

Vaillancourt Fountain Public Comments

(Received as of 5:00 p.m. on 09/29/2025 via Email sent to ART-info@sfgov.org or Phone Call to 415-252-2266)

Public Comment Summary:

Email/Written Public Comments: 250+

Voice Message/Verbal Comments: 2

From: Peter Tannen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 9:18 PM

To: MandelmanStaff (BOS) <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

I am writing to urge San Francisco to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in the proposed Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

The concrete and brick Embarcadero Plaza with its iconic Brutalist fountain is a historically significant SF modernist landmark. They were built as part of the Market Street Development Project, designed by Lawrence Halprin, Mario Ciampi, and J. Carl Warnecke. Many historic preservation and landscape history professionals have identified it as a contributing property within a larger significant Modern-era landscape. The San Francisco Planning Department and the California Office of Historic Preservation concur with these evaluations.

The striking Brutalist Vaillancourt Fountain was designed to hide the Embarcadero Freeway and its sounds. It was designed for public participation, inviting people to step under its large overhangs, climb atop stairwells and catwalks to see unique skyline views. While it has outlived its original context, this significant landscape and sculpture have value worth preserving.

The Embarcadero Plaza and fountain have a long history of frequent use for civic engagement and public demonstrations. Lawrence Halprin drew inspiration from an expansive brick plaza designed for civic and political activities in Italy at Siena's Piazza del Campo. Today it is still used for civic engagement and public demonstration.

For skateboarders, Embarcadero Plaza is an iconic, world-class park that has been one of the most famous skating spots in the world. Skateboarding evolved in relation to the specific forms and materials in this particular plaza, such as the bricks and the low concrete band around Vaillancourt Fountain.

San Francisco should preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water.

I hope that the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and San Francisco Arts Commission recognize the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. I urge these bodies to preserve them.

Yours truly,
Peter S. Tannen
San Francisco

From: Andy Scheer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 8:09:29 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation - Move On!

I urge you to move on from Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation. It's hideous and we need something new.

While for 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance. But SF is a living city that must grow and change, not a museum.

I do not support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team update Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and if Vaillancourt Fountain is removed, so be it.

Andy

[REDACTED]

94131

From: Todd DeLong <[REDACTED]@mac.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 10:33:38 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation.

For 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance.

While change is necessary, this renovation offers an opportunity to preserve and build on the existing unique juxtaposition of art, architecture, and free expression, allowing the plaza and fountain to remain symbols of San Francisco's commitment to free speech, cultural practices, and bold public art.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water. Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alexander Toshev <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 7:32:34 PM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Remove Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

I urge you to remove Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in the upcoming renovation.

For 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain has served its time as a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon, and it is time for it to go. As a city that welcomes the future, we need to recognize that sometimes we need to evolve, and this fountain is a good example of something that we need to let go.

Best Regards,
Alex Toshev

Sent from my iPhone

From: Allen Fee <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 7:25:42 PM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

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While change is necessary, this renovation offers an opportunity to preserve and build on the existing unique juxtaposition of art, architecture, and free expression, allowing the plaza and fountain to remain symbols of San Francisco's commitment to free speech, cultural practices, and bold public art.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water. Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

--

Allen R Fee

513 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Apt. 10

San Francisco, CA 94109

From: Kevin H. Souza <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 11:54:38 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

Dear San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and San Francisco Arts Commission,

I urge you to preserve the Vaillancourt Fountain and defining elements of Embarcadero Plaza, two irreplaceable icons of San Francisco's civic and cultural identity.

I first saw the Vaillancourt Fountain and plaza in 1987 during a visit to San Francisco. Growing up in a small Tennessee town surrounded by classical and Beaux Arts public architecture, I had never encountered anything like the fountain's bold Brutalist forms or the plaza's sweeping openness. That experience was transformative. It awakened a lifelong appreciation for public art and architecture that challenge expectations and invite reflection.

Since moving to San Francisco, I have never visited Embarcadero Plaza without reliving that first sense of excitement and possibility. The fountain's uncompromising presence continues to challenge, provoke, and inspire—whether one loves it or not. This is the role of great public art: not to comfort or conform, but to engage, disrupt, and expand our collective imagination. San Francisco has always been a city that embraces all its “children” and does not reject what is unconventional simply because it fails to fit widely accepted definitions of beauty.

The current plans for the plaza's renovation threaten to erase this legacy. Together, the Vaillancourt Fountain and the plaza form a unique landscape recognized by historians and preservationists as a vital part of San Francisco's design heritage. The plaza has served as a stage for public assembly, free speech, and community expression; the fountain is a testament to the city's history of bold experimentation and civic engagement.

San Francisco's greatness lies in its willingness to champion the unconventional and the thought-provoking. Removing the fountain would deny the city's legacy as a place that values challenging art and welcomes debate. The solution is not erasure, but stewardship: restore the fountain's water, maintain the plaza's integrity, and allow future generations to be inspired as I was in 1987.

Please honor San Francisco's tradition of embracing the bold and unconventional by preserving the Vaillancourt Fountain and Embarcadero Plaza—not as relics, but as vital, living parts of our city's present and future.

Sincerely,

Kevin H. Souza



San Francisco, CA

Retired Dean, UC San Francisco

From: allison arieff <[REDACTED]@modernhouse.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 2:09:29 PM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation.

For 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance.

While change is necessary, this renovation offers an opportunity to preserve and build on the existing unique juxtaposition of art, architecture, and free expression, allowing the plaza and fountain to remain symbols of San Francisco's commitment to free speech, cultural practices, and bold public art.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water. Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you,

Allison Arieff

Editorial Director, MIT Technology Review

SF resident since 1988

From: Andrew Long <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 8:34 PM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

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Andrew Long

Sent from my iPad

From: Deanna Lares <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 11:37 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

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

Hello All,

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation.

For 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance.

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I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water. Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Kind Regards,

Deanna Lares

From: Ian Ho-Wong <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 5:35 PM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

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I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water. Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you,

Ian Ho-Wong

From: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 4:57 PM
To: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>
Cc: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>
Subject: RE: Advocacy for Embarcadero Plaza - Docomomo US/NOCA

Dear Northern California Chapter of Docomomo US,

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, thank you for reaching out and sharing your comments regarding Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain. We appreciate your thoughtful perspective and continued efforts to document and celebrate Modern-era design.

The fountain is located in Embarcadero Plaza along San Francisco's waterfront, a space managed by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. The department is leading a public-private partnership in close coordination with other City agencies, including the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the Planning Department, the Arts Commission, and private partners.

Revitalizing our downtown and waterfront is one of San Francisco's top priorities, as these areas are central to the city's vibrancy and public life. Embarcadero Plaza—along with the adjacent Sue Bierman Park—is currently undergoing a planning and design process to reimagine this civic space. Our goal is to create a public realm that is vibrant, welcoming, accessible, flexible, and inclusive.

We recognize that the plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain are significant for many, particularly in civic expression, public art, and skateboarding culture. Your letter offers valuable context for the planning process, and we sincerely appreciate your engagement. As with any scale project, multiple factors will shape the final design, and we anticipate thoughtful discussion ahead.

At this stage, the project remains in the early planning and design phase, and no final decisions have been made regarding the fountain or other site elements. Community engagement will include public meetings and stakeholder conversations to consider a broad range of perspectives. We welcome the opportunity to continue hearing from you and look forward to keeping you informed as the project progresses.

To learn more about the project and sign up for updates, please visit the project website:
Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project Website

The presentation from our first community meeting is also available here:
Community Meeting 1 Presentation

Thank you again. Please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Madland, the Department's Director of Policy and Public Affairs, who will be the primary point of contact on this project at Sarah.Madland@sfgov.org or (415) 831-2740.

Best,

Eoanna

Eoanna Harrison Goodwin AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Project Manager, Capital and Planning Division
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1220 | San Francisco, CA 94103
(628) 652-6645 | eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

From: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 8:00 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>

Cc: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>

Subject: Advocacy for Embarcadero Plaza - Docomomo US/NOCA

Dear San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department and Arts Commission,

The Northern California chapter of Docomomo US, a non-profit organization dedicated to the education, advocacy, and preservation of Modern Movement buildings, sites, and neighborhoods, urges you to prioritize the preservation of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain in your upcoming renovation project.

We believe these features hold significant historical and cultural value as a prominent Modernist landmark in San Francisco. To further elaborate on the historic and cultural

significance of this space and outline our specific concerns, please find our detailed letter attached.

As an organization that routinely features Embarcadero Plaza, Embarcadero Center, and other Modernist-era gems of the Financial District and Embarcadero in our public walking tours and outreach events, we have a deep appreciation for the plaza's unique character. We strongly advocate for the preservation of its original brick paving, footprint, and the iconic Vaillancourt Fountain with its recirculating water system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We look forward to your positive response and commitment to preserving this significant Modernist landmark.

Sincerely,

The Northern California Chapter of Docomomo US (Docomomo US/NOCA)

<https://www.docomomo-noca.org/>

From: Barbara Nell Blosser <[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 11:10 PM
To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain in Renovation

Good evening, All!

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation.

The fountain was a frequent destination of my lunchtime walks from work in the Mills Building when I moved to San Francisco in 1983.

For 50+years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water.

I urge you to preserve the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Barbara N Blosser
San Francisco CA 94103

From: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 15:30
To: Andy Scheer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Embarcadero Plaza Redesign

Hi Andy,

Thank you for reaching out to our office with your concerns. Supervisor Melgar has always been an advocate for public spaces and revitalizing public spaces in District 7. However, Embarcadero Plaza is in District 3, represented by Supervisor Danny Sauter. So I am cc'ing Supervisor Sauter's staff, who can provide more information on this particular project. Please reach out if you have any more questions or concerns.

Best,
Kalpana Narlikar, Intern
Office of Supervisor Myrna Melgar, District 7
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 273
San Francisco, CA 94102
www.sfbos.org/melgar

From: Andy Scheer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 8:10 AM
To: MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Embarcadero Plaza Redesign

I urge you to move on from Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain (with recirculating water) in the upcoming renovation. It's hideous and we need something new.

While for 50+ years, this plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, and its iconic fountain, by Armand Vaillancourt, have been irreplaceable. The fountain is a key piece of SF's urban history and a Brutalist icon. Experts recognize the plaza's historical significance. But SF is a living city that must grow and change, not a museum.

I do not support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, and the project team update Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and if Vaillancourt Fountain is removed, so be it.

Andy

[REDACTED]

94131

From: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:19 PM

To: Peter Tannen <[REDACTED]>; MandelmanStaff (BOS) <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>

Subject: RE: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Dear Mr. Tannen,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on the Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. We truly appreciate your engagement in this important conversation.

We recognize the historical and cultural significance that both the plaza and fountain hold for many San Franciscans and visitors alike. Embarcadero Plaza has long been a space for civic activity, artistic expression, and cultural life—including its deep roots in Modernist design, public demonstrations, and skateboarding culture. Your comments help highlight the many layers of meaning this site holds and will be carefully considered as we move forward.

As you can imagine, we have heard many different perspectives on this topic which is exactly why we are undertaking a robust public planning and design process. We are currently in the early phases of that process, and no final design decisions have been made. Our goal is to create a public space that is vibrant, welcoming, accessible, flexible, and inclusive.

You can learn more about the project and sign up for updates on the project website:
Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project Website

The presentation from our first community meeting is available here:
Community Meeting 1 Presentation

Thank you again for reaching out and contributing to this important dialogue. We hope you'll stay involved as the project continues to take shape.

Best,

Eoanna

Eoanna Harrison Goodwin AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Project Manager, Capital and Planning Division
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department | City & County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1220 | San Francisco, CA 94103
(628) 652-6645 | eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 8:35 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: The wretched Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioners,

Perhaps you sense my bias from the subject heading? Don't be pressured just because an artist with an oversized ego shows up to plead for that abysmal piece of construction (can't call it art). Environmental and cost factors aside (and they are both pretty big negative factors, I'd say) it is just so UGLY! OK, I know - beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but I know I am far from the only one who feels that way.

Here is my suggestion for the fountain's presence in the new park - just BURY the dang thing. Don't have to spend money disassembling it, just cover it up with dirt, landscape it, and make it a nice little hill to perch on. You're welcome.

Kidding aside - I just wanted to let you know that I think the fountain should be taken down - I know there will be public hearings, and I hope to find out where and when so that I can attend and make my feelings known there.

But thanks for the work that you do - can't be easy!

Best wishes,

Elfrieda

From: Emme Klama <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 10:41 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Fwd: Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an eyesore and should be removed asap, especially now that it has been found unsafe.

Reference:

<https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/san-francisco-vaillancourt-fountain-hazardous-20368904.php>

Sincerely,

Emme Klama

[REDACTED], SF

From: Howard Junker <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:43 PM

To: Chou, Mary (ART) <mary.chou@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

sounds like you're already committed to trashing it, but if you do have a hearing i would like to testify on its behalf.

best regards,

howard junker

From: Eric Staten <[REDACTED]@doesarchitecture.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 6, 2025 6:12 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

I will be out of town on July 8 and so unfortunately unable to attend the next community meeting for the Embarcadero Plaza renovation. However, I still wanted to share my perspective on the fountain.

I have called San Francisco home since 1972, graduating from Lowell High in 1982 and CCA in 1996. I have many fond childhood memories of playing in the fountain with my mother, who was a transportation planner at the Planning Department and a Public Utilities Commissioner. I remember racing around the paths under the cascading water, climbing the stairs to watch the water pouring down beneath me, and splashing in the pool. I loved the modernist style of the fountain even then.

As an architect, I've always admired the fountain's sculptural expression and the dynamism of the water. I believe it's a unique piece of brutalist artwork in the United States, an unparalleled example of the style in both scale and quality. Therefore, I think it's crucial that the fountain is retained, repaired, and if necessary, modified to take full advantage of its location without the old freeway.

I am confident that the talented individuals involved in this project will find a way to seamlessly integrate the fountain into the new park and plaza.

Eric Staten

Principal

DOES Architecture

415 [REDACTED] cell

From: Ivan Lofstrom <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 4:37 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: VAILLANCOURT FOUNTAIN

San Francisco Arts Commission
San Francisco CA

The Board,

Please save the Vaillancourt Fountain. It's a masterpiece. Restore it to new condition. And do not move it. I lived in San Francisco in the seventies and had the privilege of watching it being put together. It was quite sensational at the time. Later on my mother came to visit the Bay Area. The fountain was a key stop. And, last year my son and his family were in the city and I directed them to see it. Thank you.

Ivan Lofstrom
Lofstrom Fine Art
Needles CA

From: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 2:40 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Public Comment - Visual Arts Commission Hearing 2025-08-20

Hello,

Attached is the public comment that was read during today's hearing by Docomomo US/NOCA.

Thank you.

Docomomo US/NOCA

How can you advocate for Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain? Visit us.

I represent Docomomo US/Northern California, a local non-profit.

Recreation and Parks has stated they have requested the Arts Commission's approval to deaccession and remove the Vaillancourt Fountain to accelerate their urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark. It is symbolic of our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

We propose:

- You immediately add to today's agenda an item to disclose RPD's petition to deaccession and remove the Fountain.
- RPD and Planning must finalize and publish the Historic Resource Review of the Fountain prior to any SFAC vote.
- RPD must publicly disclose to SFAC its 40+ years of undisclosed arrangements with BXP/Embarcadero Center prior to any SFAC vote.
- Key international and national stakeholders, such as the artist, Quebec officials, TCLF, and ICOMOS, must be given ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

From: Barbara Nell N Blosser <[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 4:50 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

I am writing in support of the Vaillancourt Fountain, which is a rare sculpture masterpiece in San Francisco.

I am not happy that the city and people in charge of the plaza redesign didn't work to include the fountain in their plans.

Shame on you for destroying this artwork.

You erect bland, generic art.

Barbara N Blosser
San Francisco, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Lance L <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 4:59 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Keep the Vaillancourt Fountain

Keep the important bespoke site-specific Vaillancourt Fountain.

-Lance La'shagway

SF Voter

From: Stephanie McGinn Luedorf <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 5:02 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Please Save The Vaillancourt Fountain

Hello,

I am a San Francisco resident of 20+ years. I would like to ask that you please do everything you can to save The Vaillancourt Fountain and restore it to a workable fountain. The Fountain is a part of San Francisco's recent history and a beautiful, unique work of art. We need to prioritize preserving our urban art works over trying to commercialize more space in the city.

Parks and Rec should be able to come up with a different design for the rest of the plaza which will bring more people to the area to appreciate the fountain.

With respect,

--

Stephanie McGinn Luedorf

(415) [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: pierre descamps <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:10 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

This Plaza, with its architectural and architectural specificities is a symbol of San Francisco worldwide for a lot of generations. The social aspect of the skateboarding scene there in the 90's made the Embarcadero a must see, visit and experiment for many generations . It would be a shame to continue erasing this cultural monument, both for the young culture of Skateboarding, and for the importance of this incredible masterpiece orchestrated by Lawrence Halprin.

Embarcadero Plaza, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Pierre Descamps

-----Original Message-----

From: Genevieve Kennerley <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:06 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Opposed to Removal of Vaillancourt Fountain

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make clear my strong opposition to the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain at the Embarcadero Plaza. I believe that it should be repaired rather than being removed. It is an historic piece of public art that should be preserved, not erased. I am especially concerned since there are not clear plans available to the public on what could replace it. But it is most critical that this piece of San Francisco history not be removed and discarded. It is my opinion that modernisation should not happen only at the expense of what came before, especially in regards to objects that provide an area with identity. It would be a shame to see the Vaillancourt Fountain go, and a piece of San Francisco cultural history along with it.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Kennerley

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Kenneally <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:53 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Embarcadero Fountain

Hello,

Here to support keeping the Villiancourt (sp) Fountain It's a gorgeous and unique art piece and needs to be revived I absolutely do not believe 28million to fix it It looks so much better than the Renaissance Faire drawing of the new re imagined park.

Lastly, although I realize the freeway made it blend in better The Brutalist movement is back and the fountain works so nicely with the Hyatt Regency behind it. Use that photo

Many thanks
Stephen Kenneally
San Francisco, CA 94118

From: Kristen Hall <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 9:25 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Villancourt Fountain

Hello,

I would like to submit the attached letter in favor of the removal of the Villancourt Fountain.
Can you please tell me when the next hearing on this topic will take place?

Thank you,

Kristen Hall

ENC: PDF

From: Emme Klama <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 10:46 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wanted to urge you to confirm the Park and Rec's request to remove the Vaillancourt Fountain from Embarcadero Plaza.

I used to work downtown and had to look at this monstrosity every day. Tourists used to regularly mistake it for sewer pipes.

Besides getting rid of this eyesore, the expense to remove it will finally end all wasteful maintenance and repair to this thing.

Thank you,
Emme Klama
Noe Valley

--

Emme Klama | Author

Find my books:

<https://useyourwords.me/>

From: Jeff Zacuto <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 12:27 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Shiota, Janine (ART) <janine.shiota@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Subject: Keep and Restore the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Members of the Commission,

San Francisco fights tooth and nail to preserve nearly everything—from Victorians to neon signs to crumbling warehouses, yet somehow the city is ready to toss out one of its most significant public artworks because some people think it’s “ugly.” That is hypocrisy, plain and simple.

The only reason the Vaillancourt Fountain looks the way it does and is non-functional today is because the city neglected it. That neglect wasn’t an accident; it was the result of decades of pressure from those who wanted it gone. Now they get to point at their own sabotage as justification for demolition. That’s not stewardship, it’s erasure.

Brutalism isn’t everyone’s taste, but that’s precisely the point of public art: it challenges, provokes, and defines a moment in history. This fountain has been part of San Francisco’s story for over 50 years. It’s been a stage for protests, performances, and skateboarding legends. To destroy it now would be to strip away a piece of the city’s cultural backbone.

We don’t get to preserve only what’s pretty and easy. We preserve what matters. And this fountain matters.

If San Francisco can landmark diners, protect laundromats, and hold hearings over the fate of every last facade, then surely it can find the will—and the funds—to restore one of the most iconic and ambitious public works it has ever commissioned.

Do the right thing. Keep the Vaillancourt Fountain. Restore it. Anything less is a betrayal of the city’s supposed commitment to preservation and culture.

Sincerely,
Jeff Zacuto
Dogpatch Resident

From: Karen Sharp <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, August 24, 2025 9:47 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Arts Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to please grant Rec & Park's request to remove the Vaillancourt Fountain from Embarcadero Plaza. The fountain has outlived its usefulness and is no longer an asset to the City. In fact, it is an eyesore that needs to be removed to make way for the new park and event space. For years I have walked by that unattractive hulk of cement and wondered why it was still there. There seemed to be no interest in it other than by the raccoons that took up residence in it. It's time for the City to remove it and create something more attractive and welcoming to San Franciscans and visitors alike.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Karen Sharp

[REDACTED]

San Francisco

From: Peter Guerrero <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 8:10 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioner Remington:

As an urban planner, landscape designer, and historic preservationist (and a fan of Lawrence Halprin), I do not agree with The Cultural Landscape Foundation's misguided opposition to the removal of this eyesore.

Cities change over time, their fabric must be preserved but they must also adapt to the times.

This fountain was designed to hide the blighted Embarcadero Freeway, now long gone, and its massive, Brutalist presence is now the blight and impediment for long needed improvements to the surrounding open space and parkland.

Sincerely,

Peter Guerrero

Kensington, CA

From: Martin Schmidt <[REDACTED]@environs.us>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 4:37 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>

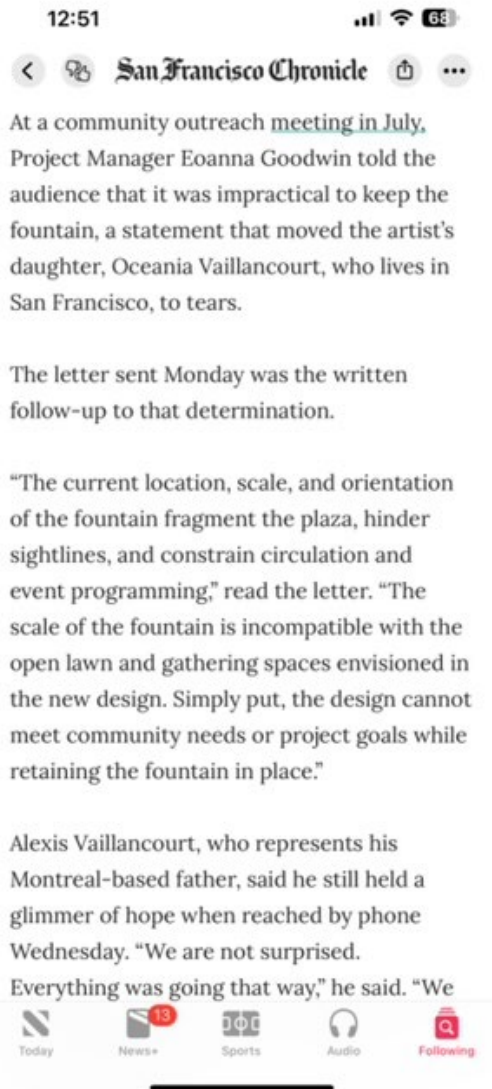
Subject: Halprin Plaza / Vaillancourt Fountain

Good Afternoon All:

I am writing to address the disposition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. The link below from The Cultural Landscape Foundation provides an excellent summary of the actions taken by the Recreation + Parks Department (RPD) as to allowing the Fountain to fall into disrepair and now the estimated astronomical cost to repair it.

<https://www.tclf.org/will-san-francisco-arts-commission-be-complicit-demolition-vaillancourt-fountain>

I saw the concept plan for the proposed park renovation earlier this year and I wondered what was so difficult about making the retention / protection / integration of the Fountain into the new site plan such a big deal? As a Landscape Architect who designed numerous park projects over my career it is a matter of what is the program, and how do I achieve the desired outcome to accommodate the features – both existing or proposed – to achieve a successful project design. When I saw the quotes from the Project Manager Eoanna Goodwin, I knew immediately that the intent was to eliminate the Fountain, because the program was being used as the reason that the Fountain needs to be demolished to make way for the use areas.



Excuse my language, but I am calling Bullshit on that weak attempt to somehow not be able to retain the Fountain because of the inability to be a creative designer.

I have been to San Francisco and the plaza itself numerous times over the past 45 years. When I heard of this effort to destroy this iconic feature that is part of the fabric of the Embarcadero and the City since 1971, the disbelief that the Departments that have had the charge to protect + maintain this feature have apparently been planning its demise is unacceptable. I was a City Landscape Architect for 10 years, and I understand the means + mechanisms that often get utilized to achieve a desired outcome within a bureaucracy and this appears to be an attempt to manipulate a structure established to protect this art piece / resource. If this is the case with the Fountain, then the Staff engaged in such activities really need to be held to account for their actions. \$29 million to fix the Fountain, but only \$2.5 to tear down. Well of course we need to tear it down. We have to manage the

City's tax dollars and resources correctly, right ? Oh, and if you want it, you can remove it. How absurd of a comment is that? The pilings are 40' deep to assure that it could withstand major earthquakes. I hope that my sarcasm and facetious commentary is blatantly obvious. Does Mr. Ginsberg at the RPD really think that everyone is that poorly educated that the Public can be played like this?

I hope the SF Arts Commission has the ability to see through this poorly veiled attempt to destroy a truly unique art piece that has been a must see / must interact along the Embarcadero for the past 56 years and not cave to the inflated cost estimates that have been exposed as being fraudulent in an effort to make their case for destruction. This entire exercise really does reek of a cooked up scheme between Boston Properties and the RPD. Please do not let their poorly staged effort prevail.

My suggestion is to fix the Fountain and go back to the drawing board and come up with a new park design that protects and integrates the Fountain and addresses the other aspects of the site plan / program correctly and not with a design process behind closed doors so that the pre-desired RPD / Boston Properties outcome is realized. If the Landscape Architect / Design Consultant on board is creative enough, this should be an easily achieved design project. And if they aren't willing, then give me a base sheet and the Site Development program and I'll produce a version for consideration by myself in a few weeks. Or get the Students at Cal, Cal Poly + UCLA to do it as a Design Project and see who comes up with the most creative solutions for the protection / integration of the Fountain. This is not a hard problem to solve. Just do it in the light of day and not in the backroom.

I look forward to hearing back from you all with a acknowledgement of receipt of this communication and concepts / approaches to protect the Fountain – which the initial design efforts from RPD should have done in the first place.

Regards

Martin Schmidt ASLA
Principal

ENVIRONS

[REDACTED]

Suite 309
San Diego, CA 92106
619 [REDACTED]

From: Carl Russo <[REDACTED]@proton.me>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 11:19 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Don't destroy Vaillancourt Fountain!

Hello:

Vaillancourt Fountain is a significant Modernist landmark of San Francisco design and culture, an internationally recognized art installation, and an essential part of our city's history!

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

1. Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture. • Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
2. Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
3. The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Carl Russo

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA. 94117

From: James Buckley <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 11:29 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Hello –

I would like to express my concern for the proposed deaccession and removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza. This is an important work of art and a significant landmark for the city of San Francisco. The design has been recognized by important arts groups from around the world, and its removal would be a great loss to the city.

There are ways to keep this sculpture without the full park renovation cost that has been advertised. A less ambitious plan would be more affordable and would keep the character of Halprin's design while retaining the Fountain sculpture.

I have a PhD in architectural history from UC Berkeley and have taught at UC, MIT, and the University of Oregon. I was previously a member of the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission and interim director of the Society of Architectural Historians. I have lived in San Francisco for forty years.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

James Buckley, PhD

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth Handel <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 11:59 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Dear Representatives!

During every visit of my life to San Francisco, I have visited the amazing Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, which is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

DO NOT ALLOW DESTRUCTION OF THIS INCREDIBLE PUBLIC ART AND RESOURCE!!!!

RUTH HANDEL

[REDACTED]

Los Angeles, CA 90066

From: Nord Wennerstrom <[REDACTED]@tclf.org>

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 11:30 AM

To: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Contacting you about Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Supervisor Sauer,

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), a Washington, D.C.-based education and advocacy non-profit, has just published the following article—*Will the San Francisco Arts Commission be Complicit in the Demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain?*—which calls attention to some suspect claims by the SF Recreation and Parks Department being used in their campaign to demolish of the Vaillancourt Fountain and urges the public to contact the SF Arts Commission to prevent the fountain’s deaccessioning.

TCLF has been advocating on behalf of landscape architect Lawrence Halprin’s built legacy in San Francisco and nationally for several decades. As TCLF has previously written, “Halprin, a National Medal of Arts recipient who spent his six-decade-long career in the Bay Area, designed some of the city’s best-known and most beloved public spaces, including Ghirardelli Square and Levi’s Plaza. In addition, five of his landscapes have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 2010—though none in San Francisco.”

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Nord Wennerstrom

Nord Wennerstrom

Director of Communications

The Cultural Landscape Foundation

[REDACTED]

Washington, DC 20009

(t) 202 [REDACTED]

www.tclf.org

FACEBOOK | TWITTER | LINKEDIN | INSTAGRAM | PINTEREST

ENC: PDF

From: Peter Tannen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 10:30 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; DOCOMOMO NOCA <info@docomomo-noca.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain

I am writing to urge San Francisco to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in the proposed Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

The concrete and brick Embarcadero Plaza with its iconic Brutalist fountain is a historically significant SF modernist landmark. They were built as part of the Market Street Development Project, designed by Lawrence Halprin, Mario Ciampi, and J. Carl Warnecke. Many historic preservation and landscape history professionals have identified it as a contributing property within a larger significant Modern-era landscape. The San Francisco Planning Department and the California Office of Historic Preservation concur with these evaluations.

The striking Brutalist Vaillancourt Fountain was designed to hide the Embarcadero Freeway and its sounds. It was designed for public participation, inviting people to step under its large overhangs, climb atop stairwells and catwalks to see unique skyline views. While it has outlived its original context, this significant landscape and sculpture have value worth preserving.

The Embarcadero Plaza and fountain have a long history of frequent use for civic engagement and public demonstrations. Lawrence Halprin drew inspiration from an expansive brick plaza designed for civic and political activities in Italy at Siena's Piazza del Campo. Today it is still used for civic engagement and public demonstration.

For skateboarders, Embarcadero Plaza is an iconic, world-class park that has been one of the most famous skating spots in the world. Skateboarding evolved in relation to the specific forms and materials in this particular plaza, such as the bricks and the low concrete band around Vaillancourt Fountain.

San Francisco should preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water.

I hope that the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and San Francisco Arts Commission recognize the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. I urge these bodies to preserve them.

Yours truly,

Peter S. Tannen

From: Alfonso Cordon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:21 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
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- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Alfonso Cordon

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

(415) [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Lesley Stansfield <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2025 6:51 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>;
Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt fountain

Please rehabilitate this fountain! Don't decommission!

Thank you,

Lesley Stansfield
San Francisco
Sent from my iPhone

From: Martin Schmidt [REDACTED]@environs.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:40 PM
To: Bell, Tita (BOS) <tita.bell@sfgov.org>
Cc: Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>
Subject: RE: Halprin Plaza / Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi Tita

Thank you so much for the response. It is great to know that someone actually reviews and responds to input – especially on projects + issues or high visibility and concern. Greatly appreciated.

With that said, as a former Parks + Rec Landscape Architect for 10 years, and having the responsibility to create a new park system for the City of Chula Vista, my perspective is that if the fountain were to be protected / retained / incorporated into the redesigned park it would easily be facilitated. That would have been my #1 goal in developing a design program – protect + integrate the Fountain.

And the fact that they are proposing to demolish the plaza and fountain to shift a lawn area in the same space? There already is a lawn area on the other side of the plaza. And I am sure that the design consultant HOK is charging a significant sum for moving lawn areas around? I realize that I am simplifying the narrative, but this really is not rocket science and designing the project to retain + integrate the Fountain should be an easily achieved exercise. Was there ever a series of options prepared and presented for consideration that showed retention of the Fountain versus just preparing options that were only looking to rationalize and justify the Fountain elimination? If so, can those please be shared with us. I tried researching and could not find any posted for review and consideration.

With an issue of this magnitude being considered, is it not possible to pause the project and ask the Recreation + Parks Department / HOK / Boston Development to go back and prepare a program protecting and retaining the Fountain and coming back with comparative proposals for all to consider?

If the intent is to make it seem like retention + incorporation of the Fountain is an unachievable 'ask' or requirement, then conduct yourself exactly how the Recreation + Parks Department is acting. Their actions are so transparent it is borderline comical and the budget numbers so extreme they really need to produce the line item estimates to try to support what they are trying to sell. \$29 million for repairs? This is not build a new Fountain – its repairing the pumps and components that the Recreation + Parks Department allowed to sit and become compromised. This really does require an independent assessment and estimate by a professional company to get a 'real' dollar amount identified so that the false narrative can be set aside and a fact based conversation be had between all parties.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards
Martin Schmidt ASLA
Principal

ENVIRONS
2924 Emerson Street
Suite 309
San Diego, CA 92106
619.232.7007

From: Bell, Tita (BOS) <tita.bell@sfgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 4:11 PM
To: Martin Schmidt <[REDACTED]@environs.us>
Subject: RE: Halprin Plaza / Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Martin,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain with Supervisor Sauter.

Our office has heard many different perspectives on the future design of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park and the role of Vaillancourt Fountain. The Recreation and Parks Department, and soon the San Francisco Arts Commission, are undertaking a robust public engagement process. Thank you for being part of this important conversation.

Best,

Tita Bell
Chief of Staff
Office of Supervisor Danny Sauter
415-554-7450

-----Original Message-----

From: Ted Barrow <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:23 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ted Barrow <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 12:22 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve the Vaillancourt Fountain

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and request that San Francisco Arts Commission:

- Consider adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage, rather than deaccession and removal.
- Recognize the fountain's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Québec government, the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), among others.
- Prior to any SFAC proceedings, require San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to publish the Vaillancourt Fountain Conditions Assessment, Historic Resource Review (HRR), and all current and prior cost assessments for fountain restoration.
- Prior to any SFAC proceedings, require San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department to disclose and address the finding that the Vaillancourt Fountain appears to be an individual historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.
- Provide key international and national stakeholders—such as the artist, Quebec officials, TCLF, and ICOMOS—with ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

-----Original Message-----

From: matt ball <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 4:15 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-Matt Ball

From: Nord Wennerstrom <[REDACTED]@tclf.org>

Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 11:53 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>

Cc: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>;
SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Will the San Francisco Arts Commission be Complicit in the Demolition of the
Vaillancourt Fountain?

Dear Mr. Collins,

This article—Will the San Francisco Arts Commission be Complicit in the Demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain?—was published on August 25, 2025, by The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), a Washington, D.C.-based education and advocacy non-profit established in 1998, concerning the proposed demolition of the Lawrence Halprin-designed Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain. A PDF copy is also attached should there be security concerns about clicking on the hyperlinked article above.

The San Francisco Arts Commission is responsible for the Vaillancourt Fountain, which the Recreation and Park Department have asked to deaccession so that it might ultimately be razed.

The article questions some of the claims made by Rec and Park, among other things, and suggests the commission not unquestionably accept the word of officials from that department as it deliberates the deaccessioning request.

TCLF has long been an advocate for Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain, and for the legacy of its landscape architect, Lawrence Halprin. TCLF urges the commission and other city officials to pursue the rehabilitation of the iconic plaza and fountain, and not demolition.

Sincerely,

Nord Wennerstrom

Nord Wennerstrom

Director of Communications

The Cultural Landscape Foundation

1711 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20009

(t) 202 [REDACTED]

www.tclf.org

FACEBOOK | TWITTER | LINKEDIN | INSTAGRAM | PINTEREST

-----Original Message-----

From: Gmail <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 6, 2025 9:27 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next San Francisco Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks has requested the Arts Commission's approval to deaccession and remove the Vaillancourt Fountain to accelerate their urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark. It is symbolic of our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to practice the national trend of history erasure. Instead, preserve this landmark artwork for us and future generations.
- You reject this attempt to describe internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You give key international and national stakeholders, such as the artist, Quebec officials, TCLF, and ICOMOS, ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Becca <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 6, 2025 10:06 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

Hello,

I'm writing in support of removing the Vaillancourt Fountain. I read about the cease and desist letter and wanted to offer feedback. I think the City is making the correct decision in disassembling the fountain and working to make that park/plaza a better space for the community. Not all public art is meant to be forever.

Thanks for the work you do.

-Becca

-----Original Message-----

From: Osh <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 6, 2025 10:43 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next San Francisco Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks has requested the Arts Commission's approval to deaccession and remove the Vaillancourt Fountain to accelerate their urban redevelopment .

I support this. The fountain served its purpose but it's time for it to go.

Thank you.

Josh Rasmussen

SF resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Flora Maia <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 1:02 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next San Francisco Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks has requested the Arts Commission's approval to deaccession and remove the Vaillancourt Fountain to accelerate their urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark. It is symbolic of our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to practice the national trend of history erasure. Instead, preserve this landmark artwork for us and future generations.
- You reject this attempt to describe internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You give key international and national stakeholders, such as the artist, Quebec officials, TCLF, and ICOMOS, ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Flora Maia Chads

From: Adam Hitchcock <[REDACTED]@northisup.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 4:27 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next San Francisco Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

I support the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain for the following reasons:

- Urban Design & Accessibility: The fountain disrupts pedestrian flow and limits the usability of the surrounding plaza as an open civic space.
- Maintenance & Cost: It requires significant ongoing upkeep, yet often sits in disrepair or non-functioning condition.
- Historical Context: While once a symbol of Brutalist experimentation, it no longer reflects San Francisco's evolving identity and priorities for inclusive public spaces.
- Opportunities for Renewal: Removing the fountain would open possibilities for art, landscaping, and design that better serve the community today.

If supports of the fountain care so much maybe they can raise funds to move it in part or whole to a new location.

Thank you.

-adam

Sent via Superhuman iOS

From: Cisco Unity Connection Messaging System <unityconnection@ccsf-voip1-ucn-03.sfgov.org>

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 9:49 AM

To: Art Commission Main Line <+14152522266@ccsf-voip1-ucn-03.sfgov.org>

Subject: Message from WOLFGANG-KIMBAL (tel:415 [REDACTED])

Audio Transcription (via Whisper API Speech to Text tool)

"Hello, my name is David Wolfgang Kimball. I live at [REDACTED] Street at the corner of Hates in an apartment building. I've lived here for many years. I graduated from Yale with a degree in biochemistry, but I had a major focus in arts. And I wanted to let you know that I am a huge admirer of the Vaillancourt fountain. It is, to me, an incredible piece of art, I mean, of pure art that is... constantly challenging. Like it is a challenge to you right this second, like right in this phone call. And that's what it was always meant to be. And it is continuing to, execute its function. So, you know, I just read an article somewhere about, you know, another proposal to remove it because you probably failed to maintain it or who knows what happened, but in any case we are where we are now.

And you should know that there are San Francisco residents who have lived here since 1991 who think that that is a crucial part of city art, and yes, it is a problem that you need to understand that you need to work around. It's a problem that you commissioned. It is about being a problem, and like you literally made this bed and you must lie in it, so I guess that's a detailed message my phone number is 415 [REDACTED].

My contact is [REDACTED] dot net

I welcome further conversation on this I am certainly the very clearly can explain my stance on this with some clarity, I believe.

And like, you cannot remove this fountain. You bought this. You made this bed. This is San Francisco art in its most pure form. We are challenging ourselves by challenging ourselves with this art. And that is kind of profound. Like, so keep the fountain.

Okay, that's enough. I won't rant anymore. Have a nice day. It's awesome that you exist. Take care. Bye."



VoiceMessage.wav

ENC: AUDIO FILE

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 5:06 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission,

I strongly support cities moving forward and not trying to preserve everything in amber. This art wouldn't have been made in the first place if we had tried to preserve that space decades ago. I'm fine tearing it down and encourage you to move into the future.

Thanks

From: Derek Cerna <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 7, 2025 6:32 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Isabel <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 8:02 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting:

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kahlil <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 9:06 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Please do not destroy the Vaillancourt Fountain. I think the idea that it would take too much maintenance is a bit far-fetched. If not a water fountain, repurpose it. San Francisco has been a hub for the arts, but this is changing and we cannot let this all be replaced by corporate “art” and profit driven initiatives that tend to be bland and aesthetic, versus community driven inspirations. What needs to be changed is how strategically money is spent in the community and infrastructure. For example the infamous Noe Valley restrooms, shouldn’t have cost merely as much as it did.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is not an eye-sore nor a waste of space. If anything, the surrounding area, is a waste of space consisting of only bricks and pavement.

Also consider this as a historical space in the skateboarding community since its inception in the 90’s. Consider dedicating space to SF’s history and the community it has primarily served in the last three decades. It is sad to see how the public community has shrunk drastically. No billboards, no benches, no public chess boards. Where do I get my shoe shine?

Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: STEPHEN SIROTA <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:11 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: This is my favorite public sculpture in San Francisco. It is the very definition of the history of the Embarcadero. Save the Fountain.

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: oren <[REDACTED]@oren.ch>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 4:00 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. - - - - -

As a voting resident of San Francisco I support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. It has been a poorly designed public eyesore that never had any reference to its environment, and served almost no one well for many decades. Please let it finally be removed and this valuable public space more adequately utilized for the enjoyment of many instead of the loathing of many and visual enjoyment of very few.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kyle mckee <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:45 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheila Azcueta <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 8, 2025 10:45 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: amelia mendez <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:59 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

This piece of art rules!! Let us interact and play with it. Make it climbable and swimable! There is more art history to SF outside of burning man... this is part of it.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Amelia Mendez

-

Sent from my iPhone

From: Celia LG <[REDACTED]@live.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:20 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Celia LoBuono González

-----Original Message-----

From: Piper Alldredge <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 7:21 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. We cannot allow our city to be whitewashed over, removed of the features that make it uniquely San Francisco. The Vaillancourt Fountain is one of those features, and it must be preserved and restored.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Piper Alldredge

Sent from my iPhone

-----Voice Message-----

Public Comment via Phone: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

-

I think it's a travesty that something this spectacular can be torn down for redevelopment.

I sincerely hope this fountain is restored.

We should not destroy it after it has been put up.

Sandy L.

831 [REDACTED]

-

-----Original Message-----

From: Rana Halprin Vassau <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 5:05 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Meadows <[REDACTED]@robertmeadows.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 6:28 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@tclf.org

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

I'm writing to express my dismay at the apparent intention of the city of San Francisco to demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain. After years of neglect, by both the city and Embarcadero Center property owners, it appears that the costs of maintaining and renovating the fountain are being vastly inflated to justify the demolition. The fountain is an important work of art and piece of San Francisco's history. It may not be beautiful to all, but it is beautiful to some, as all art is. You have an obligation to preserve and maintain important works of public art. Please reconsider, and show that San Francisco is not a mediocre and parochial city afraid of anything not currently popular or well-received.

Thank you,

Robert Meadows

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94115

Robert Meadows | tel: +1.415 [REDACTED] | email: [REDACTED]@robertmeadows.net

This message may be privileged and/or confidential. Do not forward or copy without the expressed consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender via return email, then delete this message and all copies.

-----Original Message-----

From: orchid organic <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:09 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please get it together, Queens! Can't we have nice things in this city they don't all have to be brand new and shiny. They can be old and hard and wonderful. Just look at the bastardization they did to the MOMA. It is criminal. They didn't give that piece of architecture a chance to mature, unforgivable. And now we have another banal white boring staircase a literal snoozefest. This is a city of artists and visionaries. We can do better than tearing down old things just to put up something new. The fountain is fabulous and deserves respect not everything needs to go into a landfill.

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Allison Cordrey <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 9:47 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

I support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain because it looks like a sewer dumping sewage.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Cody Babcock <[REDACTED]@students.claremontmckenna.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:29 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle Trame <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:32 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

I remember seeing that fountain since I was a little kid. It looked like some kind of playground to me. It captured my imagination then, and I have memories of growing up here when I see it now. I want other people to have the chance to have their creative energy sparked by it.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: petra marar <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:11 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: Docomomo US/NOCA <info@docomomo-noca.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

To the SFAC Visual Arts Committee,

I am dismayed by the abrupt shift from a public-facing, community-inclusive process led by RPD to a proposal for decommissioning the Vaillancourt Fountain.

It's not RPD's thinly-veiled desire (to pleasure billionaire-developer BXP by replacing public history in the built environment with highly-controlled space in pacified aesthetics) that is startling, but that they've set in motion such a rapid clip to depart from their publicized community-oriented promises.

In a stakeholder event we had with RPD and BXP, Aaron Fenton of BXP called Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain, "*our doorstep*."

Now is not the time for public institutions to be doormats to private money and corporate interest.

Isn't Vaillancourt Fountain public art? Aren't you a public institution? If we are to have faith in public institutions -- very much needed right now -- the SFAC needs to abandon this wrought and bought path of decommissioning. Take the reins out of private interest: reset the definition of "public" in art (contribute to the discourse on taste and aesthetics in the public sphere, stoked by the presence of this challenging work) and process (how do you ensure our voices are given the same weight as billionaire corporations, especially with public comment periods occurring in the middle of post people's workday? how can you reassure us that public space is not more valued as a developer's doormat than the millions who make up the public?).

Yes, the fountain is an obvious site of collective neglect and failures by a number of public institutions. Let's move on and locate the commission's integrity and role in genuine and fair public art processes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Petra Marar, PLA
Secretary, Docomomo US | Northern California Chapter

-----Original Message-----

From: ava ray <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:21 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,

Ava Ray McLeod

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Leanne Vanderbyl Hobbs <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:09 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Dear SF leaders,

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. Brutalism, though not for everyone, is an important movement that will only increase in importance over time. It is incredibly shortsighted to assume that a “new look” is of greater value than history.

San Francisco has always been a city that pushes boundaries when it comes to creativity, and that should be celebrated and preserved.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Leanne Vanderbyl

510 [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:17 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

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Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Luke Andreoni <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 8:48 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

I strongly support the demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. I actually love a lot of brutalist architecture and art but find the fountain to be ugly as hell and a waste of space that has demonstrably repelled people more than attracted them for the 17 or so years I've lived here. It's had plenty of time to be recognized as great public art that's an essential part of that area - and it hasn't, because it isn't. Try something new! I like the plans I've seen. Activate that space and connect it to the surrounding parks.

Next up - Civic Center fountain!

Thank you.

From: M M <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 9:16 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Melissa Matheney

From: Marcy Dinius <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 6:12 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

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Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Riparian Thurman <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 10:52 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request: • You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations. • You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project. • You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings. Thank you.

Riparian Thurman

-----Original Message-----

From: Melika Sebihi <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 9:03 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Westland <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 12:20 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

SFRPD IS MIS-GUIDED with this plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Jeannine Zenti <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 8:27 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:57 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Coviello

Sent from a Native San Franciscan

From: Daniel L. Rabinowitz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 6:36 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Sauter, Danny (BOS) <Danny.Sauter@sfgov.org>

Cc: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Eoanna Goodwin <eoanna.godwn@sfgovv.org>

Subject: The Sue Bierman Park/Embarcadero Plaza Renovation Project and the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear members of the San Francisco Arts Commission and Other Concerned Parties:

I write as a resident of District 3 and a strong proponent of the current plan to join, renovate and revitalize Sue Bierman Park and Embarcadero Plaza.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has demonstrated, time and again, its ability to deliver wonderful Park designs and construction throughout our city's history. We don't need to go back to Golden Gate or the Presidio to see how important such Parks can be to the life of our city. The successes of Tunnel Tops, Bayfront Park, India Basin Waterfront Park and others are only the most recent illustrations of the ways in which park creation, redesign and renovation can serve all our citizens of San Francisco in exemplary fashion.

San Francisco now has a unique opportunity presented to it in the form of the public private partnership which intends to undertake the redesign, integration and renovation of Sue Bierman Park and Embarcadero Plaza. This project and this partnership enjoy strong support from the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, and for compelling reasons.

The conceptual design that is emerging for this project from extensive community engagement and hard work by the Recreation and Parks Department and the design team is a brilliant synthesis of aesthetic and functional interests, incorporating and melding diverse elements of community participation with exciting park design. The renovated and augmented park would be a true gem and would be the closest such park to the downtown business district and the iconic transit node of the Ferry Terminal. It would contribute in so many ways to the revitalization and future of our city.

Such a renovated, augmented and restored park would be another link in what can become a "necklace" of such park development all along our city's waterfront, serving citizens, visitors and the business community at the same time. The warm and enthusiastic reception that the early conceptual design has received at each of the public meetings bespeaks both the need for the project and the very positive way in which our community has responded to the proposals.

It is important to understand that a key element of the overall design is the integration of Sue Bierman Park and the Embarcadero Plaza (including the concrete area surrounding and under the Vaillancourt Fountain) into one fully integrated new park. Without such design integration, neither element of the proposed park would likely be large enough to be viable for anything like this level of renovation and re-imagining on a stand-alone basis, either in functional terms or with respect to the ability to attract the necessary external funding to allow the project to proceed at all.

Unfortunately, the sadly decayed Vaillancourt Fountain and its extensive concrete surroundings simply cannot be incorporated into such an integrated project with any hope of overall park design success.

The Fountain is massive in bulk and area and is surrounded by concrete. It has fallen, over many decades of neglect and budget constraint, into a dangerous and unsightly state of decay and decrepitude. Good intentions notwithstanding, no credible plan has been advanced in any of the public discussion to date that suggests a realistic pathway towards raising the tens of millions of dollars that would be necessary to restore the Fountain to safety or to its original state, even if the integrated Park project were sadly to fail or to be abandoned.

Whatever the merits of the many past decades of financial decisions were that led to the parlous and dangerous state of the Fountain now, there does not appear to be any credible way to reverse them or to avoid their consequences. The Fountain cannot be restored to safety in the City's budget crisis, nor is it likely credible that it could attract the private funding to accomplish such a huge task.

But on the other hand, the opportunity to create the extraordinary new and integrated park that is now under cheerful community discussion is not only feasible but already well underway. To preclude the removal of the moribund remnants of the Fountain, a necessary step to facilitate the creation of the new and integrated park, would be robbing the City's future to accommodate a past that has already irretrievably slipped from our grasp. The new and integrated park project should not be held hostage to the Fountain's irretrievable decay.

The Fountain, although controversial throughout its existence, gave pleasure to many City residents for decades. But the time has come to honor the claims of the future and to seize the unique opportunity that the public private partnership and the integration of the two park spaces present, particularly since such a positive and remarkably creative project has emerged despite a period of intense municipal budget constraint.

The Fountain can and should be honored through a much smaller replica as part of the public art component of the proposed new park. Its local history deserves such recognition. But in its current state it does not deserve to constrain or preclude the unique opportunity before us for the park's future development and stellar improvement.

I respectfully urge that you permit the removal of the decayed remnants of the original sculpture to permit the development and construction of the wonderful new park that our community, the Department and our political leadership jointly seek. Our citizens, our visitors and our future community deserve no less.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel L. Rabinowitz
Daniel L. Rabinowitz, Esq.
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Cell (US) 646 [REDACTED]

From: Nick Bockh <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:06 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely, Nick Bockh
Tenant at 4 Embarcadero

From: J.D. Lumpkin/USA <[REDACTED]@cushwake.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:10 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Embarcadero Park - Letter of Support to Art Commission from Cushman & Wakefield

Ladies and Gentlemen: Please find attached a Letter of Urgent Support for the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain in San Francisco. On behalf of our entire Cushman & Wakefield organization in San Francisco, we appreciate your careful consideration and support in making sure that the fountain can be removed to help beautify and activate one of the best outdoor public spaces in which to drive positive human engagement and accelerate the recovery of Downtown San Francisco.

Best regards,

JD Lumpkin
Executive Managing Director
Market Leader - San Francisco
CA License # 01215057

Direct: +1 415 658 3648
Mobile: +1 415 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@cushwake.com



ENC: PDF

From: Kovac, Kyle @ CBRE Capital Markets <[REDACTED]@cbre.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:11 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Vaillancourt

Manraj,

Please see attached letter in support of the deaccession of the Vaillancourt on behalf
CBRE – the largest commercial real estate services company in San Francisco.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Kyle Kovac

Executive Vice President

CBRE | Capital Markets

Mobile – 415. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@cbre.com

Lic. 01731229

ENC: PDF

From: Phillip Le <[REDACTED]@reubenlaw.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:16 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; James Reuben <[REDACTED]@reubenlaw.com>; Mark Loper <[REDACTED]@reubenlaw.com>
Subject: Reuben, Junius & Rose LLP: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners:

Please find attached correspondence regarding the above referenced matter for your review.

Thanks,

**REUBEN
JUNIUS &
ROSE LLP**

Phillip Le
Legal Support Assistant
Office: (415) 567-9000
Direct: (415) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@reubenlaw.com

San Francisco
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94104

Oakland
[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA 94607

San Jose
[REDACTED]
San Jose, CA 95113

www.reubenlaw.com



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From: Chris Hall <[REDACTED]@pradogroup.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:12 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Good Morning,

As a long time, bay area resident who offices downtown, Id like to add my support to the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain so that the full potential of the Embarcadero Plaza can be realized. Please find my attached letter in support of its removal.

Sincerely,

Chris Hall



CHRIS HALL
Prado Group, Inc.
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94108
[REDACTED]@PradoGroup.com
C: 914.589.5006
www.pradogroup.com

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply CHall@pradogroup.com, and delete the message. Thank you very much.

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From: Alicia Barr <[REDACTED]@bxp.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:20 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Alicia Barr (she/her)
Senior Property Manager

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@bxp.com

From: Roeder, Chris <[REDACTED]@jll.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:20 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of Vaillancourt Foundation

Chris Roeder

JLL

M: (415) [REDACTED]

O: (415) [REDACTED]



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From: Michelle Quan <[REDACTED]@bxp.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

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Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Quan, RPA
Property Manager

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94111

415) [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@bxp.com

From: Cindi Lee <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:08 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Support for Removing the Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi:

As a longtime worker in various Embarcadero Center buildings, I write to urge the SF Arts Commission to remove the Vaillancourt Fountain. It was never really to my taste but, as a fountain, it did add some variety to the plaza. Now, given how expensive it would be to restore and maintain, I think using such funds to create more shared, open, grassy, and shady space would be a much better choice than restoring the Vaillancourt Fountain. The Sue Bierman playground and the grassy area with benches that surrounds it were great additions to the neighborhood. Let's have more of that, please.

Sincerely,
Cindi Lee

From: De Martini, Elizabeth <[REDACTED]@archinsurance.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:26 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <a[REDACTED]>
Subject: Vaillencourt Fountain and Embarcadero Plaza

Please see letter attached in favor of creating a new park.

Elizabeth De Martini
Executive Assistant & Office Manager, West Region



Arch Insurance Group Inc.
[REDACTED]

Mailing address: Harborside 3, 210 Hudson Street, Suite 300, Jersey City, NJ 07311-1107

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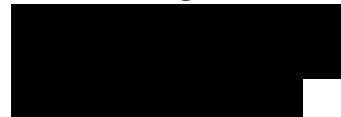
From: Kaitlin Dillon <[REDACTED]@tmgpartners.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:33 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton [REDACTED]
Subject: Embarcadero Park - Letter of Support to Arts Commission from TMG Partners

Hello,

Attached please find a letter to the Arts Commission in Support of Embarcadero Park from TMG Partners.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Kindly,
Kaitlin Dillon
Office Manager



[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94104
[REDACTED]

visit our website
www.tmgpartners.com

ENC: PDF

From: Schrader, Jay (Jay Schrader) <[REDACTED]@rbccm.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:48 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <a[REDACTED]>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain Removal Feedback

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached my feedback supporting the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thanks,
Jay Schrader, SF resident

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From: Childs, Jennifer [REDACTED]related.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Related Californian Embarcadero Park -Letter of Support to Art Commission

Good afternoon, President Collins, the Esteemed Commissioners & Manraj Dhaliwal,

On behalf of Gino Canori and Related California, I have enclosed the letter of support for Embarcadero Park to the Art Commission. We appreciate the consideration in acting decisively in favor of deaccession and aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative.

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,
Jennifer

Jennifer Childs

Executive Assistant to Nicholas Vanderboom and Gino Canori

RELATED CALIFORNIA

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, California 94104

[REDACTED]
jchilds@related.com



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ENC: PDF

From: Crystal Bree <[REDACTED]@fitnesssf.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Request for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

We respectfully urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to approve the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as part of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This once-in-a-generation initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns directly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's *Heart of the City* revitalization plan to reimagine downtown as a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood.

Community feedback has consistently emphasized the need for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and greater connection to the waterfront. The current fountain, however, obstructs these goals. Its massive concrete structure fragments the plaza, hinders pedestrian flow, and prevents flexible programming essential for a thriving public square. In addition, its deteriorated condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges.

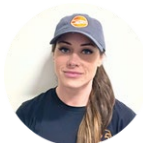
The estimated \$29 million restoration cost—nearly the entire project budget—would divert resources away from community-driven priorities and sustainability measures.

Deaccessioning the fountain will allow the city to create a welcoming, accessible civic space that advances economic recovery, supports local businesses, and strengthens San Francisco's cultural identity.

By approving deaccession, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza and affirm its commitment to Mayor Lurie's vision of a downtown centered on people, accessibility, and vitality.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to shaping San Francisco's future.

--



Crystal Bree
General Manager
FITNESS SF Embarcadero
P. 415 [REDACTED]



Two Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111

www.fitnesssf.com

Linkedin | Instagram | Facebook

From: Paul Hinz <[REDACTED]@swinerton.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 4:32 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Supporting the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Please find attached letter in supporting the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Paul Hinz

Vice President, Division Manager

SWINERTON

260 Townsend Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

D 415 [REDACTED]

M 415 [REDACTED]

E [REDACTED]@swinerton.com

swinerton.com

ENC: PDF

From: Alex Camacho <[REDACTED]@therapydiasf.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:04 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco. The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Alex Camacho
Office Manager

Therapydia SF

a: [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA 94111

p: 415 [REDACTED]

f: 415 [REDACTED]

w: www.therapydiacalifornia.com

h: *In Office Tue - Fri*



If you would prefer not to exchange personal health information via email, please contact me at the above phone number. By replying to this email, you acknowledge that you are aware that email is not considered a secure method of communication and that you agree to the risks. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail by mistake, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message from your system, without disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on its contents.

In a medical emergency, do not email your therapist. Dial 911.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, please contact us **24 business hours prior to your appointment** to avoid our late cancellation fee. Monday appointments must be canceled or rescheduled by closing of the previous Friday to avoid a fee.

LATE ARRIVAL POLICY

Arriving at your scheduled appointment more than 10 minutes late will result in a fee and the possibility of no treatment provided depending on the exact time you arrive.

From: Anne Dwane <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 6:20 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

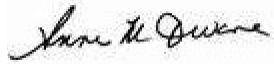
The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Dwane", is positioned above a solid black rectangular redaction box.

Anne Dwane

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering a line of text, likely a phone number or email address.

San Francisco, CA 94111

And work address: , San Francisco, CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

ENC: PDF

From: Jake Blaine <[REDACTED]@pemeticpartners.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:34 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown.

Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan. Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,
Jake Blaine
Pemetic Partners

From: Bill Getty <getty.bill@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 11:46 AM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

To the President and Commissioners of the San Francisco Arts Commission -

Please see the attached letter in support of the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Kind regards,
William Getty

ENC: PDF

From: Monica Bezore <[REDACTED]@frankrimerman.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:32 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

September 12, 2025

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

I passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery. I am excited to see the plan unfold.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Sadly, it is dated, unsightly, and unnecessary. Further, its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential the use (for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown). Also of concern, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it (*shocking*, as it is nearly the entire project budget) will divert critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan. Clearly the City did not feel it was important enough to fix it until now, and it is like the elephant in the room. We can’t let it now impede our ability to have a wonderful, inclusive, space for all. I consider Mayor Lurie’s plan to be a vital step towards the rejuvenation for our City.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

I respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Monica Bezore
Tenant in One Embarcadero

From: Barb Tabisaura <[REDACTED]@rockwoodcap.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Bob Gray <[REDACTED]@rockwoodcap.com>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

To: The City of San Francisco Arts Commission:

Please see the attached letter from Robert Gray, Rockwood Capital, LLC regarding the urgent support for deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Barb Tabisaura
Senior Executive Assistant
Rockwood Capital, LLC
[REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94111
Direct: (415) [REDACTED] | Main: (415) [REDACTED] | Mobile: (925) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@rockwoodcap.com



rockwoodcap.com | view privacy policy

Please note: Rockwood's San Francisco office is relocating effective August 4, 2025. New address: [REDACTED], San Francisco, CA 94111

ENC: PDF

From: Alex Lau [REDACTED]@zurichna.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:02 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,



Alex Lau
Senior
Technology
Underwriter



San Francisco, CA 94105



ZURICH

PTO/Company Holiday: 11/20

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

This message, along with any attachments, is for the designated recipient(s) only and may contain privileged, proprietary, or otherwise confidential information. If this message has reached you in error, kindly destroy it without review and notify the sender immediately. Any other use of such misdirected e-mail by you is prohibited. Where allowed by local law, electronic communications with Zurich and its affiliates, including e-mail and instant messaging (including content), may be scanned for the purposes of information security and assessment of internal compliance with company policy.

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

I passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco. The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access-features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery. The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it-nearly the entire project budget-diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan. Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood. I respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Luke Savage, San Francisco resident

From: John Loftus <[REDACTED]@bxp.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:23 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Name John Loftus
Title Director of Safety and Security
BXP

CC [REDACTED]

From: Lydia Chan <[REDACTED]@lydiasflowers.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:41 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

9-12-2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive

civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Lydia Chan

Lydia's Flowers



www.lydiasflowers.com

From: Isabelle Luzuriaga [REDACTED]@woodlinepartners.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 2:54 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,
Isabelle Luzuriaga
Woodline Partners
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94111

From: Victoria Hernandez <[REDACTED]@stockbridge.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 6:31 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Attached please see my signed letter of support to decommission the Vaillancourt Fountain. Thank you.

V.

VICTORIA HERNANDEZ
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | direct
stockbridge.com

ENC: PDF

From: Gregg Stone [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 7:21 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely, Gregg Stone

-----Original Message-----

From: Sasha Hasanbegovic <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 7:51 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,

Sasha Hasanbegovic

He/Him
[REDACTED]

From: Aaron Fenton <[REDACTED]@bxp.com>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 3:17 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear members of the SF Arts Commission,

My name is Aaron Fenton and I work for BXP, and I'm here to share our vision for a revitalized Embarcadero Plaza—one that honors San Francisco's future while respectfully acknowledging its past.

We've heard concerns from preservation groups about the Vaillancourt Fountain, and we take them seriously. They view it as a piece of public art, a symbol of bold history. We respect that perspective, but we must ask the ultimate question that sits in front of you: does this fountain truly serve the public today? For many, it's less a cherished landmark and more a relic that dominates the plaza, limiting its potential as a vibrant, inclusive gathering space.

The ideas for the new park isn't about erasing history but about creating a forward-looking public space that reflects San Francisco's dynamic spirit, and one that can truly serve the needs of San Francisco residents, the employees that show up to work every day, and the hundreds of thousands of tourists that visit our waterfront each year. The fountain, through years of unintended neglect, has become a barrier to that vision, not a bridge. We've engaged significantly with the community and value all voices, but we believe a modern plaza can better unite the millions who use it daily.

We urge the Commission to prioritize a space that inspires and connects, not one anchored to an outdated structure. Let's build a plaza that welcomes everyone, not just the few who champion its past. Thank you.

Aaron Fenton

SVP, Development

[REDACTED]
1
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@bxp.com



From: JAY ERNST <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 4:55 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

As a resident of the nearby Gateway Apartments and Townhomes complex and one who has spent 30 years in and around Embarcadero Plaza, I am in agreement with many of my neighbors that the Vaillancourt Fountain has reached the end of its aesthetic appeal and usefulness. Most things in this world have a 'shelf-life' and the fountain no longer inspires and, in my humble opinion, would be incongruous to the planned design and renovation of the park. Removing it would free up space for many of the more appropriate options for the park as well. Therefore I would encourage the Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as part of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

As I understand things, community input and Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" revitalization plan call for open green space, shaded seating, improved waterfront access, and a plaza that supports events and economic activity. The fountain's massive concrete structure fragments the plaza, blocks pedestrian flow, and is costly to restore — nearly \$29 million, which would consume most of the project's budget (where is Rec. & Park going to procure additional funds for future maintenance given our current fiscal crisis?).

As I implied above, removing the fountain will unlock the full potential of the plaza as a safe, accessible, and vibrant public space that attracts residents, families, and visitors, helping to restore downtown vitality.

Please act decisively to support deaccession and advance this once-in-a-generation opportunity for a thriving, 24/7 Embarcadero neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Jay Ernst

[REDACTED]

From: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 3:14 PM
To: Andy Scheer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Embarcadero Plaza Redesign

Our apologies- adding @Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) from Rec and Park here.

Team Danny

Sign up for our newsletter here!

From: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2025 15:11
To: Andy Scheer <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: Embarcadero Plaza Redesign

Hello Andy,

Thank you for sharing your views on the Embarcadero Plaza redesign with the Board of Supervisors earlier this spring. We note that your message had not been shared with the Arts Commission or the Recreation and Parks Department, so we are copying the respective departments now.

You might be interested to know that the future of Vaillancourt Fountain as a piece of public art will be considered by the **Arts Commission's Visual Arts Committee on Tuesday, September 30, at 2pm**. Members of the public are always welcome to attend and give comment.

The committee's recommendation will then be voted on by the **full Arts Commission on Tuesday, October 6 at 2pm**. That meeting is open to the public as well.

Thank you for your engagement. The Embarcadero Plaza redesign is an exciting project for our district and, we believe, the entire city!

Best,

Team Danny

From: Paul Vongjarit Knepp <[REDACTED]@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 2:37 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please find enclosed my letter of support regarding the **deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul V. Managing Director #OshaThai #LaoTable #BannOakknollNapa Direct 510-982-2456

ENC: PDF

From: Rhoda Schneiderman <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain

Please see the attached letter.

Rhoda Schneiderman
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94111

ENC: PDF

From: Richard Radcliffe [REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 2:12 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancort Fountain

Please do not be intimidated or swayed by this pompous, elderly man.

As a long time San Franciscan, I support the re-vamping of the plaza. For once and for all, we need to demolish and remove this ridiculous eyesore. It is laughable that it was EVER considered aesthetically pleasing in any sense.

The irony of it all: The Fountain is by far the worst piece this man ever executed. Some of his sculptures are quite frankly very beautiful.

Please let me know if there will be any critical public input forums, I would not want to miss.

thank you,

Richard Radcliffe
San Francisco

From: Joe Mitchell Studio <[REDACTED]@proton.me>

Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 4:33 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Dear SFRPD & SFAC,

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,
Joe Mitchell, SF, CA

From: Alec Bash [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 5:31 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Subject: Supporting the Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

Many residents of the 1254-unit Gateway Apartments and Townhomes have been participating in the community meetings the Recreation and Park Department has conducted for the proposed renovation and merger of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park.

Sue Bierman Park is immediately across the street from one of the four large Gateway apartment buildings and several of the 58 townhomes. These are all rent-controlled units built as part of the Golden Gateway–Lower Embarcadero Redevelopment Area in the late 1960s and '70s.

The Vaillancourt Fountain presents a significant issue for this park, the elephant in the room. It was a truly inspired response to the Embarcadero Freeway, the perfect forecourt for the massive freeway. And the freeway was the perfect backdrop for this brutalist collection of large concrete box channels designed to disgorge impractically large quantities of water. **But with the freeway gone, the Fountain sits isolated and rather ugly, while blocking any possible integration of the Embarcadero Plaza with Sue Bierman Park.** The costs to restore it to its original function would be enormous, and operating costs with its gushers of water would be significant.

We urge you to Deaccession the Vaillancourt Fountain to enable the new park's planning and implementation to proceed. We do believe the Fountain is noteworthy in the context of the Embarcadero Freeway. The Embarcadero Freeway and its Vaillancourt Fountain 'little brother' may warrant a photo-interpretive exhibit providing critical analysis and understanding of 1) what led to building the Freeway, 2) the effort to ameliorate it when Redevelopment and its Justin Herman Plaza (now Embarcadero Plaza) came along, 3) the socio-political, e.g., City Hall plan followed by two competing ballot propositions, and finally 4) the geophysical, e.g., Loma Prieta Earthquake, that led to its removal. This might include a photo showing the brilliance of this massive Fountain wrapped with the ugly Freeway along its back.

Some have also argued that the Embarcadero Plaza with its Fountain represents a worthy contribution to San Francisco from renowned landscape architect [Lawrence Halprin

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Halprin). Halprin's much more significant contribution to San Francisco came years later with Levi's Plaza, with which we can all celebrate Halprin's genius.

We appreciate all that the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and abutting property owner BXP are doing in their efforts to create a wonderful new public park across from The Gateway on San Francisco's waterfront. This will help families, neighbors, workers, vendors and visitors fully enjoy this beautiful area within the Ferry Building Waterfront alongside the Embarcadero Center, and support Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" Downtown Revitalization Plan.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Trembley
President

Alec Bash, AICP
Second VP, External Affairs

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

San Francisco, CA 94111

From: Rachel Masory <[REDACTED]@goldengatecap.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 9:09 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Please see my attached letter relating to the Vaillancourt Fountain. Thank you,
Rachel Masory

Rachel Masory
Managing Director and General Counsel
Golden Gate Capital



www.goldengatecap.com

ENC: PDF

From: Sahil Shah [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 3:47 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

- I urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.
- Aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.
- Embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality.
- Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.
- Vaillancourt Fountain is a significant barrier to these shared objectives
- Vaillancourt Fountain’s imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown.
- The fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability.
- Estimated \$29 million cost to restore the fountain—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.
- Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality.
- Removing this obstacle unlocks the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.
- We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project.
- Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,
Sahil Shah
Community rep of local tenant's association (GTA)
[REDACTED]

From: Osha Thai Office <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 6:20 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please find attached my letter of support regarding the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Best regards,
Yim

OSHA THAI OFFICE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@YAHOO.COM

ENC: PDF

From: Case Study House 26 <[REDACTED]@casestudyhouse.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 8:31 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: To: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear SF Arts Commission and Parks & Recreation,
The Vaillancourt Fountain has been a bold and provocative feature in San Francisco for over 50 years. It is an outstanding piece of art that unmistakably represents a vibrant, diverse, and never-boring San Francisco.

Not all artwork is appreciated by the public at all times, and public opinions can change. Consider Maya Lin's Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., which initially received significant criticism and is clearly not aligned with what the current administration would consider a memorial.

If the Fountain and the Lawrence Halprin-designed plaza are removed, a unique part of San Francisco would be lost forever.

Please preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider the following:

Rightsizing the project: Allocate the \$15-30+ million in public and private funds more effectively. This could involve a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that better reflects the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, supports downtown's economic recovery, and retains our history and culture.

Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain: Explore options such as using it as a backdrop for the much-discussed central stage.

Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza: Address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design, which aligns with the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.

Acknowledge the plaza's preexisting world-class status: This is demonstrated by national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form from organizations such as the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The

Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,
Case Study House 26

--

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Case Study House 26.

-----Original Message-----

From: Carolyn Lee [REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 3:05 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

I support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain for the following reasons:

- Style: Brutalist design is ugly. The Fountain, Embarcadero Center, and Brutalist hotel should all be replaced.
- Aesthetic: Replace it with beautiful, pleasing, and inoffensive art that works well as an Instagram and TikTok content. Public art should look the same around the world.
- Cost: RPD continues to inflate cost estimates and maintenance was supposed to be shared with BXP. It's better to spend \$16 million in taxpayer dollars on a new park than maintaining the Plaza or Fountain.
- Space: The 380,000 square feet of space in Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park is not enough. Removing the Fountain to get another 10,000 square feet is necessary.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

From: Case Study House 26 [REDACTED] <casestudyhouse.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 13, 2025 10:03 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: Docomomo <info@docomomo-noca.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

The Vaillancourt Fountain has been a bold and provocative feature in San Francisco for over 50 years. It is an outstanding piece of art that unmistakably represents a vibrant, diverse, and never-boring San Francisco.

Not all artwork is appreciated by the public at all times, and public opinions can change. Consider Maya Lin's Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., which initially received significant criticism and is clearly not aligned with what the current administration would consider a memorial.

If the Fountain and the Lawrence Halprin-designed plaza are removed, a unique part of San Francisco would be lost forever.

Please preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Alfonso Cordon,

[REDACTED]

WWW | Instagram | Iconic Houses

-----Original Message-----

From: Geraldine Masson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 6:30 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

The Fountain is part of SF's history. Please protect it.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Géraldyne Masson

From: Thomson, Jeffrey H <[REDACTED]@guycarp.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 11:18 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Sir/Madam – please find attached. Thank you

Kind Regards,

Jeffrey Thomson,
Managing Director, California Head, North America Broking
[REDACTED]

Assistant: Veronica Bunac. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CA 94111

www.guycarp.com



Connect with me on LinkedIn OR Follow Guy Carpenter on:



A business of Marsh McLennan

ENC: PDF

From: Peter Guerrero <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 2:40 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Comments on Future of Vaillancourt Fountain

The Lawrence Halprin fountain at Embarcadero Plaza is an eyesore. While I'm a landscape preservationist, I don't necessarily subscribe to the view that *everything* created by a famous architect is worthy of preservation. Halprin's Freeway Park in Seattle and Sea Ranch are notable landscapes worthy of preservation in their original form but Embarcadero Plaza is not. The plaza as a civic space needs to be redesigned to revitalize downtown. In its current state it's just another nail in the coffin of Market St. and downtown.

Peter Guerrero
Historic Preservationist

-----Original Message-----

From: Mireille Blanchard <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 9:34 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Respectfully,
Mireille Blanchard

From: Andrew Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:28 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

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Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

All the best,
Andrew Smith

[REDACTED]

From: Adam Lynch <[REDACTED]@marinelayer.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 8:43 AM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>

Subject: Letter in Support of Deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain

Please find attached letter for the official record in regards to the Vaillancourt Fountain and the Embarcadero Plaza.

--

Adam Lynch
Marine Layer, Inc.
[REDACTED]

ENC: PDF

From: Nguyen Ngo <[REDACTED]@stockbridge.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:07 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please see attached a letter of support for the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

Thank you,

Nguyen

NGUYEN NGO
VICE PRESIDENT
STOCKBRIDGE

[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94111
[REDACTED] | direct

ENC: PDF

From: Kabir Seth <[REDACTED]@presidiobay.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:12 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: K. Cyrus Sanandaji <cyrus@presidiobay.com>
Subject: Presidio Bay Ventures - Embarcadero Plaza Letter of Support

Dear Manraj and team –

Please find attached a letter of support from Presidio Bay Ventures regarding the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain to support the future improvements to Embarcadero Plaza.

Please reach out with any questions.

Kabir



Kabir Seth
Principal

Presidio Bay Ventures

US / +1 [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

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From: Jack Diggins <[REDACTED]@harvestproperties.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:14 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>

Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Blair Volckmann
<bvolckmann@harvestproperties.com>

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please find attached Harvest Properties' letter of support for deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Jack Diggins | Acquisitions Analyst

Harvest Properties, Inc.



contact | vCard



| San Francisco, CA 94104

HarvestProperties.com

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From: Famulener, Conor @ San Francisco <[REDACTED]@cbre.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:16 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Letter of Support

Please see the attached letter of support for the Embarcadero Park.

Conor Famulener | Executive Vice President
CBRE | Lic. 01438818

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CA 94105
C [REDACTED]

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From: Dutra, Madison @ San Francisco <[REDACTED]@cbre.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:21 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: RE: Letter of Support

Apologies – updated letter attached.

Madison Dutra Sarro
First Vice President | Lic. 02041936
CBRE | Advisory & Transaction Services
415 [REDACTED], CA 94105
[REDACTED]

From: Dutra, Madison @ San Francisco
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:19 AM
To: Famulener, Conor @ San Francisco <conor.fam@cbre.com>;
manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org
Cc: Afenton@bxp.com
Subject: RE: Letter of Support

And here is mine. Thank you!

Madison Dutra Sarro
First Vice President | Lic. [REDACTED]
CBRE | Advisory & Transaction Services
415 [REDACTED], CA 94105
[REDACTED]

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From: Enrique Ramos <[REDACTED]@bxp.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Enrique Ramos
Assistant Director, Safety & Security

CC: **Afenton@bxp.com**

From: David Helton <d[REDACTED]@b.capital>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Greetings! I am a long-time San Francisco resident and I have spent many sunny days sitting by the Vaillancourt Fountain. In 1996, it made sense. However, it's a relic of a time gone by. It has fallen into disrepair and, quite honestly, it's an eyesore from our 23rd floor window.

The times have changed and this is an opportunity to both modernize and beautify the area. We fully support the the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain. That space is being misused and it is a real opportunity to make a needed improvement.

Kindly,
David Helton
B Capital
[REDACTED]

ENC: PDF

From: Andrea Allen <[REDACTED]@asdnet.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:31 AM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Amy Tamburro <atamburro@asdnet.com>; afenton@bxp.xom

Subject: Letter of Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission,

On behalf of Amy Tamburro, attached please find our letter of support for the deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support of this project.

Sincerely,

ASD | SKY

Andrea Allen

[REDACTED] San Francisco, CA 94104

[REDACTED] www.asdsky.com

ENC: PDF

From: Humphreys, Matt (SFORS) [REDACTED]@hyatt.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 10:38 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Arts Commission Letter

Please see attached letter

Matthew Humphreys
Area Vice President & General Manager
HYATT REGENCY SAN FRANCISCO
[REDACTED] **San Francisco, CA 94111, USA**

www.sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com

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2019 Certificate of Excellence, *TripAdvisor*
2019 Green Leaders – Gold Level, *TripAdvisor*

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From: James Buresh <[REDACTED]@gcigc.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Please see the attached.

James Buresh
Vice President
GCI General Contractors

[REDACTED], CA 94104
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

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ENC: PDF

From: Osha Thai Resturant <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,
Please find enclosed my letter of support regarding the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.
Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Jessica D.

OSHA THAI RESTAURANT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Let's EAT>>>Osha Thai Embarcadero
More>>> at Osha Thai Embarcadero

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From: Buffington, George N. <g[REDACTED]@sideman.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:50 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Cc: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain
Importance: High

Manraj:

Please see my attached letter.

George Buffington

ENC: PDF

From: Annika Claassen <[REDACTED]@swspr.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 1:09 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Cc: Nate Galvan <ngalvan@bergdavis.com>; Evette Davis <edavis@bergdavis.com>
Subject: Submission of Support Letter – Tusker Corporation

Dear Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary,

On behalf of Elaine Reyff, Chief Operating Officer at Tusker Corporation, I am submitting the attached letter for consideration by the Visual Arts Committee of the San Francisco Arts Commission in advance of the September 30 meeting. The letter expresses support for the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Best,

Annika Claassen
Account Coordinator



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From: Ware Sykes <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 1:41 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Amalia Sykes <asykes@abietere.com>
Subject: Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood. We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco’s vibrant future.

Sincerely,
Ware Sykes, Employer in Downtown SF

-----Original Message-----

From: Adrian Tejeda <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:22 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

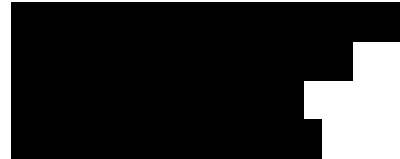
Adrian Tejeda

From: Charles Bloszies <[REDACTED]@archengine.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:33 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain

Attached is a letter to support deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Charles Bloszies, FAIA, SE, LEED^{AP}
Principal

the Office of Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA, Ltd.



archengine.com

ENC: PDF

From: Friessen, Eric <[REDACTED]@comerica.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

To whom it may concern,

Please see the attached letter.

Thank you,
Eric Friessen / Portfolio Manager / Technology & Life Sciences
Comerica Bank / [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (408) [REDACTED] / [REDACTED]@Comerica.com

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From: Eileen Aniciete <[REDACTED]@stockbridge.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Eileen Aniciete



CC: Afenton@bxp.com

ENC: PDF

From: Martinez, Sal <[REDACTED]@ktslaw.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 3:24 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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Sal Martinez

Facilities Manager

[REDACTED]

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

[REDACTED] 94111

www.ktslaw.com | vCard

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From: Basil Saharoff <[REDACTED]@ohaganmeyer.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 3:37 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Support for Deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain

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Basil Saharoff

[REDACTED]
PH [REDACTED]

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From: Zsolt Jackovics <[REDACTED]@fitnesssf.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:34 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please see the attached.

Thank you,



Zsolt Jackovics
President
P. [REDACTED]



Corte Madera, CA 94925

www.fitnesssf.com

[Linkedin](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

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From: Bell, Tita (BOS) <[REDACTED]@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:59 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Subject: CORRECTED: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain
Importance: High

Hello everyone,

Please disregard the previous attachment and instead add this corrected version to your file.

Much appreciated,
Tita

From: Bell, Tita (BOS)
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Good afternoon,

Please see attached letter from District 3 Supervisor Danny Sauter.

Best regards,

Tita Bell
Chief of Staff
Office of Supervisor Danny Sauter
[REDACTED]

ENC: PDF

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Rathman <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 5:08 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Viallancort Fountain

Please see attache letter concerning the Viallancort Fountain. Thank you.

ENC: PDF

From: Jesse Maddex <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:09 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie’s “Heart of the City” downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie’s initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown.

Furthermore, the fountain’s deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie’s plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie’s vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie’s “Heart of the City” initiative and ensuring the success of this historic

revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,
Jesse Maddex
Mill Valley, CA
Former San Francisco Resident, Frequent San Francisco Waterfront Visitor

--

Jesse Maddex



-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Sanchez <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 9:57 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Hi Sent from my iPhone

From: Jim Wunderman <[REDACTED]@bayareacouncil.org>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Please see attached letter of support for the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

Sincerely,
Jim Wunderman



Jim Wunderman

President & CEO

Phone: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.bayareacouncil.org



ENC: PDF

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Minton <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 8:36 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Keep the statue. Good reasons why.

Arts Commission:

Word has it that you have power to prevent a plan to demolish the “tubular” fountain. Don’t, please. You’ve got other places to make art, so go make art but don’t destroy older things.

Why can’t we keep nice things?

I like the feeling of seeing it. I like it better than the bow and arrow, and better than the big balls at Chase center, and better than those elephants dressed as whatever. I don’t ask you to destroy those things. Just keep the old stuff. It’s history. It’s nostalgia. It’s a feeling of time and place.

You like Coit tower and its murals? That’s even older, and I don’t hear anyone saying to demolish that.

At least wait until all of us who remember it as a child are dead before you do that.

Regards,
Jason

From: Irene Wong <[REDACTED]@Stockbridge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 11:14 AM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: RE: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Thank you. Please see attached.

Best,
Irene

IRENE WONG
[REDACTED]

ENC: PDF

From: Kara Notvedt <[REDACTED]@stockbridge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 11:05 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Attached please see my signed letter of support to decommission the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you.

Kara Notvedt
Assistant Controller
STOCKBRIDGE
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94111
612 [REDACTED] | direct
stockbridge.com

ENC: PDF

From: Jessica Kastelberg <[REDACTED]@stockbridge.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Cc: Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>
Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

Attached please see my signed letter of support to decommission the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you,

JESSICA KASTELBERG
VICE PRESIDENT
STOCKBRIDGE
[REDACTED]

San Francisco, CA 94111
512 [REDACTED] | direct
stockbridge.com

ENC: PDF

From: bpiltdown@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 10:01 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

Do NOT destroy this public art treasure. Do NOT destroy our city's history.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.
-Chris Farris

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cameron Danesh <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 2:08 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Subject: Comment regarding Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing to you regarding my opinions on the Vaillancourt Fountain. I have attached my full letter below, I would love for it to be included in the packet for the next meeting if possible.

Sincerely,
Cameron Danesh

ENC: PDF

From: Sam Cooler <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:44 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-Sam Cooler

-----Original Message-----

From: Madhuri Mudaliar <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:04 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Warm Regards,
Madhuri Mudaliar BSN, RN

-----Original Message-----

From: April Laks <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 11:27 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Will Sileo <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:45 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

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Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Will Sileo

-----Original Message-----

From: Zachary chamberlin <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:13 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Hello- as a resident of sf for more than half my life at 20 years I am extremely against getting rid of the fountain or bricks at EMB. They carry stories and history of San Francisco that are not found many places now in the city. This area has a great spirit behind it. I've seen what goes in now days instead of these iconic places that get demolished. The new parks and structures feel cheap and sterile. Anything built new now days in sf seems to always be built cheap looking and not have longevity in mind- it always feel like an ikea bandage that doesn't actually help anyone or the city of sf. Take for example the huge metal statue or the pickle ball courts- these are a monstrosity to the environment. Filling things with more things is not always the way. Please don't demolish this beautiful work of art to put in a metaphor for our failing capitalism- made fast with no long term agenda.

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Zach

-----Original Message-----

From: Brianne Jones <[REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:25 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,

Brianne

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Howard [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:39 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

--Sent from my Toaster

-----Original Message-----

From: Mary Jane Large <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 12:56 PM

To: Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association comments on Vaillancourt Fountain

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

Dear Mr. Te, our apologies for omitting you from the addressee list of our attached comments on the Vaillancourt Fountain. I plan to attend the Sept. 30 meeting of the Visual Arts Committee and to present comments on behalf of BCNA at that time. Thanks, Mary Jane Large

ENC: PDF

From: Bart Snowfleet <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 1:12 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Jonah <j[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:15 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

—

Jonah Purinton (District 3)

From: Kate Seagrave [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 8:37 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@holmes-wilson.com [REDACTED]@holmes-wilson.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2025 9:46 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

I support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain for the following reasons:

- Style: Brutalist design is ugly. The Fountain, Embarcadero Center, and Brutalist hotel should all be replaced.
- Aesthetic: Replace it with beautiful, pleasing, and inoffensive art that works well as an Instagram and TikTok content. Public art should look the same around the world.
- Cost: RPD continues to inflate cost estimates and maintenance was supposed to be shared with BXP. It's better to spend \$16 million in taxpayer dollars on a new park than maintaining the Plaza or Fountain.
- Space: The 380,000 square feet of space in Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park is not enough. Removing the Fountain to get another 10,000 square feet is necessary.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 2:26 PM

To: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Matsuda, Diane (CPC) <diane.matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Robbie Silver <RSilver@downtownsf.org>; info@downtownsf.org

Cc: emb-vaillancourt-fountain-coalition@googlegroups.com

Subject: Letter: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

To Whom It May Concern,

While some of our groups have discussed this project with you individually, we are writing to demonstrate the broad consensus of local, national, and international groups around a singular core principle: **Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be retained and rehabilitated for present and future residents and visitors.**

Our full letter is attached. In the interest of transparency, we are sharing this letter both publicly and with members of the media.

Please include this letter in the following public policy body meetings and public records, either for the date specified or the soonest scheduled. While not strictly required, *individual confirmation from each policy body* that the attached letter will be included would be greatly appreciated.

Arts Commission - Vaillancourt Fountain Staff Report

Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee Meeting - September 30, 2025

Board of Supervisors Meeting - September 30, 2025

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - October 1, 2025

Arts Commission - Full Commission Meeting - October 6, 2025

Recreation and Park Commission Meeting - October 16, 2025

Respectfully,

Bob Pullum, Board Member, Docomomo US/NOCA,

On behalf of our esteemed organizational and individual partners, including:

Armand Vaillancourt and the Vaillancourt family

The Halprin family

California Garden & Landscape History Society

Docomomo US

Docomomo US/Northern California

ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC 20C)

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

San Francisco Heritage

Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

ENC: PDF

-----Original Message-----

From: Tyler Brown [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 4:05 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: ava ray [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:32 PM

To: ART-Info <**ART-Info@sfgov.org**>; Corpora, Craig (ART) <**craig.corpora@sfgov.org**>; Peterson, Tara (ART) <**tara.peterson@sfgov.org**>

Subject: I oppose the deaccession, removal, and demolition of Vaillancourt Fountain

Hello,

I am writing because I strongly oppose the deaccession, removal, and demolition of Vaillancourt Fountain. I grew up in San Francisco and often frequented the Vaillancourt Fountain after bike rides down the Embarcadero with my dad. To tear this fountain down would be such a disservice to the people of this community. It is one of our most beautiful public works and offers so much to residents and visitors alike.

I would like this message to be included as public comment at the SF Arts Commission's Visual Arts Committee meeting on September 30th.

Warm regards,

Ava Ray McLeod

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Daniel [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 4:56 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

SF artist here, since 1987! I have photographs in the current YBCA Bay Area Then show. I have some authority when I say; KEEP THE FOUNTAIN!

Bill Daniel

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mona Marks [REDACTED]@monamarks.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:20 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: DC [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 4:34 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicole Hunter <[REDACTED]@sonic.net>

Sent: Saturday, September 20, 2025 9:44 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <**charles.collins1@sfgov.org**>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <**manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org**>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <**suzie.ferras@sfgov.org**>; ART-Info <**ART-Info@sfgov.org**>; SauterStaff <**SauterStaff@sfgov.org**>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <**phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org**>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <**eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org**>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <**recpark.commission@sfgov.org**>

Cc: **info@docomomo-noca.org**

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

The Vaillancourt Fountain: YAWN

Thank you.

Best,
Nicole.

From: Ava Gordon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:04 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Padua [REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 4:42 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Eric Padua

From: Roman Cendejas [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 5:13 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Taylor Snowberger [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 8:56 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen King [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 21, 2025 11:50 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I have loved this sculpture ever since it was placed in the plaza. I can't believe you would even consider demolishing it. What a waste that would be.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Kathleen King

Sent from my iPhone

From: Roderick Go [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting - Villaincourt Fountain

Arts Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

I support the plan to demolition the Villaincourt Fountain. The City should not be spending any more money on this dysfunctional piece of art, no matter its historical significance. If opponents of the demolition really want it to be saved, they should privately fund its relocation and rehabilitation immediately rather than wasting public funds on a long, drawn-out deliberation process. There is no reason that sculptures like the Villaincourt Fountain must live forever—the city must continue to evolve and opponents must learn to accept change.

Thank you

Thanks,
Roderick Go, Inner Richmond resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Rita Devlin Marier [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 12:42 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting

Dear Arts Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agenda for the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Rita Devlin Marier
[REDACTED]

From: Bill Gallagher <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:16 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Hi,

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for **both** the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure and retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.

You reject describing internationally renowned art as "a design constraint" to a redevelopment project.

You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Bill Gallagher

From: Jake Ruff <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:35 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Bill Gallagher <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 12:16 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Hi,

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for **both** the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure and retain and rehabilitate this landmark for
- current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Bill Gallagher

From: Martin Despang <[REDACTED]@despangarchitekten.de>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 1:12 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Dear colleagues

Please consider Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain an absolute keeper !

Warmly
Martin

Martin Despang Professor
Univ. of Hawaii Honolulu
Despang Architekten
Dresden Munich Hannover
www.despangarchitekten.de

Think Tech Hawaii
Human(e) Architecture
<https://bit.ly/3UQgMCd>

-----Original Message-----

From: KEITH B NAKATA <[REDACTED]a@mac.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 1:49 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Keith Nakata
Los Angeles, CA

From: Curt Sanburn <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:14 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for **both** the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, a living, gushing backdrop for San Francisco's diverse history and countless gatherings and protests. It reminds me of an up-thrust, an intrusion on the plaza of the area's many buried 19th-century sailing ships — an eruption of history, as it were. This unforgettable “fountain” redefined the term. **Formally, the fountain expresses better than any other public artwork in the City the jagged, edge-of-the-world, iconoclastic dynamism of 20th-century San Francisco. A fine example of exuberant expressionism, it’s an active and aggressive answer to conformity, and still it’s shouting! Discomfiting. To demolish it is to silence art — and disappear an entire era in San Francisco.**

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

And lastly, if retiring rec-and-park director Phil Ginsberg had anything to do with the costly and destructive “updating” of Embarcadero plaza, then you must reject his plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Curt Sanburn
the Outer Richmond

From: Michael Murphy <[REDACTED]@supersonicmodern.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:20 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
NORTH BEACH, SAN FRANCISCO

650 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@supersonicmodern.com

From: Curt Sanburn <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Defend the Vaillancourt Fountain now!

Dear government officials,

Please do not allow the demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain in Embarcadero Plaza!
Save it! It's unique!

Here's my thinking:

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, a living, gushing backdrop for San Francisco's diverse history and countless gatherings and protests. It reminds me of an up-thrust, an intrusion on the plaza of the area's many buried 19th-century sailing ships — an eruption of history, as it were. There are all kinds of interpretations, as in all good art.

This unforgettable “fountain” redefined the term. Formally, the fountain expresses better than any other public artwork in the City the jagged, edge-of-the-world, iconoclastic dynamism of 20th-century San Francisco. It's a priceless example of exuberant expressionism, it's an active and aggressive answer to conformity, and still it's shouting! It's discomfiting.

To demolish it is to silence art — and disappear an entire era in San Francisco.

Enough with the greedy ferris wheels and artificial turf...not to mention the new “Sunset Dunes” park, which sounds like a bad motel further down the coast. Ginsberg is leaving the department, so let this idea go, and defend the fountain.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Curt Sanburn
the Outer Richmond

From: Schaf Photo <[REDACTED]@west.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 4:37 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

The Embarcadero Vaillancourt fountain is a marvelous piece of public art that should be restored. I visit it, and try to wander through it every time I visit SF. Please retain this amazing resource for future generations.

It's a sublime space if you take your time to immerse yourself like I did in 2022 when it was still flowing.



Stephen Schafer.

Ventura, California

E: [REDACTED]@west.net

M: 805 [REDACTED]

From: Michele H. Bogart <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:29 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

To the Commissioners and Board of Supervisors,

As a prize-winning historian of public art and urban design, and as a former Vice President of the Public Design Commission of the City of New York and a current member of its Conservation Advisory Group, I urge you in no uncertain terms please to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts like myself for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. We are steadily losing important examples of the Brutalist legacy. I hope that you will not add to these numbers.

I fully support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project better to spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's San Francisco's economic recovery, while retaining its precious history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas. It can be done!
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you so much for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. They are unique, and help to make San Francisco the great and beautiful city that it is.

Sincerely,
Michele Bogart

.

Professor Emeritus of Art History Stony Brook University

-----Original Message-----

From: Natalie Macris <[REDACTED]@att.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 6:35 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

I am a San Francisco resident and business owner who agrees with Docomomo US/NOCA's position on the Vaillancourt Fountain. See their summary and recommendations below.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Natalie Macris

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for *both* the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: kim frazar blantz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 7:30 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

arts commission

Rec & Park

public comment

adjacent

reply all

object to deaccession, removal, and demolition

oppose

blank-slate,

urban redevelopment plan.

fountain is...

& so please

oppose deaccession,

request:

reject attempt

retain and rehabilitate

- not “a design constraint”

- ample time

required.

kdfb

winslow house project

vallejo california

sent from the slipstream

From: Brian Bartz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 9:47 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Natalie Thorpe <[REDACTED]@dons.usfca.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:49 PM
To: Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

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- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Natalie Thorpe
-
Strike Slip Gallery

From: Natalie Thorpe <[REDACTED]@dons.usfca.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 10:50 PM

To: Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Natalie Thorpe

-

Strike Slip Gallery

-----Original Message-----

From: Parker Ito <[REDACTED]@gmail.com> On Behalf Of Parker Ito

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 11:44 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Parker Ito

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: lakoehler1 <[REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 2:18 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Laura Koehler

Sent from my iPhone

From: Miguel Santos <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 7:10 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Miguel Santos
Hayes Valley Resident

-----Original Message-----

From: Learning Lights <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 9:08 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission: I strongly oppose the demolition!

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for **both** the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Michael Carrizosa <[REDACTED]@eworks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

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Thank you.

From: Robert Drucker <[REDACTED]@eworks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 2:51 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Preserve Vaillancourt Fountain

Commissioners:

Public Art is like free speech. It may not always be what the rich and powerful want us to see or hear, but it's a vital part of our democracy. Public art should be exempt from trends and fashion. Public art should speak to our history and our present. It helps if it's also delightful.

The Vaillancourt is all of these. It would be sadly ironic if the fountain survived an earthquake only to fall to the whims of development.

Please preserve it.

Robert Drucker

Senior Architect | 206 [REDACTED]



Environmental Works
COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER

-----Original Message-----

From: Cole Somers <colemacnaughton@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 4:15 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Cole Somers

-----Original Message-----

From: Cole Somers <colemacnaughton@icloud.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 4:16 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

- Cole Somers

From: Rusty Reiter <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 4:56 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Rusty Reiter

Additional Public Comments
(for 10/06/2025 Public Meeting)

From: Rose Linke <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 5:54 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Subject: Save the plaza! Save the fountain!

Please. I beg of you. It would be a a grave mistake to demolish this historical landmark. Lawrence Halprin is a beloved regional mind. And the Vaillancourt fountain is a brutalist icon.

Please. Retain and celebrate our history and culture. Changes can be made that preserve what would be tragic to lose.

Sincerely,

Rose Linke
Writer, Editor

From: Charles Reiter <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 6:06 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
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Thank you.

Charles Reiter, citizen for 73 years.

-----Original Message-----

From: Brandon Roberts <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 6:13 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandon Roberts

-----Original Message-----

From: Neill Sturgess <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 6:31 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Please include this as public comment for the next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and the next RPD Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

--

Neill

-----Original Message-----

From: Landen Fergus <[REDACTED]@isu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:39 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Landen

-----Original Message-----

From: Tony Lopez <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 8:48 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

It's rare that cities have opportunities to create a cohesive vision that honors legacy while establishing a new chapter in its identity. The Vaillancourt Fountain should not be considered a constraint, but a placemaking element that connects past and present and might prove to be a transformative, international precedent in addressing how history inspires and engages contemporary urban interventions. Please consider how the fountain might influence social edges, the interplay of revitalized landscape, tree canopy, and light. Please consider how it might become the preface for a new narrative for Embarcadero, serving as an organic, natural, textural backdrop to new architecture. Please consider how it's served as the backdrop to the culture of Embarcadero. Allow it to continue to be part of the comprehensive experience of the city. Showcase it. Celebrate it. Integrate it.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for **both** the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you.

Tony Lopez

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan Duff <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 4:35 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Gemma Searle <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:11 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

From: Alex <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:41 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Attention: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

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Thank you.

--

Alexandra Dierkx

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

m: 510 [REDACTED]

DRE#: [REDACTED]

From: Jonathan Pearlman <[REDACTED]@elevationarchitects.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:50 AM
To: Corpora, Craig (ART) <craig.corpora@sfgov.org>; Peterson, Tara (ART) <tara.peterson@sfgov.org>
Cc: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Matsuda, Diane (CPC) <diane.matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Robbie Silver <RSilver@downtownsf.org>; info@downtownsf.org
Subject: Support for the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioners,

Simply stated, the Vaillancourt Fountain is one of the finest pieces of sculpture in San Francisco. The idea that SF Recreation and Parks Department is seeking Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain should be an affront to you as commissioners whose very role is to support and protect the fine pieces of art that are in San Francisco's collection throughout the City. This idea is in the mission of the art collection itself:

"The mission of the Civic Art Collection is to promote a rich, diverse and stimulating cultural environment in order to enrich the lives of the city's residents, visitors and employees, and to enhance the city's image both nationally and internationally."

Even if you don't "like" the piece, it is not your charge to act on your own taste, but rather to evaluate how the arts, and in particular, this piece contributes and shapes the urban fabric of our city. Yes, the design of the Vaillancourt Fountain is and has always been controversial. But isn't that what good art does? To provoke thought, to engage the public in a dialogue about the piece is one of art's most important purposes. It is simple to say, "that one is beautiful or that one is ugly". Is that enough to buy or sell or destroy a piece of art? The background of the makers of this place, the artist Armand Vaillancourt, along with the design of the plaza by one of the 20th century's greatest landscape architects, Lawrence Halprin is well-known. The back story of the fountain design is also well-documented. Destroying the Vaillancourt Fountain, which is only a very small part of the overall area that is being considered for redesign would be to destroy a significant part of the history of San Francisco's 20th century urban development.

As a former Historic Preservation Commissioner, we looked at buildings that were being proposed to be demolished to make way for something new. In many cases, the building had been allowed to deteriorate to the point that the project sponsor of the new building said that it had lost its integrity, therefore it wasn't worthy of being saved or rehabilitated. Ultimately, the commission determined that neglect on the part of the owner was NOT a

reason to allow a demolition because ultimately, it rewarded the very person whose purpose was to destroy that small part of history for their own gain. Our charge was to determine the value of the building's historical impact, not solely its monetary value.

This seems to be the same strategy that the Rec and Parks Department is taking. They neglected to keep the Vaillancourt Fountain maintained and now are saying "due to its condition, it is just too expensive to repair and rehabilitate. Therefore, we plan to demolish it to create something new" and what should be mentioned, something not yet defined. In the case of the neglectful building owner, they would propose a much larger building, perhaps adding much needed housing as a mitigation for the loss of one small historic resource. That is clearly not the case here as the loss of the Vaillancourt Fountain is a significant historic loss AND there is no apparent public benefit offered in the nebulous future park plans. This behavior should NOT be condoned, especially not by the very agency whose mission is to protect pieces of art like this.

Had Rec and Parks contributed a tiny amount of money to maintain the fountain over the past 15 to 20 years, they wouldn't need to come up with the purported \$3 million now. How about a proposal to raise the funds from the public to repair and rehabilitate the Fountain? With grants (starting with the Arts Commision) and individual donations, it does not seem to be a high hurdle to raise the needed amount. Please do not let the Recreation and Parks Department bamboozle you in to thinking that there is no recourse to saving and rehabilitating this important, and in my humble opinion, important, significant and spectacular piece of San Francisco's art collection, not to mention, San Francisco's 20th century history.

Respectfully submitted.

Jonathan Pearlman
ELEVATIONarchitects
[REDACTED]
Healdsburg, CA 95448

(o) 707 [REDACTED]
(c) 415 [REDACTED]
(e) [REDACTED]@elevationarchitects.com
(w) elevationarchitects.com

From: Michael Corbett <[REDACTED]@lmi.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 1:46 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Corpora, Craig (ART) <craig.corpora@sfgov.org>; Peterson, Tara (ART) <tara.peterson@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain preservation and revitalization

Dear San Francisco Arts Commissioners,

[This message should be included as public comment.]

I am writing as an architectural historian whose primary focus of research for more than fifty years has been downtown San Francisco. In my 1979 book, *Splendid Survivors: San Francisco's Downtown Architectural Heritage*, I listed the Vaillancourt Fountain as an object of interest even though it was outside the time period addressed by the book because I considered it a landmark of the future. I have known and admired the Vaillancourt Fountain since it was built and have known it in all its phases -- in its original relationship to the Embarcadero Freeway when its fountain worked; in periods of neglect when it was dry and fenced off; in in-between times when it not fenced off and sometimes only partly working; and by itself in a transformed role after the Embarcadero Freeway came down. Even when it was neglected, it has been a magnificent thing, and when it was accessible, even in times of neglect it has been an irresistible draw and a lively urban place of human engagement.

In its different phases the meaning of the Vaillancourt Fountain has changed, which in itself demonstrates its strength as a design. It was built to challenge the presence of the Embarcadero Freeway in its scale, rough materials, and its own wet, noisy, seemingly out-of-control presence. Most importantly, it offered itself as a counterpart to the freeway: the freeway represented the ultimate triumph of purely utilitarian values, urban development subservient to the automobile, and brutal engineering; the fountain balanced this with a human-centered vision that engaged people and brought joy and laughter to those who saw it and walked through it. Although not nearly as big as the freeway, the Vaillancourt Fountain stood up to it.

Since the freeway came down, the Vaillancourt Fountain has taken on new meanings. It represents the triumph of art and human values over those of engineering for the automobile. Without the freeway, the fountain itself has more clearly asserted its stand-alone power as a work of art. It remains a highly engaging work -- easily the most successful of the several fine works of landscape art along Market Street. Not least, it recalls the freeway and a period of city planning that we happily left behind but must not forget. What better way to remember our mistakes than with a symbol of their destruction? Great cities develop in complicated ways. A city that develops with layers of features from different times is visually and symbolically richer than a city that develops all at once. Indeed one of the widely recognized mistakes of San Francisco's Redevelopment era was the scraping clean of whole neighborhoods of mixed building types and cultural complexity

and their replacement with monolithic visions. Victorian houses and African-American neighborhoods were replaced in the Western Addition. The Produce Market and waterfront surroundings were completely replaced by the Golden Gateway and Embarcadero Centers. The new plan would replace the powerful urban space established by the Vaillancourt Fountain and its plaza with impermanent grass and walkways and a checklist of currently fashionable features.

It is impossible to see any advantage -- functional or artistic -- in demolishing the Vaillancourt Fountain. I urge you to resist the unnecessary and oversimplifying impulse to destroy this great work of art and object of powerful historic meaning with a monolithic and inherently bland plan. The city will be richer if it is incorporated in its still-changing setting and will be diminished if it is destroyed.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Corbett
Architectural Historian
[REDACTED]
Berkeley, California 94704

510 [REDACTED]

From: Kimberlee Stryker <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 3:27 PM

To: Peterson, Tara (ART) <tara.peterson@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Matsuda, Diane (CPC) <diane.matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; So, Lydia (CPC) <lydia.so@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Please retain the Vaillancourt Fountain - a significant part of S.F. urban history

Dear Commissioners,

I write as a long time San Franciscan, a landscape architect, retired lecturer at UC Berkeley, and a former SF Arts Commissioner to ask you not only to preserve the Vaillancourt fountain, but to maintain and protect it.

The city, under the Rec and Park Department, has neglected this fountain. Rec and Park has said it is too expensive to maintain and then complained that it is not in good condition and should be removed. The real reason is the area is being planned for other purposes and the head of Rec and Parks does not like the fountain. He sees it as an encumbrance to new park plans. But its removal is not his decision. Rec and Parks has presented removal of the fountain to the SF Arts Commission which does have a decision-making role, however it did not have an open, robust and public conversation about the fountain's removal as required. Discussions were confined to the Rec and Parks Director, the Director of Cultural Affairs and the SFAC President. None of them are trained in design, and they made this decision without proper authority of the Commission. There is now a lawsuit pending.

The Vaillancourt fountain was designed in conjunction with the Lawrence Halprin-designed plaza. I have often given tours of this space to students while examining what constitutes good public design. Some students like its form or materials, some don't but that isn't the point - when operating properly it is a great interactive public fountain and it works beautifully with the space. Until the last few years it had running water and adults and children alike loved to move through the space under that falling water. What a joy for urban people! Arguments against it have come and gone over the decades with a very robust conversation about its retention in the 1990s that ended with a decision to keep it. Similar arguments were made then as now, but it was retained because of its integrity as an artwork and reflection of the city's urban history, especially with relation to Lawrence Halprin's legacy.

Halprin was a local landscape architect, one of the best urban designers of the 20th century, famous for making "people places." He left his mark on several parts of our city and these important marks are being erased or modified by the City. Another important one by Halprin is the UN Plaza and its fountain, which is also altered by Rec and Park for a skateboard park. We are talking about the place the UN was ratified, now being

used as a tacky skateboard park, its fountain, intended to bring a touch of the Sierras to our urban life, partially covered up. I understand the social and design issues of this area but removing significant historical urban fabric because it isn't liked by some Department heads with no urban design training is not a solution to difficult design problems that DO have solutions. These fountains are a FINE part of our 20th century urban design heritage and should be protected while we work to solve the social and economic problems that are being described as reasons to destroy them. Yes, fountains are more costly to maintain than some other elements of public spaces. We know that going into a design and it is included in the budget. S.F. is slowly removing or marginalizing many fountains - remember the upheaval about the Ruth Asawa fountain near Union Square? New fountains are now rarely included in new S.F. open space designs.

A good new park plan along the Embarcadero will address this fountain and its urban history. Let's keep what's good.

Kim Stryker
San Francisco

From: Paul Adamson <[REDACTED]@asdesign.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 5:01 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>
Cc: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Camila Baum <camilabaum82@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Re: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to add my voice to the chorus of individuals and groups in urging the San Francisco city officials to change course in plans that threaten the future of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain. I am both a concerned citizen, born in San Francisco, and a public advocate. I am a founder of docomomo_us_noca and former national board member, an architect and Board President of AIASF, a writer focused on California modernism and for ten years an instructor in the architecture school at the Academy of Art University.

The plaza and fountain were completed, in 1971, just before I began high school in Los Altos, and I thought, as many did, was this an image of a freeway collapse? But as do many public artworks the Vaillancourt reflects the time when it was created, immediately following a period of social and political upheaval. The 1970s would be calmer, and Embarcadero Plaza was, for me and my friends, an intriguing go-to spot in the city. I remember walking through the fountain on concrete pads as the twisting forms above poured water into the basin around us. Later I learned this kind of engagement was a characteristic of Lawrence Halprin designed parks, similar to Levi's Plaza, here, and the much loved Keller Park, in downtown Portland.

The current Embarcadero Plaza, an un-programmed forum, invites occupancy, both spontaneous and organized, in the way of like spaces in cities around the world. I participated in a memorable event there, on a wet winter day, in 1975, led by a teacher of mine, the Californian conceptual artist, Charles Garoian. With my high school art classmates, we filled dozens of clear baggies with water, and arranged them in a broad grid across the brick paving, so they looked like a glistening array of giant raindrops, an indelible image.

Now, after practicing art, beginning as a painting student at the University of Oregon, and extending to graduate studies and working as an architect in New York City and for more than twenty-five years in San Francisco, I am both a concerned citizen and an informed urbanist. This picturesque, generally placid, city can belie an undercurrent of bold adventurism that is rarely expressed in concrete form. I urge our city officials to recognize the intrinsic value one-of-a-kind artworks and public spaces lend to the vitality of our urban life, and to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Paul Adamson FAIA

PAUL ADAMSON FAIA LEED AP

as|design

AIA|SF 2022 Board President

Director William J Worthen Foundation

Instructor Academy of Art University

c. 415 [REDACTED]

Eichler Historian

From: Kirstie <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 7:43 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Corpora, Craig (ART) <craig.corpora@sfgov.org>; Peterson, Tara (ART) <tara.peterson@sfgov.org>
Subject: Public Comment - Save the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Committee Members and Commissioners,

As a public librarian and native San Franciscan, I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed demolition and removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza. This fountain is a vital part of San Francisco's cultural and architectural fabric. It belongs to the people of this city—not to private developers—and it deserves preservation. There is ample room for both a revitalized park and this landmark public artwork. The idea that it should be bulldozed simply because BXP wants it gone is unacceptable. I have a lifetime of memories tied to the fountain: running through its cascading waters as a child, taking lunch breaks beside it during my first job at 50 California Street, and now, as an adult, visiting it often as an urban hiker and flâneuse exploring San Francisco's rich public spaces.

Respected voices in our city agree. John King, Urban Design Critic at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, urges us to: *"Treat Vaillancourt Fountain with respect, and let it play a starring role."*

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/embarcadero-vaillancourt-fountain-19591582.php>

Tony Bravo has called it: *"Gorgeously stark, wonderfully abstract (practically cubist!) and fabulously eccentric in a city that professes to value risky and cutting-edge art."*
<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/art-exhibits/embarcaderos-vaillancourt-fountain-is-stark-brutal-and-ugly-and-thats-why-i-love-it>

This is not just about aesthetics—it's about honoring our civic identity, our public spaces, and our cultural memory. The Vaillancourt Fountain is one of the few remaining bold, expressive monuments of its era. Erasing it would be a loss not only to San Franciscans today, but to future generations who deserve to inherit a city with layers, texture, and history.

Please vote to **deny** the proposed deaccession, removal, and demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

With respect,

Kirstie H.

From: JLP <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2025 9:53 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC Visual Arts Committee meeting and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for *both* the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting and Rec & Park Commission meetings. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Christine Simms <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 4:02 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Christine Simms

From: Micah Vassau <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 5:25 AM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: In regards to the Vaillancourt Fountain

It is frustrating to think that my own city is so small minded that they want to destroy an iconic piece of art like this. There are many creative solutions to saving and working with the plaza that already exist. We should be like the other great cities of the world and embrace our history..

-Micah Vassau

From: Allegra Fisher <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: The Vaillancourt Fountain is San Francisco

Dear members of SF Recreation and Parks, SF Arts Commission, and District Supervisors,

Growing up I spent a lot of time at Embarcadero Plaza. My mom worked there and I would run around the plaza after school while she finished her workday.

During those years the Vaillancourt Fountain was full of life and fun. And it was safe for a kid to play. **We can have this again. We can keep what makes our city beautiful and unique-** it is what attracts tourists to want to visit and makes it a place locals actually want to sit outside and enjoy:

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance.

Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organizations on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites

(ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Allegra Fisher

From: Daniel Paul <[REDACTED]@culturalchapter.net>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 1:39 PM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preservation of the Vaillancourt Fountain and Embarcadero Plaza

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Daniel Paul, and I am a Southern California-based federally qualified architectural historian.

Since I first viewed it in person in 1999, like many people, I have found the Vaillancourt Fountain compelling and memorable, in the most positive possible regards. I cannot imagine the Embarcadero Plaza without this powerful, dynamic waterwork.

In 2004 at the California State University, Northridge, I completed an art history master's thesis about the early history of 1970s-era mirror glass office park architecture. At that time, I had my doubters, wondering why I would focus my energies on architecture they believed, and automatically assumed all others perceived, as repulsive. But now, just over 20 years later, that thesis has a following of younger designers, architects, and artists, including overseas in England, Belgium and Switzerland, all of one *zeitgeist*, who perceive the architecture I wrote of with deep attraction.

Taste goes in cycles. Design systems and styles fall from vogue then return. Once they return, they never fully fall from vogue again. Like clockwork, this happened with Victorian architecture, Craftsman architecture, Modernism, and now it is occurring with the 1970s-era Brutalist and Late-Modern design work.

In my thirty-plus years of historic preservation practice, over and over I have seen lead agencies, busy and overwhelmed with other concerns, neglect, remove, or otherwise demolish buildings, structures, public art, or historic signage just before a newer generation, one the lead agency was never attuned to, embraces the work, and does so for good. If only these lead agencies would have just waited a bit longer. For whatever reasons the lead agency decisions are made, often the decisions are not visionary and age poorly. The lead agency decisions leave later generations wishing for place-markers and distinctive physical landmarks of place-identity against an increasingly globalized, generic and homogenous environment. In its time many perceived the Eiffel Tower itself as deeply unattractive.

San Francisco, for decades, was California's cultural and artistic vanguard city. As San Francisco's decision makers now, please choose toward reiterating and resurrecting that long forgotten City stature. As someone who cares deeply about our shared environment, including the notable artworks contributing to it, for the future, please decide to preserve and restore San Francisco's very special Vaillancourt Fountain, and master landscape architect Lawrence Halprin's Embarcadero Plaza- around and leading to the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Paul

Daniel D. Paul, Architectural Historian

[REDACTED]

**Glendale - La Crescenta, CA
91214**

+1 213 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@culturalchapter.net

www.culturalchapter.net

From: Stephen Young <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 4:13 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Sofia Kolidas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 4:44 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings. Thank you.

Thank you!!

"This whole world's wild at heart and weird on top."

-Lula Fortune, "Wild at Heart"

From: My Shiny Robot <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 4:53 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Hello!!!

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-Daniel Grove

From: Emily Laubach <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 7:51 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Dear Art Appreciators -

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Emily

From: Nathan Garcia <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 10:27 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Please preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Vaillancourt Fountain is a Brutalist icon and something I look forward to seeing every time I visit Embarcadero Plaza.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Nathan Garcia

From: Jillian Sobol <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2025 10:21 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Emily Harris <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: Preserve the Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to preserve the Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,

Emily Harris - San Francisco resident and taxpayer

From: Georgy Avakov <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark of art and civic life in San Francisco. Created by Québec artist Armand Vaillancourt, it embodies our historic ties to Canada and Quebec and has served as a backdrop for public gatherings and free-speech moments for more than five decades. It withstood the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and remains a defining work of Brutalist public art and of the Halprin-designed Embarcadero landscape.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- **You reject this attempt to follow a federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate the landmark for current and future generations.** A broad coalition of local, national, and international stakeholders has already petitioned the City to “retain and rehabilitate” both Embarcadero Plaza and the Fountain; please join them.
- **You reject any characterization of internationally renowned art as merely “a design constraint.”** Recent City correspondence advancing deaccession used this framing while proposing removal as part of plaza redevelopment. Treating a world-known artwork as an obstacle undermines San Francisco’s leadership in public art.
- **You grant ample time and meaningful access for international and national stakeholders to attend and testify at all SFAC proceedings.** Preservation groups have asked SFAC to clearly notice dates and provide participation avenues for non-locals; please ensure a robust, inclusive process before any vote.

Please choose preservation. Keep and repair the Vaillancourt Fountain as part of an Embarcadero Plaza that continues to welcome protest, play, and public life.

Thank you.

Georgy Avakov
(local designer and artist)
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94117

-----Original Message-----

From: J.D. Northrup <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 11:09 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Please maintain Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain

Hi,

Please keep and repair the Vaillancourt Fountain.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,
James Northrup

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Ludden <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:32 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sincerely,
Michael Thomas Ludden
Pronouns: Mr./He/Him/His

From: Athena (Maxine) Boucher <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 12:50 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
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- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Majarian <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 1:04 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jillian Sobol <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 1:37 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Corpora, Craig (ART) <craig.corpora@sfgov.org>; Peterson, Tara (ART) <tara.peterson@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public comment for 9/30 San Francisco Arts Commissions Visual Arts Commission

Good afternoon!

I do not supporting the deaccession of the San Francisco historic Vaillancourt Fountain.

From the San Francisco Chronicle "Save the Vaillancourt Fountain and S'F's modernist history" author Ted Barrow articulates the impact of this urban gathering space and piece of historical art.

Put projection mapping on it until it is on the National Registry of Historical Places!

With Mayor Breed and General Manager Ginsberg both announcing this redevelopment project as the last thing announced before leaving their jobs, this piece of art history has been kicked down to road between administrators and it belongs to the people of San Francisco, why not show the fountain some love?

Kindly,
Jillian Sobol

From: Sarah Klein <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 27, 2025 2:17 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for the SFAC meetings

Hi There,

Please include this as a public comment in or near the agenda for the following meetings:

1. SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee
2. SF Arts Commission - Full Commission
3. Recreation and Park Commission

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed deaccession, removal, and demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. This effort - pushed by SF Recreation and Parks - appears to fast-track a larger redevelopment plan by clearing the way for a blank-slate redesign of the space.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is more than just a piece of art. It's a globally recognized landmark that reflects San Francisco's rich history, our ties to Canada and Quebec, and decades of civic life-including public, gatherings and protest.

I urge you to:

- **Reject** this move the echoes the troubling national trend of erasing public history.
- **Preserve and restore** the fountain so it can continue to serve both current and future generations.
- **Stop labeling** important international public art as a "design constraint" in a development plan.
- **Ensure that international and national stakeholders** have enough time and notice to participate in SFAC discussions before any decisions are made.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Klein

From: Joshua Peterson <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 10:51 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.
Joshua Peterson

From: Richard Brandenburg <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 11:00 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you NOT to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

The community has lived with its dysfunction for many years and its purpose as public art ran its course long ago. Who benefits from continuing to preserve it? Not the community that has to live with it.

It's time for new, contemporary work in this space. Quit wasting public discussion with defence of this tired thing as if it were still important and something that would be missed if it were gone.

Richard Brandenburg
Bernal Heights

-----Original Message-----

From: justin dumas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 3:53 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Justin Dumas

Inner Sunset Resident.

Sent from my iPhone

From: S F <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 5:25 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment: Embarcadero Plaza Fountain

Hello Commissioners ~

The Embarcadero Plaza fountain is a landmark.

We have a responsibility to public art and installations. The fountain deserves being maintained and cared for, as any public art or installation. We have to get away from our “disposable” mentality.

When it is functional, the fountain is a refreshing and pleasant experience to all who take a break there.

Please reconsider. It is time to be less inclined to just replace things.

Thank you for your service and attention.

~ Sandra ~

South San Francisco

From: Molly Haas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:45 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve the fountain !!

Dearest decision makers,

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain, please.

The fountain is such a precious gem in San Francisco, such an asset to our beloved city. I have memories playing on it as a kid in the 90s, getting photographed by my San Franciscan grandfather (who is still in the, now 94), and mother (another born and raised San Franciscan). These structures hold memories to me and so many who have been here for generations, but so much more than that, it's a work of art that elevates this city in a moment when so much is getting buried by screens / tech / AI and we're losing human touch, our uniqueness. I hope you will consider the message from Docomomo below.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

--

molly-haas.com

From: Molly Haas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2025 9:47 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

--

molly-haas.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Kooi <[REDACTED]@kooi.org>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:43 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Dave Kooi

Sent from my Apple Ile

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Messick <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 11:47 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

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- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from Rob's iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Madhuri Mudaliar <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 2:21 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Warm Regards,
Madhuri Mudaliar BSN, RN

Vaillancourt Fountain Public Comments

(Received as of 4:00 p.m. on 10/03/2025 via Email sent to
ART-info@sfgov.org or Phone Call to 415-252-2266)

From: Raymond Neutra <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:19 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Subject: Halprin Fountain

Please preserve this important landmark!



***Raymond Richard Neutra MD Dr.PH
President***

Neutra Institute for Survival Through Design

Missions: Preserve and Share the Neutra Legacy

Promote Artful Research-Inspired Design for People and the Planet

www.neutra.org

From: Raymond Neutra <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 7:19 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Raymond Neutra

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob Pullum <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:38 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Bob Pullum

Board Member, Docomomo US/Docomomo NoCa

Board Member, San Francisco Center for Architecture + Design

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, California 94131

415 [REDACTED]

From: Bob Pullum <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:46 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Bob Pullum

Board Member, Docomomo US/Docomomo NoCa

Board Member, San Francisco Center for Architecture + Design

[REDACTED]

San Francisco, California 94131

415 [REDACTED]

From: A Cohen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:06 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition.

I grew up in San Francisco and have fond memories of the playing at the fountain and in the plaza with my siblings. Please preserve it for future generations - it is part of The City's history!

Thank you.

Andrea Cohen

[REDACTED]@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Comcast <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 5:28 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an amazing addition to the SF Embarcadero. Cleaned up and flowing in a revitalized public area is a huge win for SF. I understand that it is somewhat crumbling, but every effort should be made to return it to its former glory. The Embarcadero Freeway was an eyesore and happy to see it gone. Not the case for this piece of SF history. It's not ugly in any sense, just a great representation of brutalism from another era. We don't wipe out history in San Francisco!

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Peter Grame

iPhone reply...

-----Original Message-----

From: Alison Price <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:17 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Alison Price

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael McDonald <[REDACTED]@mac.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:56 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Michael McDonald

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: HETHER Beckrest <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 8:20 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kyler Parris <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:20 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings - Save Vaillancourt Fountain & Highlight it in redesign!

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You consider a plaza redesign that highlights this amazing, interactive fountain and creates delightful park space surrounding the fountain.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Kyler Parris

425 [REDACTED]

LinkedIn

From: Michael Murphy <[REDACTED]@supersonicmodern.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 5:15 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

Dear Sirs/Madams

My name is Michael Murphy and I am a San Francisco artist and architect who is of the view that removing this fountain would be a absolutely detrimental destruction to a member of our built environment.

It is a rare experience, when it is in full commission, which is how it was designed to be, not in its current state of unease. It's a rare experience where one is able not only to see a very 3-dimentional structure, but can actually enter it and move though it, while also experiencing the

sensation of hearing and feeling water as it gushes through the piece as one explores it. It is very unique in this way and I think it is tragic that it has been left out of commission for so long not to mention be under threat of demolition.

The new plaza design looks great, but not allowing this piece of 20th Century art cohabit with the the new, is scrubbing the history of top this area and it's nod, for better or for worse, as part of San Franicsco's experiment with Brutalist art and architects, much like the adjacent masterpiece the Hyatt Hotel, which it effortlessly complements.

I don't remember the name of the jet or the park that used to be on 19th Avenue, but it was sorely missed after a while and was ultimately replaced by an ersatz version of the plane as people finally realized that while it was symbolic of a war, it did still have a component of our past and was ultimately missed.

Thank you and I hope I have made a compelling argument.

Michael Murphy

1317 GRANT AVENUE
NORTH BEACH, SAN FRANCISCO

650 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@supersonicmodern.com

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts

Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

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- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

1317 GRANT AVENUE
NORTH BEACH, SAN FRANCISCO
650 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@supersonicmodern.com

From: Jain, Priya <[REDACTED]@tamu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 7:11 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain and Embarcadero Plaza

Dear President Collins, and Commissioners,

As the Chair of the Heritage Conservation Committee of the Society of Architectural Historians, I wish to submit our letter (attached) in opposition of the proposed demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain and Embarcadero Plaza. Kindly include our letter in the public comments section of the meeting that discusses this project.

We appreciate this opportunity and sincerely hope that the Commission will take these remarks into consideration as they deliberate on the future of this site.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Priya Jain, AIA

Chair, Heritage Conservation Committee, Society of Architectural Historians

Associate Professor

Department of Architecture, College of Architecture

Texas A&M University

ph: 979 [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@tamu.edu

ENC: PDF

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Glagola <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:30 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Please don't, just revive and clean it, the bricks and fountain are historic, better and more important than smash ball or that fake tennis, stay local and don't turn it into another Marin burning man art piece, we have to keep S.F. local.

Andy

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christa Palazzolo <[REDACTED]@fraenkelgallery.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:04 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

I keep reading about how the city has approved seemingly all of the Sijbrandi Foundation's “Big Art” recycled-Burning Man projects, and nothing about the The Vaillancourt Fountain rehabilitation. Preserve history, don't destroy it!

Thank you.

Christa Palazzolo

-----Original Message-----

From: Jules Berggren <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:07 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings:

- (1) The next SF Arts Commission :
 - Visual Arts Committee meeting
- (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting
- (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting.

Reply all when responding to this message.

🏆 The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark ~

Symbolizing our city's diverse history :

- Our relationship with Canada and Quebec, & Countless Gatherings & Activist Events.

❤️ I very much oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- • I reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of History Erasure.
- • Retain and Rehabilitate this Landmark for Current & Future Generations.

- I as his daughter julie Vaillancourt reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.

I interpret

- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Jules Berggren <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:31 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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(1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting,

(2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and

(3) Rec & Park Commission meeting.

Reply all when responding to this message.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark.

Symbolizing our city's diverse history.

Our relationship with Canada & Quebec.

Along with countless gatherings & activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- I reject this attempt - as his daughter Julie. Representing not only myself but my 6 siblings as well.

(representing all my to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.

- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.

- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Jules Berggren <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 5:47 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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- (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting.
- (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting.
- (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

My name is Julie Vaillancourt in addition with my six siblings : Lisa myself Galia Oceania Renand Anais & the S

Each representing a separate decade of our Father's As one of six other siblings who have held

Thank you.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>

Sent: Friday, October 3, 2025 8:43 AM

To: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Matsuda, Diane (CPC) <diane.matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Robbie Silver <RSilver@downtownsf.org>; info@downtownsf.org

Cc: emb-vaillancourt-fountain-coalition@googlegroups.com

Subject: Letter: Retain and Rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza + Vaillancourt Fountain [Oct 3]

To Whom It May Concern,

While some of our groups have discussed this project with you individually, we are writing to further demonstrate the broad consensus of local, national, and international groups around a singular core principle: **Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be retained and rehabilitated for present and future residents and visitors.**

Our reissued letter is attached, containing additional signatories. In the interest of transparency, we are sharing this letter both [publicly](#) and with members of the media, as well as CCing our coalition.

Please include this letter in the following public policy body meetings and public records, either for the date specified or the soonest scheduled. Individual confirmation from each policy body that the attached letter will be included would be greatly appreciated. When including this letter, **cite all signatories as the sender (listed below).**

- Arts Commission - Full Commission Meeting - October 6, 2025
- Board of Supervisors Meeting - October 7, 2025
- Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee Meeting - October 15, 2025
- Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - October 15, 2025
- Recreation and Park Commission Meeting - October 16, 2025

Respectfully,

Bob Pullum, Board Member, [Docomomo US/NOCA](#),

On behalf of our esteemed organizational and individual partners, including:

- [Armand Vaillancourt](#) and the Vaillancourt family
- The [Halprin](#) family

- [California Garden & Landscape History Society \(CGLHS\)](#)
- [California Preservation Foundation \(CPF\)](#)
- [Docomomo US](#)
- [Docomomo US/Northern California](#)
- [ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage \(ISC 20C\)](#)
- [Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal \(MAC\)](#)
- [Musée des beaux-arts du Canada \(National Gallery of Canada\)](#)
- [San Francisco Heritage \(SF Heritage\)](#)
- [San Francisco Historical Society \(SFHS\)](#)
- [Society of Architectural Historians \(SAH\)](#)
- [The Cultural Landscape Foundation \(TCLF\)](#)

ENC: PDF

Additional Vaillancourt Fountain

Public Comments

(Received after 5:00 p.m. 10/03/2025 and before 5:00 p.m.10/07/2025 via Email sent to ART-info@sfgov.org or Phone Call to 415-252-2266)

From: Nadya Mikhaylovskaya <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request: • You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations. • You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project. • You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings. Thank you.

I would love for the city to keep this beautiful and historic fountain rather than can host more and more tacky sculptures leftover from Burning Man.

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Tejero <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 3:00 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Christy Roettger <[REDACTED]@att.net>

Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 4:01 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Jean Lee <[REDACTED]@ladiesandgentlemenstudio.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 4:17 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Hello Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Liz Freeman <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 4:59 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Good Afternoon.

I'm sure you have received many emails about the Vaillancourt fountain and I would like to add my voice to the chorus. There is a tremendous need, now more than ever, for San Francisco to continue its long tradition as a place which values and encourages public art made by working artists. I am including the words of fellow concerned citizens, working artists and cultural figures below as I deeply agree with their sentiments. Please consider what it means to preserve this important work. Thank you.

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-Elizabeth Freeman, co owner East Bay Booksellers

From: P B <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 4, 2025 7:50 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: michel stong <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:04 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

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Thank you.

Michel Stong

@miniaturemusuemofmodernartist

welcome to the universe

From: Matthew Castillon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 8:31 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Supporting a Vibrant Future for Embarcadero Plaza

To the Honorable Commissioners of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

My name is Matthew Castillon, a resident of the Embarcadero neighborhood. I am writing today to urge you to approve the plans for the redesign of Embarcadero Plaza, including the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain, a project essential for the revitalization of our downtown core.

Living here, I have seen the direct impact of our struggling public spaces. I watched with disappointment as local businesses like Wheelhouse closed, unable to attract the necessary foot traffic to survive. This is not an isolated incident but a symptom of a larger problem: Embarcadero Plaza, in its current form, is a barrier to the thriving, active waterfront our city deserves. The fountain, while historic, creates significant challenges related to safety, circulation, and accessibility, making the area feel disconnected and uninviting.

The effort to redesign this space is not a referendum on art, but a necessary and forward-thinking urban planning initiative. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create an inclusive, vibrant, and functional public square that serves both residents and visitors, and in turn, supports our local economy. The Embarcadero is the gateway to our city; it must be a reflection of our commitment to clean, safe, and prosperous public life.

This project represents deeply needed progress for San Francisco. I strongly urge the Commission to support this vital work and help us build a waterfront that will be cherished for generations to come.

From: N. Fee <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 9:05 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; charles.collins@sfgov.org; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

As a San Franciscan who remembers the Vaillancourt fountain as a functioning interactive fountain, as monumental and dynamic as whimsical and enlivening, I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt fountain. My son had the same privilege of exploring this urban space as he came of age; moving through the “grotto” like area under the water tube cascades was akin to a San Francisco rite of passage for him and his friends. One could liken the experience to a modernist, rectilinear translation of walking under the Oval Fountain in Tivoli, Italy - but here at home. As Ted Barrow so aptly wrote in his editorial in the SF Chronicle last month, the Vaillancourt fountain is integral to the Embarcadero Plaza and “wholly San Franciscan.” As architect James Garland said, “It’s controversy is an asset, not a demerit...We need vibrant places that connect us to each other, to our past, and to our future.” Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA and the expert assessments of local, national, and international organizations from SF Heritage to the Society of Architectural Historians to the Musée des Beaux Arts du Canada on this matter. My family and I recognize the vital importance of parks and adaptable, accessible outdoor spaces in our city but why demolish the existing Halprin-designed plaza with its accompanying signature iconic fountain to create a park that looks like it could be anywhere? As a native San Franciscan, architectural historian, and new SF City Guide, I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown’s economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.

- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for your consideration and for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain,

Nancy Fee, Ph.D.

-----Original Message-----

From: Stuart Maclure <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:46 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for Next SFAC meetings and RPD meeting

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: MCKNHM Architekten <[REDACTED]@mcknhm.com>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:44 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

MCKNHM
Mückenheim Architekten
Mark Mückenheim

San Francisco | Bay Area
CALIFORNIA USA
+ 1 (415) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mcknhm.com
www.mcknhm.com

Duesseldorf | Rhine-Ruhr Region

GERMANY

+49 (0) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@mcknhm.de
www.mcknhm.com

*This message was sent from a mobile device and may contain short concise text.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Fisher <[REDACTED]@fisher.to>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:57 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Ben Fisher

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Platt <[REDACTED]@barnard.edu>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 11:57 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: David Harrison <[REDACTED]@sfchamber.com>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 12:38 PM

To: Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: SF Chamber of Commerce Letter re: Vaillancourt Fountain/Embarcadero Plaza Renovation

Hello,

Please find the attached letter from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce regarding the Vaillancourt Fountain and the Embarcadero Plaza renovation. Thank you!

All the best,



David Harrison (*He/Him*)
Director of Public Policy
(O) 415 [REDACTED] (C) 202 [REDACTED]
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
[REDACTED]
San Francisco, CA 94104

ENC: PDF

From: Carla Laurel <[REDACTED]@westbaycentersf.org>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:06 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>;
Shiota, Janine (ART) <janine.shiota@sfgov.org>

Subject: West Bay Letter for Item 7: Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioners,

Please find our letter from West Bay supporting removal of Vaillancourt Fountain.

Thanks,
Carla

ENC: PDF

From: Elizabeth Kuntze <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 7:52 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Christine E. Sherry <[REDACTED]@sherryconsulting.com>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 8:34 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

--

Christine Sherry
Principal, Sherry Consulting

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

California 94028

650 [REDACTED]
sherryconsulting.com

From: ryan cummings <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 3:26 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Save Vaillancourt Fountain

I love Vaillancourt Fountain. I love it.

Sincerely,

Ryan Cummings

Additional Vaillancourt Fountain

Public Comments

(Received after 5:00 p.m. 10/07/2025 and before 5:00 p.m.10/27/2025 via Email sent to ART-info@sfgov.org or Phone Call to 415-252-2266)

-----Original Message-----

From: Racine Christensen <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 1:18 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone.

-----Original Message-----

From: racheleden <[REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 1:19 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you,
Rachel

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 11:20 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Dear Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission,

Would you be so good as to include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the following three meetings:

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- (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and
- (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I very much oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition.

Instead, I would please request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

My thanks to you,

Hugo Armstrong

From: Xianna Rodriguez <[REDACTED]@mail.ccsf.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 12:07 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Hello, I hope this message finds you well.

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

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- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Xianna Rodriguez

From: Lana Blackburn <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2025 9:13 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project - IT'S A VALUABLE TIMESTAMP OF THE 70-S

There are many ways to leave this unique artwork as a **timestamp** like so many other remnants of the past spread around the city! Think of Portals of the Past which survived the E&F and being moved to the Golden Gate Park now rekindle the imagination of people who pass by. Vaillancourt Fountains is so much more than an entrance to a Nob Hill residence! Why did the people who lived 100 years ago preserve the survivor of the tragic event and we cannot preserve an established art work of international fame which survived the 1989 earthquake?

Are there other brutalist artwork in the city from the 70-s? Where are the considerations for the diversity of artful expressions and embracing a variety of styles! Another park is nice but so predictable. Why can this fountain not stay where it's now but reinvented or reinterpreted in another way, i.e. with the plants replacing the rushing water? If it is too expensive to maintain, let's do something about it! Move it to another spot, reuse its part for another monumental sculpture (but leave a piece of it where it's now along with the pavement and the steps that bear signs and ticks of thousands of skateboards who learned their moves next to it).

PLEASE SAVE IT!

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.

- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.

- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Silverman <[REDACTED]@ibelieveinswordfish.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 12, 2025 6:13 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Matt Silverman
Creative Director
Swordfish

415 [REDACTED] (c)

415 [REDACTED] (o)

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Waterfield <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 6:06 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

Please say yes to the best sculptures in SF! I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

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- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

-----Original Message-----

From: Arrow Mueller <[REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 7:19 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment regarding Fountain

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

The fountain should be re-purposed as a relic in a garden setting. Naive plants and trees should be allowed to grow and surround the fountain. Instead of water, as originally designed, sage and bay should abound. Climbing should be allowed.

Thank you.

Arrow Mueller

From: dsalmon@salmon.org <[REDACTED]@salmon.org>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:46 AM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vallaincourt Fountain: Lest We Forget

I hope you will not destroy the Vallaincourt Fountain.

The NY Times published an article about it this morning saying Herb Caen called it a 10 on the Richter scale.

Which is precisely correct: it celebrates the destruction of the old Embarcadero Freeway, a high-rise structure that ran along the Embarcadero ruining the view of the Bay. The fountain depicts the collapsed columns and turned them into a representation of the beauty of the event.

The young folk do not remember the freeway, but the historical memory the fountain represents should be continued. A tag on it explaining its relationship to the freeway destruction would help, as would repair of the water part that added beauty.

Save the Vallaincourt Fountain.

David Salmon

ENC: IMAGES





p.s. Your website doesn't really have a way to contact the Arts Commissioners. Please forward this to them.

From: JANET WETTER <[REDACTED]@awetter.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 8:55 AM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: The Vaillancourt Fountain

Good Morning,

I fear I missed a deadline for comment, while I was caring for my 95 year old mother-in-law.

I am a native San Franciscan, and remember in horror when the Vaillancourt Fountain was erected in our beautiful city.

I am hugely **IN FAVOR OF ITS REMOVAL** and am additionally dismayed to think our city would consider to afford \$29M to repair it!!!

Respectfully,

Janet Portman Wetter

From: Curtis Cavin <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:39 AM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fount

With ongoing debate about possible removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain, I dug out this photo I took on the early morning of Oct 18 1989 after the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Difficult to tell by the angle that the flagpole atop the Ferry Building is tilted, but note that the clock stopped at 5:04, the moment the EQ struck. As I walked under the Embarcadero Freeway I stopped next to a team of engineers inspecting the elevated freeway and discussing whether to keep it shut down.

Curtis Cavin
Sebastopol



From: Remik <[REDACTED]@bigosinski.art>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 9:58 AM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

Hello!

I just read about the potential fate of the Vaillancourt Fountain in the New York Times article, “San Francisco Wants to Destroy a 96-Year-Old’s Defining Artwork”, published on October 12, 2025. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/12/arts/design/vaillancourt-fountain-san-francisco.html>)

Without knowing the specifics of what is proposed to replace the Fountain, I encourage you to try to keep it and, from the looks of the photos, try to repair it. But, sometimes artwork can evolve over time. While I might understand Mr. Vaillancourt’s reluctance to make any changes to his work, a compromise could be reached by keeping the fountain but replacing the “water” with lush planting that looks like wavy water at the base and plant fountains from the concrete tubes. The use of plantings here would essentially both provide a physical barrier for the work, reduce liability but keep the visual narrative largely intact...

If all else fails, and you could find a wealthy benefactor, I’m sure the Vaillancourt Fountain would look great in Florida. For example, I could see it in downtown Jacksonville, and definitely cooler than the “Lerp” that was proposed there recently...

All the Best,
Rem

From: Kim Sykes <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 1:43 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and right size project

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department take responsibility for making sure that the fountain remains part of the plans for the revitalization of the Embarcadero Plaza and that it remains a treasure for future San Franciscan's historical understanding and enjoyment.

Best wishes, Kim Sykes

-----Original Message-----

From: Roberto Castanon <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 13, 2025 4:25 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Harry <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:27 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

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Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

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

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Thank you.

From: Haley Pratt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:22 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I live in North Carolina but visit San Francisco often and have family that lives there. I absolutely love the Vaillancourt fountain. While some have commented that it is run down. I believe that its aging appearance only adds to its already beautiful vintage aesthetic. A city filled only with shiny new things has absolutely no character at all. San Francisco is the most beautiful city I have ever seen because it is unique and filled with history. I can understand if restoring it as working fountain is cost-prohibitive. I think it has plenty of inherent beauty even as a dry sculpture, and that there are ways to preserve it respectfully even if it isn't returned to full working condition. For me it would be an absolute tragedy to tear this down. I hope so much you reconsider and that I can visit this singular work of art for many years to come.

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

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- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.

- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Gary Strang <[REDACTED]@glsarch.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 9:27 AM

To: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Matsuda, Diane (CPC) <diane.matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary <commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; Aaron Fenton <afenton@bxp.com>; Robbie Silver <RSilver@downtownsf.org>; info@downtownsf.org

Subject: Support for Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors, Mayor Lurie, and Commissioners,

Please see the attached pdf letter expressing support for the reinvigoration of Vaillancourt Fountain as an integral driver of future park improvements, and opposition to its impending demolition.

Thank you for your time and commitment to shaping San Francisco's future.

Gary Strang FASLA | FAIA

Principal

GLS Landscape | Architecture

2677 Mission Street #200

San Francisco, CA 94110

415.285.3614 x 501

415.420.7266 cell

www.glsarch.com

gary@glsarch.com

ENC: PDF

-----Original Message-----

From: robert elias <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:55 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: robert elias <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 1:55 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

SERIOUSLY!!!! THIS IS another items in our city we trying to remove.. I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

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Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Deborah McBride <[REDACTED]@samuelmerritt.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 6:51 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>
Subject: Please remove ugly fountain

Dear Sirs

Please remove the ugly fountain by the ferry building. It is indescribably ugly and broke. I am sure a new plan for the park without the fountain will improve the park's functionality and encourage people to come to the park

Thank you

Debbie McBride

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

SMU - Internal Data

From: Johan Carlisle <[REDACTED]@igc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:28 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: "San Francisco Wants to Destroy a 96-Year-Old's Defining Artwork"

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: "San Francisco Wants to Destroy a 96-Year-Old's Defining Artwork"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/12/arts/design/vaillancourt-fountain-san-francisco.html>

I hope you will not destroy one of my favorite public artworks.

When I first moved to San Francisco in 1971, the Vaillancourt Fountain impressed me and immediately made me feel like San Francisco was a place where I, being a creative person, could comfortably live.

Is there anything we, the people, can do to help protect this amazing work of art?

Sincerely,

Johan Carlisle

watershedthinking.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Lucchesi <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 3:36 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

As a lifelong San Francisco resident, I understand the controversy and negative opinions this fountain has generated. But it is an important part of our past and it should be preserved. Perhaps not in its present location, but it certainly could find a home in some of the eastern shore developments off Third St. Please consider saving what is an important part of 1970's SF architecture by not demolishing the fountain but simply moving it to another location.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

My iPhone says hi.

From: Yury Bekerman <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 6:39 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

The fountain is hideous and in disrepair. Tear it down. It's completely idiotic that I received a sponsored post about this on ig, urging me to send a message requesting the opposite. Thank you.

Yury Bekerman

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Minton <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 12:17 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: My Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

Simple language here: I like the fountain. I've always liked the fountain since I was a little kid coming over from Oakland. So many things made S.F. feel special, and the fountain was, is, and should always be one of those special places alive in S.F.

Keep the fountain.

Thank you.

From: Alicia Marie Smith <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:21 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Ale Bandala <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 8:30 AM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to please preserve Embarcadero Plaza and most importantly, Vaillancourt Fountain!

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

- Alejandra Bandala

From: David <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 2:08 PM
To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Te, Coma (ART) <coma.te@sfgov.org>; ART-Monuments-Memorials, SFAC <monumentsandmemorials@sfgov.org>; RPDInfo, RPD (REC) <rpinfo@sfgov.org>; Communications, RPD (REC) <rpdccommunications@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Kern, Dennis (REC) <dennis.kern@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@ebparks.org; mediainquiries@ebparks.org; GovAffairs@ebparks.org; slandreth@ebparks.org; ybarial@ebparks.org
Subject: Proposal to Relocate and Reimagine the Vaillancourt Fountain in Oakland

Dear San Francisco Arts Commission, et al:

I am writing to suggest an alternative to the demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. Rather than destroying this historic and controversial work, San Francisco could donate the sculpture to the City of Oakland — where it could be reimaged as part of our region's shared industrial and artistic heritage.

My proposal is to relocate the fountain to the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline, near the Oakland side of the Bay Bridge. This site offers both symbolic and practical benefits:

- It directly connects to the Bay Area's industrial past, echoing the materials and labor that built our ports and bridges.
- It would become a distinctive landmark and tourist attraction, drawing visitors to Oakland's growing waterfront park system.
- The new setting could reinterpret the piece as a tribute to resilience and reinvention, values deeply tied to both Oakland's history and its future.

This relocation would preserve the fountain as an important example of mid-century public art, while giving it renewed meaning and a second life in a city that embodies the industrial spirit it reflects.

I hope the City of San Francisco might consider this collaborative solution — one that honors the artist, preserves regional art history, and strengthens cultural ties between our two cities.

Cheers,
David R. Geißler
~d
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

“Expectation is the grandfather of disappointment.
The world can never own a man who wants nothing!”

From: Lynn Befera <[REDACTED]@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 7:26 PM
To: charlescollins1@sfgov.org
Cc: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; daniel.lurie@sfgov.com; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Subject: tearing down the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins, Director Remington, Mayor Lurie, and Supervisor Sauter:

I have been a San Francisco resident for the past 50 years, graduated from San Francisco State University in 1982, and now live in the second Noe Valley Victorian my husband and I renovated. I am a retired clinical psychologist and my husband has been a general contractor for the past 40 years. He employs many subcontractors and artisans, designs/builds solar systems, focusing on maintenance/new construction in San Francisco Bay Area commercial and private properties. We grew up in nearby Palo Alto and Millbrae, love and support this city, and plan to live out the rest of our lives here.

I have to agree with architecture critic's Allan Temko's description of the Vaillancourt Fountain as "technological excrescences...deposited by a giant concrete dog with square intestines." Art critic Alfred Frankenstein declared it was "not a great work of sculpture," while architecture critic John King called it "an act of defiant distraction." It is completely out of synch with the soaring San Francisco architectural masterpieces of Maybeck, Morgan, Pfleuger, Brown, and Polk. Further, the fountain has never looked finished, due to the intentionally rough, scabby external texture. It should have been demolished when the Embarcadero Freeway was torn down after the '89 earthquake.

Apart from its aesthetic violence, it uses tremendous amounts of water and energy, which were turned off, respectively, during the drought and energy crises, and will need at least \$29 million to resurrect it, money San Francisco absolutely does **not** have. The fountain requires regular maintenance and is probably an attractive nuisance and liability in its present state.

Ruth Asawa, one of the only remaining artists on the 1966 Arts Commission, rejected Vaillancourt's design, which should have given the other members some pause. Architect Lawrence Halprin didn't live long enough to "slit [his] throat," as he threatened when the fountain didn't prove to be among the "great works of civic art." The original model Vaillancourt submitted, and the one the Committee chose, wasn't even the design he ended up using, which should have been a red flag.

I can think of many places the \$29 million it would take to reanimate this monstrosity could go. There's always social services, all the mythical beds that never seem to materialize for people detoxing from addiction or having a mental illness crisis. There's decent

halfway/support housing for people in recovery or who are unable to live without social service support. There's the foster care system, chronically understaffed and unable to help the hundreds—or thousands, depending on the best estimate—of children abandoned or abused by their parents. There's the SF school system, paying teachers a living wage, or just doing the deferred maintenance of the buildings. There's affordable housing for our teachers, firefighters, nurses, and social workers so they aren't forced to commute for hours or finally leave for more affordable cities and states.

I'm sure there are many more places this money could go. But **not one more penny**, with the exception of the costs to dismantle it, which the City also does not have, should go towards this fountain. Armand Vaillancourt, a Canadian who seems tone deaf (or blind, perhaps) regarding San Francisco aesthetics, apparently--and wrongly--believes his creation should live forever. But he no longer owns it—the city of San Francisco does. No public work of art should be intended for indefinite display.

Unless Vaillancourt is willing to contribute his own money to maintain or move it, however, he has no legal standing, nor does he deserve a vote. At most, he gets one, and our citizens, forced to endure his bizarre experiment in sculpture all these years, should get the rest. Brutalist architecture generally has become dated, is rarely maintained or restored, and, frankly, appears brutish.

For all its many benefits: its natural beauty, tolerance, and amazing culinary choices, urban life can sometimes be difficult, cruel, and disheartening. Our city is presently under siege from a monomaniacal, vengeful despot gearing up to declare martial law, with the excuse that all of its residents are “insurgents.” In light of this, I am entreating you not to continue visiting this aesthetic violence upon us in the name of “public art,” too often perpetrated upon citizens who were never given a choice or even consulted. Rather, we are, especially now, in great need of uplift, moral support, and reminders of the better angels of our nature.

I wish the Arts Committee had listened to Ruth Asawa, who, like the little boy who spoke up on sighting the benighted, naked despot, stated she wasn't "willing to remain silent while we play the old game of the emperor's new clothes on the unsuspecting people of this city." I think it's time to rid our fair city of this "technological excrescence.”

Yours,
Lynn Befera, Psy.D
Clinical Psychologist

From: Noe Woolfolk <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:31 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission: Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

From: Noe Woolfolk <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 10:31 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

I urge you to retain and rehabilitate Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain. Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon. I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA, the artists, and various other local, national, and international organization on this matter. I ask that San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC), the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message. Thank you for recognizing the established historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

From: Julie Goodenough <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 11:06 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

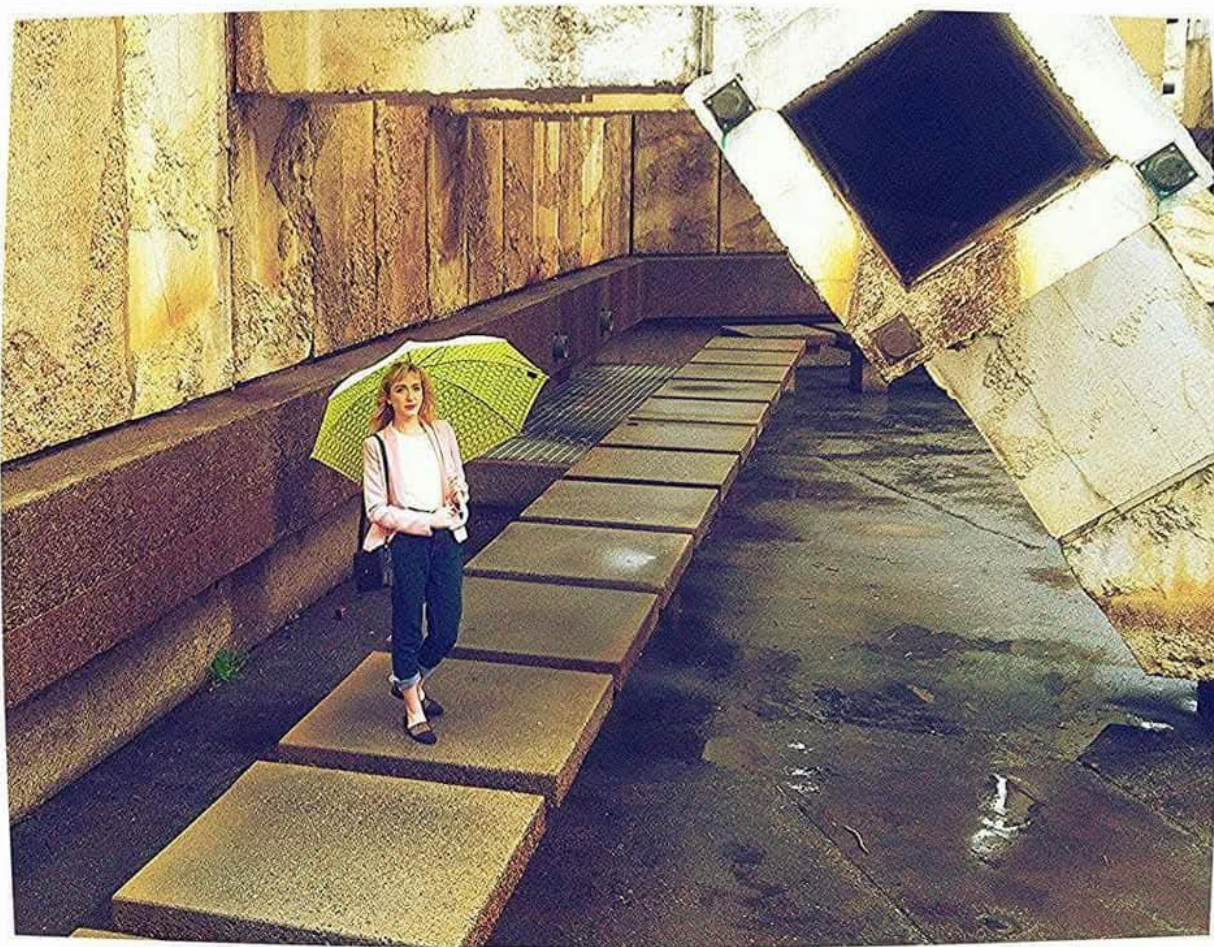
SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

I'm a native San Franciscan. I first encountered the fountain when I was a teenager. It was love at first sight. That you could walk through it and climb ladders to the top was mind blowing to me. Up to that point I'd only seen fountains that were strictly off limits for that sort of thing. Why would an art living city like San Francisco even consider removing this iconic work of art is beyond me. Yes, restoration will be difficult and expensive, but if an effort is made I'm sure it can be done. Maybe u2 can do a concert to raise funds and Bono can spray paint graffiti again. I've included one of my favorite photos of my daughter. She's walking under the fountain.



Thank you,

Julie Goodenough

-----Original Message-----

From: Sebastian <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 6:49 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

Additionally this fountain has a deep personal significance to me. It's a part of San Francisco that I associate with some of my formative years and an integral part of San Francisco's DNA. To tear down the fountain is to turn back time. SF should move forward with its identity in tact. So much of what makes San Francisco beautiful and unique is being erased. Let's not allow this to be another example of short sided planning.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as "a design constraint" to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

-Sebastian Caceres

From: tabbatha henry <[REDACTED]@tabbathahenry.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2025 7:31 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC meetings

Arts Commission and Rec & Park Commission:

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for these three meetings: (1) the next SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting, (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting, and (3) Rec & Park Commission meeting. Reply all when responding to this message.

SF Recreation and Parks seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request:

- You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- You grant key international and national stakeholders ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.

Thank you.

Tabbatha Henry

From: Dan Silver <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:14 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain - Don't tear it down

Gentlepersons:

As a frequent tourist, I treasure this glorious fountain. It is an artistic and cultural landmark. You should do independent studies on rehabilitation and take steps like other cities to care for fountains. *Please reject the request by the RPD to deaccession the Vaillancourt Fountain.* San Francisco must remain a city of arts and culture.

Sincerely,

Dan Silver, Los Angeles

From: E M <[REDACTED]@msn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 9:16 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Cc: news@email.tclf.org

Subject: Villaincourt Fountain

Gentlemen and unnamed women who support San Francisco's laudible artistic and cultural heritage.

I write in support of the rehabilitation and preservation of the Vaillancourt Fountain. Not only is it Vaillancourt's only public work in the United States, it has become an iconic contributor to San Francisco's image as a world class progressive cultural hub.

As a real estate and arts attorney in New York, which led the movement to preserve our precious past after the tragic loss of Penn Station and passage of a pioneering Landmarks Preservation Law, I have been an advocate for the rights of artists under VARA and the communities they serve to commemorate for future generations the diverse elevating contributions they make despite the ever present pressure to squeeze more profit or utility out of every site without exploring reasonable alternatives and without regard to the irrevocable harm to our cultural heritage.

Though not protected by VARA, the Vaillancourt Fountain is a unique monumental statement and symbol of an era and San Francisco and should be preserved and cherished regardless of differing aesthetic opinions of its merit and economic assessments of the site's alternatives. Don't be like the Taliban destroying the Buddhas of Bamiyan.

Thanks are due Charles Birnbaum and The Cultural Landscape for their indefatigable efforts to alert the public to the importance and vulnerability of our fragile heritage.

Elliott Meisel, Esq.

[REDACTED]

New York, NY 10024

917 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@msn.com

-----Original Message-----

From: kash <[REDACTED]@warmplanetbikes.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 4:59 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: Save the Vaillancourt Fountain

My kids grew up playing on the fountain. It has a history we need to save.

Demolishing the fountain just because previous administrations willfully neglected it hoping everyone would forget how beautiful it is when the water is running is wrong. Please restore it so I will be able to bring my grandchildren there someday.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jan Markels <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:08 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

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- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain Conditions Assessment • 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version • MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities • Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order)

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

From: Donald Crabtree <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2025 6:51 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

From: Geoff Sears <[REDACTED]@warehamdevelopment.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org; Geoff Sears <GSears@warehamdevelopment.com>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain

I implore you to NOT approve the destruction of Vaillancourt Fountain but rather to prioritize investment in its refurbishment so that it can remain an integral part of the City's history and urban design for many future generations of those who live in and visit our City.

I have lived in San Francisco for over 37 years, having moved here intentionally because of the beauty and richness of the City. My wife and I have raised three grown daughters here, one of whom has now returned to make this her permanent home with her husband.

I am an architect by training and a real estate developer by profession, so have studied and been a part of creating the built environment for my entire career. I have had the good fortune to study and to visit many cities in the US and overseas. I have seen many public places and works of public art. The Vaillancourt Fountain, particularly when fully functioning with the intended running water, is in my mind one of the most place-appropriate and powerful pieces of public art I have seen. It is so rich in the way it simultaneously harkens to such diverse forms: the California mountains and streams, a ghost of former Central Freeway, etc. I have also many, many times gathered with other members of the public in the Embarcadero Plaza for events, running races, treasure hunts and the like. It is a great "piazza" for the City.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage. If there is any way to return water to the piece, that would be desirable, but even "dry" it is so meaningful and should be preserved.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Vaillancourt Fountain.

Geoff Sears
WAREHAM DEVELOPMENT
1120 Nye Street, Suite 400
San Rafael, CA 94901

(415) 457-4964 (Main Office)
(415) 459-4605 (Fax)

[REDACTED]@warehamdevelopment.com

P Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: donald ino <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 26, 2025 1:52 PM

To: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain and rightsize the project

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Embarcadero Plaza, by renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin, is recognized by global experts for its historic significance. Vaillancourt Fountain, by renowned Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt, is a key piece of San Francisco's urban history and is an internationally recognized Brutalist icon.

As a native San Franciscan, I, like many other citizens, initially couldn't appreciate the artistry and meaning of the Vaillancourt Fountain when it was first installed.

However, just like Sutro Tower, I've come to recognize the fountain as an integral icon that is truly unique to our city and how without it, San Francisco loses another aspect that makes it so very special. And, as I've matured over the decades, I've come to understand what the artist was trying to convey and how his concept chronicles a discrete segment of the city's history.

The fountain has been decried as unattractive, but the purpose of good art isn't to conform to a reality we want, rather it speaks truth as what is. In doing so, the Vaillancourt Fountain, to me, boldly says that even in brutalism and chaos, one can find life and beauty.

I support the stance of Docomomo US/NOCA on this matter and ask that San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, San Francisco Arts Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the project team consider:

- Rightsizing the project to better spend \$15-30+ million in public and private funds. This could include a more modest park refresh with a sustainable maintenance plan that would more effectively reflect the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and support downtown's economic recovery, while retaining our history and culture.
- Adaptive reuse of the Vaillancourt Fountain in any form, such as a backdrop to the much-discussed central stage.
- Adaptive reuse of Embarcadero Plaza to address accessibility issues while retaining the existing Lawrence Halprin design that is in the spirit of flexible, multi-use, world-renowned Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas.
- The plaza's preexisting world-class status, as demonstrated by the national and international support for retaining the plaza in its current form, such as from the Centre international d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Québec government, The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the international skateboarding community.

Thank you for recognizing the historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Regards,
Don Ino
Richmond District

Additional Vaillancourt Fountain

Public Comments

(Received after 12:00 p.m. 10/27/2025 and before 5:00 p.m.10/31/2025 via Email sent to ART-info@sfgov.org or Phone Call to 415-252-2266)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Date: Fri 10/31/2025 8:44 AM
To: ART-Info ART-Info@sfgov.org
Subject: Do Not Destroy The Vaillancourt Fountain

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

Site-Specific Historic and Beautiful

Keep The Vaillancourt Fountain in situ and work with it! Some unelected administrators personally don't care for it. They can't destroy Works of Art- as neither can the US President, who desires to remodel America to his *personall* likings and whims.

From: lindseywhiteprojects [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 9:33 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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- MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities
- Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order)

Thank you.

Lindsey White

From: ava ray <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:25 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you,
Ava Ray McLeod

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:51 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.
gary leung

From: Miguel-e Gutierrez-Ranzi <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 12:52 PM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>
Subject: Vaillancourt Fountain.

The ugly concrete color os the problem. Just a paint job will modernize the design



From: Nadya Mikhaylovskaya <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:12 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
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- Embarcadero Donor Presentation
- Prospect List for Mayor and DDC
- 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you,
Nadya Mikhaylovskaya

From: A Cohen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:50 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
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Thank you.

Andrea Cohen
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

From: Miguel Santos <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:50 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Miguel Santos, Ph.D.

From: Sofia Kolidas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 1:53 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
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- (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting
- (3) SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting
- (4) SF Board of Supervisors

****Recreation & Parks**:** Please complete an ****Immediate Disclosure Request**** by supplying to me via email the following simple and routine public records by the close of the next business day:

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- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR
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- MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities
- Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order)

- Embarcadero Donor Presentation
- Prospect List for Mayor and DDC
- 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

"This whole world's wild at heart and weird on top."
-Lula Fortune, "Wild at Heart"

From: allison arieff <[REDACTED]@modernhouse.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:00 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

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Thank you,

Allison Arieff
Architecture & design writer
Founding editor, Dwell magazine

From: Ale Bandala <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:14 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

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I, a San Francisco resident since 2008 and a museum collections registrar, strongly oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain!

Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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Thank you,- Laura Rodriguez Bandala

From: Carolyn Lee <[REDACTED]@me.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:18 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

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HIDEOUS piece of “art” - its time has come for demolition. I was around when this “thing” was erected. At first, it was interesting to see because of the waterworks. Not anymore and it’s certainly not safe for kids!

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

I support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain for the following reasons:

- Style: Brutalist design is ugly. The Fountain, Embarcadero Center, and Brutalist hotel should all be replaced.
- Aesthetic: Replace it with beautiful, pleasing, and inoffensive art that works well as an Instagram and TikTok content. Public art should look the same around the world.
- Privatize: Run parks like a business! Align with the federal government and hand over management of public land to private companies.
- Cost: RPD continues to inflate cost estimates and maintenance was supposed to be shared with BXP. It’s better to spend \$16 million in taxpayer dollars on a new park than maintaining the Plaza or Fountain.
- Space: The 380,000 square feet of space in Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park is not enough. Removing the Fountain to get another 10,000 square feet is necessary.

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Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:22 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
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Thank you.

From: justin dumas <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:27 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
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Please do not remove this historic piece of art for some generic pickleball courts that appear all over every city. Keep San Francisco's identity with this important piece of art.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

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Thank you.

Justin Dumas

From: Nora Goldschlager <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:30 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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The city continues to have little, if any ,good taste in art.
You don't know what you're losing.

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Thank you.

From: Jillian Sobol <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:45 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Jillian Sobol

From: Mark Gleason <[REDACTED]@honorlaborca.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:52 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Shiota, Janine (ART) <janine.shiota@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; So, Lydia (CPC) <lydia.so@sfgov.org>

Subject: Sue Bierman Park

Dear Art Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to provide public comment on item 8 at your hearing on Monday as I am unable to attend in person.

The Teamsters join our affiliates in the construction trades in supporting the upgrade and renovation of Embarcadero Plaza / Sue Bierman Park. This project represents a meaningful investment in our city's public infrastructure and will enhance the usability and accessibility of this vital waterfront space for all San Franciscans.

Removal of the fountain is necessary to complete this project and move forward with comprehensive improvements that will better serve our community for decades to come. The renovation will create a more functional, welcoming, and sustainable public gathering place that reflects the needs of our modern city.

We encourage your support of the renovation and improvements to this important public space. The revitalized plaza will serve as a cornerstone of our waterfront, fostering community engagement and ensuring this area remains a vibrant destination for generations to come.

Thank you,

Mark Gleason

From: Matt Silverman <[REDACTED]@ibelieveinswordfish.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:53 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

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Thank you.

From: Clara A. Johnson <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 2:56 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org <info@docomomo-noca.org>

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Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events. I oppose

deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that: %20%2 (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations. %20%2 (2) You reject describing internationally

renowned art as %20%2a design constraint%20%2 to a redevelopment project. %20%2 (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred. %20%2 (4) You grant stakeholders other than

project sponsors%20%2such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations%20%2the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings. Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings: %20%2

(1) SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting %20%2 (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting %20%2 (3) SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting %20%2 (4) SF Board of Supervisors **Recreation & Parks**: Please complete an **Immediate Disclosure

Request** by supplying to me via email the following simple and routine public records by the close of the next business day: %20%2 2025 Embarcadero Plaza HRR %20%2 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR %20%2 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR %20%2 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain

Conditions Assessment %20%2 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version %20%2 MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities %20%2 Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order) %20%2 Embarcadero Donor Presentation %20%2

Prospect List for Mayor and DDC %20%2 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf The Vaillancourt Fountain symbolizes the prevalence of flow in the natural world using the human description of geometry. Please restore the flow.

Thank you.

Clara Johnson

Paul Johnson

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Long <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:24 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

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Thank you.
Andrew Long

Sent from my iPhone

From: Anthony Barreiro <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:42 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Preserve and restore Vaillancourt Fountain! Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

I live, vote, and pay taxes in San Francisco.

I understand that the SF Recreation and Parks Department is seeking approval from the SF Arts Commission to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain. This would be a grave and irremediable mistake! Vaillancourt Fountain is an irreplaceable part of San Francisco's artistic and cultural history. It's been the backdrop of over 50 years of political demonstrations, music and art performances, and public gatherings. The fountain is recognized internationally, and it is a cherished symbol of San Francisco's relationship with Canada and Quebec.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Please retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations. Acknowledge that it was a mistake to characterize an internationally renowned artwork as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project. Investigate the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred. Invite stakeholders other than project sponsors — such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations — to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting

SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting

SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting

SF Board of Supervisors

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the people of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Anthony Barreiro



San Francisco, CA 94110

=====

Anthony Barreiro (he, him) anthonybarreiro@yahoo.com

San Francisco, California, Turtle Island

Ramaytush Ohlone Land

=====

May all beings be happy, peaceful, and free.

=====

From: Karenjoymelander <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:57 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that the fountain be repaired and reactivated and that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

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- (4) SF Board of Supervisors

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: Elizabeth Spiegl <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:15 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
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- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR

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- 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version
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- Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order)
- Embarcadero Donor Presentation
- Prospect List for Mayor and DDC
- 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

From: Alec Bash <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:16 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Cc: Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Bintliff, Jacob (ECN) <Jacob.Bintliff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Urging the Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

Per the Gateway Tenants Association September 13, 2025 email below, many Gateway Apartments and Townhomes residents participated in the Recreation and Park Department community meetings and support the 1) proposed renovation and merger of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park and 2) deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, positioned as it is between these two parks with a scant ~30' width available for park use on either side, presents a major barrier to any merger of these parks. The fountain, once the perfect site-specific art installation in the forecourt of the Embarcadero Freeway, is the opposite now that the former freeway's parkspace can be connected to the Embarcadero Plaza for a grand public open space extending to Market Street.

At your October 2nd public hearing, I had passed forward the attached photo of Ruth Asawa's Aurora sculpture at Bayside Plaza, 188 The Embarcadero at Howard St. How wonderful it would be if its owners were to make a civic donation towards a more prominent location to enhance the wonderful new waterfront park of which we residents dream.

On Oct 2nd, it was noteworthy that most residents in the vicinity of the park supported the fountain's removal. It was people living further away, several not even in San Francisco, who wanted it to remain.

Finally, speaking for myself as a former San Francisco urban planner with both the City and its Port, this renovated and merged park is deeply needed as we work to revitalize the downtown and create a waterfront entry to our city that is vibrant and truly worthy of San Francisco.

Alec Bash, AICP

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gateway Tenants Association
Second VP, External Affairs (for identification purposes)

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Breedlove [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:28 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

I've been here since '72 and I love it, please don't destroy it. Please take care of it.

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Fee <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:33 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
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Thank you.

From: Shannon Leonard <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:39 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. I write to offer comments to oppose the removal of the fountain.

I am a huge fan of the Vaillancourt Fountain. The fountain has long been a draw for me along the Embarcadero. I love the sense of awe that the huge pipes and waterfalls create. The fountain reflects the nature of the San Francisco urban environment with its angular and engineered aesthetics, and speaks to how we are small humans within our enormous human-built world. The fountain also sparks a sense of exploration by creating a feeling of walking through normally off-limits parts of our built environment, like tunnels and sewers. I do not want this incredibly remarkable fountain to be destroyed.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
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Thank you.

Shannon Leonard



-----Original Message-----

From: Jeannine Zenti <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:45 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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Thank you.

Jeannine Zenti

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: lakoebler1 <[REDACTED]@aol.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 4:48 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Laura Koehler

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph Newfield <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 5:09 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

I grew up visiting the Vaillancourt Fountain as a kid and have seen hundreds of kids doing the same over the years and experiencing pure joy. Public art is not a popularity contest or all we'd have are giant Marvel characters. Preserve this civic treasure. You'll be respected and lauded in the long run.

- Joseph Newfield [REDACTED].

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete Stanwood <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 5:35 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

From: Barbara Blosser [REDACTED]@procarepcm.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 6:41 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

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

In addition to the comments below, which I completely endorse, I was at the 1987 U2 concert on a break from work. I have lived in SF since 1982, I regularly walk to the Vaillancourt Fountain simply to look at and admire it.

I also add my endorsement to the SF Arts Commissioner who suggested you should consider private funding to preserve the Fountain. I understand it doesn't meet modern ACA law ---- it is a work of art and needs to be preserved here.

(In my opinion it also is a million times better art than the naked wire woman)

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

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Thank you.

Kind regards,

Barbara

Barbara N. Blosser, CLPF

From: Greta de Groat <[REDACTED]@stanford.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:02 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

From: Curt Sanburn <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 7:38 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

Written testimony re the preservation of the Vaillancourt Fountain before the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department

Presenter:

Curt Sanburn
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Public employees: Thank you for this opportunity to express my support the Embarcadero's Vaillancourt Fountain.

My name is Curt Sanburn, I've lived in San Francisco for 30 years, first in North Beach and now the Outer Richmond. I am a retired journalist and a student of cities, but I've always loved this one the most!

Which is why I'm here today, to ask you, the City's arts commissioners and park protectors, why on earth the City would contemplate the demolition of such an extraordinary and urbane object as the Vaillancourt Fountain?

...When the water was on, the roar of the fountain always reminded me of the opulent, centrally located waterworks of Paris, in the Place de la Concorde, or Rome's ubiquitous, gushing fountains, large and small, some of them still fed by that great city's ancient aqueducts.

And yet, here we are, citizens of one of the most forward-looking and richest cities in the world, prepping to rip out our own unique, landmark waterworks because...because why? ...Because we can't afford it? ... Really?

For the past five decades, the massive concrete contraption has served as a living, gushing backdrop, a stage, for San Francisco's raucous history, for countless protests, concerts, and celebrations. To me, the scabrous fountain suggests a collision of mining-camp sluices and upended Central Valley aqueducts, an earthquake snapping California's Herculean water infrastructures... an eruption of history itself.

I submit that the fountain expresses — nay, shouts, louder than any other public artwork in the City, the edge-of-the-world, iconoclastic dynamism of modern 20th-century San Francisco — remember? — when conformity itself was suspect, and the City's homegrown, progressive culture challenged the world. To demolish that grand and disquieting fountain is to silence its expression and suppress, both visually and acoustically, an entire era in San Francisco.

So, please, clean it up, turn the water back on, get rid of the fences and pickleball courts, and let the thunderous fountain roar once again!!!

Lastly, I would note that very recently, I volunteered with the local Docomomo organization to physically canvas many of the City's arts districts on behalf of the national campaign to defend the Fountain. I'm happy to report that, anecdotally, reactions to my face-to-face encounters added up to an overwhelmingly fond and supportive sentiment in favor of maintaining the fountain.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

From: Yehudit Lieberman <[REDACTED]@yehudit.net>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 10:28 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. As a 60 year resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, I object to this request. I am one of those people who find the fountain unique, striking, and beautiful in its own way. I enjoy seeing it every time I visit downtown San Francisco, and I believe it is irreplaceable.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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Thank you.

--

"Loving yourself is a political act. We are taught not to love ourselves, and from that place we are easily manipulated...I want you to love yourself so much that this love changes the world."

-Rita Shimmin

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Dixon <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 11:28 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you.

Enviado desde mi iPhone

From: Admin Docomomo US/NOCA <admin@docomomo-noca.org>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 9:34 PM

To: SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS)

<board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>;

Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Matsuda,

Diane (CPC) <Diane.Matsuda@sfgov.org>; CPC-Commissions Secretary

<commissions.secretary@sfgov.org>; So, Lydia (CPC) <lydia.so@sfgov.org>; Moore, Kathrin (CPC)

<kathrin.moore@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Submission for Administrative Record - Vaillancourt Fountain Removal - SFAC
2025-11-03 Agenda Item #8

Arts Commission, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Recreation and Park Commission, and Board of Supervisors,

Per the agenda for the Full Arts Commission meeting on Monday, November 3, the San Francisco Arts Commission is performing the administrative functions on behalf of the City for CEQA. **As such, the Arts Commission is statutorily obligated to accept evidence from the public for inclusion in the administrative record and the agenda item.**

We have ~390 evidentiary records for immediate inclusion in the Vaillancourt Fountain administrative record and the agenda item. As this number of files is infeasible to share via email, please download all files from this Google Drive folder and subfolders:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bi40CkKWWbNcmYgWHB0KMA-Bhum9z_Hf

To reiterate, it is **mandatory** under CEQA that you include these as part of the Vaillancourt Fountain administrative record and on this agenda item. Docomomo US/NOCA is considered a stakeholder under CEQA. To facilitate public access, it is *strongly preferred* that you include individual files with their original file names.

Arts Commission staff: Please confirm once you have:

- Successfully downloaded all ~390 files.
- Provided them to all members of the Arts Commission.
- Made them part of the administrative record and included them in the agenda item for the SFAC meeting on November 3.

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: John Verdico <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 6:40 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

It is also a huge part of the history of skateboarding, a culture the city of San Francisco was instrumental in establishing and proliferating. Vaillancourt Fountain should be restored and revered, not demolished.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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John Verdico

-----Original Message-----

From: Kristina Ndrejaj <[REDACTED]@icloud.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 7:09 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

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Thank you,
Kristina Ndrejaj

-----Original Message-----

From: Nicolas Munoz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 7:13 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

- (1) SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting • (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting • (3) SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting • (4) SF Board of Supervisors

****Recreation & Parks****: Please complete an ****Immediate Disclosure Request**** by supplying to me via email the following simple and routine public records by the close of the next business day:

- 2025 Embarcadero Plaza HRR

- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain Conditions Assessment • 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version • MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities • Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order) • Embarcadero Donor Presentation • Prospect List for Mayor and DDC • 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]@resipiscent.com <[REDACTED]@resipiscent.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 9:33 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

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

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

Enough already with the embarrassingly awful Burning Man art that pervades what should be an international beacon of art! If I see one more dog headed rabbit woman couple, or one more 50 foot tall naked woman, or one more tech bro twisting 50 foot tall naked woman, or one more toilet brush cats with light-up eyes, I will scream and then weep and then look for new representatives in local government. Let there BE AN END TO BURNING MAN ART already. Look to cities with real connections to art, look at Philadelphia, Chicago, New York! We mark ourselves as a trite backwater with all this high school level art.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
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- Embarcadero Donor Presentation
- Prospect List for Mayor and DDC
- 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Oceania Vaillancourt <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 10:25 AM
To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org
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To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ross S. Heitkamp <[REDACTED]@stevenscreek.org>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 10:44 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

The Vaillancourt Fountain does an amazing job of conveying the fragility of our structures and captures how the former true abomination of the area, the Embarcadero Freeway, could have collapsed and been a tangled mess of rigid shapes. From the 1906 to 1989 Earthquakes, this is a reality of our area and this artwork is a wonderful reminder of that vulnerability. That makes some people uncomfortable, and it should. But that isn't reason to remove it.

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

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Thank you.

From: Kirstie <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 10:48 AM

To: Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Public Comment: Preserve Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Rec & Park and Arts Commission staff and Supervisor Sauter,

As a public librarian and native San Franciscan currently living in District 3, I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed demolition and removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza.

This fountain is a vital part of San Francisco's cultural and architectural fabric. It belongs to the people of this city—not to private developers—and it deserves preservation. There is ample room for both a revitalized park and this landmark public artwork. The fact that Rec & Park and BXP want to dismantle or demolish the fountain is unacceptable.

I have a lifetime of memories tied to the fountain: running through its cascading waters as a child, taking lunch breaks beside it during my first job at 50 California Street, and now, as an adult, visiting it often as an urban hiker and flâneuse exploring San Francisco's rich public spaces.

Respected voices in our city agree. John King, Urban Design Critic at the San Francisco Chronicle, urges us to: "Treat Vaillancourt Fountain with respect, and let it play a starring role."

https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/embarcadero-vaillancourt-fountain-19591582.php?utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=copy-url-link&utm_campaign=article-share&hash=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2ZjaHJvbmljbGUuY29tL3NmL2FydGljbGUvZW1iYXJjYWRLcm8tdmFpbGxhbmNvdXJ0LWZvdW50YWluLTE5NTkxNTgyLnBocA%3D%3D&time=MTc1ODg1Mjk4OTM5NA%3D%3D&rid=Njk4Y2M5MmQtYzU3My00YzNmLThhZWMTYzc3NDUyYjY4Mzk4&sharecount=MQ%3D%3D

Tony Bravo has called it: "Gorgeously stark, wonderfully abstract (practically cubist!) and fabulously eccentric in a city that professes to value risky and cutting-edge art."

[https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/art-exhibits/embarcaderos-vaillancourt-fountain-is-stark-brutal-and-ugly-and-thats-why-i-love-](https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/art-exhibits/embarcaderos-vaillancourt-fountain-is-stark-brutal-and-ugly-and-thats-why-i-love-it?_gl=1*qjzfu8*_gcl_au*MTIzMzIxMTQ2NC4xNzU4ODUyOTI1*_ga*MTM3ODU3ODU3MC4xNzQyMDcwNTU3*_ga_56G0ZT3ZD0*czE3NTg4NTI5MjUkbzE5JGcxJHQxNzU4ODUzMTEzJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..)

[it?_gl=1*qjzfu8*_gcl_au*MTIzMzIxMTQ2NC4xNzU4ODUyOTI1*_ga*MTM3ODU3ODU3MC4xNzQyMDcwNTU3*_ga_56G0ZT3ZD0*czE3NTg4NTI5MjUkbzE5JGcxJHQxNzU4ODUzMTEzJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..](https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/art-exhibits/embarcaderos-vaillancourt-fountain-is-stark-brutal-and-ugly-and-thats-why-i-love-it?_gl=1*qjzfu8*_gcl_au*MTIzMzIxMTQ2NC4xNzU4ODUyOTI1*_ga*MTM3ODU3ODU3MC4xNzQyMDcwNTU3*_ga_56G0ZT3ZD0*czE3NTg4NTI5MjUkbzE5JGcxJHQxNzU4ODUzMTEzJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..)

This is not just about aesthetics—it's about honoring our civic identity, our public spaces, and our cultural memory. The Vaillancourt Fountain is one of the few remaining bold, expressive monuments of its era. Erasing it would be a loss not only to San Franciscans today, but to future generations who deserve to inherit a city with layers, texture, and history.

The proposed deaccession, removal, and demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain should not move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With respect,

Kirstie H.

From: Mitchell Colbert <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 9:00 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain. It is a world-renowned example of brutalist art. It is metal, it is heavy, it is definitively heavy metal. SF used to be punk rock, but then it gave up on being punk. SF used to have pride, but then many of the people who made SF proud were priced out to Oakland. For now, SF it still brutal, and SF is still metal, but if you allow the demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain SF will no longer be metal, it will just be another whitewashed expanse of yuppiehood covered in tacky tacky houses. DO YOU WANT TO BE DALY CITY? That is not a way to live, and, as someone who was born and raised there, that is not an SF I can have pride in any longer.

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Thank you.

From: Burke Bindbeutel <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, November 1, 2025 11:39 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

=To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

Hard angles at the city's front door. Decayed but sturdy. A broken-in dignity. I love the Vaillancourt fountain.

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
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Thank you.

From: Erin Garcia <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 8:04 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors, SF Recreation and Parks Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan. I wholeheartedly disagree with this plan. The Vaillancourt Fountain is not only an international landmark, but also a landmark for those of us who grew up in the Bay Area. I am astonished that the city has not kept this incredible fountain—an iconic piece of public art and a work of interactive design—in running order. Passing under the streams of water was among my favorite downtown activities as a child. The fountain's removal would feel to me like erasing a part of my San Francisco memories.

As a curator (formerly of the California Historical Society) with a deep interest in the history of California and San Francisco, I am appalled that removal of the fountain is under consideration. The Vaillancourt Fountain tells a story about the changing urban environment, how we used to move around the city via freeway, and our newer appreciation for the waterfront and water in general. The fountain is one of San Francisco's best-known mid century landmarks. Please embrace our shared history and make the most of it.

Removing the fountain is also lazy. With just a little vision, it could be a stunning feature of a future park on the Embarcadero. If Tunnel Tops Park can make bunkers a feature, surely a new Embarcadero Park could make this important work of Brutalist art an attraction. Tastes change—and often come back around—but bold and unusual things are what make San Francisco unique to the tourists that visit and to the people who live here. Do not turn our fascinating city into one that looks like it could be any old place.

Cost is always an issue, but I do not believe replacing the fountain with anything more than a generic water feature would be more cost effective than repairing the Vaillancourt Fountain. Every option will be expensive, so that argument is simply a cop out. What is certain is that no replacement will match the scale, visual impact, and sheer coolness of the Vaillancourt Fountain. Placing the fountain in storage is a transparent tactic to remove the fountain and foreclose thorough consideration of preservation alternatives. Storage would also be a huge waste of money. At minimum, leave the fountain in place while studying the issues.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

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Thank you,

Erin Garcia

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacob Rosenberg <[REDACTED]@jacobrosenberg.tv>

Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 1:12 PM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors, my name is Jacob Rosenberg and I am a filmmaker who grew up documenting skateboarding in the early 1990s at The Embarcadero. While I understand updating and renovation, I DO NOT support demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain for the following reasons:

- Style: Brutalist design is a rich nod to the history and original design of this public space. Leaving the fountain intact is an acknowledgment of the rich and undeniable cultural history that occurred in this hallowed ground.
- History: Often viewed as offensive outsiders, skateboarders from this 90s era who cut their teeth and defined cultural trends are now seen as rich stewards of self expression, creativity and community. Tearing down and removing the fountain is the final nail in the coffin for acknowledging that rich San Francisco cultural significance that impacted the entire world of skateboarding. For a moment in time everything that was important in skateboarding happened on those bricks with that fountain as our backdrop. It was an anchor to the past even then and a unique art work that spoke to the unique nature of our city; something that still feels innate and important to preserve in the continued shaping of San Francisco's identity moving forward.

If you properly maintain the fountain and preserve it, with an acknowledgement to the past, it endorses the rich history that the Vaillancourt laid witness to and to the community that grew - as intended by the original designers of the plaza.

Thank you for your time.
Jacob Rosenberg

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Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Westland <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 2, 2025 5:35 PM

To: ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>

Subject: Arts Commission Meeting - Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Arts Commission,

I do not support a motion to deaccession Vaillancourt Fountain. It is a unique artwork and speaks to San Francisco's character of accepting diverse viewpoints.

Functioning or not, the fountain is an anchor to the artwork in downtown San Francisco and along the Embarcadero. Please do not hastily decide that it can be removed, because, as we know, it will then never be seen again.

Recreation and Parks should not be rewarded for its failure to maintain the fountain. Thoughtful consideration must be made to enhance the plaza and include the fountain. It can be incorporated into the gathering space SFRPD and Boston Properties would like to see. A gathering space does not need to be their envisioned wide open plaza designed for events, not San Francisco residents and workers.

Thank you,
Bruce Westland

From: Martin Schmidt <[REDACTED]@environs.us>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 6:04 AM

To: Bell, Tita (BOS) <tita.bell@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Lurie, Daniel (MYR) <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Charles Birnbaum <info@tclf.org>; Richard Risner <rich@grounded101.com>

Subject: Re: Halprin Plaza / Vaillancourt Fountain

Good Morning All

It was brought to my attention that the SF Parks Department is making yet another frantic effort to get the historical Vaillancourt Fountain Art Installation deemed 'problematic' and in need of either destruction or removal + storage.

Given the massive foundation designs required to make it as robust as possible, removal is the same as demolition - so not sure how the Parks Department can even identify the removal of the fountain as a 'remove + store' operation.

I wish that the Parks Department Director + Project Manager along with Boston Equities would be honest and just come out and say what they are looking to do - which is get rid of the Fountain because they don't like it and want to remove and replace it with a lawn area to 'activate the space'. Instead of these fabricated emergency demolition concerns because they do not want it there and do not want to maintain it properly. The underlying facts are that they are in violation of the agreement to maintain the installation and that is what should be at issue here. Not the removal of the Fountain - but when are they going to fulfill their contractual obligation to maintain and operate the fountain?

My question is - this is a historic art installation that is an integral part of the history of the Embarcadero for over 50 years. Why would the Arts Commission feel the need to cave to the special interests of the adjacent property owner just because they want something different. Please hold them accountable to their contractual responsibilities. The fact that they shut down the Fountain and allowed it sit with algae tainted water for so long and now put Padel courts in front of it is clearly a strategic effort by the SF Parks Department and the Developer to justify their lack of ownership and responsibility in maintaining the Fountain.

And if they really want to renovate the space - then do so while being creative and integrating the Vaillancourt Fountain into whatever design and program they propose. As I communicated in my previous correspondence - as a Landscape Architect it would be an honor and a dream commission to do a design project taking into account the Fountain and the surrounding spaces and the transition to the Embarcadero. That the design consultants retained by Boston Equities is not able to do it and Park Staff laying out a bogus analysis that a new design just can't work

integrating the fountain is beyond absurd. It just means they do not want to. And for Parks Staff and the design consultants to argue otherwise just means that either they do not know what they are talking about or they are acting a mouth pieces for the developer who has told them what to say.

Either way I hope the Arts Commission can see through this charade and come to the only logical conclusion. To retain / protect / repair and maintain the Fountain as the majestic art installation that it is. Anything less is an abdication of your duties as the Steward of this installation.

Thank you for your time

Regards
Martin Schmidt ASLA
Principal

ENVIRONS

https://url.avanan.click/v2/r01/___www.environs.us___YXAzOnNmZHQyOmE6bzozMTlyZGRiNzVhNGNiZGQ0MDIyOTdhNWUxMzM2ZWViODo3Oml0Y2E6NzI4OWVkbMDVIOWUxNjMxOGJhZmY5MDMyZGI1MDA2YmFmNzdjYTIzOTNiZWl0ZTBiOGZjZDRlMTM3Zjg1NjY5Njp0OkY6Tg

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

P Our environment's future is contingent on today's focus on sustainability

From: Natasha Khoruzhenko <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 7:39 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Bintliff, Jacob (ECN) <Jacob.Bintliff@sfgov.org>

Subject: Resident Support for Removing the Vaillancourt Fountain – A Gateway Resident's View

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

I am writing as a resident of the Gateway community to express my strong support for the deaccession and removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

I appreciate Brutalist art and recognize the fountain's historical value in its original context beneath the Embarcadero Freeway. However, this structure is in the wrong place today. Squeezed between the two parks with only ~30' of usable space on either side, it blocks the creation of a seamless, grand waterfront open space extending to Market Street.

Like many of my neighbors, I fully endorse the proposed renovation and merger of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park. However, the Vaillancourt Fountain currently acts as a significant physical barrier that prevents the seamless connection of these two important public spaces.

The vision of a grand, continuous waterfront open space extending to Market Street is an exciting and necessary step in revitalizing our downtown and creating a more vibrant, welcoming entrance to San Francisco. The fountain, in its current location, actively obstructs this vision.

I urge you to consider the overwhelming support for removal from the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the park. Creating this connected, accessible new park is vital for our community and for the city as a whole.

Sincerely,

Natasha Khoruzhenko

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Minton <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:18 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings; keep the Fountain

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

Keep the fountain in place and maintain it as a wonderful and unique piece of history. Last time I saw it was in 2024 during a wonderful walk from the Ferry Building, past the Fountain, then up to Coit Tower and then down into North Beach. It's a lovely part of the City. Keep it please.

Thank you.

Regards,

Jason Minton

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Barrish <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:55 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

- (1) SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting • (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting • (3) SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting • (4) SF Board of Supervisors

****Recreation & Parks****: Please complete an ****Immediate Disclosure Request**** by supplying to me via email the following simple and routine public records by the close of the next business day:

- 2025 Embarcadero Plaza HRR

- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain Conditions Assessment • 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version • MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities • Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order) • Embarcadero Donor Presentation • Prospect List for Mayor and DDC • 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy Russell <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 8:55 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: info@docomomo-noca.org

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings + Immediate Disclosure Request

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

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- 2025 Embarcadero Plaza HRR
- 2025 Sue Bierman Park HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain HRR
- 2025 Vaillancourt Fountain Conditions Assessment • 2024-05-10 BxP Presentation BXP version • MAP Embarcadero Plaza Maintenance Responsibilities • Justin Herman Embarcadero Plaza - Maintenance Agreement Docs, 1998-2000 (not in order) • Embarcadero Donor Presentation • Prospect List for Mayor and DDC • 20250729 PDT Meeting slides.pdf

Thank you.

November 3, 2025
Charles Collins, President
San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

Delivered via email

Support – Decommissioning of Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Advance SF and San Francisco's leading employers, I am writing today to voice our support for the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain in Downtown's Embarcadero Plaza. Advance SF is dedicated to supporting an equitable, resilient, and vibrant economy shared by all people working and living in San Francisco.

The redesign of Embarcadero Plaza is a crucial piece of a larger effort to transform the greater Downtown area into a more vibrant, pedestrian-centric, and culturally rich location focused on improving the daily lives of residents, visitors, and tourists alike. While we recognize the history of the Vaillancourt Fountain, it was built five decades ago, when cars roared by on the Embarcadero Freeway. Downtown's role has changed significantly in the years since, and the relocation of the fountain will allow for a reimagined Embarcadero Plaza to attract foot traffic back to the heart of San Francisco.

San Francisco needs more spaces that serve today's needs. Welcoming visitors to the district through sustainable public attractions and reimagining areas that no longer provide an inviting atmosphere are key to reforming Downtown and ensuring that it remains a pleasant and energized part of the City. We look forward to further discussions on how this historic piece of public art can be utilized elsewhere in the City.

Sincerely,
Wade Rose
President, Advance SF

From: Peter Tannen <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:50 AM

To: Collins, Charles (ART) <charles.collins1@sfgov.org>; Dhaliwal, Manraj (ART) <manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org>; Ferras, Suzie (ART) <suzie.ferras@sfgov.org>; ART-Info <ART-Info@sfgov.org>; Madland, Sarah (REC) <sarah.madland@sfgov.org>; Ginsburg, Phil (REC) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Commission, Recpark (REC) <recpark.commission@sfgov.org>; Goodwin, Eoanna (REC) <eoanna.Goodwin@sfgov.org>; Summers, Ashley (REC) <ashley.summers@sfgov.org>; SauterStaff <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>

Cc: DOCOMOMO NOCA <info@docomomo-noca.org>

Subject: Public Comment for SFAC and SFRPD meetings - Opposition of deaccession, removal, or demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

To SF Recreation & Parks, SF Arts Commission, SF Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

SF Recreation and Park Department seeks Arts Commission approval to deaccession, remove, and demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain, accelerating their blank-slate, urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark, symbolizing our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

I oppose deaccession, removal, or demolition. Instead, I request that:

- (1) You reject this attempt to follow the federal trend of history erasure; retain and rehabilitate this landmark for current and future generations.
- (2) You reject describing internationally renowned art as “a design constraint” to a redevelopment project.
- (3) You conduct an inquiry into the deferred maintenance of the Vaillancourt Fountain and ascertain if gross negligence has occurred.
- (4) You grant stakeholders other than project sponsors—such as the artists or recognized art and preservation organizations—the opportunity to present at SFAC proceedings.

Please include this as a public comment in or adjacent to the agendas for the next occurrence of these meetings:

- (1) SF Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee meeting
- (2) SF Arts Commission - Full Commission meeting
- (3) SF Recreation and Park Commission meeting
- (4) SF Board of Supervisors

Thank you.

Peter S. Tannen

District 8, San Francisco

APPENDIX: Enclosed PDF Attachments



September 15, 2025

Subject: Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners:

In 2010, my business partner (and best friend) and I borrowed \$40,000 from friends and family, and opened up a 450 square foot t-shirt shop on Chestnut St in the Marina District. We had no idea how to manufacture or design clothing, but we had a belief that if we made some smart decisions, and took care of our customers, that we would figure it out.

Our first logo was someone sitting in the Golden Gate bridge in a hammock. Our first office was over a picture frame shop on Polk St, then later on Union St, and finally in an old movie theater on California St. San Francisco has been the home of our business and the home of countless employees of ours for the last 15 years. We employ over 100 people in this wonderful city, and another 400 around the country in what is now a 50+ store fleet.

More recently we survived the COVID pandemic without laying off any workers. But though we survived, until recently, this city we love has been severely diminished. We had workers leave the city, our office was broken into 4 times, and the beating daytime heart of the city—the financial district—was a shell of itself.

But hope is definitely on the rise. And Mayor Lurie's recent "Heart of the City" proposal is *exactly* the type of bold vision this city needs right now for downtown. Our customers and employees are already starting to spend more time downtown—eating, drinking and shopping—but there is more to be done.

As part of that change, I strongly, with conviction, urge you to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain. The plaza by the Embarcadero is an absolutely critical piece in the puzzle of a revitalized downtown, and the fountain should be removed so the full vision proposed by the joint venture can be realized. It would be absolutely unacceptable to spend \$29 million to restore the aging fountain; the money would be much more wisely spent on building a vibrant plaza with pedestrian areas, space for events, and green space.

Please, I urge you to send a message to businesses like ours, residents, and visitors, that San Francisco is moving forward with vision and innovation, not holding onto an aging, molding past, and please conclusively vote to deaccess the fountain and support the redevelopment of the Embarcadero.

Thank you,

Adam Lynch
Founder and COO

I represent Docomomo US/Northern California, a local non-profit.

Recreation and Parks has stated they have requested the Arts Commission's approval to deaccession and remove the Vaillancourt Fountain to accelerate their urban redevelopment plan.

The Vaillancourt Fountain is an international landmark. It is symbolic of our city's diverse history, our relationship with Canada and Quebec, and countless gatherings and activist events.

We propose:

- You immediately add to today's agenda an item to disclose RPD's petition to deaccession and remove the Fountain.
- RPD and Planning must finalize and publish the Historic Resource Review of the Fountain prior to any SFAC vote.
- RPD must publicly disclose to SFAC its 40+ years of undisclosed arrangements with BXP/Embarcadero Center prior to any SFAC vote.
- Key international and national stakeholders, such as the artist, Quebec officials, TCLF, and ICOMOS, must be given ample time to attend any SFAC proceedings.



documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighborhoods of the
modern movement

Docomomo US/Northern California Chapter

admin@docomomo-noca.org

www.docomomo-noca.org/

April 12, 2025

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
% Eoanna Harrison Goodwin, Project Manager

eoanna.goodwin@sfgov.org

San Francisco Arts Commission
% Manraj Dhaliwal, Commission Secretary

manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org

Re: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Dear Eoanna Harrison Goodwin and Manraj Dhaliwal,

I am writing on behalf of the Northern California chapter of Docomomo US (Docomomo US/NOCA) to call on the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department and Public Arts Commission to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain in the proposed Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

Docomomo US is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting and conserving the buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the Modern Movement. The concrete and brick Embarcadero Plaza, and its iconic Brutalist fountain are, together, a significant Modernist landmark of San Francisco design and culture. This park renovation project threatens to demolish the historically significant Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain.

Docomomo US/NOCA considers Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain to be highly significant based on the following criteria:

Contributing Property to a Significant Modern-era Landscape Design

Embarcadero Plaza is the point of departure for a series of publicly accessible civic places leading miles into San Francisco. The Market Street Development Project, designed by renowned late 20th-century architects and landscape architects, including Lawrence Halprin, Mario Ciampi, and J. Carl Warnecke, was built to modernize and unify the central spine of downtown San Francisco. The street, its transit stations, and seven plazas—including the monumental United Nations Plaza and Embarcadero Plaza—share a palette of forms, materials, and amenities. Notably, the project responded to the existing context and incorporated light fixtures, art, and other elements from previous eras. Embarcadero Plaza carries its trademarks: brick hardscape and bold, controversial architectural and artistic features.

Embarcadero Plaza has already been studied and evaluated by numerous historic preservation and landscape history professionals, who have identified it as a contributing property within a larger significant Modern-era landscape (referred to as the Market Street Cultural Landscape District). Staff at the San Francisco Planning Department and the California Office of Historic Preservation have reviewed and concurred with these evaluations.¹

Vaillancourt Fountain: Icon of Brutalism

Vaillancourt Fountain must be understood in terms of its original physical context next to Embarcadero Freeway, although that context has since changed. Its original role as a "fountain to hide a freeway" was designed to dilute the roadway's sound and re-establish the historic connection between Market Street and the Ferry Building. The fountain is a striking example of Brutalist style design. Created by Québécois artist Armand Vaillancourt in 1971, this 40-foot-high fountain is a testament to the transformative vision of the project. Like other Halprin-designed plazas containing fountains, this one is meant for public participation. It invites people to step beneath the fountain's large overhangs, climb atop stairwells and catwalks, and creates unique views of the San Francisco skyline.

The fountain has outlived its original context and evolved into a freestanding artistic statement. This resilient monument has survived the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and multiple attempts at removal over its lifetime. Together, the plaza and fountain create a sense of monumentality and stand as a symbol to free speech and marginalized communities. While the context has changed, this significant landscape and sculpture have value worth preserving.

Impact on Evolution of San Francisco Culture and History

Since 1971, Embarcadero Plaza and its fountain have held space for and influenced the evolution of unique San Francisco culture and history. We highlight two of its roles that demonstrate its historic and cultural significance: civic engagement and public demonstrations and skateboarding.

Civic Engagement & Public Demonstrations

Vaillancourt Fountain gained additional cultural significance when Vaillancourt himself inscribed "Québec libre!" on it during its dedication, advocating for Québec independence. This political expression established the fountain as a symbol of free speech and artistic freedom, which dovetails with the surrounding plaza's frequent use for free speech. This was part of the greater landscape design: Lawrence Halprin drew inspiration from an expansive brick plaza designed for civic and political activities in Italy at Siena's Piazza del Campo.²

This is a noted area of significance in the Market Street Cultural Landscape District, which connects this space to the labor movement, women's suffrage, civil rights, LGBTQ

¹ San Francisco Planning Department, *Better Market Street Draft EIR*, Vol. II, "Market Street Cultural Landscape District." <https://sfmea.sfplanning.org/Better%20Market%20Street%20Draft%20EIR%20-%20Vol%20II.pdf>

² The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Landslide Update: Embarcadero Plaza." Accessed March 21, 2025. <https://www.tclf.org/landslide-update-embarcadero-plaza>

liberation and pride, anti-war protests, and peace celebrations. Today's use for civic engagement and public demonstration continues that significance to the present day.

Skateboarding History & Culture

In his petition "Save Embarcadero Plaza", Art Historian and Docomomo US/NOCA Board Member Ted Barrow writes:

For skateboarders, the surrounding Embarcadero Plaza, formerly Justin Herman Plaza, has been an iconic, world-class park that has honored San Francisco's history on the waterfront for the last five decades. Redesigning the plaza without skateboarding in mind and completely destroying the last vestiges of the most famous skate spot in the world would erase a vital part of skateboarding's history, not just in San Francisco, but worldwide.³

Notably, skateboarding evolved in direct relation to the specific forms and materials that exist in this particular plaza, such as the bricks and the low concrete band around Vaillancourt Fountain. While many of these forms have already been removed, it is not too late to preserve what remains.

Place-Keeping While Place-Making

Local, regional, and state agencies and the public must work especially hard at this time to support the preservation of historically and culturally significant places, with particular attention to those used by marginalized communities, for free speech, and for assembly.

We recognize that change is necessary, especially in light of the freeway's removal. In moving forward with this renovation, we advocate that this unique juxtaposition of art, architecture, and expression remain a symbol of San Francisco's commitment to free speech, cultural practices, and bold, challenging public art.⁴ We call on the San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department, and the project team, to preserve Embarcadero Plaza's brick paving and distinctive footprint, and preserve Vaillancourt Fountain, with recirculating water.

Docomomo is dedicated to public education on our shared Modern architecture and environment, and our chapter actively organizes walking tours in several neighborhoods in San Francisco, including the Financial District, Chinatown, Northern Waterfront, Western Addition, and North Beach. Additionally, in 2020 our chapter undertook a mapping project to document Bay Area architecture, landscape, and urban design of the 1970s to further recognize the significant contributions of the recent past.⁵ This map includes Embarcadero Plaza (with the Vaillancourt Fountain), as well as adjacent notable 1970s buildings, complexes, and landscapes like Embarcadero Center, Union Bank (50 California Street), and Levi's Plaza (another highly significant Halprin-designed landscape and plaza).

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and remain hopeful that the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and San Francisco Arts Commission will recognize the

³ "Save Embarcadero Plaza." Petition. <https://www.change.org/p/save-embarcadero-plaza>

⁴ John King, "People hate this huge S.F. fountain. Here's why the city absolutely should keep it." *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 28, 2024 <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/embarcadero-vaillancourt-fountain-19591582.php>

⁵ The '70s Turn 50: Map. Docomomo US/Northern California www.docomomo-noca.org/70s-turn-50-noca-map

Docomomo US/Northern California Chapter

admin@docomomo-noca.org

www.docomomo-noca.org/

historical and cultural significance of Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain by preserving them in the forthcoming renovation project. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad DeWitt".

Chad DeWitt, Vice President
Docomomo US/Northern California

CC:

San Francisco Board of Supervisors District 3

% Supervisor Danny Sauter

SauterStaff@sfgov.org

Office of the Mayor

% Mayor Daniel Lurie

daniel.lurie@sfgov.org

BXP

% Aaron Fenton

afenton@bxp.com

September 19, 2025
San Francisco, California, U.S.

Board of Supervisors
City & County of San Francisco
% Danny Sauter, Supervisor District 3
SauterStaff@sfgov.org, board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco
% Daniel Lurie, Mayor
daniel.lurie@sfgov.org

Recreation and Park Department
City & County of San Francisco
% Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org, recpark.commission@sfgov.org

Arts Commission
City & County of San Francisco
% Chuck Collins, President
charles.collins1@sfgov.org, art-info@sfgov.org

Historic Preservation Commission
City & County of San Francisco
% Diane Matsuda, President
diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, commissions.secretary@sfgov.org

BXP, Inc. (Boston Properties Limited Partnership)
% Aaron Fenton, Senior Vice-President
afenton@bxp.com

Downtown San Francisco Partnership
% Robbie Silver, President & CEO
rsilver@downtownsf.org, info@downtownsf.org

Re: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Une version française commence sur la page 7.

To Whom It May Concern,

While some of our groups have discussed this project with you individually, we are writing to demonstrate the broad consensus of local, national, and international groups around a singular core principle: **Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be retained and rehabilitated for present and future residents and visitors.**

Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain were conceived as San Francisco's downtown was being transformed into a Modern, post-World War II city. This project was made possible by a confluence of post-war prosperity, federal funding for urban renewal, and the conviction among city leaders that high-quality art and public spaces could be accessible to everyone. World-renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin designed the Plaza, and noted Québécois sculptor Armand Vaillancourt's design for the Fountain was selected through a high-profile international design competition that pre-dated and inspired our modern percent-for-art programs.

As with nearly all Halprin landscapes, the integration of movement was created with water, and the Vaillancourt Fountain was selected for its powerful artistic vision and its core belief in the importance of public participation, interaction, and discovery. Halprin's initial inspiration for Embarcadero Plaza was the Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas that have stood for hundreds of years, serving as town squares, gathering spaces, dining areas, celebratory forums, and places of assembly for free expression.

Is that not the stated objective of this renovation?

To fully redevelop this plaza would be to announce to the world that San Francisco has yet to learn how to build and maintain world-class public spaces, something that was achieved by ancient civilizations, yet remains elusive for this modern city.

We—including the artist himself—reject the repeated misrepresentations and negligent treatment of the Vaillancourt Fountain. The artwork, which represents a small but mighty ~2.5% of the total area of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park, was not conceived as a single-purpose object to contrast a freeway. It was created as a freestanding, abstract sculpture intended for interpretation, interaction, and emotional response. As with all significant art, it continues to evolve and adapt, as both it and its audience change. The Fountain has been controversial since its inception—a quality that is a *feature, not a flaw*. It has always been intended to be a point of dialogue and engagement, to say otherwise is to ignore its history and the artist's intent.

The Fountain, originally titled “*Québec Libre!*”, is the artist's only public U.S. artwork. Not only is it San Francisco's most recognizable public art, it is quite literally one-of-a-kind. Furthermore, as its original name suggests, it explores ideas of political and personal freedom, and was created at a time when the artist offered his studio as a safe haven for Native American demonstrators associated with the occupation of Alcatraz Island (1969-1971). Vaillancourt's art is deeply representative of his beliefs in social engagement, human rights, and political activism, and the Fountain has served as a fitting reminder of these values in one of the city's primary sites for public discourse, political protests, and civic gathering.

The [San Francisco Arts Commission](#) states that:

“The mission of the Civic Art Collection is to promote a rich, diverse and stimulating cultural environment in order to enrich the lives of the city's residents, visitors and employees, and to enhance the city's image both nationally and internationally.”

As a coalition of local, national, and international groups representing not only San Francisco residents, but also artists, preservationists, architects, tourists, historians, academics, professionals, and government interests from *around the world*, **we affirm that both Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain directly further this mission.**

These landmarks are *already* internationally recognized, fulfilling San Francisco's desire to elevate these spaces to world-class status. Removing them would *diminish* the city's image both nationally and internationally.

When Lawrence Halprin created Embarcadero Plaza, he looked to Europe for inspiration. His experiences studying European cities established his love of pedestrian-oriented public spaces and informed his signature design approach. European plazas like [Venice's Piazza San Marco](#), [Brussels' Grand-Place](#), [London's Trafalgar Square](#), [Prague's Old Town Square](#), [Siena's Piazza del Campo](#), [Madrid's Plaza Mayor](#), and [Vatican City's St. Peter's Square](#), among so many others, illustrate the long-term success of these adaptable pedestrian spaces.

These successful, timeless spaces share key features: durable hardscaping, numerous paths of travel, and immense flexibility. They largely lack the programmatic elements proposed for this renovation, such as dedicated picnic areas, dog parks, donor recognition area, or a central stage. World-class public spaces are defined by their adaptability, not by prescribed activities. We, who have global expertise in the matter, can assure you that these features will *not* result in a world-class park, for world-class spaces do *not* have them.

We recognize that, naturally, there will be debate over what retention and rehabilitation would look like. We embrace and encourage this debate, which is a sign of a healthy democracy. Not everything can—or should—be preserved. A healthy urban environment requires a mixture of historic and new. However, the current process seems designed to minimize debate, favoring a blank-slate approach that erases a significant layer of San Francisco's history and values. This raises several serious questions.

On a local level, unanswered questions permeate the project. Why focus only on Embarcadero Plaza North and Sue Bierman Park East and avoid sharing the potential “Phase 2” that encompasses some or all of the remaining four acres? What prompted the lack of disclosure of one of the oldest public-private park partnerships in San Francisco's history, that in 1979 the city said “...set a noble example to the entire community by being the first major corporation to “*Adopt A Park*” in San Francisco”? Why not collaborate with experts and willing volunteers to right-size the budget and use existing public art and space to meet the needs of residents and support downtown's economic recovery?

These and numerous other unanswered questions lead to our fundamental request: **The future of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be determined in the San Francisco tradition; transparently, equitably, and factually, free of carefully steered narratives and revisionist history.**

As a coalition of local, national, and international groups committed to elevating global artwork and design in the context of San Francisco's unique heritage, we urge the Recreation and Park Department, the Project Governance Team, and all associated city agencies and partners to change course. We ask you to honor the city's history and **prioritize the retention and rehabilitation** of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Respectfully,
Bob Pullum, Board Member, Docomomo US/NOCA,

On behalf of our esteemed organizational and individual partners.

Signatories

Armand Vaillancourt
and the Vaillancourt family

Daria Halprin and Rana Halprin
On behalf of the Halprin family

Keith Park, President
California Garden & Landscape History Society

Liz Waytkus, Executive Director
Todd Grover, VP Advocacy
Docomomo US



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Chad DeWitt, Vice President
Bob Pullum, Camila Baum,
Petra Marar, Board Members
Docomomo US/Northern California

Grethe Pontoppidan, Co-President
ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on
Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC 20C)

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Stéphan La Roche, Director
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

Woody LaBounty
President & CEO
San Francisco Heritage



Priya Jain, Chair, Heritage Conservation Committee
Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, President +
CEO
Nord Wennerstrom, Director of Communications
The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)



The Cultural Landscape Foundation®
connecting people to places®

About us (alphabetical)

Armand Vaillancourt and the Vaillancourt family

[Armand Vaillancourt](#) is a Québécois sculptor, painter, and performance artist in Canada. For over 60 years, he employed painting, sculpture, and performance to explore social and political issues. His works include: *Justice et Paix* (1986) in Wilfrid-Bastien Park, Saint-Léonard, Québec, *L'Enchantement* (2007) at Cirque du Soleil's International Headquarters in Montréal, *L'Éveil Collectif* in Gaspé, Québec, *Justice* (1980) on the grounds of the Québec Courthouse in Québec City, and *Québec Libre!* (now *Vaillancourt Fountain*), his only public U.S. artwork.

California Garden & Landscape History Society (CGLHS)

[California Garden and Landscape History Society](#) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization devoted to celebrating the beauty and diversity of California's historic gardens and landscapes; promoting wider knowledge, preservation, and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes; organizing study visits to historic gardens and landscapes as well as to relevant archives and libraries; and offering opportunities for a lively interchange among members at meetings, garden visits and other events. The Society organizes annual conferences and publishes *Eden*, a quarterly newsletter. Contact us: info@cglhs.org.

Docomomo US

[Docomomo US](#) is a national non-profit organization that advocates for the preservation of Modern architecture, landscapes and design. It is led by a national Board of Directors and staff that represents a union of regional chapters. Docomomo US was founded in the United States in 1995 and is a committee of Docomomo International. Docomomo US' mission is pushing boundaries to preserve modern architecture, landscapes, and design through principled advocacy, collaboration, and celebration. Contact us: info@docomomo-us.org.

Docomomo US/Northern California (NOCA)

[Docomomo US/Northern California](#) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the study, interpretation, documentation, and protection of the architecture, landscape, and urban design of the Modern Movement in Northern California. Docomomo is an acronym for the DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the MOdern MOvement. Founded in 1996, Docomomo US/NOCA is one of twenty regional chapters of Docomomo US. Contact us: info@docomomo-noca.org.

ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C)

[ISC20C](#) is ICOMOS' expert scientific committee, dedicated to conserving and celebrating 20th-century heritage most at risk from lack of recognition, and driving its protection through research, advocacy, and policy. The [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\)](#) is a non-governmental organisation working to conserve and protect cultural heritage sites around the world founded in 1965. [Contact us](#).

Lawrence Halprin and the Halprin family

[Lawrence Halprin](#) (1916–2009) was an American landscape architect, designer, and teacher. Halprin was awarded numerous honors such as the American Institute of Architects Medal for Allied Professions (1964), Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects ASLA Design Medal (2003), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1978), the University of Virginia Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture (1979), and the National Medal of Arts (2002), the nation's highest honor for an artist. Halprin published several books including *RSVP Cycles*, *Taking Part*, *Cities*, *Freeways*, and *Notebooks*.

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC)

The [Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal](#) was founded in 1964 by the Québec government, at the instigation of artists and collectors who wanted to see an institution established to build a collection of contemporary works by artists from Montréal, Québec, Canada and around the world. Canada's premier museum dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the MAC is committed to demonstrating the fundamental role played by contemporary art in our society. With a history that already spans half a century, the Musée pursues its mission with ever greater conviction: to make known, promote and preserve Québec contemporary art and ensure a place for international contemporary art through acquisitions, exhibitions and other activities. Contact us: relations.presse@macm.org.

San Francisco Heritage (SF Heritage)

[San Francisco Heritage \(SF Heritage\)](#) is a nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and enhance San Francisco's unique architectural and cultural identity. Since 1971, SF Heritage has protected the city in the face of rapid change. This includes advocacy for historic resources, educational programming, and the preservation and interpretation of two landmark properties. Contact us: info@sfheritage.org.

Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

The [Society of Architectural Historians](#) (SAH) promotes the study, interpretation, and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism worldwide for the benefit of all. Founded at Harvard University in 1940, the Society of Architectural Historians is a nonprofit membership organization that serves an international network of institutions and individuals who, by profession or interest, focus on the history of the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life. Contact us: info@sah.org.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation® (TCLF)

[The Cultural Landscape Foundation](#) (TCLF), is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1998 to connect people to places. TCLF educates and engages the public to make our shared landscape heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards. Through its [website](#), publishing, lectures, and other events, TCLF broadens support and understanding for cultural landscapes. TCLF is also home to the [Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize](#). Contact us: info@tclf.org.

Re: Projet de rénovation de l'Embarcadero Plaza et du parc Sue Bierman

À qui de droit,

Certains de nos groupes se sont déjà entretenus avec vous individuellement au sujet de ce projet, mais nous vous écrivons aujourd'hui afin de témoigner du large consensus existant — au niveau local, national et international — autour d'un principe fondamental : **l'Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt doivent être conservés et restaurés pour les générations actuelles et futures, qu'il s'agisse de résidents ou de visiteurs.**

L'Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt ont vu le jour à une époque où le centre-ville de San Francisco se transformait pour devenir une métropole moderne d'après-guerre. Ce projet a été rendu possible grâce à la prospérité de l'époque, au financement fédéral pour la rénovation urbaine et à la conviction des dirigeants municipaux que l'art et les espaces publics de qualité devaient être accessibles à tous. Le célèbre architecte-paysagiste Lawrence Halprin a conçu la Plaza, et le sculpteur québécois Armand Vaillancourt a remporté le concours international organisé pour la conception de la fontaine, un projet qui a précédé et inspiré les programmes modernes de type « un pour cent pour l'art ».

Comme dans la quasi-totalité des réalisations d'Halprin, l'eau y joue un rôle central, et la fontaine de Vaillancourt fut retenue pour la puissance de sa vision artistique et sa conviction profonde de l'importance de la participation, de l'interaction et de la découverte du public. L'inspiration initiale d'Halprin pour l'Embarcadero Plaza venait des plazas espagnoles et des piazzas italiennes, qui depuis des siècles servent de lieux de rassemblement, de célébration, de repas en plein air et d'expression publique.

N'est-ce pas là l'objectif déclaré de la rénovation actuelle ?

Réaménager entièrement cette place reviendrait à envoyer un message clair : San Francisco n'a pas encore appris à créer et entretenir des espaces publics de calibre mondial, alors que d'autres civilisations y sont parvenues depuis longtemps.

Nous — y compris l'artiste lui-même — rejetons les déformations et la négligence répétées dont la Fontaine Vaillancourt a été victime. Cette œuvre, qui représente environ 2,5 % de la superficie totale de l'Embarcadero Plaza et du parc Sue Bierman, n'a jamais été pensée comme un objet unique destiné à contraster avec une autoroute. Elle a été conçue comme une sculpture abstraite, autonome, vouée à l'interprétation, à l'interaction et à l'émotion. Comme toute œuvre majeure, elle continue d'évoluer et de s'adapter avec le temps et avec son public. Depuis sa création, la fontaine suscite la controverse — mais cette controverse, loin de la diminuer, est au cœur de son rôle : provoquer le dialogue et susciter l'engagement. Dire le contraire, c'est ignorer son histoire et l'intention de son créateur.

La fontaine, initialement intitulée « Québec Libre! », demeure l'unique installation publique de l'artiste aux États-Unis. Elle est non seulement l'œuvre artistique la plus reconnaissable de San Francisco, mais aussi une œuvre littéralement unique. Son titre d'origine souligne qu'elle explore les idées de liberté politique et personnelle, dans un contexte où l'artiste offrait parallèlement son atelier comme refuge à des militants autochtones associés à l'occupation de l'île d'Alcatraz (1969-1971). L'art de Vaillancourt est intimement lié à ses engagements sociaux, à la défense des droits humains et à l'activisme politique. La fontaine est donc un rappel vivant de ces valeurs, au cœur même d'un lieu qui est depuis toujours un espace majeur de discours public, de manifestations politiques et de rassemblements citoyens.

[La Commission des arts de San Francisco](#) affirme que :

« La mission de la collection d'art civique est de promouvoir un environnement culturel riche, diversifié et stimulant afin d'enrichir la vie des résidents, des visiteurs et des employés de la ville, et d'améliorer l'image de la ville tant à l'échelle nationale qu'internationale. »

En tant que coalition regroupant des acteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux — incluant des artistes, des défenseurs du patrimoine, des architectes, des historiens, des universitaires, des professionnels, des touristes et des organismes gouvernementaux — **nous affirmons que l’Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt contribuent directement à cette mission.**

Ces lieux sont déjà reconnus à l’échelle internationale et permettent à San Francisco de revendiquer un statut de ville de calibre mondial. Leur suppression aurait l’effet inverse : elle affaiblirait gravement l’image de la ville, tant aux États-Unis qu’à l’étranger.

Lorsque Lawrence Halprin a imaginé l’Embarcadero Plaza, il s’est inspiré de ses expériences européennes. Il y avait étudié et observé la force des espaces publics piétonniers, qui ont façonné son approche de conception. Les places emblématiques comme [la Piazza San Marco à Venise](#), [la Grand-Place de Bruxelles](#), [Trafalgar Square à Londres](#), [la Place de la Vieille Ville de Prague](#), [la Piazza del Campo à Sienne](#), [la Plaza Mayor à Madrid](#) ou [la Place Saint-Pierre du Vatican](#) démontrent que ces espaces, adaptables et durables, continuent à prospérer depuis des siècles.

Ces lieux intemporels partagent des caractéristiques essentielles : une grande durabilité, une multiplicité de parcours et une flexibilité remarquable. À l’inverse, ils ne se définissent pas par des équipements figés comme des aires de pique-nique dédiées, des parcs à chiens, des zones de reconnaissance de donateurs ou une scène centrale. Les espaces publics de classe mondiale se distinguent par leur capacité d’adaptation, et non par une programmation rigide. Nous, qui avons une expertise mondiale en la matière, pouvons affirmer que les caractéristiques proposées dans le projet actuel ne créeront pas un espace de calibre international.

Nous reconnaissons que le débat est légitime et nécessaire sur ce que devraient être la conservation et la restauration. Tout ne peut pas — et ne doit pas — être préservé. Un tissu urbain vivant exige un équilibre entre l’ancien et le nouveau. Mais le processus actuel semble conçu pour limiter le débat, au profit d’une approche de table rase qui efface une couche essentielle de l’histoire et des valeurs de San Francisco. Cela soulève des questions fondamentales : Pourquoi concentrer uniquement les efforts sur la partie nord de l’Embarcadero Plaza et l’est du parc Sue Bierman, en omettant la « Phase 2 » potentielle qui couvre les quatre acres restants ? Pourquoi ne pas avoir divulgué l’existence d’un des premiers partenariats public-privé de parcs de San Francisco, créé en 1979 et salué à l’époque comme « un noble exemple pour l’ensemble de la communauté » ? Pourquoi ne pas collaborer avec des experts et des bénévoles prêts à travailler à la redéfinition du budget, en s’appuyant sur l’art public et les infrastructures déjà en place, pour mieux répondre aux besoins des résidents et soutenir la relance économique du centre-ville ?

Ces questions, et bien d’autres encore, renforcent notre appel central : **l’avenir de l’Embarcadero Plaza et de la Fontaine Vaillancourt doit être décidé dans la tradition démocratique de San Francisco — de manière transparente, équitable et fondée sur des faits, sans récits biaisés ni réécriture de l’histoire.**

En tant que coalition d’acteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux, attachés à la valeur de l’art et du design dans le patrimoine unique de San Francisco, nous exhortons le Recreation and Park Department, l’équipe de gouvernance du projet et l’ensemble des partenaires de la Ville à changer de cap. Nous vous demandons d’honorer l’histoire de la ville et **de donner la priorité à la conservation et à la restauration** de l’Embarcadero Plaza et de la Fontaine Vaillancourt.

Respectueusement,

Bob Pullum

Membre du conseil d’administration, Docomomo US/NOCA
Au nom de nos partenaires organisationnels et individuels

September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

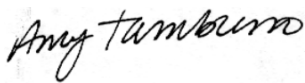
The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Best Regards,



Amy Tamburro
Vice President | Principal

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org 9/12/25

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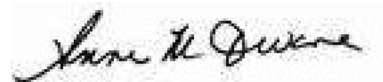
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Sincerely,



Anne Dwane
440 Davis Ct #1122
San Francisco, CA 94111

And work address: 4 Embarcadero Center, #3660, San Francisco, CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

September 12, 2025

Elaine Reyff
3636 Buchanan Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

To the Visual Arts Committee, San Francisco Arts Commission

I am writing to express my support for the redesigning of Embarcadero Plaza and the removal of the functionally obsolete fountain.

I appreciate that the fountain was a unique and visionary design in its time. When it was brand new, my elementary school in Sacramento took us on a field trip to see it. However, now it is time for a new vision for that park and an investment towards a more inclusive gathering area for the next generation of school children, visitors, residents and downtown workers.

Thank you,

Elaine A Reyff



September 12, 2025

The City of San Francisco Arts Commission

Via email: To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Gray, Jr
Senior Partner, Co-Founder
Rockwood Capital, LLC

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

[DATE]

9/12/25

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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Basil Saharoff
3630 Market St. San Francisco CA 94131,

Embarcadero Center Office Worker

CC: Afenton@byp.com

9/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

William Getty

William Getty
Downtown employee

September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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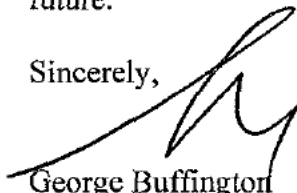
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Sincerely,



George Buffington
Sideman & Bancroft
One Embarcadero Center, #2200
San Francisco, CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Dear members of the San Francisco Arts Commission,

My name is Cameron Danesh and I am the former president of the Historic Preservation Club at UC Berkeley. I write this letter on my own behalf regarding the Vaillancourt Fountain and the proposal to deaccession and destroy it.

“A jumble of nothing,” a “loathsome monstrosity,” “idiotic rubble.” These were some of the terms used to describe the Fountain over the years. However, I stand with San Francisco’s skaters and lovers of brutal architecture when I say it is actually an underrated gem of San Francisco, a symbol on par with the Golden Gate Bridge and Palace of Fine Arts. Its sheer uniqueness grabs the attention of people like me who have no formal training in the arts or architecture. Although its original context in front of the Embarcadero Freeway may be gone, the Fountain remains as an appropriate focal point around which skaters and the rest of the community gather.

I have read some of the obligatory negative comments online made recently regarding the Fountain. They remind me of similar trolls who wish to demolish Mystery Castle, an outsider art complex in Phoenix which I am currently involved in restoring. Such individuals wish to have it “reintegrated” into neighboring South Mountain Park as some kind of pristine wilderness. What both these groups miss, however, is that humans have been part of the fabric of the global landscape for thousands of years. Our preexisting accomplishments and artworks are just as vital as any view of the Bay (which is more obstructed by the Ferry Building and piers than by the Fountain.)

Wanting to preserve valuable parts of our artistic heritage is not “NIMBY.” Nobody has ever made such comments about conserving art in San Francisco’s many museums, so there is no reason why such a statement should be made about public art either. I am not opposed to redeveloping Embarcadero Plaza, I merely ask that the Vaillancourt Fountain be respected as part of the project.

In conclusion, I ask the Arts Commission to deny the proposed deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain and work with the Recreation and Park Department to preserve it as part of Embarcadero Plaza’s redevelopment. Future generations will only be grateful that you did so.

Sincerely,
Cameron Danesh

OFFICE OF CHARLES F. BLOSZIES FAIA

Charles Bloszies, FAIA, SE, Principal | Michael Bullman, AIA, Senior Associate | Mark Warren, AIA, Associate

September 15, 2025

Charles Collins
President
San Francisco Arts Commission

via email to: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org
ART-Info@sfgov.org

Re: Removal of Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Fellow Commissioners,

The Vaillancourt Fountain has served its original purpose and now is the time for it to be removed by deaccession. Removal is critical to allow the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park to be revitalized into an important cultural center on one of San Francisco's most iconic sites.

Like Lawrence Halpern's Naramore Fountain in Seattle, the Vaillancourt Fountain's jumble of water-filled concrete tubes was included in Halpern's design for the former Justin Herman Plaza to mask the noise of the Central Freeway. The Central Freeway cut off the city from the waterfront, and thanks to the Loma Prieta Earthquake, that barrier (and its noise) is gone.

I urge the Arts Commission to deaccess the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Bloszies', with a stylized, flowing script.

Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA, SE

cc: Afenton@bxp.com



September 12, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, as it fails to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore the entire project budget diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan. Deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is not only a practical necessity but also a powerful commitment to advancing Mayor Lurie's vision for a revitalized downtown that prioritizes people, accessibility, and economic vitality. By removing this obstacle, the Commission can unlock the full potential of Embarcadero Plaza as a welcoming, inclusive civic space that draws residents, workers, and visitors alike, fulfilling the promise of a 24/7 neighborhood.

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gino Canori", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gino Canori
President
Related California

cc: Afenton@bxp.com

September 12, 2025

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Sincerely,



Chris Hall

Bay Area Resident & Employee Officing Downtown

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Monday, September 15th

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,

David Helton
B Capital, Four Embarcadero Center

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

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I have been a resident of San Francisco since 1968 and the fountain has not been working most of that time and it is not an attractive piece of art. The area needs a change. I believe the new park is much needed to enhance the area.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth De Martini
745 Balboa St, Apt 6
San Francisco, CA 94118
Tenant in 4 Embarcadero

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,



Madison Dutra | First Vice President
CBRE, Inc.

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

September 15, 2025

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Sincerely,



Eileen Anicete
Employee at Stockbridge Capital Group
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3300
San Francisco, CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

CBRE, Inc.
Brokerage Services

415 Mission Street
46th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
United States

+1 415 772 0123 Tel
+1 415 772 0459 Fax
www.cbre.com

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Conor Famulener | Executive Vice President
CBRE, Inc.

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

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Sincerely,

Eric Friessen
Comerica Bank, Three Embarcadero Center, Suite 1350

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

[DATE]

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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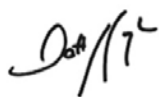
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Sincerely,



Matt Humphreys
Area Vice President Hyatt Hotels

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

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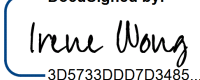
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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:


3D5733DD07D3485...

Irene Wong
Employee of Stockbridge
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3300
San Francisco, CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com



425 Market Street
Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105
+1 415 377 4687
JD.Lumpkin@cushwake.com

9/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "JD", written over a light blue horizontal line.

JD Lumpkin
Cushman & Wakefield

CC: Afenton@bxp.com



September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,

Jack Diggins
Harvest Properties
235 Montgomery St. Suite 2500
San Francisco, CA 94104

CC: Afenton@bxp.com



September 30, 2009

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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Sincerely,

James Buresh
300 California Street
GCI, INC

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

415.978.2790 | www.gcigc.com

Date: 9/16/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

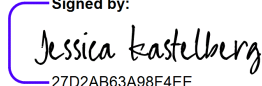
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Sincerely,

Signed by:
Signature 
27D2AB63A98F4EE...

Name Jessica Kastelberg

Your Address, Affiliation, or Stakeholder Group

Stockbridge Capital Group Employee, 4 Embarcadero tenant

CC: Afenton@bxp.com



September 15, 2025

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President & CEO
Bay Area Council

CC: Afenton@bxc.com

September 15, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org
CC: Afenton@bxp.com

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Sincerely,



Cyrus Anandaj & Kabir Seth
Presidio Bay Ventures

September 12, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org ; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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Sincerely,



Michael Covarrubias
Chairman & CEO
TMG Partners
Michael.c@tmgpartners.com



Ben Kochalski
President & CIO
TMG Partners
bkochalski@tmgpartners.com

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Date: 9/16/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,

Signature  27E2C597ECF2407...

Name Kara Notvedt

Your Address, Affiliation, or Stakeholder Group

Tenant at 4 Embarcadero

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

September 15, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the controversy over the Viallancourt Fountain. In reading all of the articles and letters, both current and past, about the piece I would like to share my reoccurring thoughts on the matter. I came to know about this controversy because I am the mother in law of one of the employees involved in the revitalization project as an employee of BXP.

My recurring thoughts:

This structure was approved and is a part of San Francisco's art history. This history is important.

The sculpture had an intended purpose in 1971 when the Embarcadero area looked very different from today. The city has literally changed around it but the fountain has remained and is in a deteriorated state with no big enough to repair it.

There is a plan to reinvigorate, redesign and alter the way the Embarcadero area is to be used but the sculpture is in the way of the intended plan.

Both sides of this argument have merit and are valid. However, this situation requires COMPROMISE! Something much needed in our society today on all levels! Below I have listed a few ideas of how a compromise solution might look and how it might serve to please all parties, honoring Mr. Viallancourt and his work, and allowing for a revitalized downtown park perhaps with new public art.

Ideas for a Compromise:

- 1) Look at The Storm King website <https://welcome.stormking.org> a magnificent showcase for monumental sculpture in a beautiful outdoor setting in Upstate New York.
- 2) Invite Mr. Viallancourt to be part of a qualified committee of specialists of all types to call for designs to either replicate totally, or partially, the form and style of his original piece in materials more durable, light weight and cost effective than his original and to be placed somewhere appropriate in San Francisco. Also call for designs that are completely new and innovative

to be placed in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project and that do not impact the use of the Plaza in any way.

- 3) Call for the design of a commemorative plaque or other creative way to explain the transformation from the original Viallancourt sculpture giving its original intent, its history and that of Mr. Viallancourt and his work.
- 4) The committee would determine who should submit designs for the new piece: known artists, emerging artists, local artists, international artists, etc.
- 5) Committee to outline all of the goals and details required for submission. Should the new sculpture speak to our times as the original Villancourt piece spoke to that period or not, etc.
- 6) Outline how the submissions would be judged, known or anonymously.

Overall the goal of the process should be one of compromise rather than conflict. Some aspects of each constituents desires will be met and others will have to be retired. There should be an overall desire to listen, learn and participate in the goal of creating a vibrant, cohesive, inviting space in Embarcadero Plaza, one of the most frequented areas in all of San Francisco, by residents and visitors alike. We have a wonderful opportunity to create economic and cultural revitalization while also honoring the history of art and artists and commissioning new pieces of public art that reflect the Plaza as we want it to be used in 2025 and beyond.

Without some sense of what will replace the Viallancourt Fountain, how it will be removed and whether it can be reconstructed in a newer form leaves the public with only half of the story. If you follow the steps above, you have the potential to please all parties by creating The Embarcadero Plaza of our dreams for 2025, you will honor the value of the history of art in our city and you will create excitement and interest in the art that is to come that we cannot even imagine at this point. And, needless to say, you will be modeling a process that is sorely needed in this country today by valuing all sides of this dilemma and respecting all opinions during the process.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my desires on this subject. I wish you well as you work through all that you have to consider but I have faith that an amenable solution can be reached.

With best regards,

Karen Rathman
karenrathman@gmail.com

9/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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Sincerely,



Kyle Kovac
415 Mission Street, 46th Floor
CBRE, Inc.

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Kristen Hall
158 Burnside Avenue
San Francisco, CA
August 22, 2025

To the San Francisco Arts Commission,

I am writing in strong support of removing the Vaillancourt Fountain from Embarcadero Plaza. Originally conceived during a very different era—when the Embarcadero Freeway was an imposing elevated structure and the surrounding area primarily served as a corridor for automobiles—the fountain was intended to be in dialogue with the freeway, and to mitigate the sound, scale, and visual impact of car-centered infrastructure. With its jagged concrete tubes, 40-foot height, and forceful water flow, the fountain was never meant to feel gentle or soothing. Rather, it was built to be an aggressive and confrontational piece in an environment that was unwelcoming to people.

But the waterfront has changed and evolved in wonderful ways. With the bold transformation to remove the elevated freeway, the Embarcadero Plaza is now one of San Francisco's most legible and important destinations. It has become a vibrant, pedestrian-centered civic realm, welcoming tens of millions of people per year. In contrast, the freeway removal has left the fountain stranded, contextless, and irrelevant.

The fountain today functions as a barrier—physically and symbolically—to the plaza's calling as a civic forum. This public square has assumed a vital role on the world stage as a place for protest nearly as critical as Civic Center. It is no accident that the waterfront is where people gather to testify to their experiences, build their sense of shared purpose, and begin their procession to City Hall. It has also been the stage for high-profile public gatherings, ceremonies, concerts, and civic celebrations. Rather than generating a thoughtful civic dialogue, the fountain now stands in the way of the very thing it originally hoped to promote.

Let us remember that the creative process frequently involves letting go of what no longer serves our vision. As many artists know, a critical part of the creative process is letting go of old ideas, to make space for fresh inspiration. In a way, we can even say that the fountain served its purpose beautifully: to highlight the inhumanity of the freeway and advocate for an aggressive and bold change. Maybe the fact of the fountain itself is part of what gave the city hope for something different at this important location where Market Street meets the waterfront. Adlai Stevenson said that *"The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."* Sometimes the true purpose of something is revealed in its ending.

We must recognize that cities are living entities that change and evolve, not fixed monuments to bygone eras. As the great urbanist Kevin Lynch wrote: *"An environment that cannot be changed invites its own destruction."* As San Franciscans, we are so often fighting to protect the past that we sometimes fail to make space for the wonderful things that change can bring. Our city's waterfront is one place that we have let go of outdated ideas to pursue visionary change, and what we find it is that—maybe more than anywhere else in San Francisco—this change has allowed us to realize our civic ambition in beautiful and regenerative ways.

The city's layers, past and present, should support what truly fosters life and connection, rather than cling to relics of when our urban purpose was different. Maintaining the fountain, which was designed for a different purpose in another time undermines that ethos, dividing rather than uniting people in a space that should be defined by openness, adaptability, and civic conversation.

For all these reasons, I urge you to support the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain and to commission a new, thoughtful intervention—one that better reflects our city's present-day needs for inclusion, connection, and creative public gathering.

9/15/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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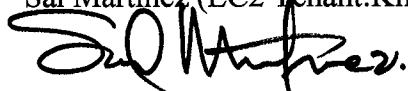
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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Sal Martinez (EC2 Tenant: Kilpatrick)



Two Embarcadero Center Suite 1900
San Francisco CA, 94111



BARBARY COAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BCNA
P.O. Box 2045
San Francisco, CA 94126
BCNA@bcnasf.org
www.bcnasf.org

September 14, 2025

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San Francisco Arts Commission
suzie.ferras@sfgov.org

Manraj Dhaliwal
Secretary, San Francisco Arts Commission
manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org

Re: Deaccession of Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins, Committee Chair Ferras and Secretary Dhaliwal,

The Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association (BCNA) serves the residents and businesses in the Barbary Coast, the historic northeast waterfront along the Embarcadero from Bay Street to Clay Street. Over the years our members, particularly those residing in the southern end of our neighborhood, have come to view the Embarcadero Plaza (the Plaza) and Sue Bierman Park (the Park), as their “backyard”. This sentiment led the leadership of BCNA to actively participate in the planning and funding of the playground in the Park. This attachment to the Plaza and the Park has continued, as evidenced by the large number of BCNA members who attended the two community meetings held by the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) on the proposed renovation to the Plaza and the Park, and who responded to DRP’s online survey regarding the design elements and proposed usages desired by community members in these spaces that are so central and vital to our neighborhood. It is this close connection of our membership to the Plaza and the Park that leads BCNA to offer the following comments on the future of the Vaillancourt Fountain (the Fountain).

We appreciate that at the time of its construction, the Fountain was an inspired choice to provide an artistic counterpoint to the massive freeway that then surrounded it, and that it constituted a particular achievement in the Brutalist art movement. However, the environment for which the Fountain was designed and constructed has changed dramatically. The Embarcadero Freeway is long gone, leaving the Fountain to sit isolated in the Plaza and blocking any possibility of a full integration of the Plaza with the Park. Further, the Fountain has fallen into such disrepair and deterioration that it must now be surrounded by unattractive fencing to prevent it from being a severe safety and environmental hazard to visitors to the Plaza. This very necessary fencing blocks any real appreciation of what remains of the artistic/architectural value of the Fountain. Yet we have been told that ameliorating this situation and returning the Fountain to operation would require an estimated \$29 million expenditure, which does not include ongoing operational and maintenance costs, as well as the expense of the tremendous amount of water that Fountain operation requires.

Of most concern to our members, however, is the danger that the failure to remove the Fountain poses to the very existence of DRP’s Plaza/Park renovation project. DRP’s renovation

project partners apparently have indicated that they will not be able to proceed if the Fountain cannot be removed. Redesigning the renovation around the Fountain's continued presence, even if economically feasible, appears to be an effort destined to please no one. The Plaza would remain internally fragmented, and without any effective integration to the neighboring Park. The Plaza and the Park thus would remain unable to provide the pedestrian flow and flexibility for multiple uses and audiences needed to make those spaces the welcoming and inclusive gathering place for neighbors, downtown workers and tourists envisioned under Mayor Lurie's recently announced "Heart of the City" initiative.

BCNA therefore supports DRP's plan to remove the Fountain as part of the Plaza/Park renovation. However, we also strongly urge the Art Commission and DRP to work together to develop and include in the renovated Plaza a photo interpretative exhibit that presents the history of the Plaza and of the Fountain and its artistic inspiration and importance.

Sincerely,

BCNA Board of Directors, by
Mary Jane Large, President
maryjanelarge@me.com
916.952.4913

Cc via email:
Supervisor Danny Sauter, District 3
Tita Bell, Chief of Staff, Office of Supervisor Danny Sauter
Aaron Fenton, Senior Vice President, BXP

Date: 9/15/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

We, the undersigned, passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This transformative initiative, shaped by extensive community input, aligns seamlessly with Mayor Daniel Lurie's "Heart of the City" downtown revitalization plan, announced on September 9, 2025, to create a vibrant, 24/7 neighborhood that serves as the economic and cultural heartbeat of San Francisco.

The Embarcadero Plaza project embodies the goals of Mayor Lurie's initiative, which seeks to transform downtown into a thriving, mixed-use environment through strategic investments in public spaces, small businesses, and community vitality. Community feedback has consistently called for open green spaces, shaded seating, inclusive amenities, and enhanced waterfront access—features that will reconnect our city to the San Francisco Bay and drive economic recovery.

The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

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Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Signature

DocuSigned by:
Nguyen Ngo
56F67E84D4B14B9...

Name Nguyen Ngo

Your Address, Affiliation, or Stakeholder Group

Stockbridge - 4 Embarcadero Center

CC: Afenton@bxp.com



LANDSLIDE

Will the San Francisco Arts Commission be Complicit in the Demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain?

Aug 25, 2025

After a bit of linguistic legerdemain the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) finally came out and [admitted](#) they want to demolish the Vaillancourt Fountain at the [Lawrence Halprin](#)-designed [Embarcadero Plaza](#). The plaza and fountain (and neighboring Sue Bierman Park) would be razed to create a new [\\$30-35 million park](#). Armand Vaillancourt's fountain, which is owned by the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) and among the most famous works in the 95-year-old artist's career, has been ill-maintained for years, its pumps don't function, and is currently fenced off. On August 18, 2025, [RPD General Manager Phil Ginsburg wrote](#) Chuck Collins, President of the SFAC, and Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs at the SFAC, urging the commission to deaccession the work claiming that the ultimate "removal" of the fountain is necessary, in part, to "uphold responsible stewardship of civic assets." Had the city upheld "responsible stewardship" over the lifetime of this civic asset, it wouldn't be facing demolition. The arts commission bears final responsibility; as they consider this request, should they take the word of RPD?



Embarcadero Plaza, San Francisco, CA - Photo by Mark Johnson, 2025

As The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) [previously reported](#) in "[Maintenance Money Down the Drain at Embarcadero Plaza's Vaillancourt Fountain?](#)", RPD claimed the fountain has "historically required extensive, near-daily maintenance," and that has "averaged approximately \$100,000 per year, inclusive of documented labor costs, travel and equipment time, material handling, and additional support activities which reflect tens of thousands of cumulative labor hours." On August 5, [TCLF requested](#) "documentation covering the period from the fountain's creation in 1971 to the present day to support the claim." The [response TCLF received](#) on August 18, a copy of an email dated [May 4, 2025](#), from RPD Director of Operations, Eric Andersen, does not go back to 1971. Instead, it only covers a five-year period—June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2024—showing total labor costs of \$213,341.16. An additional breakdown for the period June 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025, showed total expenditures of \$15,185.37. So, in reality, the six-year total is some \$228,526.53—far from \$100,000 per year—actually it's roughly \$38,100 annually. And the "tens of thousands of cumulative labor hours," only adds up to 1,578 hours – which is 263 hours annually or slightly more than five hours weekly. Remember this is the justification RPD provided in response to TCLF's inquiry.

The numbers, as they say, don't add up. So, what accounts for the inaccurate estimated maintenance costs—inflated by more than 250%—and vastly overstated cumulative labor hours? Moreover, does this call into question other data RPD and city officials are using in their aggressive campaign to demolish Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain? And is this seemingly errant data being used by RPD in their efforts to convince the SFAC to deaccession the fountain to make way for its demolition?

It's also worth noting that the email of [May 4, 2025](#), does offer this caveat (and another thread worth tugging): "All of this needs to be taken with a grain of salt if we are generating a cost estimate." Um ... understatement. And it continues: "**This doesn't include certain scopes of work** that we might need to add, including fountain cleaning, **which I believe that Boston Properties was performing**, and any work from our custodial and gardening staff" [emphasis added].

Boston Properties, now known as BXP, is "the largest publicly traded developer, owner, and manager of premier workplaces in the United States," according to its [website](#); significantly, they are the owners of Embarcadero Center, a complex of office towers immediately adjacent to the threatened plaza and fountain. BXP has also offered to raise some \$10 million of the money needed for the new park that would replace Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain. In fact, the owners of Embarcadero Center have been involved with the fountain's maintenance in what was then known as H. Justin Herman Plaza since at least 1978, according to the Minutes of [December 14, 1978](#) of what was then known as the Recreation and Park Commission.

Here's the next thread to pull: What agreement(s) did the owners of Embarcadero Center have with the city to maintain the Vaillancourt Fountain? Was this monitored? If the owners of Embarcadero Center didn't meet their obligations, how were the terms enforced? And which city agency was responsible for the enforcement? The current state of the fountain would point to inadequate maintenance and if BXP bears some or a lot of that responsibility. If so, have they then created through inadequate maintenance the very problem they seek to "solve" through the demolition of the fountain, a solution the majority costs of which the public would bear?

Embarcadero Plaza, San Francisco, CA - Photo courtesy Docomomo US/NOCA, 2025

The future of the Vaillancourt Fountain is now in the hands of the arts commission. To the extent that maintenance was outsourced, it would appear the work was neither properly done (or done at all) nor monitored. Commission members should carefully scrutinize the data provided by RPD to support deaccessioning, as RPD's claims don't always stand up to scrutiny. The commission must also consider the California Art Preservation Act (California Civil Code §987) which states: "the physical alteration or destruction of fine art, which is an expression of the artist's personality, is detrimental to the artist's reputation, and artists therefore have an interest in protecting their works of fine art against any alteration or destruction; and that there is also a public interest in preserving the integrity of cultural and artistic creation."

The Vaillancourt Fountain did not cause its current condition; that responsibility is shared by the commission itself and the parties to which the maintenance was outsourced: RPD and BXP. If the commission is to "uphold responsible stewardship of civic assets," it must not absolve itself and excuse RPD and BXP; rather, the fountain should be rehabilitated.

Write the San Francisco Arts Commission and urge them to reject the request by the RPD to deaccession the Vaillancourt Fountain and, instead, call for its rehabilitation. In addition, please cc Mayor Daniel Lurie and Supervisor Danny Sauter, whose district includes Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain (NOTE: TCLF is continuing to file records requests).

Chuck Collins, President
San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Ave., #325
San Francisco, CA 94102
T: 415-252-2266
E: charles.collins1@sfgov.org

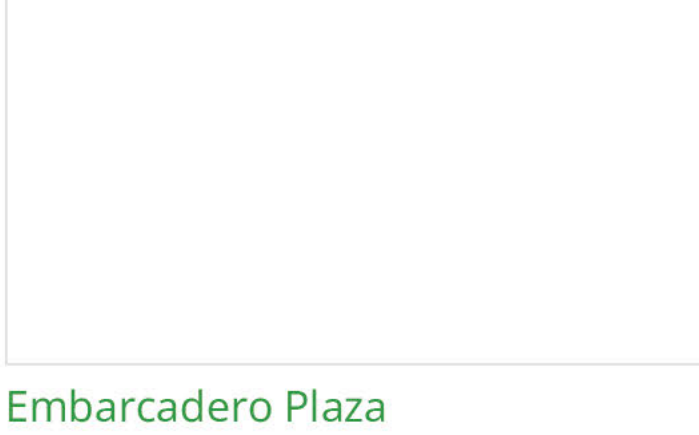
Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs
San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Ave., #325
San Francisco, CA 94102
T: 415-252-2266
E: art-info@sfgov.org

Mayor Daniel Lurie
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
T: (415) 554-6153
E: daniel.lurie@sfgov.org

Supervisor Danny Sauter
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
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E: SauterStaff@sfgov.org

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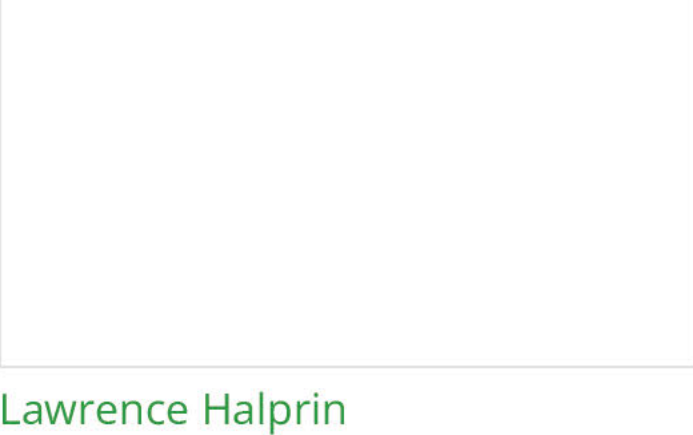
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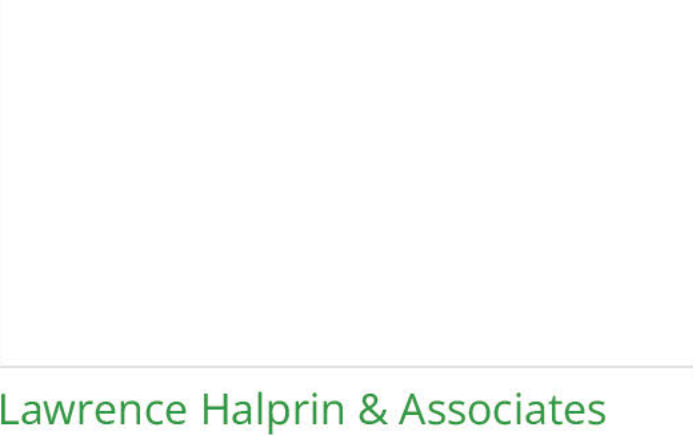
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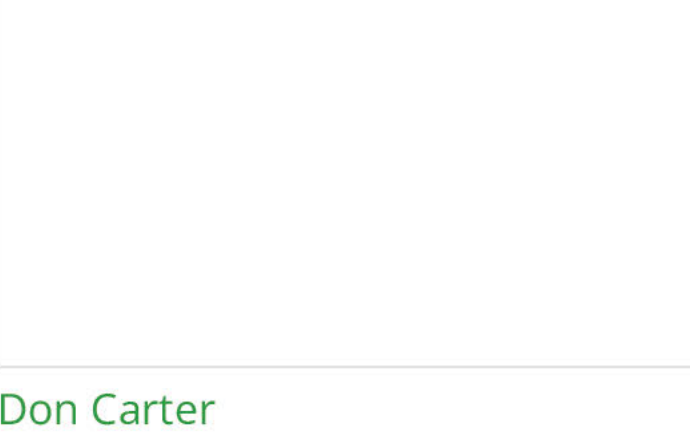
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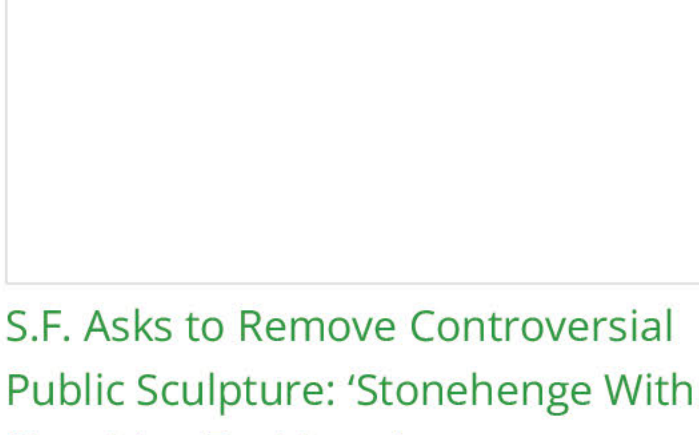


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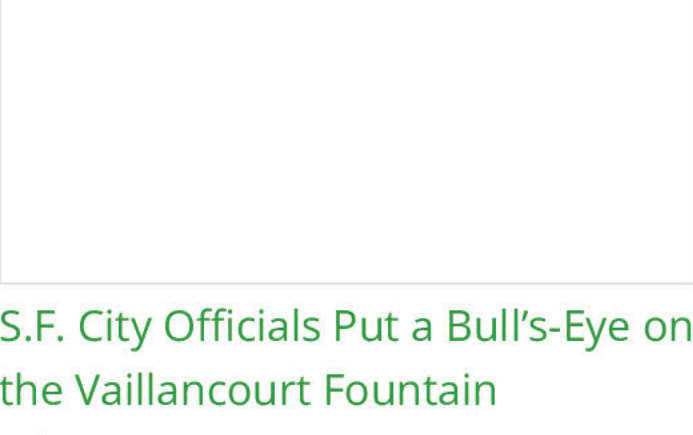


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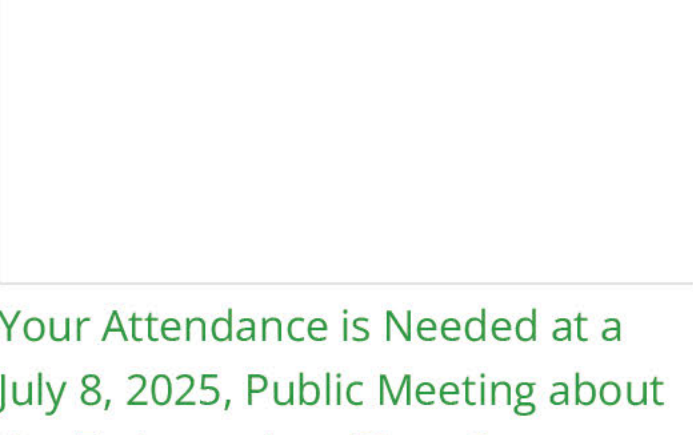
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S.F. City Officials Put a Bull's-Eye on the Vaillancourt Fountain

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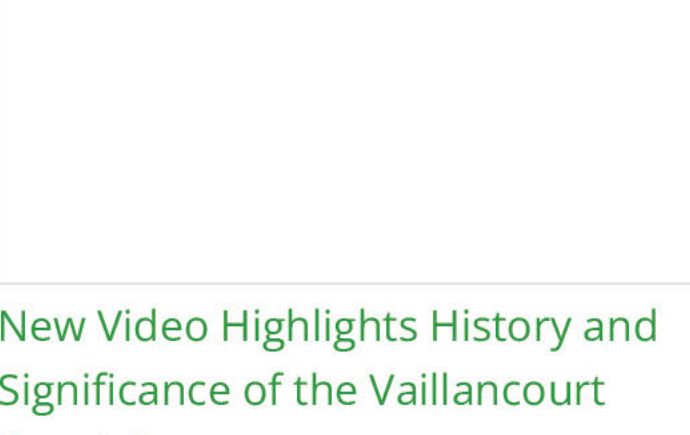
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Your Attendance is Needed at a July 8, 2025, Public Meeting about the Embarcadero Plaza & Vaillancourt Fountain

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1. **RPD had inflated the average annual budget by 250%**
2. **The “tens of thousands of cumulative labor hours” is actually 1,578.**

Even if these numbers are “to be taken with a grain of salt,” as RPD’s Director of Operations Eric Andersen cautioned in a [memo accompanying](#) the estimates, **they vastly exceed a rounding error.**

This is the same RPD that [said in June 205](#) the cost to restore the Vaillancourt Fountain was \$12 to \$17 million and [two months later said](#) it’s actually \$29 million (and portentously warns this would consume nearly all of the \$30-35 million needed for a proposed new park).

Absent an audit by a neutral third party, the RPD’s restoration estimate should be treated with extreme skepticism.

In addition, the public forums run by RPD soliciting input about proposals for Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain only offered a *tabula rasa* approach and **did not present the public with a rehabilitation option.** Consequently, any representations by RPD about what the public wants are fundamentally flawed and woefully incomplete. The public’s choices have been deliberately limited.

TCLF has been advocating on behalf of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain since 2016 when the site was included in a [traveling photographic exhibition](#) about Lawrence Halprin’s legacy organized by TCLF; the exhibition debuted at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., and was hosted at the Palace of Fine Arts in 2017. Sadly, since then the fountain and plaza’s condition has deteriorated because of insufficient maintenance. Nevertheless, while its condition is diminished, its integrity is very high. Indeed, TCLF continues to advocate for listing the plaza and fountain in the National Register of Historic Places.

Even in its diminished physical condition, there is no other place in the world like Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain. None.

They are immediately identifiable with the city and emblematic of its distinct and remarkable spirit. The publicly available renderings of the proposed replacement are trite, generic, and lacking in imagination—a kit of parts devoid of artistic value and civic gravitas, and unworthy of the City of San Francisco.

On behalf of TCLF, I respectfully urge the Commissioners not to fall prey to the false choices and suspect data being provided by RPD and to the misguided notion that demolition is *a fait accompli*.

Please heed the example of the City of Minneapolis and work with stakeholders to support a rehabilitation of this nationally significant work of art. TCLF stands ready to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR

09/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

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Sincerely,



Yim Ratchadejpaiboon
Office Manager
Osha Thai Embarcadero Inc

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

09/12/2025

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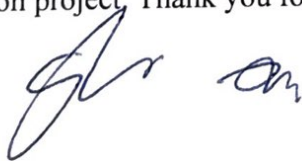
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Sincerely,



Jessica Daorueng
General Manager
Osha Thai Embarcadero Inc

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

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Sincerely,



Paul A. Hinz
Vice President & Division Manager

09/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,



Paul Vongjarit
Managing Director
Osha Thai Embarcadero Inc

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

James Reuben

jreuben@reubenlaw.com

September 12, 2025

Delivered Via Email (manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org)

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325 (War Memorial Veterans Building)
San Francisco, CA 94102

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The Vaillancourt Fountain, however, stands as a significant barrier to achieving these shared objectives. Its imposing concrete structure fragments the plaza, restricts pedestrian flow, and limits the potential for flexible event spaces that are essential to a dynamic downtown. Furthermore, the fountain's deteriorating condition poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges, failing to meet modern standards for inclusivity and sustainability. The estimated \$29 million cost to restore it—nearly the entire project budget—diverts critical resources from the community-driven vision championed by Mayor Lurie's plan.

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San Francisco Arts Commission

September 12, 2025

Page 2

We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Very truly yours,

REUBEN, JUNIUS & ROSE, LLP



James Reuben

Enclosures:

cc: Aaron Fenton

September 13, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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Sincerely,


Rachel Masory
Golden Gate Capital

 floor

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

September 13, 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

**Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt FountainBierman
parkbierman park**

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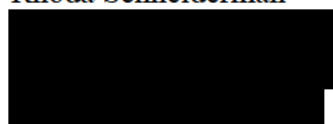
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Sincerely,

Rhoda Schneiderman



CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Christopher T. Roeder
Vice Chairman



One Front Street, Suite 2100
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 395 – 4971 Tel
Chris.roeder@jll.com

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Sincerely,


Christopher T. Roeder
Jones Lang LaSalle

[DATE]

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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Sincerely,

Jay Schrader
2303 Sacramento St, San Francisco, CA 94115

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

DANNY SAUTER

September 15, 2025

VIA EMAIL

San Francisco Arts Commission
War Memorial Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear President Collins and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the redesign of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park and the proposed deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain so that the project can move forward.

In many ways, the space once activated by the fountain has now been deactivated by it. More than 50 years after the Vaillancourt Fountain was installed, the physical environment and financial circumstances have significantly changed. The freeway that contextualized it no longer exists, and the tubes that once pumped water through the sculpture have broken down.

Extensive independent analysis has confirmed the considerable challenges posed by the fountain's current condition. Its infrastructure contains hazardous materials and it fails to meet modern seismic safety standards. The estimated cost of restoration—\$29 million—comes at a time when the City faces significant budget constraints and has had to make difficult decisions impacting core services. In the absence of a viable private funding source to undertake such a costly rehabilitation, it would not be fiscally responsible to proceed with restoration.

The Vaillancourt Fountain has fulfilled its original aspiration of being an oasis for relaxation and creative inspiration against a hectic and imposing freeway. Honoring the same spirit of placemaking today means constructing a revitalized, reimagined plaza that is compatible with the current surroundings and responds to modern-day recreational preferences.

For months the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has undertaken meaningful community engagement to transform the underutilized five acres of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park into a connected, welcoming, resilient public space that links the city to the bay. The community expressed wanting better flow and circulation through an open green space and seamless transition to the waterfront.

Unfortunately, the Vaillancourt Fountain presents significant barriers to achieving these goals. It disrupts circulation, limits event space potential, and poses serious safety, environmental, and accessibility challenges.

Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain would best serve the people of San Francisco today and for generations to come. There is widespread support for this course of action, as seen by the endorsements of the Barbary Coast Neighborhood Association and the Golden Gateway Tenants Association. But let's plan for the future while respecting our past. I urge City agencies to explore ways to honor Armand Vaillancourt, Lawrence Halprin, and the plaza's history by incorporating a commemorative plaque or an exhibit perhaps featuring a piece of the original fountain in the park's future iteration.

Sincerely,



Danny Sauter
District 3 Supervisor

September 14 2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

Subject: Urgent Support for Deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain

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We respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession, aligning with Mayor Lurie's "Heart of the City" initiative and ensuring the success of this historic revitalization project. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Thomson
Managing Director
Guy Carpenter
4 Embarcadero Center
SF CA 94111

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Date: 9/12/2025

To: manraj.dhaliwal@sfgov.org; ART-Info@sfgov.org

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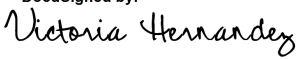
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Thank you for your leadership and dedication to San Francisco's vibrant future.

Sincerely,

Signature

DocuSigned by:

B4C7938D0FD5466...

Name

victoria Hernandez

Your Address, Affiliation, or Stakeholder Group

[REDACTED]

CC: Afenton@bxp.com

Dear President Collins and Esteemed Commissioners,

As President of FITNESS SF, representing thousands of members committed to health, wellness, and active living throughout San Francisco, I passionately urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to support the deaccession of the Vaillancourt Fountain as a critical step in the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project.

The Vaillancourt Fountain was designed to solve a problem that no longer exists. Created in 1971 to mask the noise and visual blight of the double-deck Embarcadero Freeway, it served its purpose for two decades. But the freeway was demolished in 1991—over 30 years ago. As HOK's Brian Jencek correctly observes, "The plaza and fountain were designed for a different era" and now create unnecessary barriers to waterfront access and community wellness.

A thriving waterfront wellness destination at the foot of Market Street, right in front of the Ferry Building, would showcase San Francisco as a city that prioritizes health, community, and active living—values that attract the residents and businesses essential to Mayor Lurie's downtown revitalization vision. First-time visitors and new residents would discover San Francisco through a vibrant community space rather than a stark, underutilized plaza dominated by deteriorating concrete.

The proposed "Platform Park" concept offers precisely what our fitness community has long advocated: diverse spaces serving multiple public needs. The planned amenities—a large lawn for outdoor fitness classes and community wellness events, a bandshell stage for active programming, a dog run promoting pet-owner exercise, and the preserved children's playground—create a comprehensive wellness ecosystem currently impossible with the fountain's imposing presence.

As proof of concept, FITNESS SF currently offers free outdoor exercise classes at Salesforce Park, which have become the most popular offerings at the park. The yoga classes often attract over a hundred participants. Similar programming at Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park would likely see the same level of success.

Our Fitness SF members are particularly excited about the potential for:

- Large lawn spaces perfect for group fitness classes with stunning bay views
- Flexible event space that could host wellness fairs, running club meetups, and fitness demonstrations
- Safe, family-friendly areas encouraging multi-generational activity
- Enhanced connectivity, creating a true 5-acre wellness destination
- A world-class park that positions San Francisco as a leader in urban wellness

The stark reality today is that even ferry commuters walk past this prime waterfront space daily without engaging because the obsolete design prevents meaningful use. The estimated \$29 million to restore a fountain built to hide freeway noise would be far better invested in creating the kind of destination that supports both community health and economic recovery—core goals of Mayor Lurie's transformative plan.

With strong mayoral leadership, private sector investment commitment, and clear community need, deaccessioning the Vaillancourt Fountain is essential to creating the world-class wellness destination our city deserves. Let's complete the urban renewal begun with the freeway removal and build a space worthy of San Francisco's magnificent waterfront.

On behalf of Fitness SF and our thousands of members who believe in accessible public spaces that encourage active lifestyles, I respectfully implore the Commission to act decisively in favor of deaccession. Downtown is being taken seriously under Mayor Lurie's leadership—let's ensure this transformation succeeds.

Thank you for your leadership in prioritizing community health and San Francisco's active future.

Sincerely,



Zsolt Jackovics
President, FITNESS SF

do.co.mo.mo_us_noca

Reissued: October 3, 2025

Original: September 19, 2025

San Francisco, California, U.S.

Board of Supervisors

City & County of San Francisco

% Danny Sauter, Supervisor District 3

SauterStaff@sfgov.org, board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org

Office of the Mayor

City & County of San Francisco

% Daniel Lurie, Mayor

daniel.lurie@sfgov.org

Recreation and Park Department

City & County of San Francisco

% Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

% Sarah Madland, Director of Policy and Public Affairs

phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org, sarah.madland@sfgov.org, recpark.commission@sfgov.org

Arts Commission

City & County of San Francisco

% Chuck Collins, President

charles.collins1@sfgov.org, art-info@sfgov.org

Historic Preservation Commission

City & County of San Francisco

% Diane Matsuda, President

diane.matsuda@sfgov.org, commissions.secretary@sfgov.org

BXP, Inc. (Boston Properties Limited Partnership)

% Aaron Fenton, Senior Vice-President

afenton@bxp.com

Downtown San Francisco Partnership

% Robbie Silver, President & CEO

rsilver@downtownsf.org, info@downtownsf.org

Re: Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Une version française commence sur la page 8.

To Whom It May Concern,

While some of our groups have discussed this project with you individually, we are writing to demonstrate the broad consensus of local, national, and international groups around a singular core principle: **Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be retained and rehabilitated for present and future residents and visitors.**

Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain were conceived as San Francisco's downtown was being transformed into a Modern, post-World War II city. This project was made possible by a confluence of post-war prosperity, federal funding for urban renewal, and the conviction among city leaders that high-quality art and public spaces could be accessible to everyone. World-renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin designed the Plaza, and noted Québécois sculptor Armand Vaillancourt's design for the Fountain was selected through a high-profile international design competition that pre-dated and inspired our modern percent-for-art programs.

As with nearly all Halprin landscapes, the integration of movement was created with water, and the Vaillancourt Fountain was selected for its powerful artistic vision and its core belief in the importance of public participation, interaction, and discovery. Halprin's initial inspiration for Embarcadero Plaza was the Spanish plazas and Italian piazzas that have stood for hundreds of years, serving as town squares, gathering spaces, dining areas, celebratory forums, and places of assembly for free expression.

Is that not the stated objective of this renovation?

To fully redevelop this plaza would be to announce to the world that San Francisco has yet to learn how to build and maintain world-class public spaces, something that was achieved by ancient civilizations, yet remains elusive for this modern city.

We—including the artist himself—reject the repeated misrepresentations and negligent treatment of the Vaillancourt Fountain. The artwork, which represents a small but mighty ~2.5% of the total area of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park, was not conceived as a single-purpose object to contrast a freeway. It was created as a freestanding, abstract sculpture intended for interpretation, interaction, and emotional response. As with all significant art, it continues to evolve and adapt, as both it and its audience change. The Fountain has been controversial since its inception—a quality that is a *feature, not a flaw*. It has always been intended to be a point of dialogue and engagement, to say otherwise is to ignore its history and the artist's intent.

The Fountain, originally titled “*Québec Libre!*”, is the artist's only public U.S. artwork. Not only is it San Francisco's most recognizable public art, it is quite literally one-of-a-kind. Furthermore, as its original name suggests, it explores ideas of political and personal freedom, and was created at a time when the artist offered his studio as a safe haven for Native American demonstrators associated with the occupation of Alcatraz Island (1969-1971). Vaillancourt's art is deeply representative of his beliefs in social engagement, human rights, and political activism, and the Fountain has served as a fitting reminder of these values in one of the city's primary sites for public discourse, political protests, and civic gathering.

The [San Francisco Arts Commission](#) states that:

“The mission of the Civic Art Collection is to promote a rich, diverse and stimulating cultural environment in order to enrich the lives of the city's residents, visitors and employees, and to enhance the city's image both nationally and internationally.”

As a coalition of local, national, and international groups representing not only San Francisco residents, but also artists, preservationists, architects, tourists, historians, academics, professionals, and government interests from *around the world*, **we affirm that both Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain directly further this mission.**

These landmarks are *already* internationally recognized, fulfilling San Francisco's desire to elevate these spaces to world-class status. Removing them would *diminish* the city's image both nationally and internationally.

When Lawrence Halprin created Embarcadero Plaza, he looked to Europe for inspiration. His experiences studying European cities established his love of pedestrian-oriented public spaces and informed his signature design approach. European plazas like [Venice's Piazza San Marco](#), [Brussels' Grand-Place](#), [London's Trafalgar Square](#), [Prague's Old Town Square](#), [Siena's Piazza del Campo](#), [Madrid's Plaza Mayor](#), and [Vatican City's St. Peter's Square](#), among so many others, illustrate the long-term success of these adaptable pedestrian spaces.

These successful, timeless spaces share key features: durable hardscaping, numerous paths of travel, and immense flexibility. They largely lack the programmatic elements proposed for this renovation, such as dedicated picnic areas, dog parks, donor recognition area, or a central stage. World-class public spaces are defined by their adaptability, not by prescribed activities. We, who have global expertise in the matter, can assure you that these features will *not* result in a world-class park, for world-class spaces do *not* have them.

We recognize that, naturally, there will be debate over what retention and rehabilitation would look like. We embrace and encourage this debate, which is a sign of a healthy democracy. Not everything can—or should—be preserved. A healthy urban environment requires a mixture of historic and new. However, the current process seems designed to minimize debate, favoring a blank-slate approach that erases a significant layer of San Francisco's history and values. This raises several serious questions.

On a local level, unanswered questions permeate the project. Why focus only on Embarcadero Plaza North and Sue Bierman Park East and avoid sharing the potential “Phase 2” that encompasses some or all of the remaining four acres? What prompted the lack of disclosure of one of the oldest public-private park partnerships in San Francisco's history, that in 1979 the city said “...set a noble example to the entire community by being the first major corporation to *“Adopt A Park”* in San Francisco”? Why not collaborate with experts and willing volunteers to right-size the budget and use existing public art and space to meet the needs of residents and support downtown's economic recovery?

These and numerous other unanswered questions lead to our fundamental request: **The future of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain must be determined in the San Francisco tradition; transparently, equitably, and factually, free of carefully steered narratives and revisionist history.**

As a coalition of local, national, and international groups committed to elevating global artwork and design in the context of San Francisco's unique heritage, we urge the Recreation and Park Department, the Project Governance Team, and all associated city agencies and partners to change course. We ask you to honor the city's history and **prioritize the retention and rehabilitation** of Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Respectfully,
Bob Pullum, Board Member, Docomomo US/NOCA,

On behalf of our esteemed organizational and individual partners.

Signatories

Armand Vaillancourt
and the Vaillancourt family

Keith Park, President
California Garden & Landscape History Society



Liz Waytkus, Executive Director
Todd Grover, VP Advocacy
Docomomo US

do.co.mo.mo_US®

Grethe Pontoppidan, Co-President
ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on
Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC 20C)



Jean-François Bélisle
Directeur général
Musée des beaux-arts du Canada



Todd Mayberry, Executive Director
San Francisco Historical Society



Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, President +
CEO
Nord Wennerstrom, Director of Communications
The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

The Cultural Landscape Foundation®
connecting people to places®

Daria Halprin and Rana Halprin
On behalf of the Halprin family

Cindy Heitzman, Executive Director
California Preservation Foundation



Chad DeWitt, Vice President
Bob Pullum, Camila Baum,
Petra Marar, Board Members
Docomomo US/Northern California

do.co.mo.mo_US_noca

Stéphan La Roche, Director
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal



Woody LaBounty
President & CEO
San Francisco Heritage



Priya Jain, Chair, Heritage Conservation Committee
Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)



About us (alphabetical)

Armand Vaillancourt and the Vaillancourt family

[Armand Vaillancourt](#) is a Québécois sculptor, painter, and performance artist in Canada. For over 60 years, he employed painting, sculpture, and performance to explore social and political issues. His works include: *Justice et Paix* (1986) in Wilfrid-Bastien Park, Saint-Léonard, Québec, *L'Enchantement* (2007) at Cirque du Soleil's International Headquarters in Montréal, *L'Éveil Collectif* in Gaspé, Québec, *Justice* (1980) on the grounds of the Québec Courthouse in Québec City, and *Québec Libre!* (now *Vaillancourt Fountain*), his only public U.S. artwork.

California Garden & Landscape History Society (CGLHS)

[California Garden and Landscape History Society](#) is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization devoted to celebrating the beauty and diversity of California's historic gardens and landscapes; promoting wider knowledge, preservation, and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes; organizing study visits to historic gardens and landscapes as well as to relevant archives and libraries; and offering opportunities for a lively interchange among members at meetings, garden visits and other events. The Society organizes annual conferences and publishes *Eden*, a quarterly newsletter. Contact us: info@cglhs.org.

California Preservation Foundation (CPF)

The California Preservation Foundation (CPF) is a 501(c)(3) membership-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting California's diverse historic and cultural resources through advocacy, education, and community engagement. For over 46 years, CPF has led statewide efforts to preserve and rehabilitate historic sites, trained thousands of professionals and volunteers, and built a strong network of advocates committed to ensuring preservation remains a vital part of California's future. Contact us: cpf@californiapreservation.org.

Docomomo US

[Docomomo US](#) is a national non-profit organization that advocates for the preservation of Modern architecture, landscapes and design. It is led by a national Board of Directors and staff that represents a union of regional chapters. Docomomo US was founded in the United States in 1995 and is a committee of Docomomo International. Docomomo US' mission is pushing boundaries to preserve modern architecture, landscapes, and design through principled advocacy, collaboration, and celebration. Contact us: info@docomomo-us.org.

Docomomo US/Northern California (NOCA)

[Docomomo US/Northern California](#) is a nonprofit membership organization that promotes the study, interpretation, documentation, and protection of the architecture, landscape, and urban design of the Modern Movement in Northern California. Docomomo is an acronym for the DOcumentation and CONservation of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods of the MODern MOVement. Founded in 1996, Docomomo US/NOCA is one of twenty regional chapters of Docomomo US. Contact us: info@docomomo-noca.org.

ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C)

[ISC20C](#) is ICOMOS' expert scientific committee, dedicated to conserving and celebrating 20th-century heritage most at risk from lack of recognition, and driving its protection through research, advocacy, and policy. The [International Council on Monuments and Sites \(ICOMOS\)](#) is a non-governmental organisation working to conserve and protect cultural heritage sites around the world founded in 1965. [Contact us](#).

Lawrence Halprin and the Halprin family

[Lawrence Halprin](#) (1916-2009) was an American landscape architect, designer, and teacher. Halprin was awarded numerous honors such as the American Institute of Architects Medal for Allied Professions (1964), Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects ASLA Design Medal (2003), American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1978), the University of Virginia Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture (1979), and the National Medal of Arts (2002), the nation's highest honor for an artist. Halprin published several books including *RSVP Cycles*, *Taking Part*, *Cities*, *Freeways*, and *Notebooks*.

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC)

The [Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal](#) was founded in 1964 by the Québec government, at the instigation of artists and collectors who wanted to see an institution established to build a collection of contemporary works by artists from Montréal, Québec, Canada and around the world. Canada's premier museum dedicated exclusively to contemporary art, the MAC is committed to demonstrating the fundamental role played by contemporary art in our society. With a history that already spans half a century, the Musée pursues its mission with ever greater conviction: to make known, promote and preserve Québec contemporary art and ensure a place for international contemporary art through acquisitions, exhibitions and other activities. Contact us: relations.presse@macm.org.

Musée des beaux-arts du Canada (National Gallery of Canada)

Founded in 1880, the National Gallery of Canada is among the world's most respected art institutions. As a national museum, we exist to serve all Canadians, no matter where they live. We do this by sharing our collection, exhibitions and public programming widely. We create dynamic experiences that allow for new ways of seeing ourselves and each other through the visual arts, while centering Indigenous ways of knowing and being. Our mandate is to develop, preserve and present a collection for the learning and enjoyment of all—now and for generations to come. We are home to more than [90,000 works](#), including one of the finest collections of Indigenous and Canadian art, major works from the 14th to the 21st century and extensive library and archival holdings. Contact us: info@gallery.ca.

Fondé en 1880, le Musée des beaux-arts du Canada compte parmi les institutions artistiques les plus respectées au monde. En tant que musée national, notre raison d'être est de servir toutes les Canadiennes et tous les Canadiens, où qu'ils vivent. Pour ce faire, nous partageons largement notre collection, nos expositions et notre programmation publique. Nous créons des expériences dynamiques qui permettent de nouvelles façons de nous voir et de voir les autres à travers les arts visuels, tout en mettant l'accent sur les façons autochtones de savoir et d'être. Notre mandat consiste à développer, préserver et présenter une collection pour l'apprentissage et le plaisir de toutes et tous — aujourd'hui et pour les générations à venir. Nous abritons plus de [90 000 œuvres](#), dont l'une des plus belles collections d'art autochtone et canadien, des œuvres majeures du 14^e au 21^e siècle, ainsi que de vastes fonds de bibliothèque et d'archives. Nous joindre: info@beaux-arts.ca.

San Francisco Heritage (SF Heritage)

[San Francisco Heritage \(SF Heritage\)](#) is a nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and enhance San Francisco's unique architectural and cultural identity. Since 1971, SF Heritage has protected the city in the face of rapid change. This includes advocacy for historic resources, educational programming, and the preservation and interpretation of two landmark properties. Contact us: info@sfheritage.org.

San Francisco Historical Society (SFHS)

SFHS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization devoted to bringing together San Francisco's past, present and future. SFHS has more than 2,000 members and fulfills its mission of preserving Bay Area history through a broad spectrum of programs and special events, such as monthly presentations, guided history walks, the Barbary Coast Trail and the annual Awards Luncheon.

The Society produces two publications: [The Argonaut](#), a beautiful journal featuring photographs and in-depth reviews of our city's history; and [Panorama](#), a quarterly newsletter for members that features upcoming programs and events of interest to our members. Contact us: info@sfhistory.org.

Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

The [Society of Architectural Historians](#) (SAH) promotes the study, interpretation, and conservation of architecture, design, landscapes, and urbanism worldwide for the benefit of all. Founded at Harvard University in 1940, the Society of Architectural Historians is a nonprofit membership organization that serves an international network of institutions and individuals who, by profession or interest, focus on the history of the built environment and its role in shaping contemporary life. Contact us: info@sah.org.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation® (TCLF)

[The Cultural Landscape Foundation](#) (TCLF), is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1998 to connect people to places. TCLF educates and engages the public to make our shared landscape heritage more visible, identify its value, and empower its stewards. Through its [website](#), publishing, lectures, and other events, TCLF broadens support and understanding for cultural landscapes. TCLF is also home to the [Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize](#). Contact us: info@tclf.org.

Re: Projet de rénovation de l'Embarcadero Plaza et du parc Sue Bierman

À qui de droit,

Certains de nos groupes se sont déjà entretenus avec vous individuellement au sujet de ce projet, mais nous vous écrivons aujourd'hui afin de témoigner du large consensus existant — au niveau local, national et international — autour d'un principe fondamental : **l'Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt doivent être conservés et restaurés pour les générations actuelles et futures, qu'il s'agisse de résidents ou de visiteurs.**

L'Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt ont vu le jour à une époque où le centre-ville de San Francisco se transformait pour devenir une métropole moderne d'après-guerre. Ce projet a été rendu possible grâce à la prospérité de l'époque, au financement fédéral pour la rénovation urbaine et à la conviction des dirigeants municipaux que l'art et les espaces publics de qualité devaient être accessibles à tous. Le célèbre architecte-paysagiste Lawrence Halprin a conçu la Plaza, et le sculpteur québécois Armand Vaillancourt a remporté le concours international organisé pour la conception de la fontaine, un projet qui a précédé et inspiré les programmes modernes de type « un pour cent pour l'art ».

Comme dans la quasi-totalité des réalisations d'Halprin, l'eau y joue un rôle central, et la fontaine de Vaillancourt fut retenue pour la puissance de sa vision artistique et sa conviction profonde de l'importance de la participation, de l'interaction et de la découverte du public. L'inspiration initiale d'Halprin pour l'Embarcadero Plaza venait des plazas espagnoles et des piazzas italiennes, qui depuis des siècles servent de lieux de rassemblement, de célébration, de repas en plein air et d'expression publique.

N'est-ce pas là l'objectif déclaré de la rénovation actuelle ?

Réaménager entièrement cette place reviendrait à envoyer un message clair : San Francisco n'a pas encore appris à créer et entretenir des espaces publics de calibre mondial, alors que d'autres civilisations y sont parvenues depuis longtemps.

Nous — y compris l'artiste lui-même — rejetons les déformations et la négligence répétées dont la Fontaine Vaillancourt a été victime. Cette œuvre, qui représente environ 2,5 % de la superficie totale de l'Embarcadero Plaza et du parc Sue Bierman, n'a jamais été pensée comme un objet unique destiné à contraster avec une autoroute. Elle a été conçue comme une sculpture abstraite, autonome, vouée à l'interprétation, à l'interaction et à l'émotion. Comme toute œuvre majeure, elle continue d'évoluer et de s'adapter avec le temps et avec son public. Depuis sa création, la fontaine suscite la controverse — mais cette controverse, loin de la diminuer, est au cœur de son rôle : provoquer le dialogue et susciter l'engagement. Dire le contraire, c'est ignorer son histoire et l'intention de son créateur.

La fontaine, initialement intitulée « Québec Libre! », demeure l'unique installation publique de l'artiste aux États-Unis. Elle est non seulement l'œuvre artistique la plus reconnaissable de San Francisco, mais aussi une œuvre littéralement unique. Son titre d'origine souligne qu'elle explore les idées de liberté politique et personnelle, dans un contexte où l'artiste offrait parallèlement son atelier comme refuge à des militants autochtones associés à l'occupation de l'île d'Alcatraz (1969-1971). L'art de Vaillancourt est intimement lié à ses engagements sociaux, à la défense des droits humains et à l'activisme politique. La fontaine est donc un rappel vivant de ces valeurs, au cœur même d'un lieu qui est depuis toujours un espace majeur de discours public, de manifestations politiques et de rassemblements citoyens.

[La Commission des arts de San Francisco](#) affirme que :

« La mission de la collection d'art civique est de promouvoir un environnement culturel riche, diversifié et stimulant afin d'enrichir la vie des résidents, des visiteurs et des employés de la ville, et d'améliorer l'image de la ville tant à l'échelle nationale qu'internationale. »

En tant que coalition regroupant des acteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux — incluant des artistes, des défenseurs du patrimoine, des architectes, des historiens, des universitaires, des professionnels, des touristes et des organismes gouvernementaux — **nous affirmons que l’Embarcadero Plaza et la Fontaine Vaillancourt contribuent directement à cette mission.**

Ces lieux sont déjà reconnus à l’échelle internationale et permettent à San Francisco de revendiquer un statut de ville de calibre mondial. Leur suppression aurait l’effet inverse : elle affaiblirait gravement l’image de la ville, tant aux États-Unis qu’à l’étranger.

Lorsque Lawrence Halprin a imaginé l’Embarcadero Plaza, il s’est inspiré de ses expériences européennes. Il y avait étudié et observé la force des espaces publics piétonniers, qui ont façonné son approche de conception. Les places emblématiques comme [la Piazza San Marco à Venise](#), [la Grand-Place de Bruxelles](#), [Trafalgar Square à Londres](#), [la Place de la Vieille Ville de Prague](#), [la Piazza del Campo à Sienne](#), [la Plaza Mayor à Madrid](#) ou [la Place Saint-Pierre du Vatican](#) démontrent que ces espaces, adaptables et durables, continuent à prospérer depuis des siècles.

Ces lieux intemporels partagent des caractéristiques essentielles : une grande durabilité, une multiplicité de parcours et une flexibilité remarquable. À l’inverse, ils ne se définissent pas par des équipements figés comme des aires de pique-nique dédiées, des parcs à chiens, des zones de reconnaissance de donateurs ou une scène centrale. Les espaces publics de classe mondiale se distinguent par leur capacité d’adaptation, et non par une programmation rigide. Nous, qui avons une expertise mondiale en la matière, pouvons affirmer que les caractéristiques proposées dans le projet actuel ne créeront pas un espace de calibre international.

Nous reconnaissons que le débat est légitime et nécessaire sur ce que devraient être la conservation et la restauration. Tout ne peut pas — et ne doit pas — être préservé. Un tissu urbain vivant exige un équilibre entre l’ancien et le nouveau. Mais le processus actuel semble conçu pour limiter le débat, au profit d’une approche de table rase qui efface une couche essentielle de l’histoire et des valeurs de San Francisco. Cela soulève des questions fondamentales : Pourquoi concentrer uniquement les efforts sur la partie nord de l’Embarcadero Plaza et l’est du parc Sue Bierman, en omettant la « Phase 2 » potentielle qui couvre les quatre acres restants ? Pourquoi ne pas avoir divulgué l’existence d’un des premiers partenariats public-privé de parcs de San Francisco, créé en 1979 et salué à l’époque comme « un noble exemple pour l’ensemble de la communauté » ? Pourquoi ne pas collaborer avec des experts et des bénévoles prêts à travailler à la redéfinition du budget, en s’appuyant sur l’art public et les infrastructures déjà en place, pour mieux répondre aux besoins des résidents et soutenir la relance économique du centre-ville ?

Ces questions, et bien d’autres encore, renforcent notre appel central : **l’avenir de l’Embarcadero Plaza et de la Fontaine Vaillancourt doit être décidé dans la tradition démocratique de San Francisco — de manière transparente, équitable et fondée sur des faits, sans récits biaisés ni réécriture de l’histoire.**

En tant que coalition d’acteurs locaux, nationaux et internationaux, attachés à la valeur de l’art et du design dans le patrimoine unique de San Francisco, nous exhortons le Recreation and Park Department, l’équipe de gouvernance du projet et l’ensemble des partenaires de la Ville à changer de cap. Nous vous demandons d’honorer l’histoire de la ville et **de donner la priorité à la conservation et à la restauration** de l’Embarcadero Plaza et de la Fontaine Vaillancourt.

Respectueusement,

Bob Pullum

Membre du conseil d’administration, Docomomo US/NOCA
Au nom de nos partenaires organisationnels et individuels

The logo of the Society of Architectural Historians, featuring the text "SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS" in white, uppercase letters on a solid red rectangular background.

SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

29 September 2025

Charles Collins, President, and Commissioners
San Francisco Arts Commission
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 416
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Collins, and Commissioners:

[The Society of Architectural Historians \(SAH\)](#) joins a broad coalition of local, national, and international groups, including [Docomomo-US](#), [Docomomo-Northern California](#), [The Cultural Landscape Foundation \(TCLF\)](#) and others to strongly advocate for the preservation of the Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain in San Francisco, CA. We oppose the proposal to demolish these cultural resources as part of the *Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project*, and instead urge the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC), the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD), and District Supervisors to preserve Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain through adaptive reuse and project rightsizing.

As the leading scholarly organization for architectural historians in North America, SAH limits its advocacy to matters of national and international import. We assess such issues with rigor and deliberation, and do not speak without due consideration of a site's architectural and cultural significance. Design of the Embarcadero Plaza (1962-72) is credited to the world-renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin (1916–2009). Halprin is widely regarded as one of the most influential American landscape architects of the 20th century. As stated by The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), "Larry Halprin changed the profession of landscape architecture. Period."¹ During the twentieth century, and especially at a time when large urban projects were reshaping American cities, Halprin advocated for human-centric, dynamic landscapes that prioritized movement, participation, public access and environmental consciousness. Along with his associates, Don Carter, Mario J. Ciampi and John Bolles, Harpin envisioned Embarcadero Plaza as an integral part of a series of urban public spaces in the heart of San Francisco. Animating these spaces with art and sculpture was important to the design intent. Following an international design competition in 1967, noted Québécois sculptor, Armand Vaillancourt was selected to design the plaza fountain. The iconic and sculptural 40-foot fountain by Vaillancourt is a striking example of Brutalist ideals. In prior studies commissioned by the city of San Francisco, the plaza is noted as a contributing property within a larger significant Modern-era landscape (referred to as the Market Street Cultural Landscape District)², which is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.³ In 2024, the plazas was also noted in the *San Francisco Modern & Postmodern Architectural Styles (1960-2000) Historic Context Statement*.⁴

Together, the plaza and the fountain have architectural and historical significance, both within the context of San Francisco and at a national level. This project embodies the distinctive combination of water, public art and pedestrian space that is characteristic not only of Halprin's body of work but of modernist American plazas more broadly. **In short, San Francisco is fortunate for hosting this iconic site, and more importantly, responsible for its stewardship.**

Since opening in 1972, the Embarcadero Plaza and the Vaillancourt Fountain have been the place of public expression and participation. Vaillancourt Fountain has embodied freedom of expression and protest since its opening, when the designer Vaillancourt himself inscribed "Québec libre!" on it during its dedication, advocating for Québec independence.

This political expression, and numerous others since, including a free concert by the rock band U2 in 1987 that incited a debate about graffiti and artistic freedom, have made the site a symbol for continued public discourse and gathering. In the 1980s and 90s, the plaza played an important role in the development of skateboarding in San Francisco with impacts felt across the nation and beyond. Skater and art historian Ted Barrow notes that the plaza represents “the spiritual and historic heart of our [skateboarding] culture.”⁵

We recognize that historic places, however significant, need to change. And the Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain have done just that. A renovation of the plaza was completed in 1983. After surviving the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 and following the demolition of the damaged Embarcadero Freeway in 1991, the Fountain and Plaza found themselves in a changed urban context. Initial plans to remove the plaza and fountain in the 1990s were rejected and the plaza was renovated in 2001. A proposal to demolish the fountain in 2004 was again met with protests. We urge the San Francisco Arts Commission to recognize the enduring appeal of the Embarcadero Plaza and Vaillancourt Fountain, that has only increased with the passage of time. We are now better able to appreciate them as exemplary and unique examples of modernist and brutalist design that have an important role to play in our shared architectural and urban legacy. This history of change also reminds us that initial proposals can and *should be* reworked based on public feedback. Options should be explored to right-size the project and preserve significant historic features while making new modifications.

We join our colleagues at Docomomo/US/NOCA and TCLF in advocating for a transparent and inclusive public review process. The San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) and the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department (SFRPD) have the opportunity to make this already iconic architectural legacy into a state-of-the-art redevelopment project that values preservation and helps carry significant examples of our past into the future.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment and hope that the Commission will take these remarks into consideration as they deliberate on the future of this site.

Sincerely,

SAH Heritage Conservation Committee

Priya Jain, AIA (Chair)

Fallon Aidoo, Ph.D.

Kenneth Breisch, Ph.D.

Pushpita Eshika, Ph.D.

Yannick Etoundi

Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D.

Suha Hasan, Ph.D.

Başak Kalfa, Ph.D.

Mary Rzepczynski

Mohammad Gharipour, Ph.D. (ex-officio member)

Ben Thomas, Ph.D. (ex-officio member)

¹ “Introduction: The Landscape Architecture of Lawrence Halprin,” The Cultural Landscape Foundation. Accessed September 29, 2025.

<https://www.tclf.org/sites/default/files/microsites/halprinlegacy/introduction.html>

² San Francisco Planning Department, *Better Market Street Draft EIR, Vol. II*, “Market Street Cultural Landscape District.”

<https://sfmea.sfplanning.org/Better%20Market%20Street%20Draft%20EIR%20-%20Vol%20II.pdf>

³ Page & Turnbull, *Embarcadero Plaza Historic Resources Review (HRR) Report* (prepared for San Francisco Planning Department, April 28, 2025), 7.

⁴ Page & Turnbull, *San Francisco Modern & Postmodern Architectural Styles (1960-2000) Historic Context Statement* (prepared for San Francisco Planning Department, August 21, 2024), 184.

⁵ Ted Barrow, “Opinion: Embarcadero Plaza is a Living Shrine to Skateboarding History — Don’t Desecrate It,” *The San Francisco Standard*, August 15, 2024. <https://sfstandard.com/opinion/2024/08/15/skaters-mecca-embarcadero-plaza/>



In Support of the Vaillancourt Fountain at Embarcadero Plaza

My name is Gary Strang. I am a Fellow of the AIA as well as the ASLA. I have been practicing in San Francisco with a studio of 10-15 people since the early 1990s, addressing issues exactly like Vaillancourt Fountain that fall between the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture and urban design. For 15 years, my team worked on the relocation of the Exploratorium to Pier 15, where we were ultimately responsible for the two acres of public and semi-public waterfront outdoor space that has come to be known as the outdoor Exploratorium. I am the Vice Chair of the BCDC (Bay Conservation and Development Commission) Design Review Board where I have served for the last 10 years; these comments do not represent BCDC.

I am writing to express my opinion and deep concern regarding the impending demolition of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Great cities, the ones we choose to vacation in and to educate our children, are heavily activated by people precisely because they have accumulated many layers of architecture that record and represent significant and meaningful points in history. It would be shortsighted to wipe away this artifact which is an important product of the historic late 1960s era in the Bay Area. It represents a legacy of a unique community of influential designers, of which there were many besides Vaillancourt and Lawrence Halprin of Sea Ranch fame. A family tree of Halprin's office would show that an extraordinary number of architects, landscape architects and urban designers practicing locally and internationally today passed through or were trained by those who passed through Halprin's office at this time. Halprin is responsible for launching the career of San Francisco's own supergraphics inventor, Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, who was a mentor and friend for over 35 years.

The fountain is energetic and audacious in a way that is unlikely to be repeated in San Francisco's foreseeable future. Replacing it with lawn and trees would be a safe and uninteresting downgrade that erases the memory of the energy of San Francisco at that tumultuous and optimistic time, when the Embarcadero Freeway separated the downtown from the water's edge. Halprin was the first landscape architect to embrace cities and infrastructure in his work. He brought the same degree of intelligence to this design as he did to his other celebrated projects. The fountain masked the noise of the adjacent freeway and borrowed the blocky concrete forms of the freeway so that the sculpture would not be lost against the massive elevated structure. In traditional landscape design, this is referred to as "borrowed scenery." Importantly, the wall at the back of the fountain creates a strategically placed windbreak and a south-facing open space, dealing with the perennial issue of the Ferry Building outdoor space, which is the freezing wind.

In the hands of an equally bold and thoughtful contemporary designer, the sculpture could be incorporated into the new park design and reinvigorated in a contemporary way that need not require expensive pumps and chemicals. The concrete forms should be animated with water seasonally in a modest way that informs the design of the entire park by channeling our infrequent and heavier rains. When the Embarcadero is raised, creating a levee, drainage to the Bay will be impeded, and the basin could serve as a catchment area that is part of the contemporary solution. The mass of the fountain also provides an intermediate scale in the vastness of the Embarcadero open space between buildings; it frames the Ferry Building when

viewed from Market Street and it provides welcome perceptual separation from the traffic on the Embarcadero. San Francisco is only now recovering from the acknowledged mistakes of post war urban renewal, so it should not be controversial to acknowledge that buildings thought to be ugly or beyond repair are actually irreplaceable resources. Reuse is often more cost effective than building new if we calculate the long term costs and energy required to remove the foundations.

Vaillancourt's lifelong work is an act of free expression and resistance against oppression. He was outspoken in support of the native Americans who occupied Alcatraz during fountain construction. What does it say about the future of San Francisco as a leader in social and environmental issues to replace something provocative with rolling lawns? The fountain should serve as an historic anchor to whatever park improvements transpire. Instead of begrudging accommodating of the fountain with an unrelated design, as has been proposed, the park should be designed with the requirement that the fountain be fully integrated as a driver in the reinvigoration of the entire park. It would be a great loss to double down on the stylistic preferences of the moment and lose this history for future generations.

Sincerely



Gary Strang, FASLA, FAIA
Principal
GLS Landscape | Architecture

Please include this letter in the following public policy body meetings and public records, either for the date specified or the soonest scheduled.

*Arts Commission - Full Commission Meeting - November 3, 2025
Board of Supervisors Meeting - October 14, 2025
Arts Commission - Visual Arts Committee Meeting - October 15, 2025
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - October 15, 2025
Recreation and Park Commission Meeting - October 16, 2025*



West Bay Pilipino Multi Service Center

175 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 431 6266

www.westbaycenter.org

10/06/25

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of West Bay, I am writing to express our support for the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain to make way for a reimagined and renovated public space.

West Bay is San Francisco's longest-standing Filipino-American community-based organization. For over 50 years, we have served families, immigrants, and young people in the South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood. Today, our programs focus on children and youth—providing after-school enrichment, cultural programming, and family support services. Our mission is to create a safe, nurturing environment where children and families can thrive, while honoring the vibrant cultural heritage of our community.

From this perspective, we see firsthand how critical public spaces are to the health of families and children. Unfortunately, the Vaillancourt Fountain has long ceased to function as a welcoming gathering place. Its design, scale, and condition create barriers rather than opportunities for community life. For many families—especially those with young children—the space feels uninviting and disconnected from the needs of a diverse and growing San Francisco.

We understand the Vaillancourt Fountain's contribution into the beauty of San Francisco and are confident BXP will meaningfully incorporate elements of Vaillancourt's legacy into the renovation of the plaza. We want to highlight the role of BXP, the project sponsor, which has been a long-standing partner to West Bay. Over the years, BXP has demonstrated authentic community engagement—listening to residents, supporting local programming, and investing in initiatives that directly benefit SoMa families and children, thus making me confident in them incorporating elements of it in a way that brings vibrancy to the plaza but also understands how to honor the artist and fountain, even if it no longer is there. Their involvement gives us confidence that the reimagining of this site will be guided by genuine collaboration and inclusivity.

We urge the Commission to move forward with the removal and to prioritize community input in shaping what comes next. Feel free to reach me here or at 415-758-4864 for further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Carla Laurel", written in a cursive style.

Carla Laurel,
Executive Director

SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 6, 2025

San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park Renovation Project. This project is deeply needed as our City works to revitalize its downtown core. The Embarcadero is the premier entry to downtown San Francisco, and it must reflect the clean, safe, and thriving public space that our residents, workers, and visitors deserve.

This redesign is not about liking or disliking a fountain. It is about ensuring this space functions as an inclusive, vibrant hub that supports circulation, accessibility, and safety. By modernizing and reimagining these public spaces, the City has a once in a generation opportunity to create a waterfront environment that serves both the surrounding neighborhood and the broader city.

San Francisco's future depends on our ability to bring life back to our civic and commercial heart. The renovation of Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park is a vital step toward making downtown San Francisco more inviting, accessible, and economically vibrant.

We strongly urge the Commission to support this project and not stand in the way of the progress our City so urgently needs. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Rodney Fong
President & CEO
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

From: [gogiants2002](#)
To: [Dhaliwal, Manraj \(ART\)](#); [ART-Info](#); [Collins, Charles \(ART\)](#); [Shiota, Janine \(ART\)](#)
Subject: Public records for Oct 6 Full Commission Meeting
Date: Thursday, October 2, 2025 5:17:30 PM

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

Hello Commissioners and staff,

Please download and include these **public city records** under agenda item 7, Vaillancourt Fountain, for the SFAC Full Commission meeting on October 6, 2025.

These public records directly pertain to the agenda item and **should be included next to the other agenda item attachments**. Any decision to withhold these records from the agenda item may result in questions of transparency and disclosure.

Please confirm receipt of this email, the successful download of the records and their inclusion in the agenda item.

- <https://archive.org/details/2024-05-10-bx-p-presentation-bxp-version>
- <https://archive.org/details/old-permit-for-stairs>
- <https://archive.org/details/embarcadero-plaza-historical-maintenance-agreement>
- <https://archive.org/details/justin-herman-embarcadero-plaza-maintenance-agreement-docs-1998-2000-not-in-order>
- <https://archive.org/details/rpd-tamara-emails-1>
- <https://archive.org/details/fw-vaillancourt-tma-records>
- <https://archive.org/details/contract-vaillancourt-redevelopment-agency-1967.09.27>
- <https://archive.org/details/3-dec-1966-l.-halprin-ftn-design-notes>
- <https://archive.org/details/cost-assessment-systems-only-2024>
- <https://archive.org/details/vaillancourt-fountain-cost-assessment-systems-struct-and-hazmat-2025>
- <https://archive.org/details/20250813-pdt-meeting-deck>
- <https://archive.org/details/embarcadero-plaza-project-kick-off-presentation-2024.12.11>
- <https://archive.org/details/2025-04-28-embarcadero-plaza-hrr>
- <https://archive.org/details/2025-vaillancourt-tma-costs>
- <https://archive.org/details/sfprd-vaillancourt-fountain-feasibility-option-1-rom-7-1-25-r-1>
- <https://archive.org/details/sfprd-vaillancourt-fountain-feasibility-option-2-rom-7-1-25-r-1>
- <https://archive.org/details/sfprd-vaillancourt-fountain-feasibility-option-1-rom-7-8-25-construction-cost-only>
- <https://archive.org/details/sfprd-vaillancourt-fountain-feasibility-option-2-rom-7-8-25-construction-cost-only>

Thank you.



November 3, 2025

Charles Collins, President
San Francisco Arts Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325
San Francisco, CA 94102
Delivered via email

Support – Decommissioning of Vaillancourt Fountain

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Advance SF and San Francisco's leading employers, I am writing today to voice our support for the removal of the Vaillancourt Fountain in Downtown's Embarcadero Plaza. Advance SF is dedicated to supporting an equitable, resilient, and vibrant economy shared by all people working and living in San Francisco.

The redesign of Embarcadero Plaza is a crucial piece of a larger effort to transform the greater Downtown area into a more vibrant, pedestrian-centric, and culturally rich location focused on improving the daily lives of residents, visitors, and tourists alike. While we recognize the history of the Vaillancourt Fountain, it was built five decades ago, when cars roared by on the Embarcadero Freeway. Downtown's role has changed significantly in the years since, and the relocation of the fountain will allow for a reimagined Embarcadero Plaza to attract foot traffic back to the heart of San Francisco.

San Francisco needs more spaces that serve today's needs. Welcoming visitors to the district through sustainable public attractions and reimagining areas that no longer provide an inviting atmosphere are key to reforming Downtown and ensuring that it remains a pleasant and energized part of the City. We look forward to further discussions on how this historic piece of public art can be utilized elsewhere in the City.

Sincerely,

Wade Rose

President, Advance SF