



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 1002

HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2018

*Project Name:* Establish the African American Arts and Cultural District  
*Case Number:* 2018-015807PCA [Board File No. 181080]  
*Initiated by:* Supervisor Cohen / Introduced November 13, 2018  
Referred to HPC November 19, 2018  
*Staff Contact:* Shelley Caltagirone, Cultural Heritage Specialist  
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*Reviewed by:* Tim Frye, Historic Preservation Officer  
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RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AMEND AN ORDINANCE THAT ESTABLISHES THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT IN THE BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT NEIGHBORHOOD; REQUIRES CITY DEPARTMENTS TO SUBMIT WRITTEN REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE MAYOR DESCRIBING THE CULTURAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE DISTRICT, AND PROPOSING STRATEGIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND PRESERVE THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF THE DISTRICT; AND ESTABLISHES THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE CITY ON THE SAME MATTERS; AND AFFIRMS THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S DETERMINATION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2018, Supervisor Cohen introduced an Ordinance under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File Number 181080, which would establish the African American Arts and Cultural District in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood bounded by Cesar Chavez Street projected through Pier 80 to the north, San Francisco Bay to the east and to the south until Harney Way reaches Highway 101, and Highway 101 to the west; establish a Community Advisory Committee; and require the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor regarding the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board referred the proposed ordinance to the Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") on November 19, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a specially scheduled meeting to consider the Ordinance on November 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Ordinance has been determined to be Categorically Exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act Section 15060(c)(2) and 15378; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff and other interested parties; and

**WHEREAS**, all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

**MOVED**, that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors amend the Ordinance.

The amendments include:

1. Amend Section 107A.2 Required Reports: Require the African American Arts and Cultural District Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide a progress report to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) six (6) months from the date of the Ordinance, thereafter which the Board of Supervisors will set future deadlines for the Mayor's Office and Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to prepare the CHHESS report in consultation with the CAC.
2. Amend Section 107A.2 Required Reports: The CAC will reexamine the Cultural District boundaries after the completion of the CHHESS report and make a recommendation to the BoS regarding the final Cultural District boundaries prior to adoption of the CHHESS.

## **FINDINGS**

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. San Francisco is a place where diverse peoples have come to settle and live. This cultural diversity is integral to the City fabric and is what helps make San Francisco a desirable location for living, working and recreating.
2. Cultural heritage is the expression of a way of living. It is developed by a community through objects, beliefs, traditions, practices, artistic interpretation, and significant places. It manifests itself in tangible and intangible elements passed through generations. Examples of these elements include buildings, plazas, crafts, art, festivals, processions, protests, businesses, and other institutions. Losing any of these elements diminishes a community's cultural integrity. Preserving these elements pose preservation challenges requiring distinct strategies according to each community's needs. Often these involve collaboration with partners in local government.
3. During rapid change impacted ethnic and cultural communities need a clear process for establishing cultural districts that help preserve and enhance the indispensable elements of the City's fabric.
4. Notwithstanding, the Ordinance would benefit from amendment to allow the community more flexibility in establishing report deadlines and modifying district boundaries.
5. The City should plan for adequate City resources to support the CHHESS report development for the African American Arts and Cultural District.

6. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Ordinance and the Commission's recommended modifications are consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

**COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 2**

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A SOUND AND DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE AND FISCAL STRUCTURE FOR THE CITY.

**Policy 2.3**

Maintain a Favorable Social and Cultural Climate in the City in order to Enhance its Attractiveness as a Firm Location

*Creating the Cultural District will help efforts to preserve and enhance the City's remaining ethnic and cultural enclaves. Their preservation and enhancement also serve the City's interest as an abundance of cultural and recreational activities lends San Francisco a comparative advantage over other municipalities.*

**BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT AREA PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 15**

COMBINE SOCIAL REVITALIZATION WITH PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION EFFORTS.

**Policy 15.3**

Make maximum use of indigenous community resources to increase civic pride and support physical and economic revitalization.

*By establishing the Cultural District, the Ordinance allows the Bayview Hunter Points community to develop and realize a district recognizing and preserving the cultural contributions and community institutions of African Americans in southeast San Francisco.*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board AMEND the Ordinance with modifications as described in this Resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 28, 2018.



Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Hyland, Black, Johnck, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Johns, Pearlman, Wolfram

ADOPTED: November 28, 2018

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Jonas Ionin, Director of Commission Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission

FROM:  Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director, Rules Committee

DATE: November 19, 2018

SUBJECT: REFERRAL FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Rules Committee

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following legislation, which is being referred to the Historic Preservation Commission, pursuant to Charter, Section 4.135, for comment and recommendation.

**File No. 181080**

**Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the African American Arts and Cultural District in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood; to require City departments to submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor describing the cultural attributes of the District, and proposing strategies to acknowledge and preserve the cultural legacy of the District; and to establish the African American Arts and Cultural District Community Advisory Committee to advise the City on the same matters; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

Please return this cover sheet with the Commission's response to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: John Rahaim, Director  
Scott Sanchez, Zoning Administrator  
Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer  
AnMarie Rodgers, Legislative Affairs  
Tim Frye, Preservation Coordinator  
Andrea Ruiz-Esquide, Deputy City Attorney  
Joy Navarrete, Major Environmental Analysis  
Georgia Powell, Planning Misc. Permits Routing