside and out for both the beauty and the legacy of the building, and for the vital purpose it serves. It is a unique space for the community to gather around film -- not just to watch it, but to learn about it in a shared space with one another. In every special event I've attended in this place these two elements always stand out.

During one of the silent films, a Buster Keaton film, I recall the sound of the vast space filling with laughter. The film had no words, but there was laughter. These laughs were my own, San Francisco elders, and I particularly remember hearing laughs from children. That's what struck me, the comedy genius of the film translated across time and generations. The Castro does the same, it is a space that transcends time and is meaningful to many people of many ages. We must respect and honor this.

Consider this a very heartfelt demand to expand the landmark status of the theatre to include the inside as well.

Thank you.

Best,

Laura Dickson

From: [Diana Sanchez](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Castro Theater
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 11:10:16 AM

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Dear Erica,

I support Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment to Castro Theatre.
Please save the castro for community members!

Best,
Diana Sánchez

From: [troy barber](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: I support more historic protection for the Castro Theater
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:50:00 AM

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Hello-

I'm a long time SF resident who has enjoyed the Castro theater for approximately 700-900 different movies and events. It anchors a dear neighborhood that is threatened by gentrification.

I support the current effort by Sup. Mandelman to strengthen its historic landmark status. It would be a shame to see this 100 year old theater substantially changed. It's a gem of SF which needs to be protected. When people visit me, they often want to see this amazing movie theater that we have and are awestruck by the experience of seeing a film in that huge cathedral. Let's not ruin it!

Please vote yes.

Troy Barber

From: [Andy Podell](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Expand landmark protections to the interior
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 10:43:17 AM

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Dear Ms. Major,

Please add my name to those concerned about the preservation of the interior of the Castro Theater. I grew up going to the theater and I know it's interior is as important to many San Franciscans as the interior of Grace Cathedral, in fact it is our Cathedral.

Best,
Andrew Podell

From: [Robert Goldfarb](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Bob Goldfarb \(info@sflcd.org\)](mailto:info@sflcd.org); [Cal Callahan](#)
Cc: [Tina Aguirre](#); [Stephen Torres](#); [Samuel Favela](#); [Jesse Oliver Sanford](#)
Subject: Castro Theater Landmark Status Resolution - We support this resolution
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:43:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Hello Erica,

On behalf of the LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District, I would like express our strong support for the resolution, file #220550, that initiates an amendment to the landmark designation of the Castro Theater, 429-431 Castro Street.

The Castro Theater is an icon in the Castro and a key hub of the LGBTQ community. For decades it has provided a unique venue for the neighborhood, an icon and Instagram moment for visitors as well as irreplaceable community engagement, it deserves the amendment to the landmark designation. We fully support this resolution that is being heard at the Land Use Committee this Monday, 5/23/22.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Bob Goldfarb

Executive Director (Pronouns: he, him)
LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District
SFLeatherDistrict.org



From: [Michael Koperwas](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 7:15:22 AM

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The Castro Theatre should absolutely be a landmark — I thought it already was! Preserve and protect one of the best theaters in the world!

From: [derek](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Preserving Castro Theatre
Date: Saturday, May 21, 2022 2:59:34 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the Initiating Landmark Designation Amendment - Castro Theatre resolution. As an SF resident, I strongly feel that the Castro Theatre has contributed immensely to the rich history and cultural heritage of the city, and preserving the theater's interior features and focus in programming is just as vital as preserving its exterior features as a landmark. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Best,
Derek Chen