



San Francisco Arts Commission

November 3, 2015

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

Tom DeCaigny  
Director of Cultural Affairs

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City and County of San Francisco

Mark Buell, President  
SF Recreation and Park Commission

Dear President Buell,

Since Coit Tower's re-opening in May 2014, after extensive conservation and renovation efforts conducted by the City, the popularity of the tower and its iconic murals has grown. Arts Commission staff has observed that the condition of the murals, 17 months after the re-opening, to be near pristine despite the increased foot traffic. Staff attributes the excellent condition of the murals to the increased staffing levels employed by the current concessionaire.

For the first time in the Tower's history, staff is on hand to answer questions about the murals through docent tours, greet visitors to the building, provide them with context about the experience as they enter into the sensitive gallery environment, and most importantly enforce mural safety rules such as no touching, leaning or eating within the facility. It is essential for the preservation of the murals that these staffing levels be maintained.

The San Francisco Arts Commission supports the Recreation and Park Department's efforts to negotiate an agreement with the Coit Tower concessionaire to provide adequate staffing. The Arts Commission looks forward to continuing to work with the Recreation and Park Department to ensure protection of the murals so they can be enjoyed by the public for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom DeCaigny  
Director of Cultural Affairs