



To: Land Use committee of the SF Board of Supervisors
Supervisors Peskin, Melgar and Preston

Re: Support of Ordinance to amend the Planning Code
Create a Non-Profit Arts Education Special Use District
Block #49; Lot #1; Formerly the SF Arts Institute

Date: November 12, 2023

Architect: Andy Levine
447 29th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131
License # C-14090

Support of Ordinance

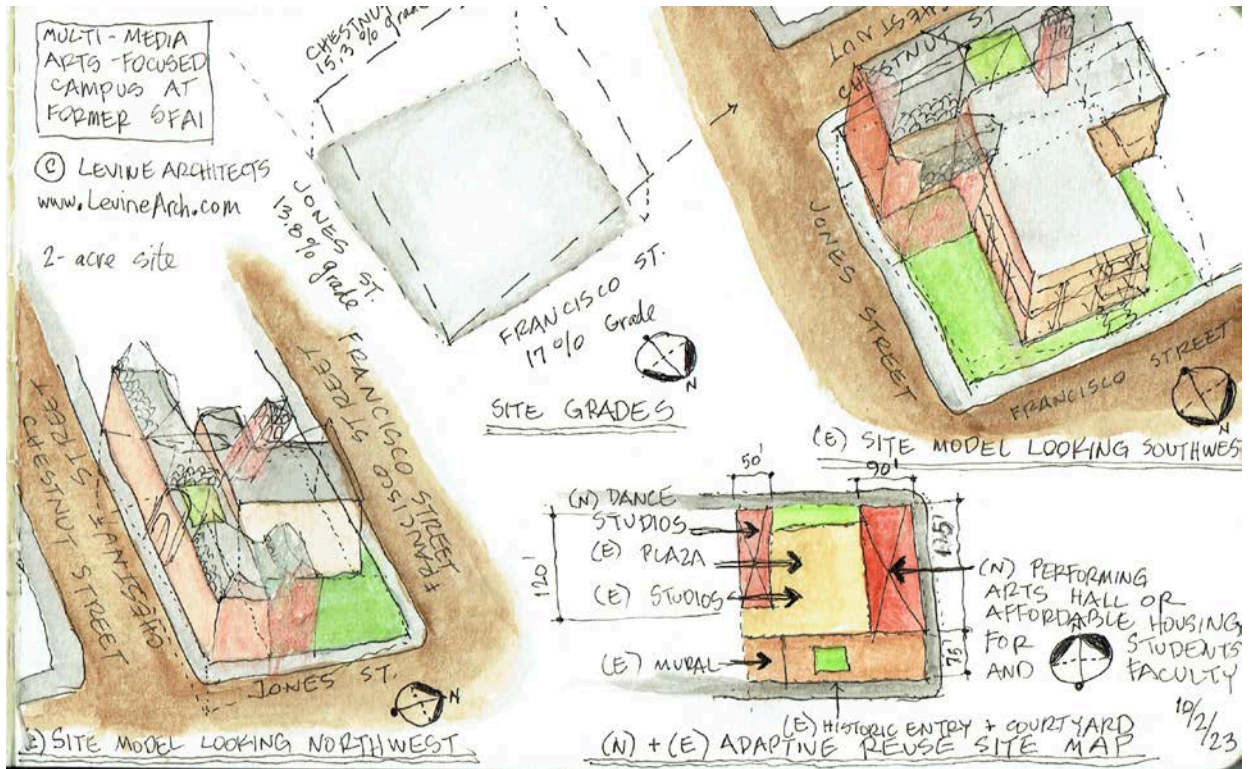
As an architect practicing in San Francisco for over 40 years, and the Land Use chair of my neighborhood organization, I support the Ordinance proposed by Supervisor Peskin to amend the Planning Code to create a Special Use District (SUD) at the site of the former SF Arts Institute. I am in favor of creating a Non-Profit Arts Education SUD to create a Multi- media Arts-Focused campus at this site.



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Protection of the Landmarks portions at the Site

The glorious Diego Rivera fresco (1931) as well as the historic Bakewell Brown campus (1926) entry, courtyard and campanile are Landmark treasures that can and must be protected and maintained at the south side of the site along Chestnut Street. The proposed development and conversion of the campus site can be enlivened while respecting these world-class artistic monuments.



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Scale of Development at the Site

The proposed non-profit mixed-media art school has the potential to achieve 3 major goals:

- 1) Repair years of deferred maintenance at the buildings on site
- 2) Reorganize the interior layout of the warren of industrial ramps and congested studios
- 3) Infill portions of the undeveloped corners at the north side of the site.



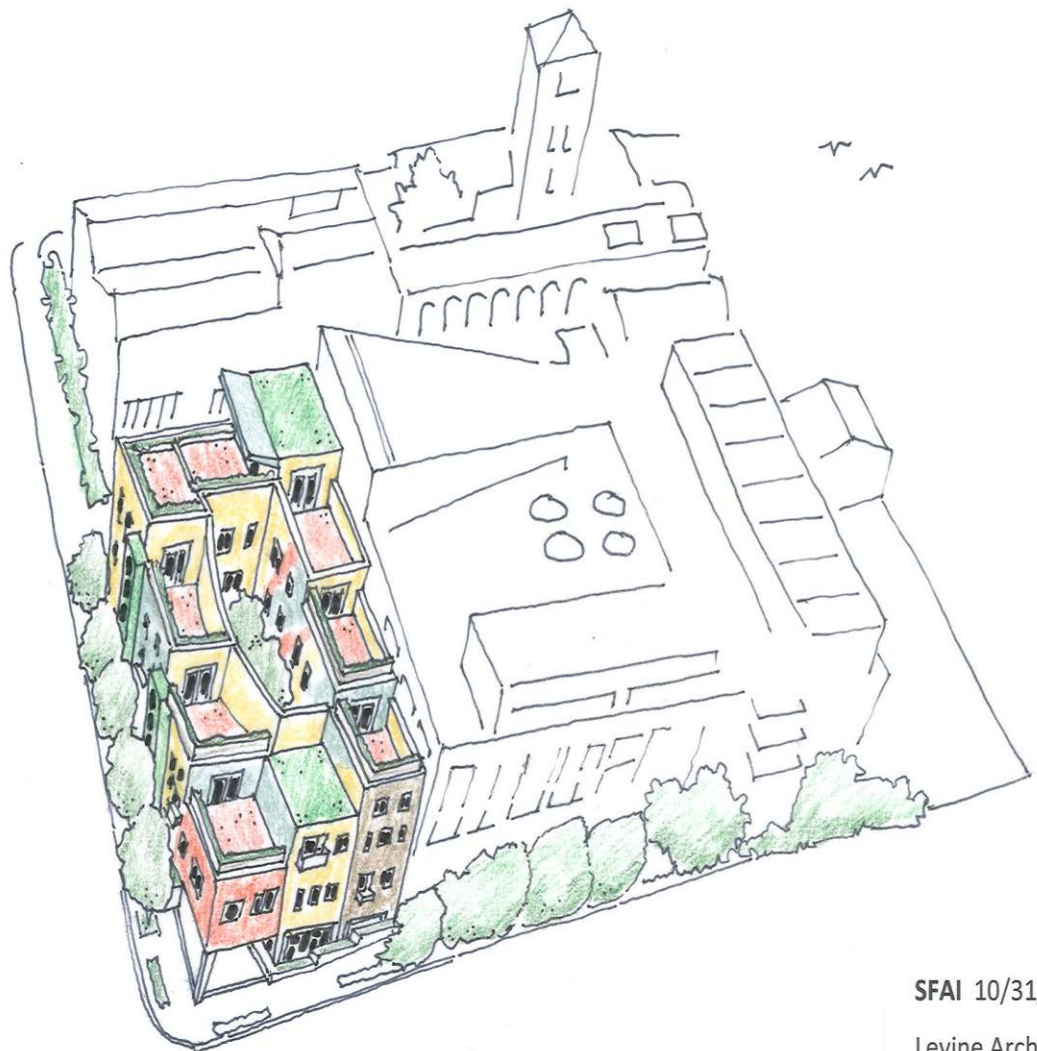
SFAI 10/31/23
Levine Architects

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Suggestions for Use of the undeveloped Corners at the North side of Site

The 2-acre site has the potential to be a thriving campus for students in visual and performing arts. At the northwest corner of the site along Francisco Street (I can imagine but haven't drawn yet) converting the existing loading dock into a practice and performing building for dance and music.

On the other hand, we have started to conceptualize how to develop the empty corner at Jones and Francisco Streets. This steep corner could be designed as affordable housing for students, faculty and communal facilities such as a day-care, bookstore, coffee shop or galleries. This would be a vibrant corner of the campus, contributing to the neighborhood.



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Summary of Support for Amendments to Planning Code and Zoning Map

The proposed investment by the non-profit foundation to create a multi-media arts-focused campus has the opportunity to:

- 1) Protect the landmark artistic heritage at the site
- 2) Create a dynamic campus cultural life
- 3) Become a world-class citadel for art with a fantastic location, adjacent to North Beach with amazing views of the Northern waterfront.

Please approve this Ordinance for the future of Art and the education of Artists in our City.
Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Andy Levine
Architect

Supervisor Myrna Melgar
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

October 30, 2023

Dear Chair Melgar,

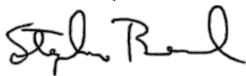
I write this letter of support for President Peskin's legislation Board File No. 230924: Non-Profit Arts Education Special Use District that would allow for a nonaccredited arts educational use at 800 Chestnut the location of the former San Francisco Arts Institute (SFAI).

After the closure of SFAI, SF Conservatory of Music President David Stull, ODC Founder Brenda Way and historic architects Page & Turnbull have spent months working on a newly imagined nonprofit art institution to help fill the hole in fine arts education.

At California College of the Arts (CCA), we are an ambitious art and design school that educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. A reimagined SFAI would help support the ecosystem of arts education in the Bay Area and would serve to mutually support our students, faculty and alumni.

We are so grateful for the overwhelming support for this proposal from the arts community and local leaders and ask for your support of this legislation which would be the first step in allowing for this vision for a new nonprofit arts institution to come to fruition.

Sincerely,



Stephen Beal
President
California College of the Arts