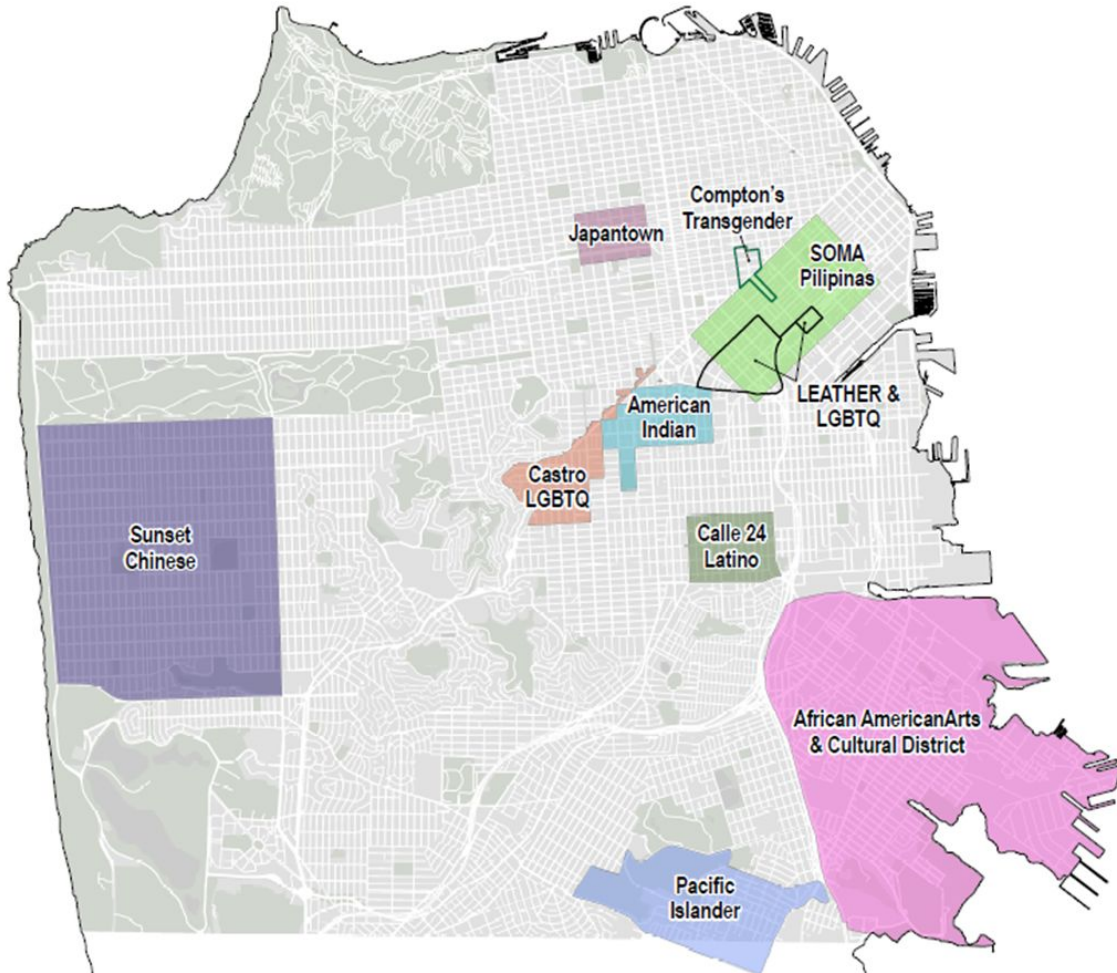


# SAN FRANCISCO'S CULTURAL DISTRICTS

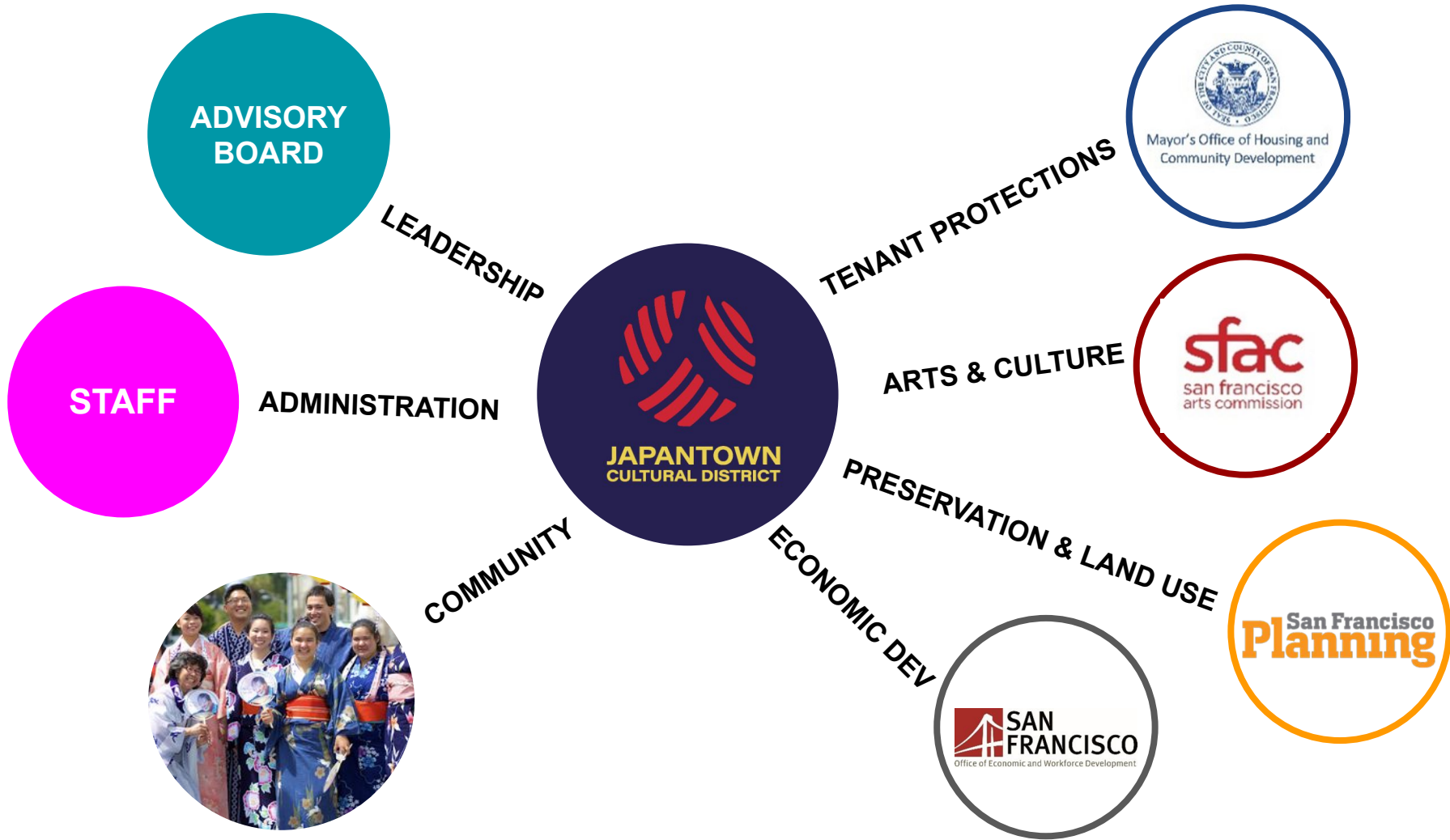




*Preserve, promote, and strengthen the cultural assets and traditions of San Francisco's distinct cultural groups.*



*“A geographic area...  
designated by the  
Board of Supervisors  
by ordinance, as an  
area or location **that**  
**embodies a unique**  
**cultural heritage.**”*



# Cultural History, Housing and Economic Sustainability Strategies





**JAPANTOWN**  
**CULTURAL DISTRICT**

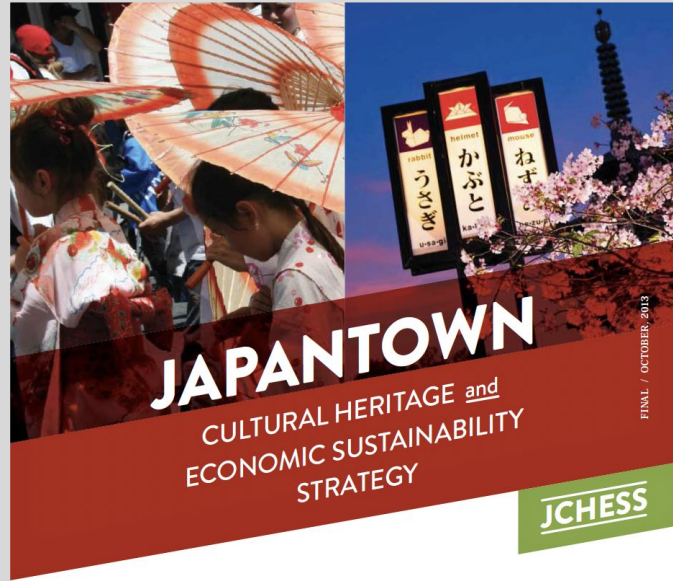


*“The CHHESS is the voice of our community.”*

*“What do we envision Japantown to look like for our future generations.”*



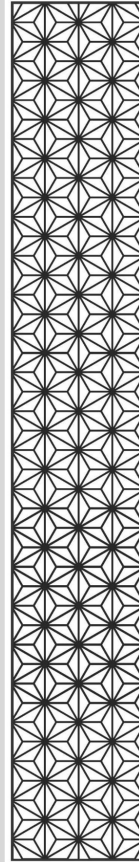
## JAPANTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



JAPANTOWN  
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



## JAPANTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT

CULTURAL HISTORY, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC  
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT



Mayor's Office of  
Housing and  
Community Development



**JAPANTOWN**  
CULTURAL DISTRICT

# CHHESS Envisions a Regenerative Japantown

**FIRST** point of entry to US for Issei

**OLDEST** Japantown in the Nation

**EMPOWERS** Japantown to recover, heal and move forward from a history social discrimination

**SECURES** Japantown's future



**JAPANTOWN**  
CULTURAL DISTRICT

# *1% RESIDENTS ARE JAPANESE*

## *Multiple Generations are Seeking to Belong, Reconnect*





Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Christ United Presbyterian Church (CUPC)  
Hokka Nichi Bei Kai (Japanese American  
Association of Northern California)  
Japan Center Garage Corporation  
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)  
Japanese American Citizen League - San  
Francisco Chapter (JACLSF)  
Japanese American National Library (JANL)  
Japanese American Religious Federation  
(JARF)  
Japanese Benevolent Society of California  
(Jikeikai)  
Japanese Chamber of Commerce of  
Northern California (JCCNC)  
Japantown Community Benefit District  
(JCBD)  
Japantown Merchants Association  
Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC)

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of  
Northern California (JCCCNC, "The Center")  
Kimochi  
Kinmon Gakuen  
Kokoro Assisted Living, Inc.  
Konko Church of San Francisco  
Nakayoshi Young Professionals  
National Japanese American Historical Society  
(NJAHS)  
Nichi Bei Foundation  
Nihonmachi Little Friends  
Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC)  
Nihonmachi Street Fair (NSF)  
Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival,  
Sakura Matsuri, Inc. (NCCBF)  
Pine United Methodist Church  
Nichiren Hokka Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Soto Mission of San Francisco (Sokoji)



## JAPANTOWN CULTURAL DISTRICT

# CULTURAL HISTORY HOUSING ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY REPORT





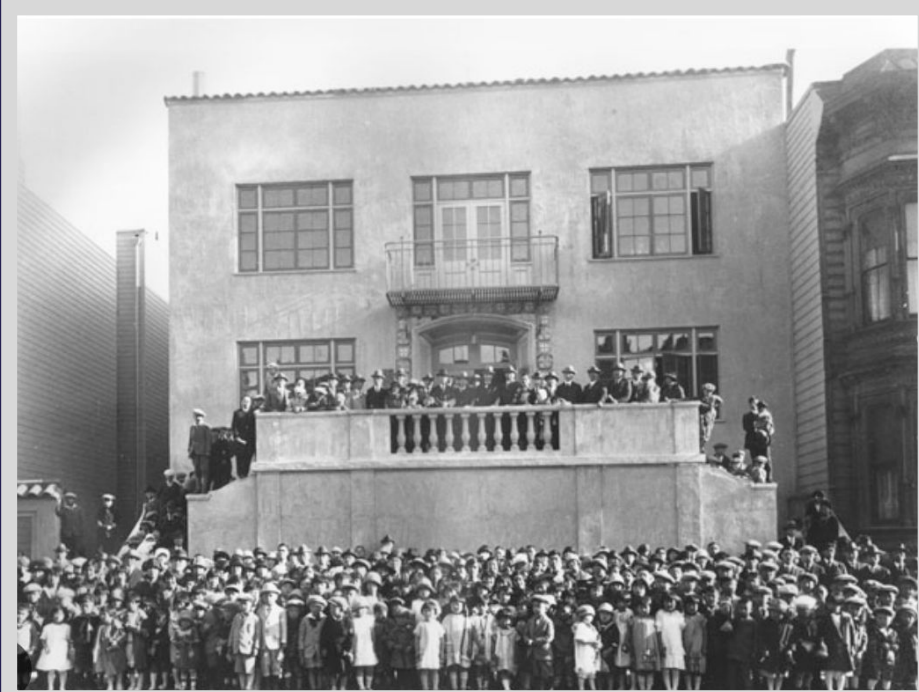
# JAPANTOWN CULTURAL HERITAGE







# PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS AND BUILDINGS





# JAPANTOWN ECONOMIC / WORKFORCE





# LAND USE

This aerial view locates the 11 properties and their owners of Japantown's most recognizable commercial corridor sometimes referred to as the Japantown 'superblocks'.



San Francisco Japantown's Major Commercial Corridor (superblocks)



# HOUSING




**SF JAPANTOWN COMMUNITY LAND PANEL**

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS FROM:  
**LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER & CHINATOWN CDC**

*Let's learn & spark an important community conversation about what models of a community land acquisition entity could best serve Japantown's sustainable thriving future!*

**APRIL 15TH 6-8PM ZOOM  
CLICK TO REGISTER**

 **JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE**

In Partnership with  





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# JAPANTOWN

**C**CULTURAL  
**H**HISTORY  
**H**HOUSING  
**E**ECONOMIC  
**S**SUSTAINABILITY  
**S**STRATEGY  
**R**REPORT

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**JAPANTOWN**  
**CULTURAL DISTRICT**



# JAPANTOWN CHHES STRATEGIES

## Cultural Heritage Conservation and Sustainability

1. Support improvements to Peace Plaza.
2. Support improvements to Buchanan Mall/Osaka Way in collaboration with Nihonmachi Parking Corporation (NPC) and Japantown Community Benefits District (JCBD).
3. Utilize tools for preservation of historic buildings and structures.
4. Building more cultural and environmental programming into arts, community organizations and businesses with focus on Japanese traditional eco-culture.
5. Create an accessible digital archive from existing physical and digital archives held by multiple community organizations through collaborative efforts.



# JAPANTOWN CHHES STRATEGIES

## Tenant Protections

6. Develop and implement a Strategic Plan to address the Japan Center Malls (JCM) Covenant Agreements, the adjoining properties between Laguna and Fillmore Streets, and the future of the properties, and negotiate Benefits Agreements with JCM and other owners.
7. Explore new strategies to work with existing residential tenants and descendants of those displaced by redevelopment, property owners and the City to protect residential tenants from displacement and to place Certificate of Preference holders, artists, culture bearers, families, younger generations, and employees of community-based organizations in existing housing.
8. Work with existing commercial and nonprofit tenants outside of the Japan Center Malls to negotiate protections and benefits they need to remain in Japantown.



# JAPANTOWN CHHES STRATEGIES

## Arts and Culture

9. Create a virtual and physical Artist Assistance and Media Center.
10. Develop a virtual and physical intergenerational Co-creative Hub.
11. Establish a SF Japantown Arts Committee.



# JAPANTOWN CHHESS STRATEGIES

## Economic and Workforce Development

12. Create a virtual and physical Small Business Assistance Center.
13. Assist existing Japantown businesses with succession planning.
14. Increase promotion and marketing capacity in Japantown.
15. Increase fundraising and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability and to support CHHESS strategies (co-create collaborative abundance).
16. Explore a Visitor Center (virtual and physical) to be located inside the Japan Center Malls.
17. Develop partnerships and collaborations with the Japan External Trade Organization, the City, Japanese companies, and eco-initiatives, and other Japantowns and networks.



# JAPANTOWN CHHES STRATEGIES

## Land Use and Housing

18. Work with property owners and community organizations to identify, secure and occupy underutilized space to meet community needs.
19. Engage in the implementation of the 2022 Housing Element to ensure Japantown's housing needs are addressed.
20. Explore opportunities for a community oversight infrastructure to establish a community development corporation / community land trust / community investment fund or a similar mechanism and work with the City to acquire property for community control.
21. Develop a Japantown Preservation and Development Vision Master Plan (Community Plan).
22. Work with property owners, developers, and the City to develop opportunities for affordable housing that is culturally affirming in design.



# JAPANTOWN CHHES STRATEGIES

## Cultural Competency

23. Explore an appropriate model for a Japantown Community Council or Consortium with dedicated sources of funding.
24. Initiate inclusive, intergenerational conversations about Japantown's history of displacement and its impacts on the community as part of the broader communities of color in the country.
25. Explore the creation of an intergenerational community permaculture edible garden with programming.