This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners:

Please include this correspondence in the public record and meeting minutes for the October 19, 2026, Civic Design Review Committee's consideration of the Embarcadero Park project.

As someone who helped with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument's 2008 dedication, I appreciate the Arts Commission, Recreation and Park Department and Port of San Francisco's efforts to secure its future. I support a renewed waterfront park. Its progress must include an explicit, enforceable commitment to this monument.

The memorial honors approximately 2,800 Americans who volunteered to defend the Spanish Republic against fascism. They recognized the international threat posed by Hitler and Mussolini when much of the world looked away. Many never returned. Their courage and sacrifice belong permanently in San Francisco's public memory.

When San Francisco accepted this monument, it made a commitment to those volunteers, their families, the artists and supporters, and then-Mayor Gavin Newsom and his administration, who helped bring it into being. Allowing it to disappear into indefinite storage or become an afterthought would break that commitment.

I respectfully ask the committee to make a written preservation and relocation commitment part of its action on the park proposal. That commitment should require:

• A permanent, prominent and accessible location, developed in consultation with ALBA and artist Walter Hood.
• Identified funding, a responsible City department and a firm timetable for installation.
• Appropriate conservation, secure handling and storage during any move.
• Readable, accessible panels and space for education, commemorations and community gatherings.

If a final site cannot be identified today, please establish a deadline for presenting alternatives and require a public progress report before the next design approval.

The monument cannot get lost in the shuffle. A renewed waterfront should help residents and visitors encounter this history and understand its continuing significance.

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade volunteers stood against fascism when doing so demanded extraordinary courage. San Francisco must keep faith with them.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Perry

10/15/2026

Dear Commissioners:

Please include this correspondence in the public record and meeting minutes for the October 19, 2026, Civic Design Review Committee's consideration of the Embarcadero Park project.

As one of the artists for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument's 2008 along with Ann Chamberlain (1951-2008), I cannot stress the importance of the sculptural work to the City of San Francisco and the legacy of the ALB family. The memorial honors the 2,800 Americans who volunteered to defend the Spanish Republic against fascism. A very diverse group of Americans went to fight the war, and many never returned. They are a part of San Francisco's history and its public memory.

The sculpture siting at the Embarcadero was a complex process and had strong support and commitment to those volunteers, their families, the artists and supporters, and then Mayor Gavin Newsom and his administration. I understand the sensitivity of the current site and the new park and fully support the Arts Commission, Recreation and Park Department and Port of San Francisco's efforts to secure the sculptures future.

I feel strongly that the committee makes a written preservation and relocation commitment part of its action on the park proposal. That commitment should require:

• A permanent, prominent and accessible location, developed in consultation with ALBA and artist Walter Hood.
• Identified funding, a responsible City department and a firm timetable for installation.
• Appropriate conservation, secure handling and storage during any move.
• Readable, accessible panels and space for education, commemorations and community gatherings.

Ann Chamberlain was a friend, colleague and mentor, and is one San Francisco's beloved artist, (https://www.artforum.com/news/ann-chamberlain-1951-2008-188078). Her work lives on through her public artwork in the city, particularly this seminal work, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument.

Sincerely

Walter Hood

Artist

Walter Hood
Creative Director & Founder, Hood Design Studio
P: 510-420-3855
E: Walter@hooddesignstudio.com

October 16, 2026

San Francisco Arts Commission
Civic Design Review Committee
art-info@sfgov.org

For Meeting of Oct 19, 2026
Agenda item: Embarcadero Plaza & Sue Bierman Park Renovation

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge the committee to retain the National Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

As you may know, this monument is the only national monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, in which 4000 plus men and women volunteered in 1936-1939 to defend the Spanish Republic against fascist forces supported by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

This remarkable memorial is located on the San Francisco Waterfront because of its significance to the labor unions that won their existence on this ground. The impact of those battles ranged far beyond the West Coast, to the mines, cotton fields, steel mills and auto plants where working people in the US built their labor movement.

It was that labor movement (and many of the participants in the Waterfront strikes) that schooled and motivated the Lincolns to foresee that that the war in Spain was about self determination and that the fascist threat was world wide.

I bring this up not as interesting fact, but because conceptualizing the new park without acknowledging its historical significance is essentially effacing that history. That erasure is particularly dangerous now.

I do not think considerations such as length of the structure, or design problems incorporating maintenance and emergency access is enough to make what is essentially a political decision: that the new park has no room to recognize the historical and political roots of the space it occupies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Martha Olson Jarocki
Daughter of Leonard E. Olson, Veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade
129 Greenbrae Boardwalk
Greenbrae, CA 94904

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

The third memorial in the US to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade stands beside the overwhelming pile of concrete that is/was the Vaillancourt Fountain. Held inside a steel lattice, several of the forty-five translucent onyx panels are broken, more are missing, leaving gaps in the history, breaking the timeline, allowing Langston Hughes' and Pablo Neruda's poetry to disintegrate. It is now scheduled to be removed and

destroyed.

Dedicated on March 30, 2008, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument, 40 feet long and 8 feet high, is an accidental emblem of our current political state. History - bloody, as well as both tragic and comic - is overwhelmed by corporate towers. That this memorial is a tribute to the losers in a battle for democracy, is all too poignant.

Twenty years after the end of World War I, citing a moral impartiality instead of political isolationism, the US, UK, and European countries signed a series of Neutrality Acts that Spain, Germany, and Italy and several US CEOs violated immediately. Spanish General Francisco Franco placed himself beside Mussolini and Hitler as rightful rulers of the world. Although Hitler and Mussolini fell, Franco retained authoritarian power for thirty-six years, until his death and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in 1977.

Recruitment into a foreign army was and still is illegal for Americans, so U.S. passports were stamped "Not valid for travel to Spain." During the 1930s more than 2800 Americans volunteered to defend the Spanish Republic against fascism. A third of the volunteers were Jewish fighting antisemitism. At least 90 members were Black Americans who understood Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia to be of a piece with fascist oppression in Europe racial subjugation in the United States. When confronted with Black Moors, North Africans fighting for Franco's Nationalists, Langston Hughes imagined the Moorish soldiers as ignorant of their own oppression.

> *Cause they got slaves in Africa —*
> *And they don't want 'em to be free.*
> *Listen, Moorish prisoner, hell!*
> *Here, shake hands with me!*
>
> *I knelt down there beside him,*
> *And I took his hand —*
> *But the wounded Moor was dyin'*
> *And he didn't understand.*

Many volunteers were Communists because the American Communist Party promised to stand up for workers of all races. Caleb Crain wrote of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the April 11, 2016 *New Yorker*:

> *Leftist volunteers from around the world flocked to the Republican side, seeing the war as a struggle between tyranny and freedom that transcended national boundaries. The fight felt almost holy - "like the feeling you expected to have and did not have when you made your first communion," Ernest Hemingway wrote, in "For Whom the Bell Tolls." The Americans had been brought to Spain by Comintern, the worldwide Communist organization, but, to disguise their allegiance, the troops had been given an irreproachably non-Communist name: the Abraham Lincoln battalion.*

Soldiers included an assortment of idealistic but naive people who showed up for

battle in street clothes and sneakers, in old suits and worn dress shoes. They were vaudevillian performers, an acrobat, a rabbi, writers, longshoremen, schoolteachers, miners, intellectuals, artists, idealists, and a *New Yorker* fact checker. The Brigade had the first African-American to lead white troops into battle.

George Orwell, who served as a corporal and then, briefly, as an acting lieutenant, wrote of the Republican stronghold in Barcelona, “Human beings were trying to behave as human beings and not as cogs in the capitalist machine.” John Dos Passos, Dorothy Parker, Stephen Spender, W. H. Auden, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Ernest Hemingway were all at the front.

Understaffed, underfunded, under supplied and desperate, disorganized, lacking direction, the Republicans and the Lincoln Brigade didn't have a chance. Victorious Franco had twenty thousand people killed and sent more than four hundred thousand to horrendous prisons. More than 25% of the Lincoln Brigade were killed. From Caleb Crain again:

> *…the Spanish Civil War, which claimed around half a million lives, wasn’t merely a battle between capital and labor. It was a battle between capital munificently abetted by Fascism, and labor misled by the poisonous internal politics of the Soviet Union and deserted by its natural allies, the moderate, liberal nations like France, Great Britain, and the United States.*

The latest version of San Francisco's Embarcadero revamp eliminates the crumbling concrete jungle-gym that is the eponymous Villancourt Fountain, but it also removes its counter weight, the Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Very few people will mourn the loss of the corporate adjunct that was a fountain that never worked properly. As an art piece designed to mimic the ugly freeway that once loomed above it, it was often defaced, occasionally by its own creator, Armand Vaillancourt.

The Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade should be spared, renovated, and set in a more visible place. It is an official historical marker; it is what historian, Peter N, Carroll, called "an antidote to amnesia."

Mary C. McFadden
San Francisco, CA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am shocked to hear that the redesign for the Embarcadero Plaza proposes removing the Lincoln Brigade Monument.

Many San Franciscans were part of or allied with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. The monument is a link to San Francisco's significant labor history and reflects the progressive values of the City. In 2008 it was dedicated with much fanfare by Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Spanish ambassador to the United States.

It is hard to believe that the design team for the plaza cannot work around the relatively small space occupied by the monument. Removing it is a denial of history, particularly during a time when Fascism is on the rise globally. It must remain where it is presently located as a reminder of those events in Spain that remain so relevant today.

Sincerely,
Harvey Smith

Here is a link to my newest publication - How the New Deal Won World War II: Leighninger Jr, Robert D, Smith, Harvey L: 9798318803673: Amazon.com: Books, and a link to my previous book - Berkeley and the New Deal, California: Harvey L. Smith: 9781467132398: Images of America: Paperback – Arcadia Publishing. Follow the Living New Deal - Sign Up For Updates | Living New Deal. Latest/previous newsletters are at https://url.avanan.click/v2/r01/___www.livingnewdeal.org.___.YXAzOnNmZHQyOmE6bzo3ZDY0ODMwNmU1Y2M3ODcwNDk4YTFmOWYzNTJmNGQxNzo3OjQzZTQ6MjlkYjBlM2FmMzIyZGZhYmFiZTUyOTkwNjgxOWFjMzg3Yjg0ZDI2NTU5MThlNDUwODYwMTgwZjFhZGU5MDMxZDp0OlQ6Tg Join us in pushing for a *New* New Deal!

the Bay Area and greater West Coast who understood the threat of Mussolini and Hitler who provided troops and military equipment to the fascists. Lincoln Brigade volunteers, who survived and returned to the Bay Area, were active union members and later fought in World War II. Unfortunately, the history of the Lincoln Brigade is not well known. The Embarcadero memorial was an important reminder of the ongoing struggle for human and democratic rights and provides a dramatic example of how current struggles for human rights have an important role in San Francisco's history.

The San Francisco monument reflects the dedication of the City to remembering the struggle for democracy and human dignity.

I urge you help preserve this remembrance and its importance, especially now, when we, as did the Spanish people in the Civil War, face an authoritarian government, anxious to repeal the advances that so many in the Bay Area have sacrificed for. The Memorial should have pride of place in the redevelopment of Embarcadero-Beirman Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Fitzgerald

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Arts Commision and other civic authorities:

I am a retired high school teacher who has brought many groups of students to the Embarcadero to visit and learn from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade commemoration.

Its continuing importance is two-fold:

1. These were Americans who volunteered to fight facism before their country was in the war. Their dedication to democratic values was a beacon in the darkening skies of the late 1930's. People were folding themselves into facism across Europe and America and innocent victims were beginning to suffer repression which led to murder on a massive scale The motivation of these American warriors is extraordinary in our history. Another group much more fondly and completely remembered, the American Volunteer Group (AVG) fighting the Rising Sun Empire from southern China, became known as the Flying Tigers and they lifted the spirits of many through their battles in the sky. Yet we must not forget those who slogged through the stubborn ground battles in Spain. These groups are equal in the "full measure of devotion they showed."

2. Fascism is on the rise again around the world and, in the perception of many, in our own country. How else will our youth and all citizens be inspired to fight it without public reference to this historic struggle? The simplicity, stark beauty and profundity of the panels on the Embarcadero need to be there for decades to come. Preserving democracy is surely one of the great purposes of all public art. How graced we have been by this piece, how grateful we are to all who conceived, constructed and maintain it. May we be among them.

Sincerely,

Jim McGarry
Pacifica

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please find a way to include this in your new design of the Embarcadero Plaza.

I cannot do better in describing the universal meaning behind this monument than to quote a Lincoln Brigade member himself, screenwriter Alva Bessie. He later

became one of the Hollywood Ten and then, during those blacklists, became a longshoreman here. He said of the 45,000 people who joined the International Brigades in Spain:

"For never before in the history of the world had there been such a body of men — a spontaneously gathered international volunteer army, drawn from every stratum of human life and every human occupation, handworkers and professionals, intellectuals and farmers. The very existence of this army . . . was a guarantee of international working class brotherhood; the final proof that those who perform the work of the world possess a common interest and an identical obligation. . . . These men had fought and died with and for each other, their roster was the roster of mankind."

Do not move it!! Unless you know it has another home already set up!!

John Ahlbach
SF City Guides

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

We are seriously distressed by the possibility that the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument would be relocated from the Embarcadero, close to the Ferry Building, to

some other location or even into storage where it is likely to remain. This brilliantly designed memorial reminds us of an extremely important and unique key chapter in our history, especially at a time when fascism is rearing its ugly head here in the United States. We need to be reminded of the selflessness and heroism of the men and women who left the comfort of their homes to fight, and, in some cases, give their lives to protect a democracy that sought to bring universal education, health care, racial equality and more to the people of Spain and to stand as a model that we should all strive to follow. The Monument is a treasured part of the San Francisco Arts Commission https://www.sf.gov/departments--arts-commission collection and it contains text from significant U.S. and international writers who supported the struggle of the Abraham Lincoln Brigadistas.

Please ensure that the compelling legacy of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade lives on at the Embarcadero in the City of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Tom and Jane Kelly
Berkeley

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

This is one of the most important monuments about the decisive act of resistance to facism. We must never forget those who were considered early antifacists. I come from family and friends who fought in Spain. It was a wonderful time to grow up and know those folks. They were wonderful people and

went on to union organizing as well as teaching in the schools. Never Forget.
Thank you - John Gruntfest, son of Doris and Leo Gruntfest, comitted anti-facists, anti-racists, anti-war
Sent from my iPad

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am writing in support of keeping the Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Veterans in the renovated Embarcadero/Berman park.

The Embarcadero is a key location of the SF labor struggle for better pay and hours, safer working conditions, and benefits like healthcare and pensions. Many of the volunteers had been active in the labor struggles and when Franco rebelled against the Republic, they saw the fight in Spain as a continuation of the fight for employment, healthcare, education, women's rights, and religious freedom. The Brigade was the first fully integrated US military unit with African American officers. After returning from Spain, the volunteers continued to support those fights and to resist fascism.

Gavin Newsom was a booster of the Monument. George Schultz attended the original dedication of the Monument even though he was politically opposed to the Vets' causes.

Leah Garchik wrote about the dedication in SFGate on 4/1/2008. "The stuff we're made of will never go away," said vet Abe Osheroff, "with or without monuments. Because the bastards will never cease their evils, and decent people will never stop their struggles."

The Monument contains text from many prominent American and International Writers, and activists, including Albert Camus, Pablo Neruda, Alvah Bessie, Langston Hughes, Lillian Hellman, Martha Gellhorn, Dolores Ibarrúri and Paul Robeson, and working class leaders such as Harry Bridges.

Osheroff also said “… I’ll tell you what it’s all about for me. Some day in the not too distant future, some guy will be walking through here with a couple of his adolescent kids, and one of the kids will say, “Dad, what’s that?” And this Dad may know the answer. And giving that answer is like putting another spark plug into the vehicle of progress that we’re all engaged in.”

When Del Berg, the last surviving Brigade Vet died, John McCain wrote a tribute to him in the NY Times in which he praised the brigade members as freedom fighters who made an early noble stand against fascism in Europe. He expressed admiration for their courage and sacrifice in Spain.

Both my parents were Veterans of the Brigade. They went to Spain to stop the spread of fascism. If they were alive, I wish I could say they would be shocked by what is happening in this country today, but I can say that they would have been demonstrating on Saturday.

I am assuming the purpose of renovating the park is to make it more open and accessible. Surely, it should be possible to find an open space near a walkway that would allow that future father to explain the Monument to his kids.

Sincerely,
Peter Hartzman

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

There have been few times in our present day when defending democracy, civil liberties and

human dignity have seemed more urgent than now. In times like these we seek out historic models of human behavior to inform, inspire and encourage us in our own fight. The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument on the Embarcadero in San Francisco represents such a legacy of American men and women who stood up and sacrificed for the human values that form the core of our modern democracy; a legacy that now is threatened by our very own government. Removal of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade monument from this public site is a form of erasure of our collective memory, a silencing of voices that matter to all of us more than ever today.

Lucy Chamberlain
Cleveland, OH
October 18, 2026

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask you to not only preserve, but to enhance the monument to "Lincoln Brigade" volunteers. Isn't what those volunteers stood for also what the City and County of San

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Friends,

I am unable to be at your hearing on October 19, but I wanted to register my strong feeling that the Lincoln Brigade Monument should remain at or very near its current location.

The monument a remarkable thing in itself, as a work of art and of historical memory, that has few parallels anywhere. It's important that it remain close to its existing location for two reasons. One is that this is a much-visited part of San Francisco, and many people encounter, and are moved by, the monument there who would not have even heard of it otherwise. The other is that the Embarcadero has a strong and emotional connection with the city's labor history, as the scene of the 1934 longshoremen's strike, which escalated into a general strike that saw two people killed by police and many more wounded.

There were people who took part in those events who, a few years later, fought in Spain. I knew one of them, the late George Kaye. He is no longer here to speak for himself and his fellow veterans of both conflicts, so forgive me for speaking for them: please keep the monument where it is.

Sincerely,

Adam Hochschild
Lecturer, U.C. Berkeley
Author, *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939*

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Honorable Commissioners:

I urge you to find a place in the renovated Embarcadero Plaza for the Lincoln Brigade Monument. This memorial is the only government-supported monument to the Lincoln Brigade in the USA. The idealism, commitment, and bravery of these young US citizens who went to Spain to fight fascism is a story worth memorializing, and the San Francisco waterfront is an appropriate venue for this memorial. My uncle, Irving Weissman, was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and he spent his final years in San Francisco. Several other members of the Lincoln Brigade also died here in San Francisco. But, perhaps even more importantly, the San Francisco Embarcadero has historical significance to labor history and led to San Francisco's international reputation as a progressive city. Direct connections can and should be made between the progressive labor movement and the international fight against fascism. This history is relevant today.

The original project in the early 2000's to site this monument in Embarcadero Plaza was long and hard-fought. Please honor the people who fought then and the veterans of the Lincoln Brigade who died fighting fascism and retain the monument in the park.

Sincerely,
Paul Goldstein
Palo Alto

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I wish to support the retention of the Lincoln Brigade Monument where is stands today. The Lincoln Brigade was an important endeavor in San Francisco and indeed California and US history. Several San Franciscans went to Spain with the Brigade

to fight for freedom and human dignity. The monument itself belong along the Embarcadero with others monuments to movements for social justice.

The signage park on the South Waterfront at Islais Creek honors San Francisco workers. A somewhat similar signage park to the north along the Embarcadero recalls the workers who participated in the Pacific Coast waterfront and San Francisco general strikes of 1934. Many of the “Lincolns” were San Francisco waterfront workers who supported the 1934 strike and then went to Spain two or three later. Their monument belongs along the Embarcadero as well.

I am a labor historian with fifty years of experience studying San Francisco labor history. I was involved in the development of the two signage parks noted above. I strongly recommend that the Lincoln Brigade Monument be retained on the Embarcadero. It is a central part of the San Francisco story and belongs where it is. In any case, it should not be relegated to storage where it might be forgotten. It should be readily available to the public to remind us all of San Francisco’s rich waterfront history.

Thank you very much for your attention to my request.

Harvey Schwartz, Ph.D.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that the renovation project of the Embarcadero may involve removing the monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. I am writing to express my strong opposition to such removal. The monument and the cause it honors deserve a central location.

As a scholar of Spanish and US history and US-Spanish relations, I cannot underscore enough how important it is for the United States to remember and honor the brave men and women who, in the midst of the Great Depression and the rise of Fascism, put their lives on the line in defense of democracy in Spain—and worldwide. The Lincoln Brigade monument, in its stunning design, does exactly that. In its current location, it also exemplifies the progressive and democratic values that San Francisco has embodied for so many years.

I urge you keep it as part of the Embarcadero redesign.

With many thanks, and best wishes,

Sebastiaan Faber
Professor of Hispanic Studies
Oberlin College

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

TO: SF Arts Commission

Embarcadero/Beirman renovation project

FROM: Leni Siegel

RE: Keeping Lincoln vets monument in renovated Embarcadero park

The historical significance of this monument is important.

I brought my large, extended family to the dedication of this monument years ago as my father was a veteran of the Lincoln Brigade. Gavin Newsom was the mayor and he spoke at the ceremony, outlining the history of San Francisco and the contribution the vets made in their fight against fascism in Spain. Quotes from internationally known writers from Camus to Langston Hughes are an invaluable part of the text. Artistic merit goes to those who designed it and it deserves to stay where it is.

To be put in storage would be a travesty to all those who participated in the struggle and those descendants and friends who worked so hard after five years of working to make it happen.

Lincoln Brigade vets put their bodies on the line and many died in the fight against fascism. Many came from the SF Bay Area and dedicated their lives to continue the fight throughout their lives.

The monument is particularly relevant today.

The legacy of the international struggle for social justice will continue by keeping the monument where it is, in the public eye.

The overall design should be modified or expanded to preserve this important historical monument.

Sincerely,
Leni Siegel

Sent from my iPad

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

my family supports the continued presence and upkeep of the lincoln brigade memorial. my father fought fascism with the brigade, was wounded and spent a year in a prison camp. my children and five grandchildren all go to the memorial every year. it is important for all people, especially these

days with the rise of beginning fascism throughout the world. thank you, paul harris, dr. barbara newman, josh, corey, carmen harris. orion, tosh, nasha santiago, vashaun and kaneasha harris.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear City Planners:

With a heavy heart I am writing to express my extreme dismay to learn that the Lincoln Brigade Memorial at the Embarcadero is in danger of being taken down. This installation means so much to our extended family and to so many others whose parents, grandparents and great grandparents fought and even gave their lives to stop fascism in Spain nearly one hundred years ago. Until this monument came to be, their commitment and sacrifice was not memorialized in such a significant manner in our country. The monument is very precious to us.

We attended the dedication from many years ago when Gavin Newsom was the mayor of San Francisco. I cannot express how full our hearts were to see that finally our father and many others like him were being acknowledged and remembered. We were a big family group and we kept the ceremony booklet as a precious keepsake. These days, when visiting San Francisco, we make a point to visit the monument. It is distressing beyond words to even fathom that the memory of these brave and beloved individuals is on the chopping block.

Please do the right thing. Now, more than ever, the instructive lessons and examples of “Los Brigadistas” need to be preserved and honored.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Siegel Halpern, representing the large extended family of Joseph Isaac Siegel

90 Alhambra Ave.
Ventura, CA 93004

Sent from my iPad

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my emphatic support for keeping the monument to the Abraham

Lincoln Bridge in the Embarcadero, where it so fittingly belongs. I understand that the current renovation project may result in the monument's removal. That would be a terrible loss.

As a documentary filmmaker focused on American history, I recognize how urgent the monument is as a reminder of what's best in our country. The volunteers who went to fight fascism in Spain provide a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and courage it has taken to stand up for the best that America can be. The monument beautifully captures the spirit of their mission — and their sacrifice — and it belongs in the Embarcadero, the heart of San Francisco's historical commitment to solidarity and progressive ideals. It is also a wonderfully moving piece of public art.

At a time when America and the world once again face the challenges of fascism, we need this monument to remain a beacon of strength, hope, and possibility. I urge you to find a way to keep it where it belongs.

Best,

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

It is absolutely essential that for the history and commemoration of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and the fight in California and the United States against fascism that the Lincoln Brigade Monument stay in its present location. I trust that a way will be found to make

that possible. Our history will be much the poorer if it is taken down.

Yours most sincerely, Peter Stansky, Frances and Charles Field Professor of History Emeritus, Stanford University

Good evening,

I am a former Bay Area resident currently serving in the United States Army, and am writing to voice my opposition to the removal of the Lincoln Brigade Memorial - a topic which is intended to be tabled at the October 9th meeting your department is hosting.

The Bay Area has a proud legacy of creating civil rights, activist, and civic leaders - a legacy that the Bay Area veterans of the Lincoln Brigade championed in their struggle for democracy, anti-fascism, and basic human dignity during the Spanish Civil War.

Growing up in the Bay, my childhood often took me to the Memorial - its subject matter inspired me to serve and further the liberties of oppressed peoples around the world. While national political climates change, an enduring and unchanging quality are the actions of the men and women of the Lincoln Brigade, etched into history and the public memory through this memorial.

If you remove this memorial, you are not only depriving the city of a valuable public work - but potentially also generations of civil servants, activists, and servicemembers who want to do right because of what that monument stood for.

At the risk of sounding combative, I don't know why the city would choose to stand as a testimony to corporate excess rather than its brave inhabitants.

BLUF: Don't relegate the monument to obscurity! A city is not just a place, and it's people not passive participants in history - least of all the Lincolns.

Best regards,
Jake McDonnell

g>
Subject: Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please note that many San Franciscan's fought the fascists in Spain including my Uncle Leo Nitzberg. The Lincoln Brigade is part of San Francisco's and the country at larges history. The brave volunteers from around the world should be remembered and we should be teaching about the Spanish Civil War in San Francisco's schools.

Please keep the memorial alive!

Thank you,
Barry Nitzberg

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am writing in support of keeping the Lincoln Brigade monument where it is. My uncle was a volunteer in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, who went to Spain to fight for freedom. I and many other relatives of those extraordinary people feel it is essential to maintain the

monument as a tribute to their memory and to the cause for which they fought and died.

There is great historical significance of the Embarcadero area to labor history, which led to San Francisco's international reputation as a progressive city. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade saw the Spanish Civil War as a continuation of those struggles led by a fascist military take over. The Spanish Republic stood for universal education, health care, employment, women's rights, racial equality, and religious freedom. When they returned from Spain they dedicated their lives to those struggles and the fight against fascism. These issues are just as relevant today.

The Monument contains text from many prominent American and International Writers, and activists, such as Albert Camus, Pablo Neruda, Alvah Bessie, Langston Hughes, Lillian Hellman, Martha Gellhorn, Dolores Ibarrúri, and working class leaders such as Harry Bridges.

We feel the legacy of the international struggle for social justice is an important part of what makes the Embarcadero-Beirman Park so crucial to the legacy of San Francisco as an international city. It is important to keep it there. It is worth the additional effort to make it work.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Burt

Sent from my iPhone

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the SF Arts Commission,

I am writing as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives group and a relative of a German-born nurse and translator who volunteered her skills in the

Spanish Civil War. I was coincidentally born on the last day of the Spanish Civil War, a day in which the democratically-elected Second Spanish Republic was annihilated by the army led by Francisco Franco and aided by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. During the final years of the war and defying U.S. and international non-intervention laws, men and women of all callings, ages and ethnicities made their way to Spain to defend its people against centuries of oppression, poverty, and ignorance. Of the approximately 2800 volunteers from the Lincoln Brigade, called "premature anti-fascists," none survive today. But many volunteers from the San Francisco Bay Area were present in 2008 when the steel and onyx panels of the Monument presented a testimony of anti-fascism to San Francisco and the world.

With fascism looming today in high levels of government, we need the images and the words in the Lincoln Monument to survive, words uttered by Ernest Hemingway, Paul Robeson, Pablo Neruda, Harry Bridges, Dolores Ibárruri, Alvah Bessie, Abe Osheroff, Langston Hughes, Lillian Hellman... We need this testimony revealed in public spaces, ideally spaces that witnessed struggles for democracy like the Port of San Francisco.

May appropriate and safe placement of this monument play its deserved role in maintaining San Francisco's reputation as a progressive space and extend the motto of *No pasarán* to those who would destroy it. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
Judith Berlowitz, Ph.D

--

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I hope you will listen to all who care deeply about the ALBA memorial brind at the Beirman Embarcadeo site in SF.

History is SO SO important, especially in theses times we are living in. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and all
the international volunteers were role models for STANDING UP for their beliefs -

stop fascism, strengthen democracy!

We need this history today. I hope you will DO ALL YOU CAN to keep the ALBA memorial AT the Beirman Embarcadero site and honor its significance to the history of the Embarcadero area.

Here are some reasons why keeping it in the Park area is so important:
Historical significance of the Embarcadero area to labor history, which led to San Francisco's international reputation as a progressive city. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade saw the Spanish Civil War as a continuation of those struggles, they KNEW that people needed to stand up against a fascist military take over. They understood the danger posed by Franco, Mussolini and Hitler, They risked their lives, and many died. They knew that stopping fascism EARLY was important.

This is such an important lesson for today!!

The Spanish Republic stood for universal education, health care, employment, women's rights, racial equality, and religious freedom. When they returned from Spain they dedicated their lives to those struggles and the fight against fascism. These issues are just as relevant today.

The Monument contains text from many prominent American and International Writers, and activists, such as Albert Camus, Pablo Neruda, Alvah Bessie, Langston Hughes, Lillian Hellman, Martha Gellhorn, Dolores Ibarrúri, and working class leaders such as Harry Bridges.

We feel the legacy of the international struggle for social justice is an important part of what makes the Embarcadero-Beirman Park so crucial to the legacy of San Francisco as an international city. It is important to keep it there, even if it doesn't perfectly fit in the design and takes additional effort to make it work.

Sincerely,
Renee Enteen
long time Bay Area resident

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

As we confront the hideous spectre of fascism advancing every day here in the US, it is more urgent than ever that we repudiate at every opportunity this encroaching fanaticism. We don't have to look back very far to recognize how earlier generations confronted this danger -- not just heroic figures from the Bay Area, but also the many volunteers from around the

world who formed brigades to counter this threat. The Abraham Lincoln Brigade was comprised of courageous men and women who - early on - recognized the dangers of Nazi-supported forces in Spain who were threatening to overthrow the Spanish Republic: In exceptional acts of solidarity, Abraham Lincoln Brigade volunteers left families and jobs to risk their lives to join in the international fight against fascism, far from home.

The monument celebrating the bravery of these so-called 'premature anti-fascists' is now at risk of being removed. This is untenable! The Embarcadero is the focal point of visitors from all over the world. Locals and visitors alike deserve to learn about the unique history of our beloved Bay Area and its significant role in the many, ongoing struggles for social justice.

San Francisco has played a pivotal role in labor history for many decades, both nationally and internationally; the impact of early strikes led to monumental changes in workers' rights far and wide; in the1980's, our local ILWU refused to unload South African goods in protest of apartheid; these actions raised significant awareness and helped to galvanize a wider opposition.

The monument honoring the Abraham Lincoln Brigade veterans needs to stay put. We need to bring MORE attention to the heroic actions of those who took a stand! To contemplate removing the monument is shameful, and a blight on the memory of their bravery.

nina ruymaker

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

PLEASE!! Keep the ALB Memorial in the Embarcadero. It is the ONLY public memorial to these gallant me and women who risked their lives to fight Hitler and Mussolini in Spain. San Francisco should be proud to have It.

Instead of moving it somewhere—and, come on, it would be years before it ever

found another home!—it should be restored, given a decent title, and celebrated.

I am an SF City Guide who does an Embarcadero tour. People traveling through here LOVE to hear their story on the tour!

Keep it and fix it up!!!!

John Ahlbach

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

At a time when our country is being run by a bunch of fascists, there should be no question in anyone's mind about the importance of maintaining the memorial to Abraham Lincoln Brigade's courage and bravery in fighting fascism in Spain. Would that such courage be present in our congress today to fight the white supremacy so prevalent in our nation everywhere we look. It is important as a site for our citizenry to contemplate what these men and women stood up for. It is what we should all be standing up for and especially as a site for San Francisco which claims to be a

city that cares for democracy and values diversity above all to do all it can to keep this memorial where it belongs, at the Embarcadero site, a place which has stood us all in good stead for so many years and provided a place for social justice and equality to be addressed to citizens. I have personally addressed a crowd at a demonstration for free speech and have often visited the memorial and told others to do the same thru the years since its installation.

Please do all things necessary to keep Abraham Lincoln Brigade Memorial where it belongs, for years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this plea.

Sheila Goldmacher

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

THEATER, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES
15 Dwinelle Hall, MC #2560
BERKELEY, CA 94720-2560
PHONE: 510-642-1677 / FAX: 510-643-9956

October 18, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support the local initiative to preserve the presence of the Bay Area monument to the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on the Embarcadero as part of the Embarcadero Park Renovation Project. Bay Area representatives of the Lincoln Brigade Monument have just been informed the design team doesn't think they can find a place for it. This is incredibly distressing news, and I ask that this decision be reconsidered.

I am a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies at UC Berkeley, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA). I am also a scholar of commemoration and commemorative performance. Before I retired from Berkeley in 2024, I was an active member of the Bay area ALBA constituency. In fact, I was on the team that oversaw the design process for the original monument, participating in the call for proposals, evaluating the submissions, working with the architect and designers, and selecting the texts that appear on the monument itself. I understand the value of monuments such as these that celebrate essential histories that might otherwise be lost. When they mark the landscape, they help make their stories inescapable. One key necessity for monuments such as these is that they be located in readily accessible public spaces, not only so those aware of a monument can easily seek it out, but so people unfamiliar with the history it perpetuates can come upon accidentally it as they move through the city and discover the story it tells.

This monument was installed where it was on the Embarcadero because that's where it belongs. The history of San Francisco is inseparable from its progressive past, and that past lives in this part of the city. San Francisco was a progressive stronghold even before the Spanish Civil War began in 1936, with much of that identity grounded in the waterfront. With events including the West Coast waterfront strike of 1934 and the subsequent San Francisco General Strike, the city's workers developed a national and even international reputation for defending their rights against larger power structures. Many Spanish Civil War volunteers came from San Francisco and the Bay area, and the largest and most active group of Spanish Civil War veterans outside of New York City has been based in the Bay area for nearly a century, from the time the first volunteers returned home in the late 1930s. It's not a coincidence that the initial bequest that got the ball rolling for the Lincoln Brigade Monument came from a Bay area supporter of the Lincoln Brigade to help construct a San Francisco monument. Years of fundraising, organizing, and working with the dedicated members of the Arts Commission ultimately made it possible.

When the San Francisco Arts Commission committed to this monument and its installation in 2008, it was not a temporary commitment. No one saw it that way. Monuments such as these should stand for many lifetimes, not a mere 18 years. The Embarcadero Park Renovation Project will be a boon for the city and make the vital waterfront area near the Financial District and the Ferry Building even more beautiful and vibrant. This is even more reason to find a way to preserve this monument and incorporate it into the new designs. You owe it to the city, to the many funders of this project, to the brave men and women who fought to defend that Spanish Republic from fascism between 1936 and 1939, and to this amazing city itself. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Peter Glazer
Professor Emeritus

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

SFARTS commission:

I understand that there is a possibility that the monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade may

lose its home on the Embarcadero. My late father, Irving Weissman, was an anti-fascist who volunteered and fought in Spain and went on to fight fascism in World War II. He was imprisoned during the McCarthy era. After that, he continued to struggle against fascism for the rest of his life. Now, more than ever, we need monuments to the men and women who devoted their lives to fighting and working to make this world a place where people could live in freedom without the fear of suppression and/or repression.

Even with the current influence of the technocracy, San Francisco maintains a reputation as a city where people of principle are celebrated, and the location of this monument is a homage to the city's labor history.

I realize that there may be issues with the renovation and redesign of the park, but surely, given the significance and the power of this memorial, a way can be found to incorporate it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Weissman, Psy.D.

This message, together with any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. It may contain information that is confidential and prohibited from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination or copying of this message or any attachment is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender immediately by telephone or by return email and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Committee

I am a visual artist and curator at the Exploratorium. Over my life I have developed numerous histories of our landscape as curated exhibitions, books and public art projects.

The Abraham Lincoln Memorial, developed by Ann Chamberlain and Walter Hood, for me is one of the most inspired projects we are lucky to have in the Bay Area. It was initially commissioned with the idea it would be sited between the Ferry Building and the end of Market St. It was moved from one site to another with objections related to it creating problems with "design Intent" from various architectural groups. I understand the current efforts that have been engaged to respectfully place this work. But one important element that seems to be overlooked is the very essential story of the laborer's who built this city. Why could this not be a centerpiece for the new design?

The SF Waterfront working community led the country and possibly the world in what it means to fight for a living wage. We were a labor town in the early 20th century (a place where people could afford to live) the longshoreman under the great leadership of Harry Bridges led us to victory to create a union.

This fight for justice inspired many waterfront workers to join the ALB and fight injustice in Spain against the fascist regime aligning with Hitler. These were our inspired front-line workers who sacrificed everything to fight internationally for human rights and justice – before many in America became awakened to the threats of fascism and the regressive ideas of totalitarianism.

We live in a time today when injustice, prejudice, and authoritarian leaders want to erase history. This memorial tells a story of the ideas and experiences of everyday people who fought for justice. All the more reason to make it a centerpiece and a focal point.

It was also created by two of the most respected artists in our community – I have especially followed the work of the late Ann Chamberlain and want to urge you to find a site for this. Her sensitivity to story-telling by using the voices of lived experience makes the works she created timeless – speaking to all of us in a deeply profound way. The project is also transparent – as it is produced on glass working with light to be viewed on both sides.

I would like to urge the design team to find a way to integrate the memorial – not as a side piece but as a centerpiece.

Thanks for your attention

--
Susan Schwartzenberg
Bay Observatory

Exploratorium
Piers 15/17
San Francisco Ca. 94111

415 846 1794

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I am writing in support of the **Abraham Lincoln Brigade Memorial** and its inclusion in the redesign of the Embarcadero Plaza. This memorial honors the lives and work of so many

people, including my parents, Lisette and Sam Kutnick.

After my mother passed away in 2010, I discovered among her papers a number of letters from men in the trenches in Spain in the 1930s. They risked their lives for people they didn't know. They were part of something larger than themselves, and my parents were part of the San Francisco community that raised money to help these efforts to defeat fascism. Like the Coit Tower murals, this memorial pays homage to a time when people took care of each other, and worked together toward a better world.

This memorial is not just for San Franciscans. People come from around the world to visit our fine city. Fascism is rearing its head around the world again, and we must acknowledge and celebrate the times when people stood up in the face of tyranny.

I understand the difficulty of designing a new park. I ask that you not give up, that you keep working to find a way to include this important memorial in the new Embarcadero Plaza.

Thank you.

Esther Kutnick

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I was surprised and disappointed to learn that the recommendation of RPD is to not include the monument in the redesign of Embarcadero Plaza/Sue Bierman Park. This monument was created to bring attention to the fight against fascism in Spain, and the ongoing activities of those who survived

the war and devoted their lives to improving conditions for working people, the civil rights movement, the women's movement and efforts to obtain peaceful resolution to local, national and international disputes. The longshoremen are an important part of this legacy and worked with us on the original monument. San Franciscans are proud of their heritage and deserve to have a monument that encourages active civil engagement for all. At this critical juncture in our nation's history, anti fascism is needed on our own shores.

As chair of the ALBA committee that worked for eight years on the creation and placement of this monument, I am familiar with the process of finding appropriate locations for various artworks and monuments. Our group attended many meetings and hearings regarding proposed locations and worked with the artists, community members, and several commissions. Then Supervisor Sue Bierman was an active supporter and it seems disrespectful to use her name for this wonderful new park while eliminating reference to a cause dear to her heart. Toward the end of this project in 2008, then Mayor Gavin Newsom provided his support. In 2025 he sent a letter of condolences upon the death of Peter Carroll, an historian involved with ALBA and our monument project, noting that he had "the distinct privilege to attend" the unveiling of the monument.

I sincerely hope that you take the effort to relook at your plans and find sufficient space to locate this monument.

Sent from my iPad

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

We are writing in support of saiving the Lincoln Brigade Monument, and are saddened at the thought that it may disappear from view on the Embarcadero. The Monument is not only a testament to those who took up the fight to preserve education, health care, equality and

personal freedoms during the Spanish Civil War, but a testament to those of us who want to make certain that these basic human rights are preserved today. In a city such as San Francisco, that has prided itself in maintaining diversity and the respect for human rights for all, this monument truly embodies those ideals. Surely, the Lincoln Brigade Monument can be included in the new design somehow, some way. Please do not pack it away, never to be seen or spoken about again. It is an inspiration for modern times and modern struggles.

Sincerely yours in peace and justice,
Daniel and Rosanne Piccinini

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

We are seriously distressed by the possibility that the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument would be relocated from the Embarcadero, close to the Ferry Building, to

some other location or even into storage where it is likely to remain. This brilliantly designed memorial reminds us of an extremely important and unique key chapter in our history, especially at a time when fascism is rearing its ugly head here in the United States. We need to be reminded of the selflessness and heroism of the men and women who left the comfort of their homes to fight, and, in some cases, give their lives to protect a democracy that sought to bring universal education, health care, racial equality and more to the people of Spain and to stand as a model that we should all strive to follow. The Monument is a treasured part of the San Francisco Arts Commission https://www.sf.gov/departments--arts-commission collection and it contains text from significant U.S. and international writers who supported the struggle of the Abraham Lincoln Brigadistas.

Please ensure that the compelling legacy of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade lives on at the Embarcadero in the City of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Tom and Jane Kelly
Berkeley

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

The third memorial in the US to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade stands beside the overwhelming pile of concrete that is/was the Vaillancourt Fountain. Held inside a steel lattice, several of the forty-five translucent onyx panels are broken, more are missing, leaving gaps in the history, breaking the timeline, allowing Langston Hughes' and Pablo Neruda's poetry to disintegrate. It is now scheduled to be removed and

destroyed.

Dedicated on March 30, 2008, the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument, 40 feet long and 8 feet high, is an accidental emblem of our current political state. History - bloody, as well as both tragic and comic - is overwhelmed by corporate towers. That this memorial is a tribute to the losers in a battle for democracy, is all too poignant.

Twenty years after the end of World War I, citing a moral impartiality instead of political isolationism, the US, UK, and European countries signed a series of Neutrality Acts that Spain, Germany, and Italy and several US CEOs violated immediately. Spanish General Francisco Franco placed himself beside Mussolini and Hitler as rightful rulers of the world. Although Hitler and Mussolini fell, Franco retained authoritarian power for thirty-six years, until his death and the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in 1977.

Recruitment into a foreign army was and still is illegal for Americans, so U.S. passports were stamped "Not valid for travel to Spain." During the 1930s more than 2800 Americans volunteered to defend the Spanish Republic against fascism. A third of the volunteers were Jewish fighting antisemitism. At least 90 members were Black Americans who understood Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia to be of a piece with fascist oppression in Europe racial subjugation in the United States. When confronted with Black Moors, North Africans fighting for Franco's Nationalists, Langston Hughes imagined the Moorish soldiers as ignorant of their own oppression.

> *Cause they got slaves in Africa —*
> *And they don't want 'em to be free.*
> *Listen, Moorish prisoner, hell!*
> *Here, shake hands with me!*
>
> *I knelt down there beside him,*
> *And I took his hand —*
> *But the wounded Moor was dyin'*
> *And he didn't understand.*

Many volunteers were Communists because the American Communist Party promised to stand up for workers of all races. Caleb Crain wrote of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the April 11, 2016 *New Yorker*:

> *Leftist volunteers from around the world flocked to the Republican side, seeing the war as a struggle between tyranny and freedom that transcended national boundaries. The fight felt almost holy - "like the feeling you expected to have and did not have when you made your first communion," Ernest Hemingway wrote, in "For Whom the Bell Tolls." The Americans had been brought to Spain by Comintern, the worldwide Communist organization, but, to disguise their allegiance, the troops had been given an irreproachably non-Communist name: the Abraham Lincoln battalion.*

Soldiers included an assortment of idealistic but naive people who showed up for

battle in street clothes and sneakers, in old suits and worn dress shoes. They were vaudevillian performers, an acrobat, a rabbi, writers, longshoremen, schoolteachers, miners, intellectuals, artists, idealists, and a *New Yorker* fact checker. The Brigade had the first African-American to lead white troops into battle.

George Orwell, who served as a corporal and then, briefly, as an acting lieutenant, wrote of the Republican stronghold in Barcelona, “Human beings were trying to behave as human beings and not as cogs in the capitalist machine.” John Dos Passos, Dorothy Parker, Stephen Spender, W. H. Auden, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Ernest Hemingway were all at the front.

Understaffed, underfunded, under supplied and desperate, disorganized, lacking direction, the Republicans and the Lincoln Brigade didn't have a chance. Victorious Franco had twenty thousand people killed and sent more than four hundred thousand to horrendous prisons. More than 25% of the Lincoln Brigade were killed. From Caleb Crain again:

> *…the Spanish Civil War, which claimed around half a million lives, wasn’t merely a battle between capital and labor. It was a battle between capital munificently abetted by Fascism, and labor misled by the poisonous internal politics of the Soviet Union and deserted by its natural allies, the moderate, liberal nations like France, Great Britain, and the United States.*

The latest version of San Francisco's Embarcadero revamp eliminates the crumbling concrete jungle-gym that is the eponymous Villancourt Fountain, but it also removes its counter weight, the Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Very few people will mourn the loss of the corporate adjunct that was a fountain that never worked properly. As an art piece designed to mimic the ugly freeway that once loomed above it, it was often defaced, occasionally by its own creator, Armand Vaillancourt.

The Monument to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade should be spared, renovated, and set in a more visible place. It is an official historical marker; it is what historian, Peter N, Carroll, called "an antidote to amnesia."

Mary C. McFadden
San Francisco, CA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

We are seriously distressed by the possibility that the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Monument would be relocated from the Embarcadero, close to the Ferry Building, to

some other location or even into storage where it is likely to remain. This brilliantly designed memorial reminds us of an extremely important and unique key chapter in our history, especially at a time when fascism is rearing its ugly head here in the United States. We need to be reminded of the selflessness and heroism of the men and women who left the comfort of their homes to fight, and, in some cases, give their lives to protect a democracy that sought to bring universal education, health care, racial equality and more to the people of Spain and to stand as a model that we should all strive to follow. The Monument is a treasured part of the San Francisco Arts Commission https://www.sf.gov/departments--arts-commission collection and it contains text from significant U.S. and international writers who supported the struggle of the Abraham Lincoln Brigadistas.

Please ensure that the compelling legacy of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade lives on at the Embarcadero in the City of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Tom and Jane Kelly
Berkeley

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Arts Commission, While I will not be able to attend the meeting on Monday 10/19/26, I am writing in support of your reconsidering not removing the ALBA monument. I have worked with this group for over 40 years. We are very much committed to honoring and teaching the public about the legacy of ALBA and the Spanish Civil War. This monument is a crucial reminder of the rise of Fascism and the heroic people who fought against it. This is an important part of American history and deserves public viewing.

Thank you for your time and effort in allowing the Monument to be viewed and maintained in perpetuity.

Sincerely, Fran Krieger-Lowitz, Ph.D.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my emphatic support for keeping the monument to the Abraham Lincoln Bridge in the Embarcadero, where it so fittingly belongs. I understand that the current renovation project may result in the monument's removal. That would be a terrible loss.

As a documentary filmmaker focused on American history, I recognize how urgent the monument is as a reminder of what's best in our country. The volunteers who went to fight fascism in Spain provide a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and courage it has taken to stand up for the best that America can be. The monument beautifully captures the spirit of their mission — and their sacrifice — and it belongs in the Embarcadero, the heart of San Francisco's historical commitment to solidarity and progressive ideals. It is also a wonderfully moving piece of public art.

At a time when America and the world once again face the challenges of fascism, we need this monument to remain a beacon of strength, hope, and possibility. I urge you to find a way to keep it where it belongs.

Best,

Peter Miller

--
Peter Miller
Willow Pond Films

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to ask you to not only preserve, but to enhance the monument to "Lincoln Brigade" volunteers. Isn't what those volunteers stood for also what the City and County of San Francisco stands for?

Unlike a few unworthy wars fought by our country, these volunteers risked their lives to fight against General Franco's fascists.

My father and father-in-law were in the U.S. Army during WWII fighting against fascist friends of Franco. My step-father and uncles were in the Navy and Marines. I was in the Army (1972 - 1975).

When I was stationed in West Germany, I visited one of the death camps. I got a tiny glimpse of what fascists are capable of.

The memories of what happened during those times shouldn't be papered over, they should be elucidated for younger generations to learn from.

Likewise with San Francisco's memorial to WWII "Comfort Women" (I was also stationed in South Korea), as well as the public art related to Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Milk.

I won't be attending the hearing on Monday, but if I was I'd convey my thanks for anything you can do to resolve this situation.

David Page
(ret. SFDPH)