

SF Cultural Districts



Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
<https://sf.gov/information/cultural-districts-program>

PURPOSE

Stabilize

Preserve and promote diverse communities' cultural assets, events & way of life.

Strengthen

Amplify and support the community's cultural traditions and improve the quality of life for its community members.

Streamline

Coordinate City and community information, partnerships, and resources

CULTURAL DISTRICT DEFINITION

"A geographic area or location within San Francisco that embodies a unique cultural heritage"

Cultural Heritage is defined as containing a concentration of cultural & historic assets, culturally significant enterprise, arts, services, or businesses and a significant portion of its residents, or people who spend time in the area, are members of a specific cultural community or ethnic group that historically has been discriminated against, displaced and oppressed.

CURRENT CULTURAL DISTRICTS

1. Japantown Cultural District - Est. 2013
2. Calle 24 Latino Cultural District - Est. 2014
3. SoMa Pilipinas - Filipino Cultural District - Est. 2016
4. Transgender Cultural District - Est. 2017
5. Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District - Est. 2018
6. African American Arts & Cultural District - Est. 2018
7. Castro LGBTQ Cultural District - Est. 2019
8. American Indian Cultural District - Est. 2020
9. Sunset Chinese Cultural District - Est. 2021

CULTURAL DISTRICT'S LEGISLATED SCOPE

FOCUS AREAS	STRATEGIES
Historic Preservation	Preserve and develop cultural and historic buildings, businesses, organizations, traditions, arts, events & district aesthetics.
Tenant Protections	Protect tenants from displacement & promote affordable housing & homeownership.
Arts & Culture	Attract & support artists and cultural enterprises
Economic & Workforce Development	Promote jobs, tourism and economic opportunities that stabilize the district's economy.
Land Use	Create city regulations & programs that support businesses & industries that advance the Cultural District.
Cultural Competency	Promote culturally competent & appropriate City services, policies and narratives.

MOHCD CONTACTS

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THE 'CHHESS' REPORT: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Cultural Districts legislation mandates that a coordinated plan be created called the "Cultural History, Housing and Economic Sustainability Strategies Report" (CHHESS) .

The CHHESS Report is a cultural legacy document and strategic plan and provides guidance for achieving cultural stabilization within each District. A set of stabilization strategies are created related to 6 key areas and are listed below. The set of strategies are created through a robust community engagement process and are coordinated with City Departments. The full CHHESS report is approved by the full Board of Supervisors by resolution.

1. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- A. Preserve, maintain, and develop unique cultural and historic assets,**
- B. Preserve and promote significant assets such as buildings, businesses, organizations, traditions, practices, events-** including venues/outdoor special events & their geographic footprints.
- C. Preserve works of art and public-facing physical elements/characteristics** that have contributed to the history or cultural heritage or highlight people important to San Francisco history.

2. TENANT PROTECTIONS

- A. Stop the displacement of residents of Cultural Districts** who are members of vulnerable communities that define those Districts.
- B. Promote affordable housing opportunities and homeownership** within the Districts.
- C. Develop and strengthen new tools to prevent displacement.**

3. ARTS & CULTURE

- A. Attract and support artists, creative entrepreneurs, cultural enterprises** and people that embody and promote the unique cultural heritage of the District especially those who were displaced.

4. ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- A. Promote tourism to stabilize and strengthen the identity of the district** while contributing to the district's economy.
- B. Promote employment and economic opportunities for residents** of Cultural District

5. LAND USE

- A. Create appropriate City regulations, tools, and programs such as zoning and land use controls** that will promote and protect businesses and industries that advance the culture and history of Cultural Districts.

6. CULTURAL COMPETENCY

- A. Promote cultural competency and education** by diversifying historic narratives on the history of San Francisco's many diverse cultural and ethnic communities, with an emphasis on those who have been previously marginalized and misrepresented in dominant narratives.
- B. Promote culturally competent and culturally appropriate City services and policies** that encourage the health and safety of the community, culture, or ethnic groups in Cultural Districts.
- C. Promote and strengthen collaboration between the City and communities** to maximize cultural competency and pursue social equity.

