

From: [Lawler, Terese](#)
To: [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: I support APE's plans for the Castro Theatre
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 6:11:07 PM

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Dear Supervisor Melgar,

I am writing support of Another Planet Entertainment's proposed upgrade and reconfiguration of the Castro Theatre.

As a native San Franciscan I have spent many an enjoyable afternoon or evening at the Castro Theatre and I want it to continue to be an asset to our city for another 100 years.

Another Planet Entertainment is offering to put more than 15million dollars into upgrading and repairing the Theatre, including ADA upgrades. APE has also confirmed that they will continue programming film events as well as live music, comedy, and other events.

APE is a local company that has a good reputation for listening and respecting the community and the historic venues they manage (look at how wonderful the Fox Oakland is- an asset to the neighborhood and a great place for a show!)

My concern is that if the approval for APE's plans is delayed too long that they may say 'fine, if you don't want us then we'll leave' and that could certainly lead to the Castro Theatre being dark for a very long time. That would be a real shame and embarrassment to San Francisco.

So, please vote to approve the plans that Another Planet Entertainment have proposed for upgrading the Castro Theatre – for all of us!

Terese Lawler
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2023 MAR 20 AM 9:03

BY GA

To the Board Use
+ Transportation Committee

It is vital that we
support another project
in modernizing the
Castro Theater to
ensure the theater
stays relevant and
to keep the neighborhood
vibrant.

We do not need
another dilapidated
theater in this city

We need a more flexible
and inclusive cultural
space.

Shane Mayer
SF Resident
Shane.Mayer@gmail.com

From: [Gerard Koskovich](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Scott Emblidge](#); [Christine Madrid French](#); [Katherine Petrin](#); [Shayne Watson](#)
Subject: Castro Theatre: Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023 9:14:06 AM
Attachments: [Land Use Committee Letter.2023-03-03_02.pdf](#)

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Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar & Supervisor Preston,

Please see the attached PDF for a letter regarding the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre which the Land Use and Transportation Committee will be considering at its meeting on March 13.

As professionals in the fields of LGBTQ history and preservation policy and practice, I and the other signatories offer our expertise to assist the committee's deliberations and to highlight a needed clarification to the text of the draft ordinance.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Gerard Koskovich
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Life Member, Committee on LGBT History
<http://clgbthistory.org/>

Selected Publications on LGBTQ History,
Archives, Museums & Historic Preservation
<https://independent.academia.edu/GKoskovich>

Land Use & Transportation Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

March 2, 2023

Dear President Peskin, Supervisor Melgar & Supervisor Preston,

As professionals in the fields of LGBTQ history and historic-preservation policy and practice, we write to inform the Land Use and Transportation Committee that we strongly endorse the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet for the Castro Theatre approved by the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission on February 1, 2023.

We also wish to state our qualified support for the Draft Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Castro Theatre now under consideration by the Committee—**with one request for clarification to a specific phrase to ensure the text of the ordinance accurately reflects the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet.**

The Castro Theatre is San Francisco's last remaining single-screen movie palace and is therefore of central importance for the city's film heritage. More importantly, the theater is a site of international significance due to its extraordinary role in LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage, community building and cultural production from 1976 to the present.

With one exception, the Draft Ordinance properly identifies for landmarking the character-defining features set forth in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet: Section 4(c)(2)(D) of the Draft Ordinance inadequately describes the character-defining features of the orchestra using the words "vast interior auditorium volume with raked floor, aisles, and presence of seating."

The vague phrase "presence of seating" does not correctly restate the findings of the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet which it is purported to summarize. The fact sheet (page 31) specifies the following:

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.

The fact sheet (page 26) also states 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 intangible cultural heritage of the space, and how the configuration lent to community building, audience participation, cultural production, and personal meaning for theatre goers.

Given the findings in the Landmark Designation Fact Sheet and given the exceptional significance of the orchestra configuration and the movie-palace seating for film heritage and LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage, we request that the Committee 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.”

By making this modest revision, the Committee will ensure the Draft Ordinance clearly reflects the factual findings approved by the Historic Preservation Commission and will further the protection of the Castro Theatre as both a historic movie palace and a site of international significance for LGBTQ intangible cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

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