



SAN FRANCISCO
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

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Proposition J Will Move San Francisco Forward

San Francisco Architectural Heritage (Heritage) has advocated for and educated on historic preservation and best city planning and urban design practices since its formation in 1971, when it challenged the Redevelopment Agency's plan to demolish much of the Western Addition. A YES vote on Proposition J will build on that progress, enabling San Francisco to update city planning processes and streamline the system.

There is no room or tolerance for "another layer of bureaucracy:" a new 7-member Historic Preservation Commission with fixed terms will replace the 40-year-old, 9-member Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Commissioners with fixed terms will represent fields including architecture, preservation, architectural history, engineering, and real estate. Prop J will be implemented at no additional cost to the City as the existing infrastructure and planning staff that support the Advisory Board will remain the same.

The current Advisory Board process is cumbersome, outdated, and ripe for change. Applications for certificates of appropriateness will be handled faster and more expeditiously by the Historic Preservation Commission. Currently, Advisory Board recommendations are forwarded to the City Planning Commission for a second round of review and approval.

Stakeholders have worked hard and collaboratively in crafting Prop J. Compromises have been struck: projects with multiple reviews, vacant lots and other special circumstances will be reviewed by the City Planning Commission, and appeals to the Board of Appeals would be enabled. Passage of J will guarantee that the Mayor's Office, City Planning staff, AIA San Francisco, SPUR, Heritage and others will continue to meet to draft reforms to Articles 10 and 11 of the Planning Code to balance preservation with General Plan policies.

Since the National Historic Preservation Act was enacted in 1969, historic preservation has catalyzed commercial and residential neighborhood renewal nationally. In combination with the nation's best city planning and urban design practices, destination cities like San Francisco, Portland, New Orleans, Boston, and New York have become international tourist hot spots as a result of sound preservation planning practices. Landmark and historic district designations continue to proliferate nationally, and almost every major US city

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(save San Francisco) has a historic preservation commission in place.

As our Planning Department surveys and designates new landmarks and historic districts beyond downtown and familiar neighborhoods, the new Commission will be better equipped to handle project applications, review surveys, and comment on neighborhood plans as the city grows higher and more dense.

San Francisco's unique geography and superb cultural and historic resources anchor and define our city's identity. Today there's a wonderful, palpable synergy too, as new contemporary architecture rises around and within these resources. Adaptive reuse is transforming the Port of San Francisco into an international destination with the phenomenal CUESA and Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market, planned new Exploratorium, and the Port's plans at Pier 70.

Best of all, San Francisco's private sector is equipped with both a strong development community and a cadre of well trained architects, designers and preservation professionals to take these challenges on squarely. It's in this vibrant, thriving arts and environmentally-conscious context that San Franciscans must join together and vote YES on PROP J. Our city's quality of life, sustainable development, and diverse cultural and historic resources depend on it.



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