

BOARD of SUPERVISORS




City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 26, 2022

To: Jonas Ionin, Commission Secretary, Historic Preservation Commission
Rich Hillis, Director, Planning Department

From:  Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Office of the Clerk of the Board

Subject: Initiating Landmark Designation - Mother's Building, Situated Within San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006 (File No. 220275)

On April 12, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 137-22, sponsored by Supervisors Melgar, Mar, Chan, and Peskin and approved by Mayor London N. Breed on April 22, 2022.

A copy of the Resolution is being forwarded to you pursuant to Resolution No. 137-22.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erica Major, Assistant Clerk, at (415) 554-4441 or by email at: Erica.Major@sfgov.org.

cc: Scott Sanchez, Zoning Administrator
Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer
Corey Teague, Zoning Administrator
Devyani Jain, Deputy Environmental Review Officer
AnMarie Rodgers, Legislative Affairs
Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Deputy City Attorney
Joy Navarrete, Major Environmental Analysis
Laura Lynch, Environmental Planning

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1 [Initiating Landmark Designation - Mother's Building, Situated Within San Francisco Zoo, 1
2 Zoo Road, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006]

3 **Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of the**
4 **Mother's Building, situated within the San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road, Assessor's**
5 **Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006.**

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

9 WHEREAS, The Mother's Building, situated within the San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road,
10 Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006, was built in 1925 by renowned architect
11 George W. Kelham; and

12 WHEREAS, The Mother's Building is part of the premises of the San Francisco Zoo,
13 which is operated by the San Francisco Zoo Society pursuant to its lease with the Recreation
14 and Parks Department; and

15 WHEREAS, The Mother's Building was donated to the City in 1925 by Herbert and
16 Mortimer Fleishhacker; and

17 WHEREAS, The Mother's Building was built to honor the Fleishhackers' late mother
18 and was dedicated to serve as a resting place for mothers and young children, which was also
19 one of the only structures in the West that focused on the needs of mothers, offering
20 amenities such as water, milk, and medical advice for guests; and

21 WHEREAS, During the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era of the 1930's,
22 employment options for women were limited; however, the Public Works of Art Project
23 (PWAP) and Federal Art Project (FAP) offered rare opportunities for women artists, such as
24 the one at the Mother's Building; and

1 WHEREAS, San Francisco female artists Helen Forbes and Dorothy Puccinelli were
2 selected to create artwork for the Mother’s Building; they used egg tempera to paint four
3 murals inside the building that were inspired by the animals they saw at the Zoo and that
4 depicted the story of Noah’s Ark, symbolizing the theme of renewal and recovery post-
5 Depression; and

6 WHEREAS, During the same era, Margaret, Helen, and Ester Bruton, also known as
7 the Bruton Sisters, were selected to adorn the panels outside the Mother’s Building with two
8 intricate tile mosaics named the *Children and Their Friends* and *St. Francis*; their work played
9 a significant role in the “modern mosaic revival”; and

10 WHEREAS, The artwork of the Mother’s Building is the only large-scale WPA art
11 project created solely by women; and

12 WHEREAS, The Mother’s Building, which is also known as the Delia Fleishhacker
13 Memorial Building, is listed on the National Register of Historical Places; and

14 WHEREAS, The Mother’s Building has been closed since 2002 to visitors; the building
15 and the murals experienced water damage and needs repair and restoration; and

16 WHEREAS, With the support of former Supervisor Katy Tang, the San Francisco
17 Historical Preservation Fund helped to assess the building and provide funds for immediate
18 renovation; and

19 WHEREAS, The Mother’s Building is a historically significant building and an asset that
20 honors the history of local women artists and centers the experience of motherhood; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Board hereby initiates landmark designation of the Mother’s
23 Building , situated within the San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road, Assessor’s Parcel Block No.
24 7281, Lot No. 006; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Planning Department
2 prepare a Landmark Designation Report to submit to the Historic Preservation Commission
3 for its consideration of the special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and value of
4 the property; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation
6 Commission review the Landmark Designation Report and any other information the Planning
7 Department may have related to the special historical, architectural, and aesthetic interest and
8 value of the Mother's Building; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board requests that the Historic Preservation
10 Commission consider whether the Mother's Building warrants landmark designation and
11 submit its recommendation to the Board pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code.

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City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 220275

Date Passed: April 12, 2022

Resolution initiating landmark designation under Article 10 of the Planning Code of the Mother's Building, situated within the San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road, Assessor's Parcel Block No. 7281, Lot No. 006.

April 04, 2022 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED


April 12, 2022 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

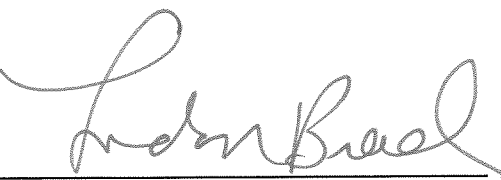
Ayes: 10 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai and Walton

Excused: 1 - Stefani

File No. 220275

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/12/2022 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

4/22/22

Date Approved