



**SHAPING  
LEGACY**

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

# PROJECT UPDATE

VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 21, 2024

**sfac** san francisco  
arts commission



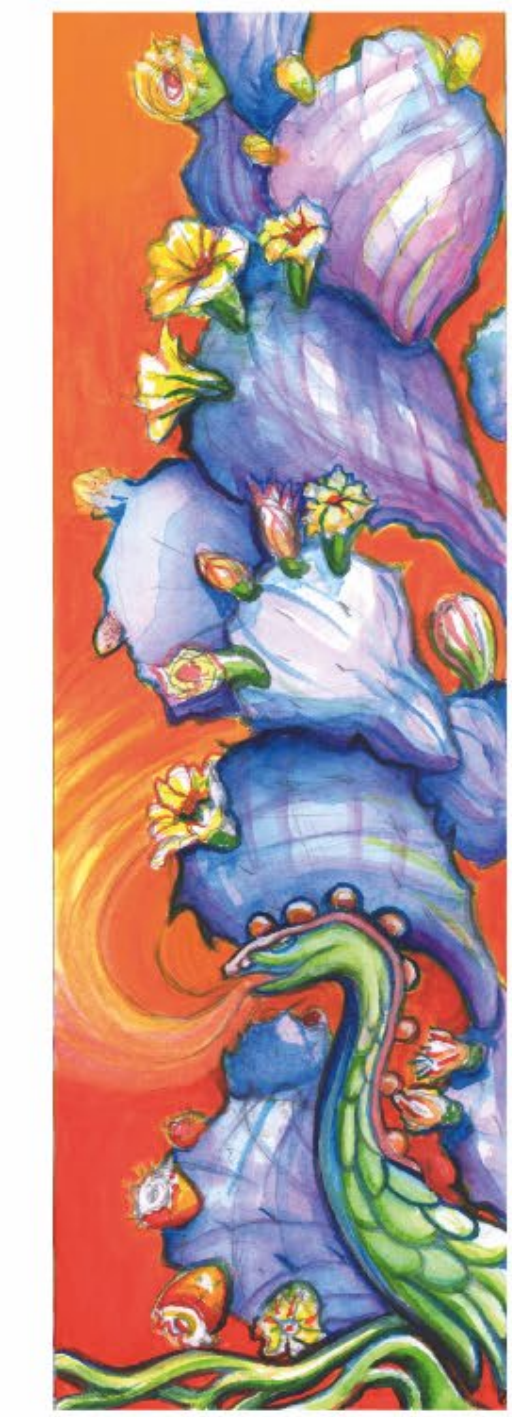
# RACIAL EQUITY STATEMENT

The San Francisco Arts Commission is committed to creating a city where all artists and cultural workers have the freedom, resources and platform to share their stories, art and culture and where race does not predetermine one's success in life.

We also acknowledge that we occupy traditional and unceded Ohlone land. Fueled by these beliefs, we commit to addressing the systemic inequities within our agency, the City and County of San Francisco and the broader arts and culture sector.

This work requires that we focus on race as we confront inequities of the past, reveal inequities of the present and develop effective strategies to move all of us towards an equitable future.

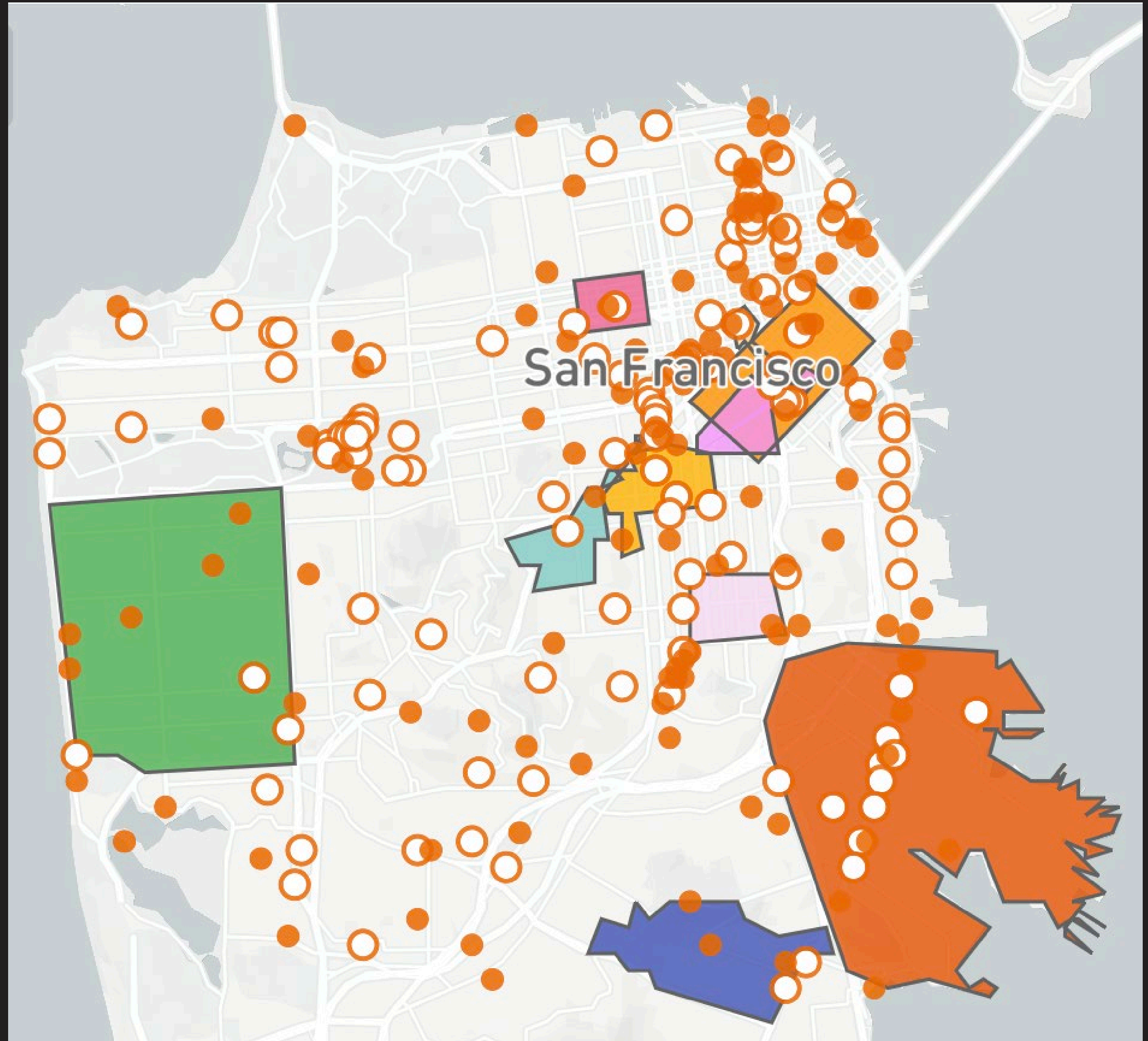
SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS





# BACKGROUND

The Civic Art Collection is comprised of over 4,000 objects that include: historic monuments, memorials, gifts to the city, annual art festival purchases made from 1946 to 1986, and more recently, the hundreds of contemporary artworks commissioned through the City's 2%-for-art program.





1 Lotta's Fountain  
2 Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)  
3 James A. Garfield (1831-1881)  
4 General Henry W. Halleck (1815-1872)



5 Francis Scott Key (1780-1843)  
6 Ball Thrower  
7 Thomas Starr King (1824-1864)  
8 Pioneer Monument (James Lick Monument)



9 Native Sons Monument (Admission Day...)  
10 Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) Memorial  
11 Goethe and Schiller  
12 Mechanics Monument (Peter Donahue-1829-...)



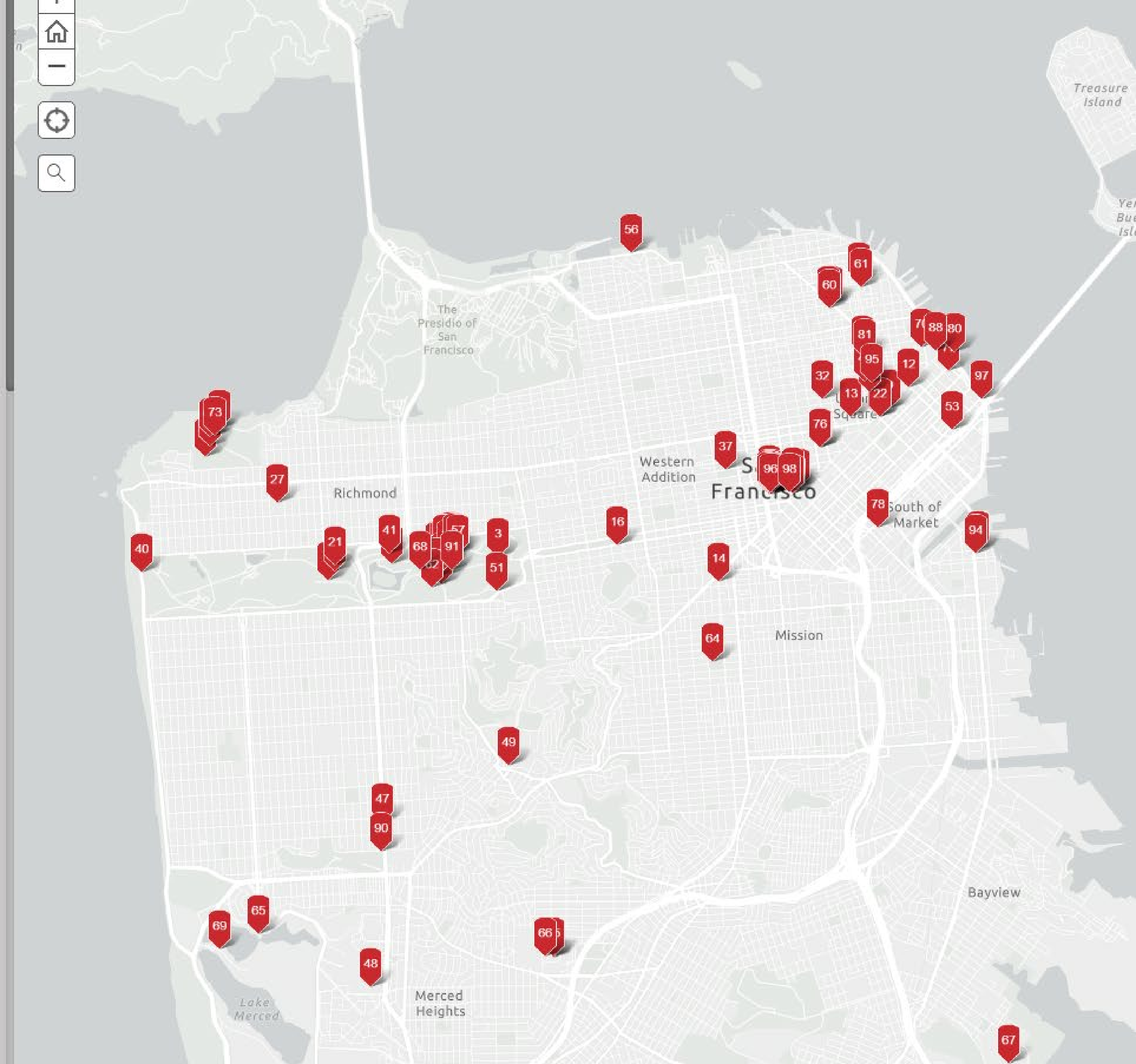
13 The Dewey Monument (Admiral George Dewe...)  
14 California Volunteers, Spanish American War...  
15 Hall McAllister (1829-1888)  
16 William McKinley



17 Sun Dial  
18 Padre Junipero Serra (1713-1784)  
19 Robert Burns (1759-1796)  
20 General Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822-...)



21 Portals of the Past  
22 Luisa Tetrazzini (1874-...)  
23 Raphael Weill (1837-...)  
24 Pioneer Mother









# MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MMAC)





MAY 2023

# SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



FINAL REPORT

## KEY OUTCOMES

Guiding Principles:

1. POWER
2. COMPLEXITY
3. JUSTICE
4. REPRESENTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Rectify Power Imbalance
- Engage & Build Awareness
- Review & Evaluate
- Sustained Future Engagement

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS



# STRATEGY POST REPORT



Elizabeth Alexander  
President

🗣️ “How can we transform our commemorative landscape so that it accurately conveys complexity of our history and the inspiration that is possible in public spaces?”

[About The Monuments Project →](#)

## \$500M

### The Monuments Project

A commitment to transform the nation’s commemorative landscape by supporting public projects that help represent the complexity of American stories.

[View related grants →](#)





**SHAPING LEGACY**  
SAN FRANCISCO  
MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

*Shaping Legacy* is a multi-year equity-focused commitment to critically examine the monuments and memorials in San Francisco's Civic Art collection.

SFAC will engage communities that have historically been excluded from discussions, produce an Equity Audit report, create opportunities for artist-led activations in public space and support temporary installations that reimagine future monuments and memorials in our city.



# BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW

2023/24: Phase 1 – Project Launch, Hiring Project Staff, Begin Equity Audit, Artist Advisors, Community Engagement

2024/25: Phase 2 – Equity Audit Final Report, Community Engagement, Artist Activations RFPs and Selection

2025/26: Phase 3 – Shaping Legacy Festival, Community Engagement, Evaluation & Integration, Project Sunset



# PROJECT UPDATES & PROGRESS

## RECTIFY POWER IMBALANCE:

- Engaged The Justice Collective to lead Trauma Informed Systems Trainings & Workshops to the expanded project team through the duration of the project.
- Convening an artist circle of advisors and community collaborators to guide and inform our process.

## ENGAGE & BUILD AWARENESS:

- Designed a unique Shaping Legacy visual identity & logo.
- Prioritized presentations and outreach to the Cultural Centers Directors and Cultural Districts.



# PROJECT UPDATES & PROGRESS

## REVIEW & EVALUATE:

- Hired consultant HR&A Advisors to lead the research, public meetings and analysis. Findings will be synthesized and presented in an Equity Audit report.
- Currently in the research and preliminary analysis phase, preparing for public meetings in October and on track for delivery of the Final Report in January 2025.

## SUSTAINED FUTURE ENGAGEMENT:

- Created a dedicated Shaping Legacy webpage and email list.
- Offering ongoing moments for SFAC staff education & engagement.
- Pursuing integration with existing SFAC programs and collaboration with related initiatives at partner city agencies.





# INVITATIONS TO ENGAGE

Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm

Unveiling of Lava Thomas's monument honoring Dr. Maya Angelou, *Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman*

SFPL Main Branch, 100 Larkin Street

SHAPING LEGACY



October 2024, dates coming soon

Three Public Community Meetings with Equity Audit Consultants

Locations pending

Sign up for Shaping Legacy updates

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS



# Questions?

