

Supervisor Aaron Peskin, chair, Land Use Committee
Supervisor Dean Preston, District 5
Supervisor Norman Yee, District 7

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Preston, and Yee,

We request that the Board of Supervisors initiate the Article 10 landmarking of the ten murals by Bernard Zakheim in Toland Hall, a lecture facility in UC Hall on the UCSF Parnassus campus, which the UCSF administration is currently proposing to demolish along with the building.

We make this request because we are confident those murals meet the standards for landmarking set by the Secretary of the Interior: they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (the New Deal arts programs), they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Bernard Zakheim, Chauncey Leake, and the historical figures depicted in the murals), they represent the work of a master (Zakheim), and they possess high artistic values.

During the 1930s, Zakheim was one of the leading artists in this area who were creating major public art under the auspices of the New Deal arts programs. Zakheim traveled to Mexico in 1929-1930 to meet Diego Rivera and observe his work on public murals. In 1933, he created *Jewish Festival*, a mural at the Jewish Community Center, using the *buon fresco* technique being used by Rivera and others in Mexico. (That mural was later removed and placed in the new Jewish Community Center.) Zakheim then created murals through four different New Deal arts programs:

- *Library*, Coit Tower, 1934
- *Community Spirit and Growth*, Alemany Health Center, 1934
- *Superstitious Medicine and Rational Medicine*, UCSF, 1936
- *History of Medicine in California* (ten murals), UCSF, 1936-1939
- *New and Old Methods of Transportation*, Mineola Post Office, Mineola, Texas, 1938
- *Agriculture and Industry at Rusk*, Rusk Post Office, Rusk, Texas, 1939

Zakheim also created many other works of art.

The ten murals that make up Zakheim's *History of Medicine in California* constitute one of this region's largest New Deal art projects by a single artist. Dr. Robert Sherins, in his history of the Zakheim murals at UCSF, calls the Toland Hall murals "a California historic treasure." Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, the chancellor who commissioned the murals, later described them as "highly accurate" and said they "offer an inspiring stimulus to the best standards and ideals of practice in the health professions." In 2015, Polina Ilieva, UCSF archivist, called them "the jewel of the University's Art Collection."

Dennis Antenore, member, Community Advisory Group to UCSF; former Planning Commissioner

Robert W. Cherny, professor *emeritus* of history at SF State University; author of academic studies of New Deal art; former member, Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board

Jon Golinger, founder, Protect Coit Tower

Bridget Maley, architectural historian; former member and president, Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board

Alan Martinez, former member, Historic Preservation Commission

Robert S. Sherins, MD, author of a history of the Zakheim murals at UCSF

Harvey Smith, president, National New Deal Preservation Association

Members of the Zakheim family:

Nathan Zakheim, art conservator, son of Bernard Zakheim

Ruth Gottstein, daughter of Bernard Zakheim

Adam Gottstein, grandson of Bernard Zakheim)

Leah Royall, granddaughter of Bernard Zakheim

Bethany Stark, granddaughter of Bernard Zakheim