

President, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

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PRESIDENT MANDELMAN'S DISTRICT 8 LANDMARKING PACKAGE PASSES THE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

This batch of buildings included effects the most significant expansion of LGBTQ+ landmarks in San Francisco history

At yesterday's October 6th meeting of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, resolutions designating 16 new historic landmarks in San Francisco's District 8 passed out of committee with a positive recommendation. Seven of these sites represent significant places in San Francisco's LGBTQ+ history. The legislation will go before the full Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, October 21st.

"As the City considers the most significant upzoning in decades and otherwise works to meet the State's mandate of 82,000 new housing units, it is all the more important that we quickly identify and protect our most important historic resources," said **Board President Rafael Mandelman**. "As the Supervisor for many of the neighborhoods Harvey Milk represented, I am especially committed to making sure that we appropriately recognize and safeguard those buildings that tell the story of San Francisco's queer community."

This work builds on the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission's 2016 adoption of the *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, which established frameworks for identifying and evaluating sites tied to the city's rich and diverse LGBTQ+ heritage.

"Landmarks are more than architecture," said **Woody LaBounty from San Francisco Heritage**. "They embody events and people important to our shared history. San Francisco is home to some of the most significant LGBTQ+ sites in the world and it is exciting to be recognizing a few with this group."

Maud's - 929-941 Cole Street

One of the earliest and longest-running lesbian bars in San Francisco, Maud's opened in the 1960s by LGBTQ businesswoman and activist Rikki Streicher, and became an essential gathering place for lesbian women. Maud's remained open until 1989, far outliving many of the other Haight-Ashbury LGBTQ businesses contemporary to this time period.

Sha'ar Zahav - 220 Danvers Street

Sha'ar Zahav represents the original home of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, one of the first LGBTQ Jewish groups on the West Coast. The congregation has since moved to the corner of Dolores and 16th streets to support its every-growing community.

San Francisco AIDS Foundation - 514-520 Castro Street

This site was and still remains, one of the central operational hubs in San Francisco's response to the AIDS epidemic. Founded in 1982 by Dr. Marcus Conant and activist Cleve Jones, the organization gained national recognition for its AIDS expertise and also informed the nation's first safe sex guidelines for gay men.

Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex - Diamond Street

Most Holy Redeemer's complex includes the historic *Coming Home Hospice*, the first AIDS hospice in the nation, founded to care compassionately for people dying of AIDS when hospitals often turned them away. The church's outreach during the crisis bridged spiritual care and public health, offering dignity to those suffering from stigma and illness.

Castro Rocks Steam Baths - 578-582 Castro Street

The Castro Rock Steam Baths became an exclusively gay bathhouse in the 1970's amidst the backdrop of the Castro neighborhood initially establishing itself as an internationally recognized LGBTQ+ enclave. Bath houses played an important role in LGBTQ community development in San Francisco as relatively safe and quiet places for queer men to meet. The bathhouse was forced to close in the 1980's at the onset of the AIDS epidemic.

Bob Ross House - 4200 20th Street

The Bob Ross was the longtime home of Bob Ross, co-founder of the *Bay Area Reporter*, one of the nation's first and most influential LGBTQ newspapers. An organizer and political strategist, Ross also co-founded the Tavern Guild, which raised funds and built early political power for pro-gay politicians. He was instrumental in the election of Supervisor Harvey Milk and was one of the four people Milk named on his short list of successors should anything happen to him. Beyond politics, Ross helped found the LGBTQ mental health organization *Operation Concern* and served on the board of the *Gay Games*.

Full Moon Coffee House - 4416 18th Street

Full Moon Coffee House was owned by a group of lesbians and is credited as the first women-only establishment in San Francisco. The coffeehouse was run by a collective using vocational skills learned from the Women's Skills Center located on Waller Street. The Coffeehouse hosted poetry readings and musical performances, serving as an important social center for San Francisco's lesbian community.

The remaining nine landmarks in the package highlight important architectural, religious, and civic heritage — complementing the queer sites to present a fuller vision of District 8's history.

Along with passing the Land Use and Transportation Committee, all 16 possible landmarks will go before the full Board of Supervisors for approval before being referred to the Historic Preservation Commission.

The full list of proposed historic landmarks is below:

- Maud's - 929-941 Cole Street
- St. Paul's Church - 929-941 Cole Street
- St. Nicholas Cathedral - 2005 15th Street
- St Matthew's Church - 3281 16th Street
- Sha'ar Zahav - 220 Danvers Street
- 102 Guerrero Street
- San Francisco AIDS Foundation - 514-520 Castro Street
- Most Holy Redeemer Church Complex - 110, 100, 115, and 117 Diamond Street
- Full Moon Coffee House - 4416 18th Street
- Firehouse : Hose Company No. 30 - 1757 Waller Street
- Engine Company No. 13 - 1458 Valencia Street
- Chautauqua House - 1451 Masonic Avenue
- Castro Rock Steam Baths - 578-582 Castro Street
- Bob Ross House - 4200 20th Street
- Bank of Italy Branch Building - 400-410 Castro Street
- 361 San Jose Avenue

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