

From: [SFWPC Info](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Nadia Rahman](#); [Sharon Chung](#)
Subject: Re: [Mayoral Appointment, Historic Preservation Commission] - Christina Dikas]
Date: Friday, April 2, 2021 2:15:39 PM

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Dear Rules Committee Members:

The mission of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee is to engage women in all dimensions of the political process and to increase awareness of women's issues. Christina Dikas has been nominated by Mayor London Breed to serve in the architectural historian seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. The San Francisco Women's Political Committee is wholeheartedly in support of Dikas' nomination.

The field of architecture is a male dominated field with only 17 percent of registered architects being women. Despite the statistics, Christina has built up an impressive resume, currently an associate principal and senior architectural historian in San Francisco. The Historic Preservation Commission, prior to Dikas' nomination, consisted of four men and three women.

This year, with two pending re-appointments to the Historic Preservation Commission, the Mayor chose to move forward with replacing those Commissioners and nominating two women to fill those seats, changing the composition from majority men to majority women. The Mayor's first appointment was Ruchira Nageswaran, who is an immigrant from India, recently approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors. Christina Dikas is her second nomination. Given the imbalance in gender representation in the field of architecture noted above, we feel that these appointments are critical, visionary, and will go a long way in setting a precedent that corrects this imbalance.

Representation, diversity and inclusivity matters. With such a specialized seat, finding the most qualified candidate is a challenge. Christina was recommended by her colleague, Jason Wright, a gay man, who was initially approached for the Commission seat however, after realizing he did not meet the qualifications, he recommended Christina.

The San Francisco Women's Political Committee asks the Board of Supervisors to vote YES to this qualified candidate and support women in leadership.

Sincerely,
San Francisco Women's Political Committee Board

From: [Shayne Watson](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Hepner, Lee \(BOS\)](#); [Bintliff, Jacob \(BOS\)](#); terry@glbthistory.org
Subject: Rules Committee: Mayoral Appointment, Historic Preservation Commission - Christina Dikas
Date: Saturday, April 3, 2021 7:49:06 AM

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

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman, and Chan:

I am writing in regards to the upcoming Rules Committee hearing to consider the appointment of architectural historian Christina Dikas to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Dikas is an exceedingly talented architectural historian and more than qualified for this position. That said, I remain concerned over the loss of LGBTQ representation on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Representation remains crucial to the well-being of San Francisco's LGBTQ communities. The *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco* was adopted in 2015 by a Historic Preservation Commission that included three members of San Francisco's LGBTQ communities: Andrew Wolfram, Aaron Hyland, and Jonathan Pearlman. With San Francisco's LGBTQ population hovering around 12%, lack of representation on the Historic Preservation Commission could be detrimental to our progress as an underrepresented minority community.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shayne Watson
Architectural Historian
Watson Heritage Consulting



Re: Rules Committee Agenda Item 4 - The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Opposes the Appointment of Christina Dikas to the Historic Preservation Committee

Mayor Breed and Rules Committee Chair Peskin, Vice Chair Mandelman and Supervisor Chan:

The Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club Political Action Committee opposes the appointment of Christina Dikas to the San Francisco Historic Preservation Committee, Item 4 on the April 4, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda.

On a body whose work frequently calls for the lived experience and historical reference points of the LGBTQ community, Ms. Dikas would be the fourth straight appointee to the Historic Preservation Committee following the departure of its two sole LGBTQ representatives.

The editorial board of the Bay Area Reporter recently wrote that “the lack of LGBTQ representation on the Historic Preservation Commission comes as numerous queer historic issues are expected to go before the advisory panel in the coming months, from landmarking of LGBTQ historical sites to designating queer-owned legacy businesses.”¹ We agree.

In light of the important role the Commission plays in recognizing and memorializing our community’s history, having no LGBTQ representation on this body is unacceptable. As the organization tasked with upholding the political legacy of the first openly gay person elected to public office in California, it is our responsibility to call out politicians who claim to be our allies, marching alongside us in corporate sponsored Pride parades, only to deny us a seat at the table.

In the same breadth, we emphasize that LGBTQ representation is not enough if that LGBTQ representative has not demonstrated a commitment to the work of elevating the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco.² There are no shortage of LGBTQ historians in San Francisco with the expertise, qualification and availability to serve in this capacity, and we urge you to appoint someone to this seat who will honor the City’s investment in the preservation of queer space and queer heritage in San Francisco. We would be happy to work with you to identify appropriate candidates for this position.

It is disappointing that we have to write this letter, and it is disappointing that the Mayor has yet to rescind this nomination a month after the only LGBTQ member of the Board of Supervisors called on her to do so.³ We call on the Mayor to rescind their nomination of Ms. Dikas before the Board of Supervisors is called upon to reject that nomination.

Sincerely,

The Political Action Committee & Executive Board of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

¹ <https://www.ebar.com/news/news//302842>

² <https://sfplanning.org/project/lgbtq-historic-context-statement#about>

³ https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news//302664