

September 30, 2025

Task Force on Commissions San Francisco City Hall

RE: Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Members of the Task Force on Commissions:

I am writing in support of maintaining the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) as a decision-making body. The HPC replaced the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) following the successful passage of Proposition J by the residents of San Francisco in 2008.

Since then, the HPC has been composed of qualified professionals with expertise on the history, culture, and architecture of San Francisco and preservation regulations and policy. It has streamlined the review of historic resources and preservation projects for nearly two decades. It meets the criteria of the National Park Service's Certified Local Government (CLG) program, thus allowing the San Francisco Planning Department to successfully apply for CLG-funded grants.

As an architectural historian with over twenty years of experience in San Francisco, I have successfully nominated properties as San Francisco Landmarks and in the National Register of Historic Places, and I have completed numerous Historic Resource Evaluations (HREs) on a wide array of property types. I have presented my findings and recommendations for historic status before the HPC many times, and I have found the discourse with the commissioners to be thoughtful, fair, and nuanced. I have the upmost respect for my colleagues who have sat on or are currently seated on the HPC.

Please follow the will of the voters and maintain the HPC as a decision-making body.

Regards,

Erica Schultz

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Principal and owner of Forget Me Not History Volunteer on the 2008 Proposition J campaign