

LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District

and the

LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy

San Francisco BoS Land Use and Transportation Committee | Monday, July 25, 2022



Alignment with LGBTQ+ CHS recommendations

Well-being

CHS recommendations

Examples of LCD work

W2.A Identify categories of services needed and designate community partners that will be responsible for providing these navigation tools

Ongoing outreach (focus groups, surveys, interviews) to community members and organizations to understand their needs, most succinctly summarized in the CHHESS

W3: Improve cultural humility training

CHHESS strategy to Develop educational materials to familiarize City government staff with specific cultural norms and issues faced by the Leather and LGBTQ communities

Alignment with LGBTQ+ CHS recommendations

Culture

CHS recommendations

C3.B: Develop programs and processes to identify, document, and preserve LGBTQ+ historic sites in San Francisco

C3: Develop a work plan to address outdated mitigation and process improvement measures for development projects that demolish LGBTQ+ associated sites in SF

C5.B: Create stipend and mentorship programs to facilitate community engagement in arts and culture

Examples of LCD work

Research to identify significant LGBTQ+ historical sites in SOMA, and work to install commemorative plaques

Mural projects depicting historical figures

Work with Planning Department to update the development review process for projects in the District to include District input

CHHESS strategy to provide stipends to community members to create new cultural events

Alignment with LGBTQ+ CHS recommendations

Culture



Top: Mural of Sylvester on OASIS nightclub

Bottom-left: Flier for SOMA Second Saturdays, a regular community market hosted in SOMA

Bottom-right: Restored boot print plaques on Ringold Alley commemorating figures from Leather history



Alignment with LGBTQ+ CHS recommendations

Opportunity

CHS recommendations

Examples of LCD work

O2: Expand workforce development efforts

CHHESS strategy to organize employment resources and connections for BIPOC, trans, women, sex worker, and disabled members of the Leather and LGBTQ communities

O3: Increase business and entrepreneur support

Creation of an Entrepreneur Training Program for entrepreneurs from our community

O3.C: Support popup program in vacant retail spaces with targeted outreach to LGBTQ+ small businesses and nonprofits

CHHESS strategy to identify and utilize vacant space within the Cultural District for community events and new businesses



Some challenges we face implementing the LGBTQ+ CHS

Ongoing challenges to operating and opening new nightlife businesses that are key to our District's identity, especially related to development pressure, zoning, and more recently the impacts of COVID-19

Closure of community institutions like the Center for Sex and Culture, and an overall lack of space in which to host community-oriented programming and offer services

Administrative hurdles to placemaking efforts that many Cultural Districts have shown interest in, including post wraps and banners

Ways to support strategy implementation

Outreach to the LEATHER & LGBTQ Cultural District to engage in updates to future iterations of the LGBTQ+ Cultural Heritage Strategy, since much of the engagement predates the District

A greater focus on supporting nightlife and entertainment spaces in the plan, especially since the legislation that led to the report's creation also called for a nightlife focus. Strategies might include new land use or sound permitting rules to protect venues or simply new planning methods that better take nightlife stakeholders into account

Greater integration of the Cultural Districts with both citywide and District-specific historic preservation efforts from the city to offset development pressure

