



Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2024-25-046
Business Name: Graphic Arts Workshop
Business Address: 2565 3rd St., #305
District: District 10
Applicant: Leslie Lowinger, Co-president
Nomination Date: February 7, 2025
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?
 X Yes No

141 Valencia St. from 1954 to 1956 (2 years)
271 Francisco St. from 1957 to 1964 (7 years)
359 Waller St. from 1966 to 1968 (2 years)
6253 California St. from 1968 to 1991 (23 years)
2565 3rd St., #305 from 1992 to Present (33 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?
 X Yes No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?
 X Yes No

FEATURES OR TRADITIONS: Art gallery

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION: August 18, 2025

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program
Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

SHAMANN WALTON

華頌善

February 6, 2025

Office of Small Business
Attn: Small Business Commission
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Graphic Arts Workshop
Attn: Leslie Lowinger
2565 3rd St. #305
San Francisco, California 94107

Re: Legacy Business Nomination for Graphic Arts Workshop

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Leslie Lowinger's application to recognize Graphic Arts Workshop Company as a Legacy Business.

Graphic Arts Workshop is one of the oldest workshops in San Francisco; in business since the 1950s and has operated continually since then. Graphic Arts Workshop serves printmakers in the Bay Area by providing an affordable studio in which to work. They also have art shows, classes in various printmaking techniques, and printmaking demonstrations. They support the San Francisco community by offering creative learning experiences, showcasing local artwork, and hosting interactive events. They have been enriching the community through cultural engagement, and support for local artists for over 70 years, Graphic Arts Workshop is a foundational asset to the Dogpatch Community and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.



Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: Graphic Arts Workshop

Business owner name(s): Leslie Lowinger

Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business

Current business address: 2565 3rd St., #305, San Francisco, CA 94107

Telephone: (415) 285 – 5660

Email:

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website: graphicartsworkshop.org

Facebook: facebook.com/graphicartsworkshop

Other: instagram.com/graphicartsworkshop/

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 4 3 1 4 3 2

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**

☐ **Veteran-Owned Business**

☒ **Minority-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 name: Leslie Lowinger

Contact person title: Co-president

Contact telephone: () –

Contact email:

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.

Original San Francisco address: 141 Valencia St. **Zip Code:** 94103

Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N): Y

Dates at this location: From: 1954 To: 1956

Other address (if applicable): 271 Francisco St. **Zip Code:** 94133

Dates at this location: From: 1957 To: 1964

Other address (if applicable): 359 Waller St. **Zip Code:** 94117

Dates at this location: From: 1966 To: 1968

Other address (if applicable): 6253 California St. **Zip Code:** 94121

Dates at this location: From: 1968 To: 1991

Other Address (if applicable): 2565 3rd St., #305 **Zip Code:** 94107

Dates at this location: From: 1992 To: Present

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: From: To:

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.
- ☒ 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.
- ☒ 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: Leslie Lowinger

Signature:

Leslie Lowinger

Date: January 6, 2025

GRAPHIC ARTS WORKSHOP

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

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

Graphic Arts Workshop is a cooperative studio for printmaking located in the American Industrial Center located at 2565 3rd Street in Dog Patch. It has equipment and facilities for most kinds of printmaking including etching, lithography, letterpress, silkscreen, and relief printing. The studio was started in 1952 and has operated continually since then. All expenses are shared equally by the members. They offer classes in many types of printmaking, and they also hold open studios and print sales.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

Graphic Arts Workshop serves printmakers in the Bay Area by providing an affordable studio in which to work. They also have art shows, classes in various printmaking techniques, and printmaking demonstrations. Interested individuals in San Francisco learn about printmaking through their classes and events. In addition to the United States, members of Graphic Arts Workshop come from many countries including Mexico, Hong Kong, and the Philippines, and range in age from 25 years to 70 years.

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

An affordable studio for printmakers.

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.

Graphic Arts Workshop ("GAW") began in 1952 when the art faculty members of the California Labor School transferred the school's printmaking equipment to another location down the street. The school was being closed down (ostensibly for back taxes) as part of the attack on various San Francisco leftist institutions during the McCarthy era.

A cooperative studio for printmaking was started with the printing presses and other equipment taken from the school. This studio was used by these artists to make their own fine art prints and also to print political posters for Bay Area events.

The first location was 141 Valencia Street from 1954 to 1956. The studio then moved to 271 Francisco Street and resided there from 1957 to 1964. Graphic Arts Workshop then moved to 359 Waller Street from 1966 to 1968. The next location was 6253 California Street from 1968 to 1991. Since 1992, the studio has resided at 2565 Third Street where it remains today.

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

Graphic Arts Workshop has been in continuous existence as a cooperative studio since its start in 1952. The business is owned by its members. In 1991, Graphic Arts Workshop became a 501(c)(6) Mutual Benefit Corporation.

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

The studio has been in continuous operation since 1952.

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.

The role of Graphic Arts Workshop is to provide an affordable printmaking facility for the printmakers of San Francisco and the Bay Area. Graphic Arts Workshop remains, after so many years, because printmakers need a studio with all the specialized equipment used in their craft; for example, printing presses, acid baths, powerful extractor fans for chemicals, photo exposure units, and aquatint boxes. The organization has facilities for etching, relief, silkscreen, lithography, letterpress and monotype.

Graphic Arts Workshop is now the last remaining printmaking studio in San Francisco that offers continual access to printmakers. With the recent closing of printmaking facilities such as the San Francisco Art Institute and City College - Fort Mason, as well as the temporary closing of the Mission Cultural Center, Graphic Arts Workshop remains the last 24 hour access printmaking facility in San Francisco.

The Graphic Arts Workshop studio is much less expensive than most print workshops. This is possible because Graphic Arts Workshop is a cooperative without paid employees.

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

When Graphic Arts Workshop was founded in 1952 by faculty and artists from the California Labor School, the members' societal concerns were reflected in each artist's style of work and

in the co-operative form of the studio. The print shop became a base of political activity and abundant artistic output, and it attracted many foreign artists as collaborators.

Early members such as Victor Arnautoff and Emmy Lou Packard had close connections to Diego Rivera and are well known artists themselves. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) tradition of linking printmaking and murals was still strong and lasted long after the link was broken in other places. Anton Refregier, one of the founding members, painted the last WPA-funded mural at Rincon Annex in San Francisco and was assisted by Louise Gilbert, another founder of Graphic Arts Workshop. Early members of the Workshop pursued social justice through the graphic arts, printing posters, pamphlets, and calendars in support of various causes and later against the war in Vietnam.

Key events of Graphic Arts Workshop including the following:

- Participated in the successful campaign to save the Anton Refregier murals at Rincon Annex in 1976.
- Exhibited in the San Francisco Arts Festival from the 1960s to 1978. This festival was organized by the SF Art Commission and occurred annually for a number of decades.
- Participated in the Southern Graphics Conference in 2014. This is the largest conference in the United States devoted to fine art printmaking.
- Provided classes in line etching, printing with magnetic plates, soft ground etching, and a demonstration day in their studio- including pop-up print sales in the lobby of their building from 2023 to 2024.
- Currently participates in San Francisco Open Studios by ArtSpan, from 1992 to present.

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

Graphic Arts Workshop serves the community of San Francisco through classes, exhibitions, printmaking demonstrations, and other printmaking pop-ups. They are currently offering classes in line etching, photopolymer plates, and printing with magnetic plates. Through their classes, shows, and print sales, members of the public are given a chance to acquaint themselves with the medium of printmaking. Their artist members make money through selling prints at their events and teaching classes in their studio.

Graphic Arts Workshop has provided a number of free community based teaching or hands-on workshops over the years. Some of those include:

1. "By Way of Water," May 6, 2017. GAW members worked with students from Brightworks. The theme was based on exploration at the K-12 school. Print demonstrations and hands-on printmaking was provided for participants.
2. "A Conversation with Our Archives," April 2017. An exhibition of printmaking, free to the public. Located at the GAW facility.

3. "WalkMe," 2020. A monotype workshop-aimed team building. Each participant created 1-4 4x6 mini prints.

4. Working with API Legal Outreach," March 2020. On site presentation and workshop to help API Legal Outreach printing outreach materials, including flyers and posters.

5. "New block printing techniques in Time of Covid," January 14, 2021. An online workshop presented at the request of ArtSpan, as an extension of their outreach programs. Demonstrations and instruction were given on an aspect of relief printing that participants could do at home during the COVID lockdown. The required materials were mailed to participants so they could follow along and create at home, while being instructed live online.

Success also includes being able to provide more of these free programs.

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

Following are references to Graphic Arts Workshop in the media, business trade publications, and historical documents:

- Interviews with early members of Graphic Arts Workshop at the Bancroft Library: [History of Graphic Arts Workshop oral history interviews / by Elinor Randall Keeney](#). There are also portraits of these members.
- The catalogue of the Oakland Museum exhibition: *All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters of the San Francisco Bay Area*.
- Richard Correll, a founding member of Graphic art Workshop, was featured in SFMOMA's show of political posters, *Get with the Action*, 2017.
- *The Graphic Arts Workshop Presses Forward*, San Francisco Chronicle, November 25, 2002.
- *Graphic Artists Keep Work Real*, San Francisco Chronicle, October 20, 2000.
- *Artists' Workshop has Progressive History*, Arts Monthly, December 2002.
- Mentions in an Oakland Museum exhibition catalogue.
- Mentioned in Pele de Lappe's book "A Passionate Journey Through Art & the Red Press."
- Mentioned in the book "California Society of Printmaking, One Hundred Years."

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

Graphic Arts Workshop has received the following awards:

- The Community Good Fellowship Award from the Simpson Gallery of Fine Printing and Lithography for GAW's part in the production of the art calendar, 1962.
- San Francisco Arts Festival merit award from the San Francisco Arts Commission, 1970.

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

If Graphic Arts Workshop were to shut down, many printmakers would not be able to pursue their craft in San Francisco. The other printmaking studios open to the public in the city have closed.

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?

Graphic Arts Workshop is not defined by a building, but rather by its equipment: printing presses, acid baths, drying racks, and many other things. GAW is a cooperative studio for all kinds of printmaking including etching, lithography, monotype, letterpress, wood cut, and other forms of relief print making. Members have 24 hour access to the studio. A key feature of Graphic Arts Workshop is that the expenses of running the studio are divided equally among the members and this keeps the price lower than other studios of its kind. Printmaking occupies a fairly narrow corner of the art world at the moment, and so, it is especially important that their studio allows printmakers to find each other and learn from each other. It is through these kind of contacts that artists and art forms flourish.

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

Graphic Arts Workshop is committed to maintaining their printmaking equipment and also, as much as possible, keeping their shared studio affordable. Members of GAW have made a commitment to disciplines of traditional printmaking, such as woodcut developed in the 1400s, etching from the 1500s, and lithography from the 1800s, as well as more recently developed forms such as monotype and letterpress.

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

Graphic Arts Workshop is organized as a cooperative. This has always been the case, but they became a Mutual Benefit Association 501(c)(6) in 1991. Duties and responsibilities are passed from one member to another as time moves on. They are structured with a council of eight members doing various tasks. These council positions include: president, maintenance coordinator, treasurer, new member coordinator, fundraiser, and secretary. All members are asked to take on a task to help the studio function. The San Francisco Study Center is their fiscal sponsor, allowing Graphic Arts Workshop to receive grants and donations.

d. What challenges is the business facing today?

The Graphic Arts Workshop studio retains its relevance as a place for printmaking artists to work. Their rising rent is their major challenge.

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.

Support of printmaking.

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 building at 2501-2585 3rd Street is "A - Historic Resource Present. The American Can Company Southern Extension is a contributor to the Eligible Third Street Industrial District.















Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

September 22, 2025

GRAPHIC ARTS WORKSHOP

Application No.: LBR-2024-25-046
Business Name: Graphic Arts Workshop
Business Address: 2565 3rd St., #305
District: District 10
Applicant: Leslie Lowinger, Co-president
Nomination Date: February 7, 2025
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Graphic Arts Workshop, currently located at 2565 3rd St., #305.

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 September 22, 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 Graphic Arts Workshop in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org





BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Graphic Arts Workshop.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Printmaking Techniques:
 - o Etching;
 - o Relief;
 - o Silkscreen;
 - o Lithography;
 - o Letterpress;
 - o Monotype.
- Affordable studio space.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Graphic Arts Workshop on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Art gallery.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on September 22, 2025.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
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LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Filing Date: August 19, 2025
Case No.: 2025-007617LBR
Business Name: Graphic Arts Workshop
Business Address: 2565 3rd Street
Zoning: PDR-1-G (PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION & REPAIR - 1 - GENERAL) Zoning District
68-X,85-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Not Applicable
Block/Lot: 4173/001
Applicant: Leslie Lowinger
2564 3rd Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Located In: District 10
Staff Contact: Rogelio Baeza - 628-652-7369
Rogelio.Baeza@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

Graphic Arts Workshop (GAW) is a cooperative studio for printmaking located in the American Industrial Center located at 2565 3rd Street in Dogpatch neighborhood. It has equipment and facilities for most kinds of printmaking including etching, lithography, letterpress, silkscreen, and relief printing. The studio was started in 1952 and has operated continually since then. All expenses are shared equally by the members. Its membership is composed of many ethnic backgrounds including from countries like Mexico, Hong Kong, and the Philippine ranging from the age of 25 - 70 years old. Additionally, they offer classes in many types of printmaking, and they also hold open studios and print sales.

GAW's affordability is made possible by its cooperative structure with no paid employees, allowing continued, cost-effective access for local printmakers. Graphic Arts Workshop also provides an affordable, fully-equipped printmaking studio for artists in San Francisco and the Bay Area. It offers access to specialized tools such as presses, acid baths, extractor fans, photo exposure units, and aquatint boxes.

Moreover, GAW is the last remaining 24-hour access printmaking studio in San Francisco, following the closure of other facilities like the San Francisco Art Institute, City College – Fort Mason, and the temporary closure of the Mission Cultural Center.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1952.

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

Yes. Graphic Arts Workshop qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. Graphic Arts Workshop has operated continuously in San Francisco for 73 years.
- b. Graphic Arts Workshop has contributed to the history and identity of the Potrero Hill/Dogpatch neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. Graphic Arts Workshop 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 different styles of printmaking and providing access to affordable printmaking studios.

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

Yes. The Third Street property is located within the California Register-Eligible Central Waterfront Third Street Industrial Historic District. The neighborhood north of Third Street consists primarily of brick buildings of an America Commercial Style of the early 1900s. Many buildings located within the Third Street Industrial District primarily served manufacturing, repair, and processing plants.

Additionally, the building has been associated with early members, such as Victor Arnautoff and Emmy Lou Packard. Victor and Emmy had close connections to Diego Rivera and are well known artists themselves. The property was referenced in the Citywide Historic Context Station for LGBTQ History in San Francisco (Donna Graves and Shayne Watson – 2015) as home of the Mariposa Film Group, a gay enterprise that produced Academy Award winning documentaries.

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

Yes, the site is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources as individually significant and/or contributor to a district. It is associated with the Eligible Third Street Industrial District. The Central Waterfront Third Street Industrial District appears significant under Criterion 1 (Events) for its association with the

industrial development of the City of San Francisco from 1872 to 1958. The Central Waterfront Historic District contains a significant concentration of mixed-use industrial properties, associated residential and commercial properties, and civic infrastructure oriented to water, railroad, and road transportation.

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

Yes, the property was referenced in the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco.

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

Yes. There have been a number of features and articles on Hibbs and the store, both within and outside the industry. GAW was featured in SF Gate's "Graphic Artists Keep Work Real / Printmakers shun the computer world to create pieces the old-fashioned way" where the article detailed the opportunity for the local artists to express their creations through the different types of printmaking. Printmaking techniques and works from GAW members are highlighted in the California Society of Printmakers book and in the Oakland Museum exhibitions. GAW has been consistently praised for its unique printmaking styles and for providing a space for fellow printmakers to create art and self-express.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted [Resolution No. 1127](#) 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.

GAW is women-owned and promotes diversity from all backgrounds. It was originally founded in the 1950s by faculty and artists of California Labor School. GAW is geared towards offering opportunities to its members by providing spaces for printmaking and allowing for their artwork to be displayed in events and workshops.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 2565 3rd St (1992 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 6253 California St (1968 – 1991)
- 359 Waller St (1966 – 1968)
- 271 Francisco St (1957 – 1964)
- 141 Valencia St (1954 – 1956)

Recommended by Applicant

- Printmaking Techniques
 - Etching
 - Relief
 - Silkscreen
 - Lithography
 - Letterpress
 - Monotype
- Affordable studio space

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None

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



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO.

HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Case No.: 2025-007617LBR
Business Name: Graphics Arts Workshop
Business Address: 2565 03RD ST
Zoning: PDR-1-G (PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION & REPAIR - 1 - GENERAL) Zoning District
68-X,85-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 4173/001
Applicant: Leslie Lowinger
2564 3rd Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Located In: District 10
Staff Contact: Rogelio Baeza – 628-652-7369
Rogelio.Baeza@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR GRAPHIC ARTS WORKSHOP CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 2565 03RD ST, BLOCK 4173, LOT 001.

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 September 17, 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 Graphic Arts Workshop 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 Graphic Arts Workshop.

Locations

Current Locations:

- 2565 3rd St (1992 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 6253 California St (1968 – 1991)
- 359 Waller St (1966 – 1968)
- 271 Francisco St (1957 – 1964)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Printmaking, associated equipment, techniques, and tools.

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 September 17, 2025.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RECUSE:

ADOPTED: September 17, 2025