

From: [Judy J](#)
To: [LaValley, Pilar \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Case #2002-006641DES
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:36:10 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello -

I am writing to show my support and whatever it may take to preserve the Gottstein murals at UCSF. Any movement toward their destruction would be a travesty. Thank you for hearing our voice!

Judy Judkins
Pine Grove, CA

From: [CPC-Commissions Secretary](#)
Cc: [Feliciano, Josephine \(CPC\)](#); [LaValley, Pilar \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Issue for Consideration by the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020 8:41:28 AM
Attachments: [image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

Commission Affairs

San Francisco Planning Department

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER AS OF AUGUST 17:

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Direct: 628.652.7600 | www.sfplanning.org

[San Francisco Property Information Map](#)



Due to COVID-19, San Francisco Planning is not providing any in-person services, but we are operating remotely. Our staff are [available by e-mail](#), and the Planning and Historic Preservation Commissions are convening remotely. The public is [encouraged to participate](#). Find more information on our services [here](#).

From: harvey smith <harveysmithberkeley@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:41 PM

To: CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>

Subject: Issue for Consideration by the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To: San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission

From: Harvey Smith, President, National New Deal Preservation Association

Re: Public Art

Dear Commission Members,

I attempted to comment during the August 19, 2020 meeting regarding "The History of Medicine in California" frescoes at UCSF. However, I was defeated by digital technology although I pressed *3 several times. I do endorse the landmark designation of the murals

My comment is now a more general one, but it will provide context to your action on the murals and hopefully future action.

As a resident of Berkeley, I am very familiar with university overreach and lack of concern for issues of concern in the surrounding community. The proposed destruction of public art at UCSF fits this pattern of arrogant and irresponsible disregard for the community.

This also raises some policy issues that need examination. UCSF in its construction at Mission Bay had a robust public art program that was championed by the chancellor. However, the current administration has not prioritized public art in its plans for its new Parnassus Heights buildings. In a multi-billion dollar project, even a small percentage dedicated to public art would provide a plenty of funds for reinstallation of the Zakheim murals and the commissioning of a great deal of public art.

I'm sure you are well aware that San Francisco has a percent for art program, as does other California cities and 23 states. However, California has no statewide mandated percent for art program. This allows UCSF to sidestep the issue of both preservation of its historic art and commitment to developing an art program in its proposed massive project.

I urge the commission to work take action to encourage the development of a statewide percent for art program in public buildings. Urging the Board of Supervisors to work with other cities and its legislative delegation would help to make this issue more visible and hopefully lead to state policy to correct this lack of concern for public art in California.

Here is a link to my book - <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9781467132398/Berkeley-and-the-New-Deal>. Follow the National New Deal Preservation Association and the Living New Deal by signing up to receive occasional updates. [Join LND's Emailing List](#). The latest or previous newsletters are at each website - www.newdeallegacy.org and www.livingnewdeal.org. Join us in pushing for a *New* New Deal!



ROBERT W. CHERNY
PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY
San Francisco State University
Home: 1462 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132
e-mail: cherny@sfsu.edu
Home Tel.: 415/665-2868

August 19, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I hope to take part in your hearing today by calling in, but I am providing this written material in case that doesn't work.

I encourage you to support agenda item 11, the landmarking of Bernard Zakheim's murals at Toland Hall, UCSF. I do so because I am confident that 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, the chancellor who commissioned the murals and appears in one of them, and other 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. During the 1930s, Zakheim created the following public art, all still extant:

- *Jewish Wedding* also called *Jewish Festival*, private commission, Jewish Community Center, San Francisco, 1933, relocated in the new JCC building in 2004.
- *Library*, Coit Tower, San Francisco, 1934. National Register of Historic Places, 07001468; San Francisco Landmark 165.
- *Community Spirit* and *Growth*, two murals, Alemany Emergency Hospital and Health Center, San Francisco, 1934. San Francisco Landmark 272.
- *Ancient Medicine* and *Modern Medicine*, two murals, Cole Hall, UCSF, San Francisco, 1935, relocated to Health Sciences West, 1966.
- *The Story of California Medicine*, ten murals, Toland Hall, UCSF, San Francisco, 1938.
- *The Horse and Buggy Era Gives Way to Modern Transportation*, Post Office, Mineola, Texas, 1938.
- *Agriculture and Industry*, Post Office, Rusk, Texas, 1939.


After completing his last New Deal commissions, Zakheim did a series of paintings of figures from the American Revolution. The Holocaust was enormously influential for Zakheim, and he began creating works depicting Jewish life and the Holocaust, including two major works of public art: *Songs of the Polish Jews* also called *The History of the Jews Through Song* (mural, 1961, near Warsaw, Poland), and *Memorial*

to the Six Million also called *Warsaw Ghetto Memorial* (six sculptures, Mount Sinai Memorial Park, Los Angeles, 1966). Throughout his career, he continued to create oil paintings and watercolors.

Zakheim's murals are also excellent examples of the public art produced by New Deal programs. He included social commentary in several places, something typical of much New Deal art. Bruce Bustard, in his 1997 study of New Deal art programs, specified five themes typical of New Deal art, of which three can be found in the Toland Hall murals: a celebration of ordinary, often working-class, people (including Biddie Mason, a Black woman and former enslaved person); promotion of social change (including a celebration of the first woman to graduate from what became UCSF); and a rediscovery of American history (Zakheim's extensive research is reflected in the murals by scrolls or documents identifying the individuals and events he was depicting).

I hope that I can be present virtually during your meeting to answer any question you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Cherny

From: [Adam Gottstein](#)
To: [LaValley, Pilar \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Regarding the HPC meeting on Aug 19th
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:10:16 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Ms. Lavalley:

My name is Adam Gottstein and I am the grandson of the artist Bernard Zakheim...whose murals are being discussed tomorrow (Case No. 2002-006641DES)

Is there any chance I may be allowed to comment briefly?

Kind thanks,

Adam Gottstein
209 296.7989

From: [Susan Roland](#)
To: [LaValley, Pilar \(CPC\)](#)
Subject: Zackheim murals
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:25:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am not a San Franciscan but am compelled to write my plea to preserve these important and irreplaceable murals. They are an important part of local history and should be preserved.

Thanking the Commission for positive consideration.

Susan Roland
Former Bay Area resident