

**From:** [Wang, Villy \(ECN\)](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Importance of Keeping the San Francisco Film Commission Intact  
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Dear Members of the Streamlining Task Force,

As President of the San Francisco Film Commission, first appointed by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom in July 2010 and elected President in 2016, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role this body plays in guiding, supporting, and promoting film and media production in San Francisco. My comments are not about maintaining any personal role, but about ensuring the Commission itself—and the vital work it does—remains intact during the commission streamlining process.

### **Key Reasons to Retain the Film Commission**

- **Strategic Industry Leadership:** The Commission provides guidance and advocacy for film and media productions, cultivates workforce development, and strengthens the city's creative economy. Importantly, San Francisco's film and media Industry includes post-production, sound design, and production for web and social channels, and attracts leading companies, such as Dolby, Lucas, Film, and ILM, highlighting the City's role as a hub for innovation in creative tech technologies.
- **Economic and Cultural Impact:** For decades, film, media production and related tech innovations have been part of San Francisco's cultural identity and economic strength. Productions support hundreds of local jobs—from set designers and camera crews to caterers, hotel workers, and small business owners. In 2024 alone, film generated over \$17.5 million in direct economic activity, investment that helps drive the city's recovery and demonstrates the continued potential for growth.
- **Strength of Current Commission:** Our 11 commissioners collectively bring an estimated 120–150 years of professional experience across film, television, labor unions (I.A.T.S.E., Teamsters), media technology, nonprofit arts leadership, corporate partnerships, communications, law, and journalism. We represent essential stakeholder groups, including industry professionals, workers, community organizations, and cultural leaders.
- **Community Trust and Momentum:** The Commission has built strong relationships with the film and creative community and fostered partnerships that support both large-scale productions and independent artists. Eliminating or merging the Commission risks losing trust and the momentum of economic and cultural impact we have cultivated.
- **Departmental Integration Support:** With the City exploring a merger of FilmSF, the Arts Commission, and Grants for the Arts, the San Francisco Film Commission must remain independent to ensure that film retains a dedicated voice in the broader cultural framework, and can continue to advise and support this important departmental level integration process.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Streamlining Commission to preserve the San Francisco Film Commission as a dedicated, independent body. Its proven impact, the collective expertise of its Commissioners, and the trust it holds within the film community

are assets too valuable to lose.

Thank you for your efforts and for your consideration.

With appreciation and gratitude,

Villy Wang

President

San Francisco Film Commission