

Philosophers Club

Application Review Sheet

Application Number: LBR-2015-16-076
Business Name: Philosophers Club
Business Address: 824 Ulloa St.
District: District 7
Applicant: Joshua Fritsch, Owner
Nomination Date: June 30, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Norman Yee

Eligibility

Criterion 1

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

Yes

Criterion 2

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

Yes

Criterion 3

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

Yes

Features or traditions

Bar

Notes

NA

Delivery date to the Historic Preservation Commission

March 18, 2026



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7

City and County of San Francisco

NORMAN YEE

June 30, 2016

Dear Director Regina Dick-Endrizzi:

I am writing to nominate the Philosopher's Club at 824 Ulloa St to the Legacy Business Registry. The owners' contact info is below:

Dick and Deborah
sfphilycb@earthlink.net
ghostrain13@mac.com
415-753-0599

The Philosopher's Club was established in 1960 and has been a favorite local neighborhood bar. It is already listed on the SF Heritage online Legacy Bars and Restaurants Guide. The interior is decorated with a mural of famous philosophers and their quotes. The bar features the only photo of famed mixologist Jerry Thomas in San Francisco.

I am proud to nominate the Philosopher's Club to the Legacy Business Registry and thank you for your serious consideration regarding their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman Yee".

Norman Yee

Philosophers Club

Application Form

Business information

Business name: Philosophers Club
Business owner name(s): Joshua Fritsch; Justin Fritsch
Current business address: 824 Ulloa St., San Francisco, CA 94127
Mailing address: Same as above
Business phone number: 415-753-0599
Business email: sfphilosophersclub@gmail.com
Website:
Link to social media #1: [instagram.com/sf.philosophersclub](https://www.instagram.com/sf.philosophersclub)
Link to social media #2:
Business Account Number: 1149403

Contact person information

Contact person name: Joshua Fritsch
Contact person title: Owner

Business locations

San Francisco address: 824 Ulloa St.
Dates at this location: 1948 to Present

Legacy Business Registry

Historical Narrative

Introduction

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

Philosophers Club is a neighborhood tavern that sells beverages and provides event space for the local community. The establishment is a quintessential dive bar in the heart of West Portal, celebrated for its inviting atmosphere and local charm. With strong and affordable drink offerings, Philosophers Club has earned its reputation as one of the best spots in the area for those seeking good company and lively conversation.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

Philosophers Club serves the West Portal community, longtime neighborhood regulars, families, local school's parents and staff, newcomers to the area, and tourists from around the world.

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

Historic neighborhood tavern.

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.

Per old telephone directories, Philosophers Club was established circa 1948 under the name Philosopher Tavern. The business was founded by Gino D. Bianucci and Paul Martini. The founding location at 824 Ulloa Street is the bar's present location, making it one of the oldest running bars under the same or similar name and same location in San Francisco.

The business had several minor name changes and several ownership changes over the years per telephone directories. The business type also changed from tavern to restaurant from 1951 to 1954. Following are findings from the directories.

- **1945-1946 directory**
Business not listed
- **1947 directory**
No directory available

- **1948-1949 directory**
Business name: Philosopher Tavern
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Gino D. Bianucci; Paul Martini
- **1950 directory**
No directory available
- **1951 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Restaurant
Person(s) listed: Gino D. Bianucci; Paul Martini
- **1952 directory**
No directory available
- **1953 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Restaurant
Person(s) listed: Gino Bianuca (*sic*); Enzo Bianuca (*sic*); Paul Martini
- **1954 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Restaurant
Person(s) listed: Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci; Robert D. Baiocchi
- **1955-1956 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Gino D. Bianucci
- **1957 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Robert Bianucci; Gino Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci
- **1958 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Robert Barrochi; Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci
- **1959 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Robert Barrochi; Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci

- **1960 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Robert Barrochi; Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci
- **1961 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1962 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1963 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1964-1965 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1966 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1967 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George; William Hughes
- **1968 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George
- **1969-1970 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George

- **1973 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George
- **1974 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Inn
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George
- **1975 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Club
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George
- **1980 directory**
Business name: Philosopher's Club
Business type: Tavern
Person(s) listed: Angelo M. George

Based on available telephone directories, the name of the business was Philosopher Tavern in 1948-1949, then Philosopher's Inn from 1951 to 1974, then Philosopher's Club starting in 1975.

Per the directories, Gino D. Bianucci and Paul Martini founded the business in 1948 and co-owned it through 1952. Enzo Bianucci joined the business as a co-owner in 1952. Then in 1953, Paul Martini left the business and Robert Barrochi joined the business. In 1960, Angelo M. George and William Hughes bought the business, which they co-owned through 1967. Angelo became the sole owner of the business in 1968.

In 2000, Thomas (Tom) Coulter, Rene Lacore, and Chris Bolger purchased Philosopher's Club.

Tom Coulter was born in San Francisco in 1944. His family relocated from San Francisco to San Carlos when Tom was young. In 1967, Tom started a career with PSA Airlines. He was a Station Clerk in San Diego and went onto be one of the "best Sales Reps for PSA," according to Jim Patterson, VP Operations for PSA. Tom was also the "Grinning Bird" mascot for the company. He loved to be on stage and entertaining. After being laid off from PSA Airlines, Tom decided to try tending bar, which eventually led him to the Philosopher's Club in 2000 with Rene Lacore and Chris Bolger.¹

In 2004, Rene decided to move her family to North Carolina and Chris wanted to move back to the Northeast, so the bar was sold to Thomas (Tom) Donahue, his brother Richard (Dick) Donahue, and spouses Kevin Sullivan and Deborah (Deb) Lawder Sullivan.

¹ [Thomas Coulter obituary](#)

In 2023, twin brothers Joshua (Josh) Fritsch and Justin Fritsch purchased Philosophers Club. “Josh had been working at the bar 18 years when, in 2023, the owners approached him. He recalls them asking, ‘Hey, we were thinking about getting out, would you be interested in taking over?’” Josh called his brother and told him that the Donahues and the Sullivans want to sell him the bar, and Josh wanted Justin to moved back to San Francisco and buy the bar with him. Josh didn’t want to run the business with anybody else. Justin was on board immediately, having worked in the restaurant business in San Diego and Dallas.²

At some point in the business’ history, the apostrophe in Philosopher’s Club was dropped either by the owners from 2000-2004 or the owners from 2004-2023. Josh clearly remembers being told there was no apostrophe very early on in his tenure, so it has certainly been gone since the early 2000s.

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

Circa 1948 to circa 1952	Gino D. Bianucci; Paul Martini
Circa 1952 to circa 1953	Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci; Paul Martini
Circa 1953 to 1960	Gino D. Bianucci; Enzo Bianucci; Robert Barrochi
1960 to 1967	Angelo M. George; William Hughes
1968 to 2000:	Angelo M. George
2000 to 2004	Tom Coulter; Rene Lacore; Chris Bolger
2004 to 2023:	Tom Donahue; Richard Donahue; Kevin Sullivan; Deborah Sullivan
2023 to Present:	Joshua Fritsch; Justin Fritsch

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

The bar closed for a total of 11 months beginning March 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown. Other than that, it has been continually operating.

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.

Philosophers Club has served as a gathering place where generations have celebrated, debated, and built community bonds. The bar has remained a constant through decades of urban change, and its presence has helped define the authentic character of West Portal’s commercial corridor.

² [The Historic West Portal Bar Where Deep Thinkers Go to Drink](#), by Ava Austin, Broke-Ass Stuart, November 26, 2025

Key amenities of Philosophers Club include coin-operated pool tables and several televisions displaying sporting events, enhancing its appeal among locals looking to unwind after a long day or catch up on their favorite games. The attentive bartenders contribute significantly to the welcoming ambiance; their friendly demeanor ensures that every visit feels like coming home.

In addition to traditional bar fare from nearby eateries, Philosophers Club promotes a sense of community with regular gatherings and potlucks during football season. Its strategic location near public transit makes it easily accessible while still providing ample parking options around the neighborhood.

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

Several high-profile bartenders have poured drinks at Philosophers Club. Angelo M. George poured drinks there for 40 years. Frank Rivas of House of Shields fame and George McCarthy (Royal Exchange, Capps Corner) are two other famous San Francisco bartenders to hold court at Philosophers Club.

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

Philosophers Club has prioritized community involvement through supporting local schools and youth programs with donations and fundraisers, contributing to neighborhood nonprofits and charities through proceeds and event space, and maintaining an inclusive, welcoming environment for both longtime regulars and new members of the community.

One of the things that owners Josh and Justin Fritsch strive to do is give back to the community. They did a chili cook-off and raised money for the music program at the West Portal Elementary School, they helped the school rebuild their garden program, they hosted a trivia night for \$50 per team with the proceeds going to Playmates Cooperative Preschool in the Sunset, they hosted a vinyl market to benefit local music stores, and they hosted a holiday market and toy drive to benefit the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Program.

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

Philosophers Club has been featured in decades of local newspaper coverage, has appeared in multiple works of fiction, and inspired a book of poetry by a former SFSU student and professor. It has also been documented in multiple publications on San Francisco's storied bar scene. Following are key media references listed from newest to oldest.

- The Historic West Portal Bar Where Deep Thinkers Go to Drink [Broke-Ass Stuart](#)
November 26, 2025

- West Portal, San Francisco's Small Town
[The Bold Italic](#)
May 19, 2020
- High Spirits: The Legacy Bars of San Francisco
[J. K. Dineen; published by Heyday](#)
October 6, 2015

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

Not applicable.

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

If Philosophers Club were to close, the community would lose a legacy bar that has served as a community gathering place since 1948. The business contributes to West Portal's neighborhood character, which would be lost if the business closed. Without Philosophers Club, the community would lose a link between its historic character and emerging businesses and housing, potentially eroding the small-town-in-the-city feel that defines West Portal's unique identity.

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 building that houses Philosophers Club includes giant, double swinging tavern doors that have never been changed. The exterior neon sign has been there likely since the 1950s. Inside, Philosophers Club still serves drinks on the original bar from the 1940s, and a mural of culturally significant figures adorns the ceiling.

The mural was painted in 2010 by Deborah Lawder Sullivan, an artist and former co-owner of the bar. Long before there was a mural, the hole in the ceiling housed a skylight. Legend has it that the skylight was replaced because burglars broke in through the glass to rob the bar in the 1970s, though this could not be corroborated. Between then and 2010, the space was tiled over. The mural took six months of preparation and a year of painting. Deborah painted the mural because she kept staring up at that space thinking, "I really should do a mural for that space." To choose the various "philosophers," she included different diversities and really wanted to include women. She did research on different philosophers, which is an open-ended term. The word "philosophy" means quest for

knowledge, so you're not pigeonholed. Some people depicted were authors, mythologists – people who brought new ideas to humankind.³

The mural depicts the following people:

- Lao Tzu
- Angelo M. George
- Alice Waters
- Lewis Carroll
- Alice Walker
- Jacob Needleman
- Friedrich Nietzsche
- Zarathustra
- Plato
- Socrates
- Hippocrates
- Heraclitus
- Confucius
- Dalai Lama
- Mother Teresa
- Mother Jones
- Sitting Bull
- Joseph Campbell
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Mahatma Gandhi
- John Lennon
- Bob Dylan
- Rainier Maria Rilke
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- George Gurdjieff
- Wassily Kandinsky
- Simone de Beauvoir
- Anais Nin
- Charles Darwin

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

Tavern serving beverages and providing community space for all of life's milestones.

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

³ [The Historic West Portal Bar Where Deep Thinkers Go to Drink](#), by Ava Austin, Broke-Ass Stuart, November 26, 2025

The current co-owner Joshua Fritsch was an employee at Philosophers Club for 19 years before taking over the business. Josh and his brother Justin realize the cultural significance of Philosophers Club and take pride in its stewardship. They plan on keeping the business in the family and maintaining its character for as long as possible.

d. What challenges is the business facing today?

The biggest challenge Philosophers Club faces today is the growing prospect of older commercial buildings being redeveloped. The business is very much in favor of raising the height limits on new construction. The challenge is that there are no protections for thriving, historic small businesses against large redevelopment investments.

Additional details:

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

Bar.

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 820-824 Ulloa Street is “B - Unknown / Age Eligible.”

Images of Philosopher's Club







photo by Ken Chan

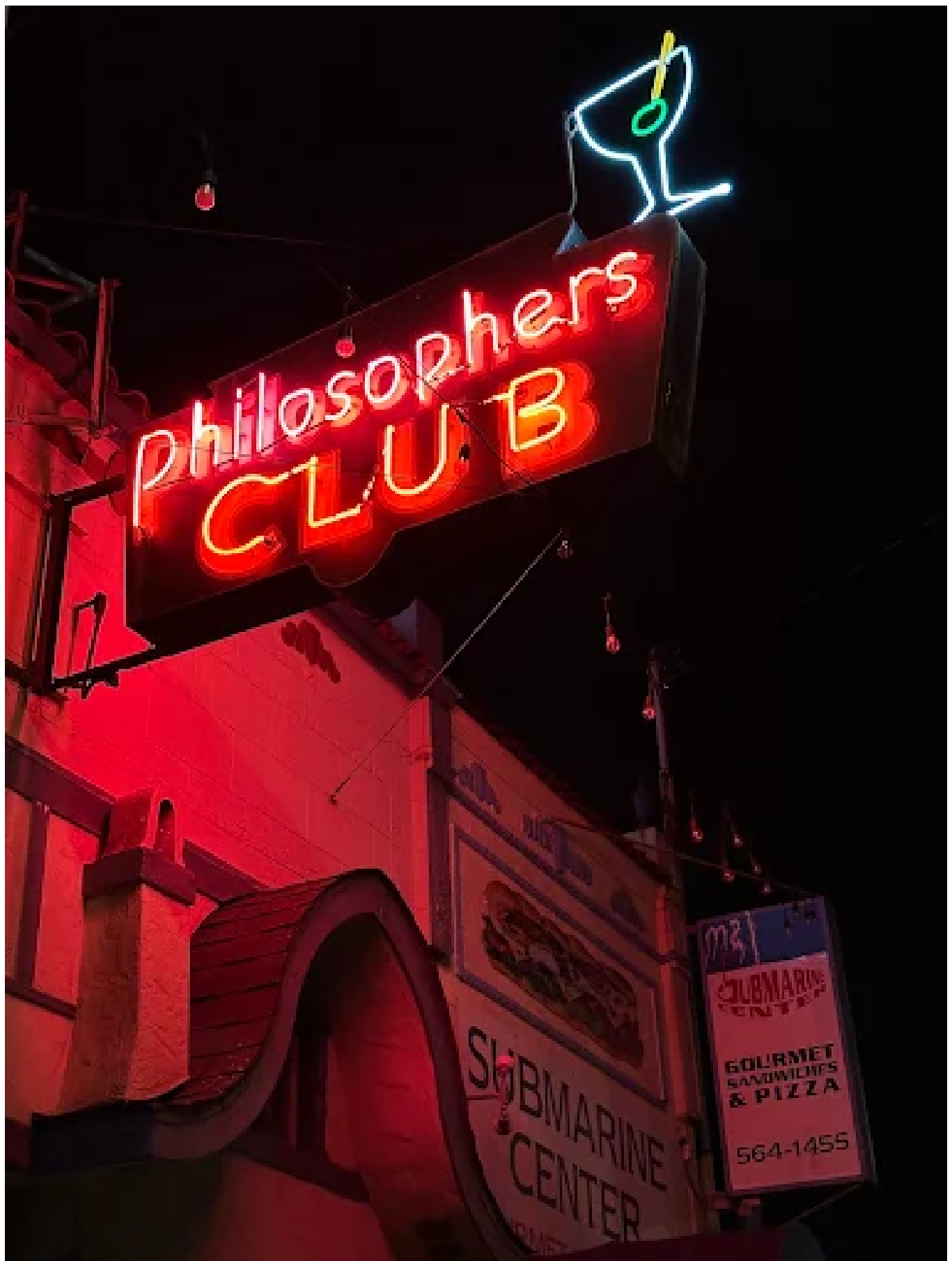




photo by BigShibz

Philosophers Club

DRAFT Resolution of the Small Business Commission

Resolution information

Resolution number: 030-26-LBR
Resolution date: April 27, 2026

Business information

Application number: LBR-2015-16-076
Business name: Philosophers Club
Business address: 824 Ulloa St.
District: District 7
Applicant: Joshua Fritsch, Owner
Nomination date: June 30, 2016
Nominated by: Supervisor Norman Yee

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Philosophers Club, currently located at 824 Ulloa 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 April 27, 2026, 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 Philosophers Club in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

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

Physical features or traditions that define the business:

- Neighborhood bar.
- Exterior neon sign.
- Ceiling mural depicting various philosophers.

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

- Bar.

Executive Director certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on April 27, 2026.

Katy Tang
Executive Director

Small Business Commission action

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –



LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: April 15, 2026

Filing Date: March 18, 2026
Case No.: 2026-002481LBR
Business Name: Philosophers Club
Business Address: 824 Ulloa Street
Zoning: NCDNCD – West Portal Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District
50//85-R-450//85-R-4 Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Not Applicable
Block/Lot: 29792979/012012
Applicant: Joshua Fritsch
824 Ulloa Street
Nominated By: Former Supervisor Norman Yee
Located In: District 7
Staff Contact: Elina Juvonen (628) 652 – 7381
elina.juvonen@sfgov.org

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

Philosophers Club is a long-running neighborhood tavern in the West Portal neighborhood. Originally founded by Gino D Bianucci and Paul Martini in 1948 as Philosopher Tavern, the business remains open at its original location, 824 Ulloa Street. Today, the tavern is owned by twin brothers Joshua and Justin Fritsch. Between 1951-1974, the business was known as Philosopher’s Inn. In 1975, the name was changed to Philosopher’s Club. The business received its current name without the apostrophe sometime in the early 2000s.

Throughout name and ownership changes, Philosophers Club has remained a cornerstone of the West Portal commercial corridor. The bar has prioritized community involvement, supporting local schools, nonprofits youth programs through donations, toy drives, and fundraisers, as well as event space. One of the distinctive

features of the bar is a mural painted by Deborah Lawder Sullivan, an artist and former co-owner of the bar. The mural depicts a range of “philosophers” from across time and geography, including ancient philosophers alongside twentieth century luminaries such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, and Bay Area resident Alice Waters. The aim of the mural was to include a range of people who brought new ideas to society.

Philosophers Club is known for having friendly bartenders and a welcoming atmosphere, creating a gathering space for debates, watching sports, and relaxation. Several high-profile bartenders have poured drinks at Philosophers Club. Angelo M. George poured drinks there for 40 years. Frank Rivas of House of Shields fame and George McCarthy (Royal Exchange, Capps Corner) are two other famous San Francisco bartenders to hold court at Philosophers Club. Its location near the West Portal Muni station makes it an easy stop for people all over the city.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1948.

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

Yes. Philosophers Club qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. Philosophers Club has operated continuously in San Francisco for 78 years.
- b. Philosophers Club has contributed to the history and identity of the West Portal neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. Philosophers Club 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 a long-running tavern. In addition, it prominently features a mural painted by a local artist.

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

Yes. The business is associated with several well-known San Francisco bartenders, including Angelo M. George, Frank Rivas and Geroge McCarthy. In addition, the interior ceiling mural references a large range of famous philosophers, writers, thinkers and activists.

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

No.

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

No, not as of the date of this Executive Summary.

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

Yes. Philosophers Club has been featured in many local newspapers and other media. This includes articles published by the SF Chronicle, The Bold Italic, and Broke-Ass Stuart. The bar was also included in *High Spirits: The Legacy Bars of San Francisco*, published by Heyday Press. In addition, the bar has appeared in several works of fiction and inspired a book of poetry by a former SFSU student and professor.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15, 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.

Philosophers Club has consistently contributed to the West Portal neighborhood community by supporting and contributing to fundraising events by local schools, nonprofits, and youth programs. It also features a prominent ceiling mural that includes "philosophers" from a range of backgrounds, countries and beliefs.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 824 Ulloa Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Tavern serving beverages and providing community space
- Exterior neon sign
- Interior ceiling mural depicting a range of philosophers

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: APRIL 15, 2026

Case No.: 2026-002481LBR
Business Name: Philosophers Club
Business Address: 824 Ulloa Street
Zoning: West Portal Avenue Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District
50//85-R-4Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 29792979/012012
Applicant: Joshua Fritsch
824 Ulloa Street
Nominated By: Former Supervisor Norman Yee
Located In: District 7
Staff Contact: Elina Juvonen, (628) 652 – 7381
elina.juvonen@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR PHILOSOPHERS CLUB CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 824 ULLOA ST, BLOCK 2979, LOT 012.

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 April 15, 2026, 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 Philosophers Club at 824 Ulloa Street 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 Philosophers Club.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

- 824 Ulloa Street, 1948-present

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Neighborhood bar
- Exterior neon sign
- Ceiling mural depicting various philosophers

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 April 15, 2026.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RECUSE:

ADOPTED: April 15, 2026