

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: July 28, 2025

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO

Application No.: LBR-2024-25-065

Business Name: American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

Business Address: 140 Sutter St. District: District 3

Applicant: Stacy Williams, Executive Director

Nomination Date: June 17, 2025

Nominated By: Supervisor Danny Sauter

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco (AIASF) is a resource for architects, building professionals, and community members. The American Institute of Architects is a nationwide organization that provides education, networking, government advocacy, public advocacy, and collaboration with other stakeholders in design and construction industries. This application is for San Francisco's chapter, as this organization has satellite locations throughout the country. AIASF strives to improve quality of life in the Bay Area for all by promoting quality architecture and design which creates spaces which serve its communities. They further this goal through community involvement, education, advocacy, public outreach, and professional excellence for architects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

AIASF's history begins with its earlier chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), founded in 1857. In May of 1881, they established the San Francisco chapter. The official AIA headquarters is located in Washington, D.C. and advocates for legislation and policies that impact on the profession and the built environment. This includes design standards, urban planning, and historic preservation issues. Not only that, but the AIA has 205 chapters nationwide, playing a crucial role in advancing the architectural profession, shaping the built environment, and advocating for design excellence and public welfare.

Throughout the years, AIASF has occupied multiple locations in San Francisco and has had multiple changes in directors. Since 1988, the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects has been housed in the singularly appropriate location: Willis Polk's Hallidie Building, a seven-story landmark in the city's Financial District that dates to 1918 and features one of the nation's first curtain walls. But the office was tucked upstairs, removed from the daily life of the city below. Now that has changed, and in an aspirational way.

The chapter's new home is a 10,000-square foot ground-floor space in the same building, a transformation of a longtime clothing shop into a combination office, gallery, and event space that aims to connect with a much wider public than architects and design buffs. The move from the upstairs office (130 Sutter Street, Suite 600) to the ground floor space (the Center for Architecture + Design at 140 Sutter Street) occurred in 2023, with its current director being Anton Foss.

CRITERION 1

Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Legacy Business Program Office of Small Business





Yes, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

Unknown from 1881 to 1898 (17 years) 408 California St., Room 17 from 1898 to 1906 (8 years) 787 Market St. from 1907 to 1910 (3 years) 451 Montgomery St. in 1911 (1 year) Unknown in 1912 (1 year) 110 Lick Building in 1913 (1 year) Unknown from 1914 to 1915 (2 years) 233 Post St. in 1916 (1 year) Unknown from 1916 to 1920 (4 years) 77 O'Farrell St. from 1920 to 1925 (5 years) 523 Pine St. from 1926 to 1927 (2 years) 525 Market St. from 1927 to Unknown (1-12 years) 369 Pine St. from 1939 to 1951 (12 years) Unknown from 1951 to 1958 (7 years) 47 Kearny St. from 1958 to 1963 (5 years) 254 Sutter St. from 1966 to 1977 (11 years) 790 Market St. from 1977 to 1988 (11 years) 130 Sutter St., Suite 600 from 1988 to 2023 (35 years)

140 Sutter St. from 2023 to Present (2 years)

CRITERION 2

Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco has contributed to the history and identity of the Financial District neighborhood and San Francisco.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- The business is associated with art and architecture, an important aspect of San Francisco's identity.
- The American Institute of Architecture occupies the Hallidie Building designed by Willis
 Polk and completed in 1918. The site is listed as local Landmark No. 37 and is an Article 11
 Category I Significant Building, No Alterations. This building is listed in the California/
 National Register as individually as the Hallidie Building.

The Hallidie Building was one of the first buildings to be made of glass and was the first building in San Francisco to be constructed with a curtainwall. This building has made a crucial impact in architectural history.

In the early years of AIASF, they focused on establishing a professional community for architects in San Francisco, promoting architectural standards, and advocating for quality in the built environment. In 1906, AIASF played a crucial role in the city's rebuilding efforts following the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire by contributing to the design and construction of resilient buildings.

In the Post-War Era, AIASF expanded its membership and influence, reflecting the growing importance of architecture in the booming post-war economy. Notably following, AIASF was established with the California Secretary of State on August 2, 1955. Soon, the AIASF became increasingly active in advocating urban planning, sustainable design, and historic preservation, including removing the Embarcadero Freeway after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Legacy Business Program





- There have been several features and articles on The AIA including the following:
 - San Francisco Magazine showcased the 2024 AIA Design Awards in an article published on June 25, 2024.
 - The Architect's Newspaper published an article, "San Francisco's AIA chapter opens its Center for Architecture + Design" on September 8, 2023.
 - ➤ The San Francisco Chronicle wrote an article, "S.F.'s FiDi is getting a storefront architecture center can it help revive the neighborhood?" on September 7, 2023, overviewing the impact of the addition of the building.
 - ➤ The Architectural Record published an article titled "AIA San Francisco Moves Downstairs in the Historic Hallidie Building for a Major Office Upgrade Architectural Record" on September 1, 2023, highlighting the new, grander building that houses the AIA.

CRITERION 3

Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes, American Institute of Architects, San Francisco is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that American Institute of Architects, San Francisco qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Architectural education and community engagement.
- Promotion of architecture and design.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

Services for architects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include American Institute of Architects, San Francisco currently located at 140 Sutter St. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program





Small Business Commission

Resolution No. ________
July 28, 2025

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO

Application No.: LBR-2024-25-065

Business Name: American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

Business Address: 140 Sutter St. District: District 3

Applicant: Stacy Williams, Executive Director

Nomination Date: June 17, 2025

Nominated By: Supervisor Danny Sauter

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for American Institute of Architects, San Francisco, currently located at 140 Sutter St.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included on the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on July 28, 2025, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission hereby includes American Institute of Architects, San Francisco in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Legacy Business Program Office of Small Rusiness





BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at American Institute of Architects, San Francisco.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Architectural education and community engagement.
- Promotion of architecture and design.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain American Institute of Architects, San Francisco on the Legacy Business Registry:

•	Services for architects.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on July 28, 2025.

Katy Land
Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO.

Ayes -

Nays -

Abstained -

Absent -

Legacy Business Program





Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2024-25-065

Business Name: American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

Business Address: 140 Sutter St. District: District 3

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

Legacy Business Program

Applicant: Stacy Williams, Executive Director

Nomination Date: Nominated By:	June 17, 2025 Supervisor Danny Saut	er	
	olicant has operated in S	an Francisco for 30 or more	e years, with
Unknown from 1881 to 408 California St., Room 787 Market St. from 190 451 Montgomery St. in Unknown in 1912 (1 yea 110 Lick Building in 191 Unknown from 1914 to 233 Post St. in 1916 (1 yunknown from 1916 to 77 O'Farrell St. from 1926 525 Market St. from 1926 525 Market St. from 1939 Unknown from 1951 to 47 Kearny St. from 1958 254 Sutter St. from 1967 790 Market St. from 1967 130 Sutter St., Suite 600 140 Sutter St. from 2020	1898 (17 years) 17 from 1898 to 1906 17 to 1910 (3 years) 1911 (1 year) 3 (1 year) 1915 (2 years) 1920 (4 years) 20 to 1925 (5 years) to 1927 (2 years) 27 to Unknown (1-12 years) 1958 (7 years) 3 to 1963 (5 years) 5 to 1977 (11 years) 77 to 1988 (11 years) 10 from 1988 to 2023 (35	ars)	
CRITERION 2: Has the appridentity of a particular new X Yes		e neighborhood's history and hity?	d/or the
CRITERION 3: Is the applied that define the businessYes		aining the physical features /, or art forms?	or traditions
NOTES: NA			
DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: Ju	ne 18. 2025		

Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors District 3



City and County of San Francisco

DANNY SAUTER

June 17, 2025

Director Katy Tang San Francisco Office of Small Business City Hall, Room 110 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Tang,

I am honored to nominate the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter (AIASF) for inclusion in the Legacy Business Registry. AIASF has been a key resource for architects, building professionals, and all San Francisco community members since its establishment in 1881 as one of the earliest chapters of the American Institute of Architects. It has been located in the historic Hallidie Building for the last 37 years.

In addition to promoting the architectural industry's engagement with the broader community in San Francisco, AIASF provides valuable opportunities for architects to advocate for policies that impact our city's built environment. Their work has contributed to the improvement in San Franciscans' quality of life through professional development and the design of more sustainable communities. Most recently, AIASF opened the Center for Architecture + Design in downtown San Francisco to expand their innovative architectural and design activities for the community to enjoy.

For decades, AIASF has been an important part of our city's work to build and maintain our beautiful skyline. I strongly believe that AIASF is worthy of being designated a Legacy Business. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Danny Sauter



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information													
American Institute of Architects, San Francisco													
Business owner i													
Identify the perso	on(s) with t	the high	est ownersl	nip stake in	the bu	siness	5						
Current business	address:	140 Su	itter St., Sa	n Franciso	co, CA	9410	4						
Telephone: (4:	15) 874	- 26	20	Ema	il:								
Mailing address	(if differen	it than a	bove):										
Website: www.	.aiasf.org												
Facebook: WW	w.facebo	ook.co	m/aiasar	nfrancisco)	C	Other:	www.i	instagr	am.co	m/aia	asf	
7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 4 4 6 0 4 0													
Do any of these describe your business? (select all that apply) Requires at least 51% of the business be owned, operated, and controlled by the business designation below.													
	☐ Immigrant-Owned Business ☐ Owned by Person with a Disability												
☐ LGBTQ+-Owned Business ☐ Minority-Owned Business*			×	✓ Veteran-Owned Business✓ Woman-Owned Business									
*Minority is defined as one or more of the following racial or ethnic groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander													
Contact Person Information													
Contact person n	name: Sta	acy Will	iams										
Contact person t	itle: Exe	cutive [Director										
Contact telephor	ne: ()	-		Cont	act er	mail:						

Business Location(s)

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business.

If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address.

Date	Address	Zip Code
1881 to 1898:	Unknown	Unknown
1898 to 1906:	408 California St., Room 17	94104
1907 to 1910:	787 Market St.	94102
1911:	451 Montgomery St.	94111
1912:	Unknown	Unknown
1913:	110 Lick Building	Unknown
1914 to 1915:	Unknown	Unknown
1916:	233 Post St.	94108
1916 to 1920:	Unknown	Unknown
1920 to 1925:	77 O'Farrell St.	94108
1926 to 1927:	523 Pine St.	94108
1927 to Unknown:	525 Market St.	94105
1939 to 1951:	369 Pine St.	94104
1958 to 1963:	47 Kearny St.	94108
1966 to 1977:	254 Sutter St.	94108
1977 to 1988:	790 Market St.	94102
1988 to 2023:	130 Sutter St., Suite 600	94104
2023 to Present:	140 Sutter St.	94104

Applicant Disclosures

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

×	I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.								
\times	I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.								
×	I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.								
X	I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.								
×	I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.								
×	I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.								
	I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.								
Name:	Stacy Williams								
Signatu	re: Stacy Williams	Date:	05/16/2024						

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

a. Describe the business. What does it sell or provide?

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco is a resource for architects, building professionals, and community members. AIASF strives to improve the quality of life in the Bay Area by promoting architecture and design. They further this goal through community involvement, education, advocacy, public outreach, and professional excellence.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco is a resource for architects, building professionals, and the greater community in San Francisco and Marin counties.

c. In about 2-5 words (15-30 characters), describe what the business is known for.

Architecture, design, sustainability, community.

CRITERION 1: The business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years

a. Provide a short history of the business, including locations and owners.

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco (AIASF) was established in May1881. It was one of the earliest chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), founded in 1857.

The AIA is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and advocates for legislation and policies that impact the profession and the built environment, including design standards, urban planning, and historic preservation issues.

The AIA has 205 chapters, the largest in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Throughout its history, the AIA and its chapters have played a crucial role in advancing the architectural profession, shaping the built environment, and advocating for design excellence and public welfare.

Following are some key historical dates with regard to the San Francisco chapter:¹

- Founded May 1881 as the Pacific Coast Association of Architects
- Reorganized as the San Francisco Chapter, May 1882
- Renamed Northern California Chapter, February 1927
- Incorporated August 4, 1955
- Renamed The American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter, March 17, 1981

Over the years, AIA San Francisco has occupied multiple locations in San Francisco.

• 1881 to 1898: Unknown

• 1898 to 1906: 408 California St., Room 17 (confirmed through 1901, but assuming

it was 1906, when it was likely destroyed in the earthquake and fire)

• 1907 to 1910: 787 Market St. (Union Trust Building at Montgomery and Market

streets, which only lost its interior woodwork in the 1906 earthquake

and fire. As soon as workers put in the lumber, it was ready for

occupancy.²)

1911: 451 Montgomery St.

• 1912: Unknown

• 1913: 110 Lick Building

1914 to 1915: Unknown
 1916: 233 Post St.
 1916 to 1920: Unknown

1920 to 1925: 77 O'Farrell St.
1926 to 1927: 523 Pine St.
1927 to Unknown: 525 Market St.

• 1939 to 1951: 369 Pine St. (Secretary's Address, but also "Chapter Headquarters")

1951 to 1958: Unknown
1958 to 1963: 47 Kearny St.
1966 to 1977: 254 Sutter St.
1977 to 1988: 790 Market St.

• 1988 to 2023: 130 Sutter St., Suite 600

• 2023 to Present: 140 Sutter St.

"Since 1988, the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects has been housed in a singularly appropriate location: Willis Polk's Hallidie Building, a seven-story landmark in the city's Financial District that dates back to 1918 and features one of the nation's first curtain walls. But the office was tucked upstairs, removed from the daily life of the city below. Now that has changed, and in an aspirational way. The chapter's new home is a 10,000-square-foot ground-floor space in the same building, a transformation of a longtime clothing shop into a combination office, gallery, and

¹ "Centennial Directory," American Institute of Architects, San Francisco Chapter, 1982

² "San Francisco's Horror of Earthquake and Fire, https://oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb9w10100m&&doc.view=entire_text

event space that aims to connect with a much wider public than architects and design buffs."3 The move from the upstairs office (130 Sutter Street, Suite 600) to the ground floor space (the Center for Architecture + Design at 140 Sutter Street) occurred in 2023.

b. Provide the ownership history of the business in a consolidated year-to-year format.

Following is a list of all the Executive Directors/CEOs of the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco since 1964 and all of the Chapter Presidents since 1882. (FAIA is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fellow of the American Institute of Architects/)

Chapter Executive Directors/CEOs:

1964 to 1989: Marie Farrell, Hon. AIA

1989 to 1999: Robert Jacovitz 1999 to 2002: Lisa Sullivan

Margie O'Driscoll, Hon. AIA 2002 to 2014:

2014 to 2019: Jennifer Jones 2019 to Current: Stacy Williams

Chapter Presidents:

1882: John Wright, AIA 1883: Henry C. Macy, AIA 1884 to 1889: Augustus Lover, AIA 1890: Seth Bobson, FAIA

1891 to 1895: George H. Sanders, FAIA

1896 to 1903: Seth Babson, FAIA 1904 to 1906: H.A. Schulze, AIA 1907 to 1909: Alfred Pissis, AIA 1910: William Curlett, FAIA 1911: William Mooser II, FAIA 1912: John Golen Howard, FAIA 1913 to 1914: George B. McDougall, AIA 1915 to 1916: William B. Faville, FAIA 1917: Edgar A. Matthews, AIA 1918: John Bakewell, Jr., FAIA 1919 to 1920: Sylvain Schnaittacher, AIA 1921 to 1922: George A. Applegarth, AIA 1923: George W. Kelham, AIA 1924 to 1925: J.S. Fairweather, AIA 1926 to 1927:

John Reid, Jr., AIA

³ "AIA San Francisco Moves Downstairs in the Historic Hallidie Building for a Major Office Upgrade," by John King, Architectural Record, https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/16462-aia-san-francisco-moves-downstairs-in-thehistoric-hallidie-building-for-a-major-office-upgrade

1928 to 1929:	Harris C. Allen, FAIA
1930:	Frederick Meyer, FAIA
1931 to 1932:	Henry H. Gutterson, AIA
1933:	John J. Donovan, AIA
1934 to 1935:	Albert J. Evers, FAIA
1936 to 1937:	Will F. Corlett, AIA
1938:	Warren C. Perry, FAIA
1939 to 1940:	James H. Mitchell, FAIA
10/11 to 10/12:	A Apploton AIA

1941 to 1942: A. Appleton, AIA

1943 to 1945: Eldridge T. Spencer, FAIA 1945 to 1946: Andrew T. Hass, FAIA 1946 to 1947: Hervey P. Clark, FAIA

1948: Wm. Clement Ambrose, AIA

1950 to 1951: Ralph Pollack, AIA
1951 to 1952: Francis McCarthy, FAIA
1952 to 1953: Albert Williams, AIA
1953 to 1954: Donn Emmons, FAIA
1954 to 1955: Wendell Spackman, AIA
1955 to 1956: Wayne Hertzka, FAIA

1956 to 1957: William Stephen Allen, FAIA

1957 to 1958: William Corlett, AIA
1959 to 1960: Richard Banwell, FAIA
1961: George Rockrise, FAIA
1962: Cabell Gwathmey, FAIA

1963: Alton Lee, AIA

1964: Eugene E. Crawford, FAIA 1965: Burton Rockwell, FAIA 1966: Robert B. Marquis, FAIA 1967: William Watson, AIA 1968: Henrik Bull, FAIA 1969: George A. Agron, FAIA 1970: Karl E. Treffinger, FAIA 1971: Elmer Botsai, FAIA

1972: William B. McCormick, FAIA 1973: Howard H. Friedman, FAIA 1974: John Russell Levikow, FAIA 1975: Allen F. Rosenberg, AIA 1976: John O. Merrill, FAIA 1977: Darryl T. Roberson, FAIA Donald E. Wudtke, FAIA 1978: 1980: Jon Peter Winkelstein, FAIA 1981: Peter H. Dodge, FAIA

1982: Ronald G. Brocchini, FAIA 1983: Robert H. Hersey, AIA

1984:	Charles F. Schrader, FAIA
1985:	Christopher W. Raker, AIA
1986:	Donald W. Kennedy, FAIA
1987:	Michael J. Stanton, FAIA
1988:	Richard E. Walson, AIA
1989:	Charles N. Eley, Jr., FAIA
1990:	Alexander C. Bonutti, AIA
1991:	Gordon H. Chong, FAIA
1992:	Bobbie Sue Hood, FAIA
2000:	Bryant Rice, AIA
2001:	Gene Schnair, FAIA
2002:	Jeffrey Heller, FAIA
2003:	Beverly Prior, FAIA
2004:	Charles A. Higueras, FAIA
2005:	J. Paul Bohn, AIA
2006:	Anne Laird-Blanton, AIA
2007:	Zigmund Rubel, FAIA
2008:	Jennifer Devlin, FAIA
2009:	Don Rudy, AIA
2010:	William Roger, FAIA
2011:	Michael Bade, FAIA
2012:	Carolyn Kiernat, AIA
2013:	John Kouletsis, AIA
2014:	Marianne O'Brien, FAIA
2015:	Irving Gonzales, AIA
2016:	Aaron Jon Hyland, FAIA
2017:	Paul Cooper, AIA
2018:	Rosa Sheng, FAIA
2019:	Stan Lew, AIA
2020:	Adrianne Steichen, AIA
2021:	Jessica Lane, AIA
2022:	Paul Adamson, FAIA
2023:	Daniel Perez, AIA
2024:	Francesca Oliveira, FAIA
2025:	Anton Foss, AIA

c. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for any significant length of time.

AIASF has not ceased operations in San Francisco since it was established.

CRITERION 2: The business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community

a. Describe the business' contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community, business sector, or San Francisco as a whole.

Since its establishment in the 1880s, AIASF has grown from a small professional group to a significant force in the architectural community. It influences the development of San Francisco's built environment and contributes to professional advancement.

Key Contributions and Ongoing Efforts

- Professional Development: Throughout its history, AIASF has consistently provided resources for the professional development of its members, including continuing education, networking opportunities, and access to industry knowledge.
- **Advocacy and Policy**: The chapter has been a vocal advocate for policies that support high-quality architectural practices, sustainable development, and urban planning.
- **Community Outreach**: AIASF has worked to bridge the gap between architects and the public, fostering a greater appreciation for architecture's role in society.

b. Is the business associated with significant people or events, either now or in the past?

AIASF is associated with many major event and historical movements in San Francisco. Following is a general history of the San Francisco chapter.

1880s – 1940s: Foundation and Early Growth

- **Early Years**: AIASF focused on establishing a professional community for architects in San Francisco, promoting architectural standards, and advocating for quality in the built environment.
- **1906 Earthquake**: AIASF played a crucial role in the city's rebuilding efforts following the devastating earthquake and fire, contributing to the design and construction of resilient buildings.

1950s – 1980s: Expansion and Increased Influence

- Post-War Era: AIASF expanded its membership and influence, reflecting the growing importance
 of architecture in the booming post-war economy.
- California Secretary of State: AIASF was established with the California Secretary of State on August 2, 1955.

- **Educational Programs**: The chapter began to offer more structured educational programs and professional development opportunities for architects.
- Advocacy: AIASF became increasingly active in advocating for urban planning, sustainable design, and historic preservation, including removing the Embarcadero Freeway after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

<u>1990s – 2010s: Technological Advancements and Public Engagement</u>

- **Technological Integration**: The chapter embraced new technologies, incorporating them into architectural practices and educational offerings.
- **Public Programs**: AIASF enhanced its public engagement through exhibitions, lectures, and events to raise awareness about architecture and design among the public.
- **Sustainability**: The chapter promoted sustainable design practices and supported adopting green building standards.

2020s: Modernization and New Initiatives

• **Center for Architecture + Design**: In September 2023, AIASF opened the Center for Architecture + Design in downtown San Francisco. This new facility serves as a dynamic hub for architectural and design activities, providing a venue for exhibitions, events, and community engagement.

c. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

The American Institute of Architects, San Francisco is committed to enhancing the quality of life in the Bay Area by promoting excellence in architecture, design, and the built environment.

One of the largest of 200+ AIA chapters, AIASF is a resource for architects, allied community professionals, and the general public. Each month, AIASF offers professional development and networking opportunities, public forums, tours, lectures, and gallery exhibitions that provide architects and design enthusiasts with many opportunities to explore the local built environment. Their annual Architecture and the City festival celebrates the richness and diversity of the local design community with programs throughout the city every September. In addition, their San Francisco Living: Home Tours series offers participants an inside look at cutting-edge residential architecture.

d. Has the business ever been referenced in the media, business trade publication, and/or historical documents?

Following are several recent media references:

2024 AIA Design Awards

San Francisco Magazine
June 25, 2024
https://sanfran.com/2024-aia-design-awards

San Francisco's AIA chapter opens its Center for Architecture + Design

The Architect's Newspaper September 8, 2023

https://www.archpaper.com/2023/09/san-francisco-aia-chapter-opens-center-for-architecture-design-aidlin-darling-design/

S.F.'s FiDi is getting a storefront architecture center — can it help revive the neighborhood?
 San Francisco Chronicle

Sep 7, 2023

https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/financial-district-architecture-center-18348947.php

AIA San Francisco Moves Downstairs in the Historic Hallidie Building for a Major Office Upgrade
 Architectural Record

September 1, 2023

https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/16462-aia-san-francisco-moves-downstairs-in-the-historic-hallidie-building-for-a-major-office-upgrade

e. Has the business ever received any awards, recognition, or political commendations?

Unknown.

f. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?

- 1. **Loss of Community:** The Center for Architecture + Design is a hub for networking, professional development, and collaboration among architects and related professionals. The closure would mean the loss of a central gathering place for architects in the San Francisco area, potentially diminishing opportunities for networking and collaboration.
- 2. **Advocacy and Representation:** AIASF advocates for zoning regulations, building codes, and urban planning issues. The closure of AIA San Francisco could weaken architects' voices in local policy discussions and decision-making processes.
- 3. **Resource Loss:** AIASF provides resources such as job listings, design competitions, and access to industry publications. Architects in the San Francisco area may lose access to these resources, impacting their ability to stay informed about industry trends and opportunities.

4. **Impact on Architecture Culture:** San Francisco has a rich architectural history and is home to many innovative firms and practitioners. The closure of AIA San Francisco could have broader implications for the architectural culture of the city, potentially affecting its ability to attract and retain talent and maintain its reputation as a center of architectural excellence.

CRITERION 3: The business is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business

a. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building, structure, object, signage, mural, architectural detail, neon sign, or any other special physical feature that defines the business?

The Hallidie Building is renowned as one of the world's first buildings to feature a glass curtain wall. Designed by architect Willis Polk and completed in 1918, it stands as a pioneering example of early modern architecture. Named after its financier, James Hallidie, the building's innovative design maximized natural light while providing structural stability. Its curtain wall design, consisting of large glass panels held in place by metal frames, revolutionized architectural possibilities, influencing the development of skyscrapers worldwide. The Hallidie Building continues to symbolize innovation in architecture and remains an iconic landmark in San Francisco's downtown area.

b. In a few words, describe the main business activity you commit to maintaining.

Architectural education and community engagement.

c. What is the plan to keep the business open in the long term beyond the current ownership?

AIA San Francisco has a long history and will be here a long time.

- d. What challenges is the business facing today?
- 1. **Funding Constraints:** Non-profit organizations often rely on grants, donations, and membership dues to fund their operations. In a city like San Francisco with a high cost of living, securing sufficient funding to cover operating expenses, staff salaries, and program costs can be challenging.
- Competing Priorities: San Francisco is home to a diverse range of non-profit organizations, all
 vying for limited resources and attention. AIASF must compete with other non-profits for funding,
 volunteers, and community support.
- 3. **Volunteer Recruitment and Retention:** AIASF relies on volunteers to support their programs and initiatives. In a city with a bustling professional landscape, recruiting and retaining volunteers can be challenging, particularly when individuals have limited time and resources to dedicate to non-profit activities.

4. **Community Engagement:** Building and maintaining community engagement is crucial for AIASF. In a diverse and dynamic city like San Francisco, they must work hard to engage with various stakeholders, including residents, businesses, government agencies, and other community organizations.

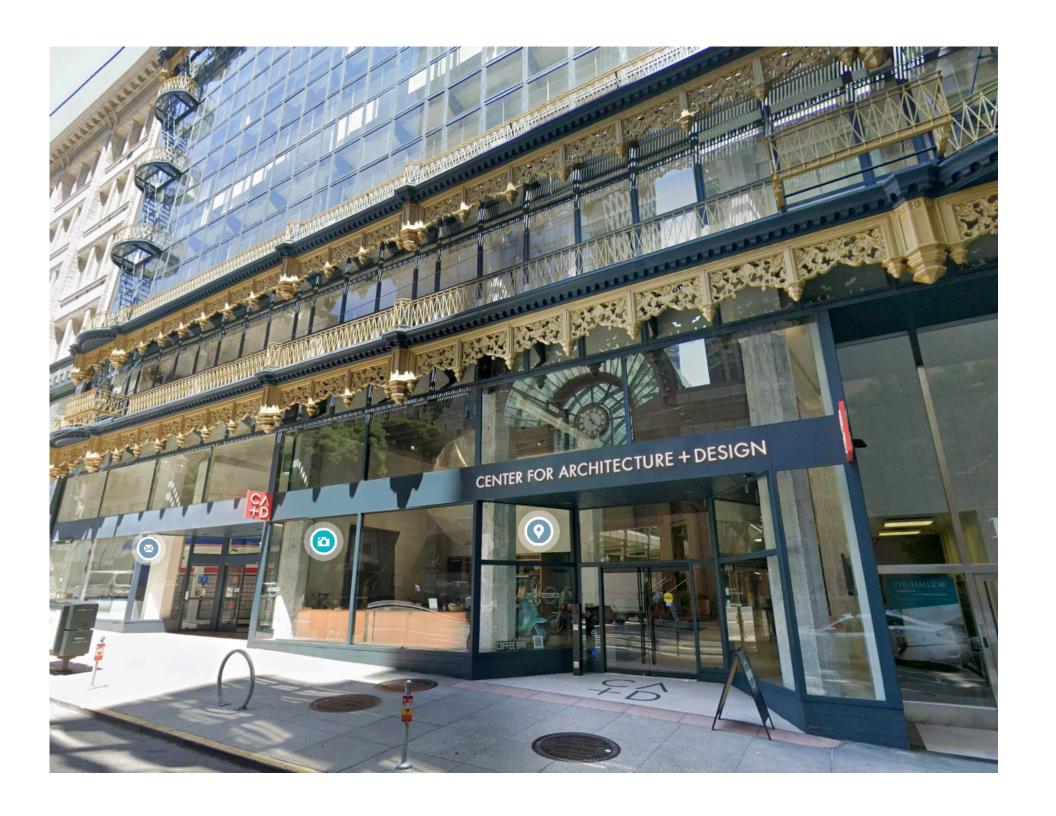
Legacy Business Program staff will add the following details:

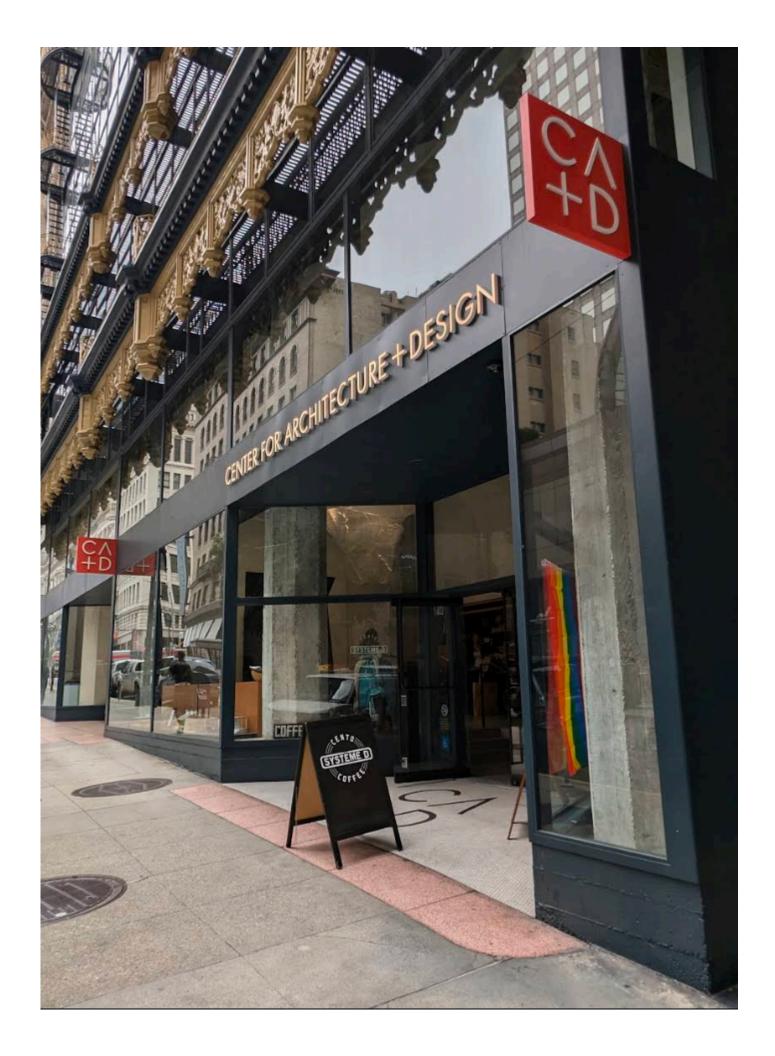
a. Features or traditions that define the business and should be maintained for the business to remain on the Legacy Business Registry.

Promotion of architecture and design.

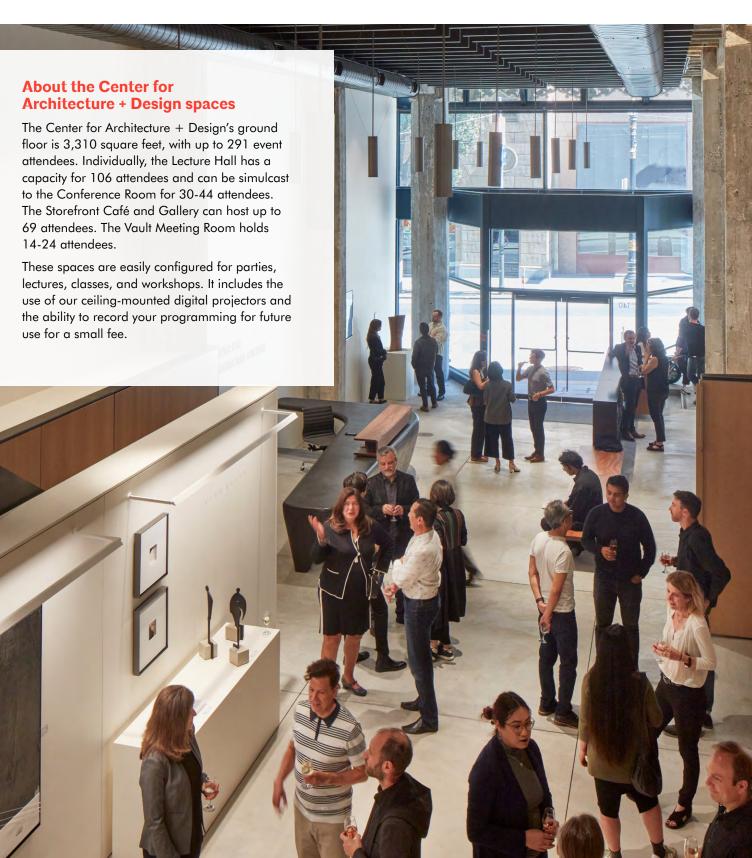
b. Other special features of the business location, such as if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

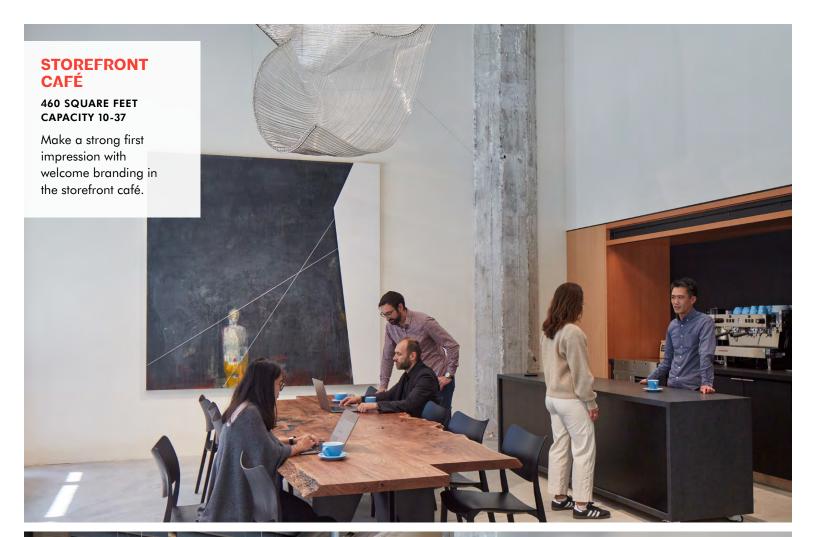
The Planning Department Historic Resource Status of the Hallidie Building at 130-150 Sutter Street is "A - Historic Resource Present." The building is a significant historic resource that is listed on both the California Register and the National Register.



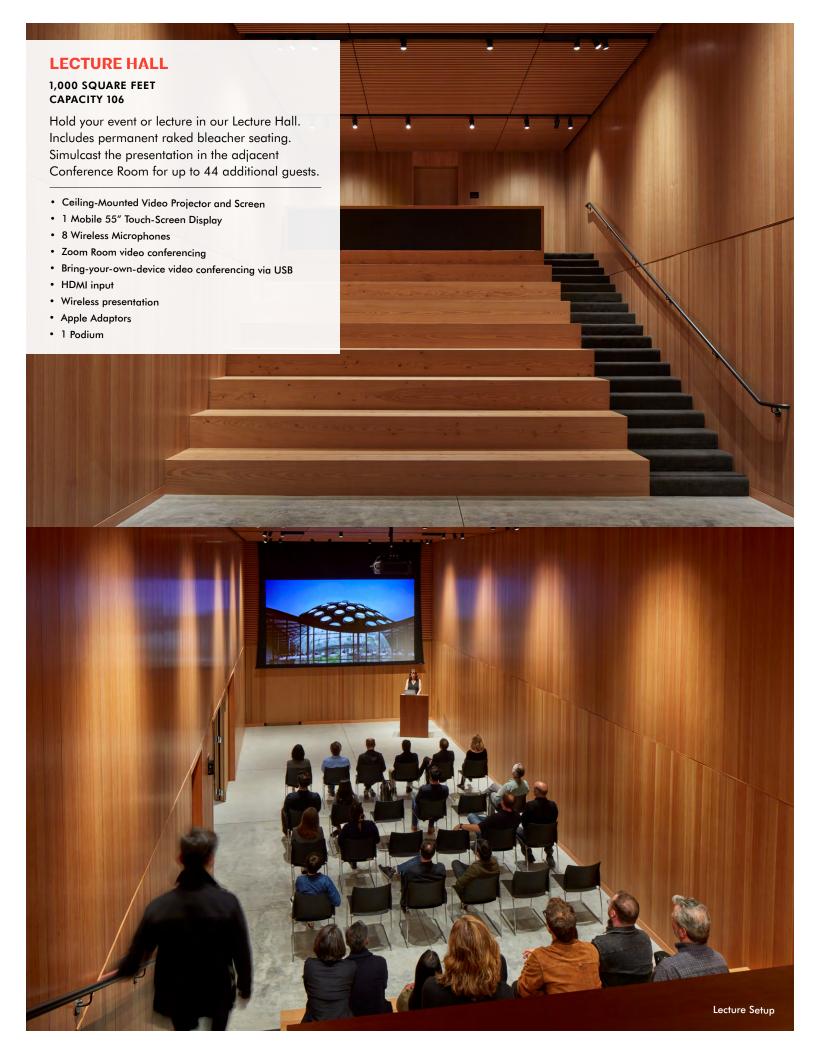


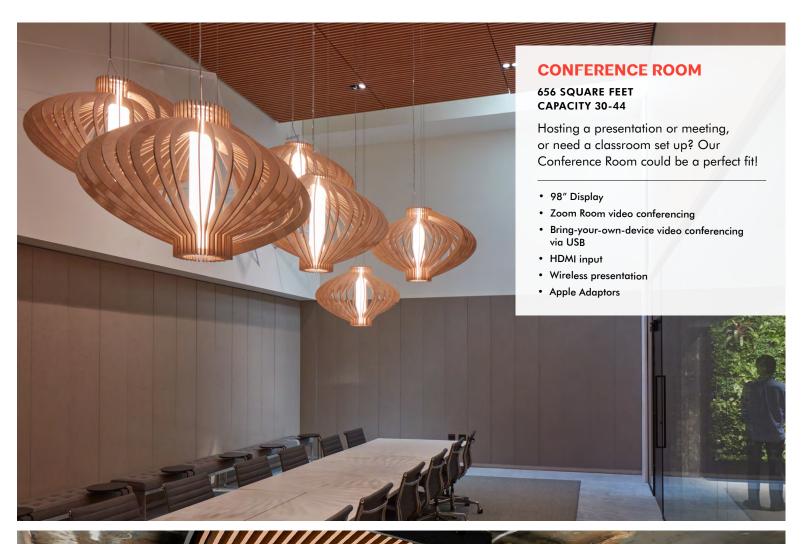


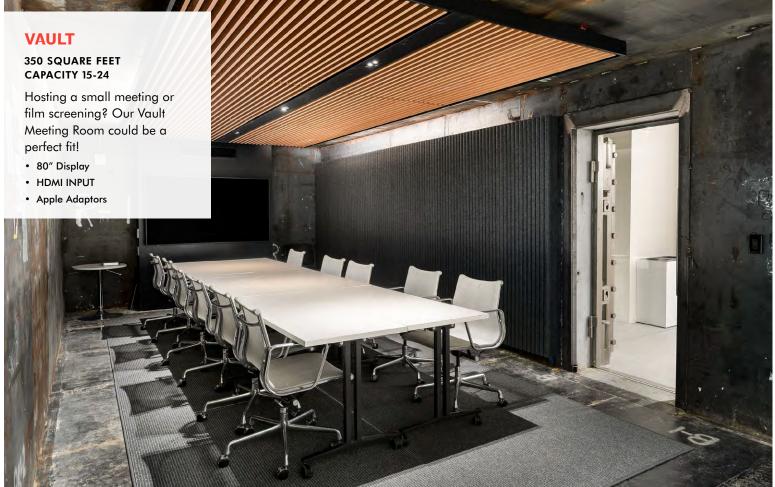




CALLERY 922 SQUARE FEET CAPACITY 32 Include the Gallery space with full groundfloor buyouts.







The Architect's Newspaper

For Architects, By Architects

San Francisco's AIA chapter opens its Center for Architecture + Design



American Institute of Architects San Francisco chapter has opened the Center for Architecture + Design on the ground floor of the historic Hallidie Building. (Richard Barnes Photography)

In downtown San Francisco the Hallidie Building stands out. The 1917 office building is credited as one of the first in the U.S. to feature a glass curtain wall. Now occupied by the American Institute of Architects San Francisco chapter (AIASF), a renovation at the historic structure's ground floor has just been finished to host the Center for Architecture + Design—a new place for architects and designers that further activates San Francisco's lively downtown streetscape.

Today, September 8, marks the opening day for the Center and also the 20th anniversary of the Architecture + the City festival. The Center was designed by Aidlin Darling Design and realized by BCCI Construction. It spans 10,000 square feet and was conceived with flexibility in mind. The renovation brought forth a lecture hall, gallery, storefront cafe, and meeting rooms.



Upon entering the Center there is a sinous, black concerige desk. (Richard Barnes Photography)

"Design is about community empowerment. By building the new Center for Architecture + Design, those curious about architecture, design, and the vitality of our built environment will have a new venue to learn and collaborate," said Joshua Aidlin, founding partner at Aidlin Darling Design in a press release. "The Center is about bringing together people from different backgrounds in a physical space—a cultural destination for the community, where one can be inspired by the power of design."

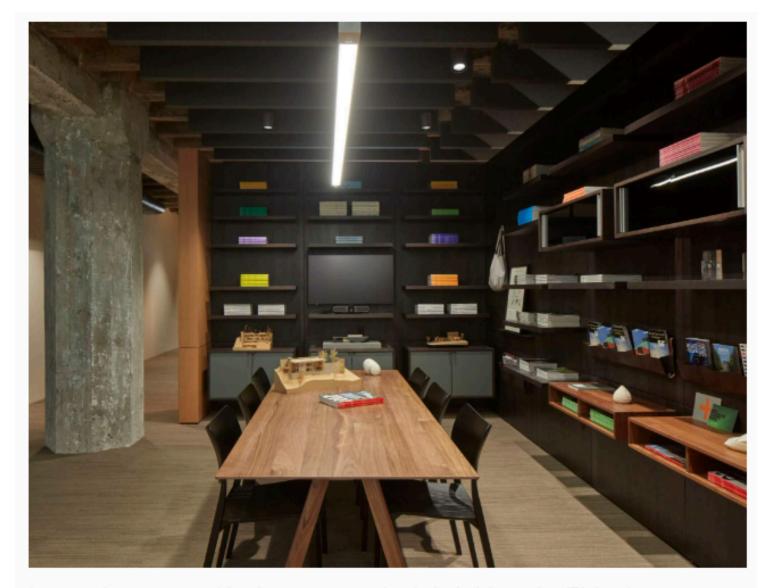


Aidlin Darling Design provided the architectural expertise for the project. (Richard Barnes Photography)

Upon entering the space patrons are greeted by a sinuous concierge desk. Throughout the venue, interiors are finished with an industrial look fashioned by exposed concrete columns and ceiling rafters. To add warmth, desks, benches, and shelving units feature a mix of dark and medium wood tones.



The interiors couple exposed concrete elements with contemporary features. (Richard Barnes Photography)



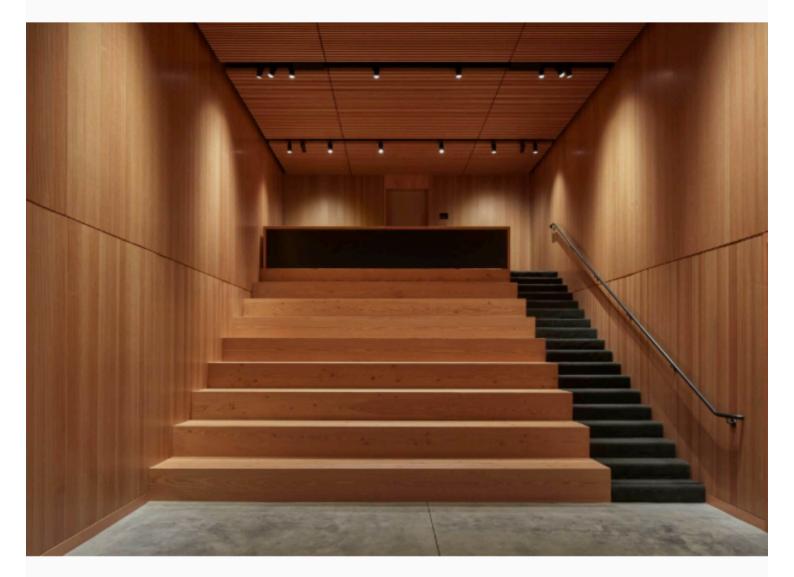
In a meeting room wood furniture contrasts the dark shelving units. (Richard Barnes Photography)

In the lecture hall wood abounds covering the walls and benches of the space outfitted with advanced AV and acoustic capabilities. A black staircase running along the side of the seating stands out against the wood backdrop.

Elsewhere in the Center, blank walls and large wood shelving units provide opportunities for showcasing work and mounting exhibition displays. In addition to hosting the events—among this workshops, film screenings, social gatherings, tours, gallery talks, youth programs, and exhibitions—AIASF will use the space to house its growing staff.



Many of the spaces were conceived for flexibility to accommodate a range of programming and events (Richard Barnes Photography)



he lecture hall is completely outfitted in wood. (Richard Barnes Photography)

"The opening of the Center is a significant moment in the history of architecture in San Francisco. Finally, we have a place dedicated to helping our diverse city understand the importance of well-designed spaces and places," added Charles Higueras, chair of the board for the Center for Architecture + Design. "The Center's emergence now plays a key role in engaging the public in creating a more enduring and vibrant city."



LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: July 16, 2025

Filing Date: June 18, 2025 Case No.: 2025-005804LBR

Business Name: American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

Business Address: 140 Sutter Street

Zoning: C-3-O: Downtown Office Zoning District

80-130-F Height and Bulk District

Cultural District: Not Applicable Block/Lot: 0288/027
Applicant: Stacy Williams

140 Sutter Street

Nominated By: Supervisor Danny Sauter

Located In: District 3

Staff Contact: Heather Samuels - 628-652-7545

Heather.Samuels@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

American Institute of Architects, San Francisco (AIASF) is a resource for architects, building professionals, and community members. The American Institute of Architects is a nationwide organization which provides education, networking, government advocacy, public advocacy, and collaboration with other stakeholders in design and construction industries; this application is for San Francisco's chapter, as this organization has satellite locations throughout the country. AIASF strives to improve quality of life in the Bay Area for all by promoting quality architecture and design which creates spaces which serve its communities. They further this goal through community involvement, education, advocacy, public outreach, and professional excellence for architects in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Its history begins with its earlier chapters of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), founded in 1857. In May of 1881, they established what is now known as the American Institution of Architects, San Francisco (AIASF). The official AIA headquarters are located in Washington, D.C. and advocates for legislation and policies which impact

on the profession and the built environment. This includes design standards, urban planning, and historic preservation issues. Not only that, but the AIA has 205 chapters nationwide, playing a crucial role in advancing the architectural profession, shaping the built environment, and advocating for design excellence and public welfare.

Throughout the years, AIASF has occupied multiple locations. Starting from 1881 to present days, they have occupied multiple locations in San Francisco and have had multiple changes in directors. Since 1988, the San Francisco chapter of the American Institute of Architects has been housed in the singularly appropriate location: Willis Polk's Hallidie Building, a seven-story landmark in the city's Financial District that dates to 1918 and features one of the nation's first curtain walls. But the office was tucked upstairs, removed from the daily life of the city below. Now that has changed, and in an aspirational way. The chapter's new home is a 10,000-square-foot ground-floor space in the same building, a transformation of a longtime clothing shop into a combination office, gallery, and event space that aims to connect with a much wider public than architects and design buffs. The move from the upstairs office (130 Sutter Street, Suite 600) to the ground floor space (the Center for Architecture + Design at 140 Sutter Street) occurred in 2023, with its current director being Anton Foss, AIA.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

The business was founded in 1881.

2. Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?

Yes. American Institute of Architects, San Francisco qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. American Institute of Architects, San Francisco has operated continuously in San Francisco for 144 years.
- b. American Institute of Architects, San Francisco has contributed to the history and identity of the Financial District neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. American Institute of Architects, San Francisco is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. Is the business associated with a culturally significant art / craft / cuisine / tradition?

Yes. The business is associated with art and architecture, an important aspect of San Francisco's identity.

4. Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and / or architecture?

Yes. The American Institute of Architecture occupies the Hallidie Building designed by Willis Polk and completed in 1918. One of the first buildings to be made of glass was the Hallidie building, it was the first building in San Francisco to be constructed with a curtainwall. This building has made a crucial impact in architectural history.



In the early years of AIASF, they focused on establishing a professional community for architects in San Francisco, promoting architectural standards, and advocating for quality in the built environment. In 1906, AIASF played a crucial role in the city's rebuilding efforts following the devastating 1906 earthquake and fire by contributing to the design and construction of resilient buildings.

In the Post-War Era, AIASF expanded its membership and influence, reflecting the growing importance of architecture in the booming post-war economy. Notably following, AIASF was established with the California Secretary of State on August 2, 1955. Soon, the AIASF became increasingly active in advocating urban planning, sustainable design, and historic preservation, including removing the Embarcadero Freeway after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

5. Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?

Yes, the site is listed as Article 10 Landmark No. 37, named the Hallidie Building; and is an Article 11 Category I – Significant Building, No Alterations. This building is listed in the California/National Register as individually as the Hallidie Building.

6. Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?

No, the AIA is not mentioned in a local historic context statement as of the date of this Executive Summary.

7. Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?

Yes. There have been several features and articles on The AIA. The AIA were mentioned in the following: San Francisco Magazine showcases the 2024 AIA Design Awards in an article published on June 25, 2024; the Architect's Newspaper also published an article, "San Francisco's AIA chapter opens its Center for Architecture + Design", on September 8, 2023; the San Francisco Chronicle wrote another article, "S.F.'s FiDi is getting a storefront architecture center — can it help revive the neighborhood?", on September 7th 2023, overviewing the impact of the addition of the building. Finally, the Architectural Record published an article titled "AIA San Francisco Moves Downstairs in the Historic Hallidie Building for a Major Office Upgrade Architectural Record" on September 1, 2023, highlighting the new, grander building that houses the AIA.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted <u>Resolution No. 1127</u> centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. Understanding the benefits, burdens, and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Preservation Planning documents provide is part of the Department's Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor's Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which required all Departments to conduct this analysis.

The Legacy Business Program is deeply intertwined with these goals. One of the primary purposes of the Legacy Business Program is to maintain San Francisco's cultural fabric and to foster civic engagement and pride by assisting long-operating businesses remain in the city. The Legacy Business Registry was established to recognize longstanding, community-serving businesses that are valuable cultural assets of the city. These businesses, ranging from restaurants to art galleries to tire shops to community shelters, are key to sustaining the racial and



social diversity in San Francisco and adding to the identity and character of our city and the many communities within it.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

• 140 Sutter St. (2023 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 408 California St., Room 17 (1898 1906)
- 787 Market St. (1907 1910)
- 451 Montgomery St. (1911)
- Unknown location (1912)
- 110 Lick Building (1913)
- Unknown location (1914 1915)
- 233 Post St. (1916)
- 77 O'Farrell St. (1920 1925)
- 523 Pine St. (1926 1927)
- 525 Market St. (1927 Unknown)
- 369 Pine St. (1939 1951)
- 47 Kearny St. (1958 1963)
- 254 Sutter St. (1966 1977)
- 790 Market St. (1977 1988)
- 130 Sutter St., Suite 600 (1988 2023)

Recommended by Applicant

- Architectural education and community engagement
- Promotion of architecture and design

Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends the Historic Preservation Commission adopt a resolution recommending the business listed above be adopted by the Small Business Commission to the Legacy Business Registry.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

- Application Review Sheet
- Section 1 Business / Applicant Information
- Section 2 Business Location(s)
- Section 3 Disclosure Statement
- Section 4 Written Historical Narrative



- o Criterion 1 History and Description of Business
- o Criterion 2 Contribution to Local History
- o Criterion 3 Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation





HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT RESOLUTION NO.

HEARING DATE: JULY 16, 2025

Case No.: 2025-005804LBR

Business Name: American Institute of Architects, San Francisco

Business Address: 140 Sutter Street

Zoning: C-3-O: Downtown Office Zoning District

80-130-F Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 0288/027 Applicant: Stacy Williams

140 Sutter Street

Nominated By: Supervisor Danny Sauter

Located In: District 3

Staff Contact: Heather Samuels - 628-652-7545

Heather.Samuels@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 140 SUTTER ST BLOCK/LOT 0288/027.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on July 16, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby** recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for the American Institute of Architects, San Francisco.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

• 140 Sutter St. (2023 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 408 California St., Room 17 (1898 1906)
- 787 Market St. (1907 1910)
- 451 Montgomery St. (1911)
- Unknown location (1912)
- 110 Lick Building (1913)
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- 790 Market St. (1977 1988)
- 130 Sutter St., Suite 600 (1988 2023)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Businessz

- Architectural education and community engagement
- Promotion of architecture and design

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs** its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on July 16, 2025.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary



AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RECUSE:

ADOPTED: July 16, 2025

