



# Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: April 25, 2022

## PAXTON GATE

*Application No.:* LBR-2021-22-021  
*Business Name:* Paxton Gate  
*Business Address:* 824 Valencia St.  
*District:* District 8  
*Applicant:* Sean Quigley, Founder  
*Nomination Letter Date:* March 8, 2022  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Paxton Gate is a local retail store located in the Mission that has a large collection of eccentric oddities. Founded in 1992, Sean Quigley and Peter Kline started the business at 1204 Stevenson Street selling unusual garden merchandise and other merchandise, like rare insects and taxidermy. In 1999, Quigley relocated the business to 824 Valencia Street to expand the store's possibilities. The store location allowed them to increase their merchandise to sell furniture, vintage and architectural elements, jewelry, personal goods, and books. In 2008, Quigley expanded operations and opened up "Paxton Gate's Curiosities for Kids" at 766 Valencia Street. The new location focuses on toys and games for children and adults to inspire their curiosity. The store has expanded to online stores, which has helped them during the Coronavirus pandemic. Paxton Gate has a store location in Portland, Oregon, operated by Andy and Susan Brown.

As Paxton Gate expanded, it has kept true to its vision, which is "treasures and oddities inspired by the garden and natural sciences." Paxton Gate's inventory is dedicated to the natural sciences, curiosities, taxidermy, vintage architectural elements, and unique plants. One of Paxton Gate's main appeals is their collection of vintage taxidermy. Paxton Gate ensures that their products are ethically sourced. All taxidermy animals died of natural causes or were euthanized in humane ways as part of animal care and control programs for managing wildlife populations. Insects are collected in their native habitats by locals and provides funds to conservation organizations and local economies.

Paxton Gate is a unique store with its merchandise and elaborate storefronts and is an essential part of the Mission neighborhood and San Francisco community. Paxton Gate sources merchandise from local artists and crafters. In addition, many artists and crafters are also employees of the store. Paxton Gate has supported many local organizations like the San Francisco Women's Building, the Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco Women Against Rape, Caral, Swing for Choice, The National AIDS Memorial Grove, The Randal Museum Friends, The San Francisco Naturalists Society, and more. Quigley is also an active member of the Valencia Corridor Merchants Association and was president from 2013-2020 of the organization.

### CRITERION 1

**Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?**

**Legacy Business Program**  
Office of Small Business  
City Hall Room 140  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
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[www.legacybusiness.org](http://www.legacybusiness.org)





Yes, Paxton Gate has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

1204 Stevenson St. from 1992 to 1999 (7 Years)  
824 Valencia St. from 1999 to Present (23 Years)  
766 Valencia St. from 2008 to Present (14 Years)

## CRITERION 2

**Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?**

Yes, Paxton Gate has contributed to the history and identity of the Mission neighborhood and San Francisco.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- The business is associated with the botanical, taxidermy, children's toys, and other artwork oddities.
- Patrons include Martha Stewart, Chris Issac, Tracy Chapman, Kirk Hammett, James Hetfield, Mike Patton, Buzz Osborne of the Melvins, Daryl Hanna, David Sedaris, Jason Momoa, Lisa Bonet, and more.
- The business location at 824 Valencia Street, was surveyed in 2006 as part of the National Register and was not evaluated. In 2004, 824 Valencia was also part of the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey and was found ineligible for National Registry, California Registry, and Local designation through survey evaluation.

The business location at 766 Valencia Street, was surveyed in 2006 as part of the National Register and was not evaluated. In 2004, 766 Valencia was also part of the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey and was found eligible for California Registry as an individual property through survey evaluation.

- Paxton Gate has been mentioned in the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, SF Magazine, 7X7, Time Out London, and many more publications.

## CRITERION 3

**Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?**

Yes, Paxton Gate is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Paxton Gate qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- "Paxton Gate" Logo that was illustrated by Hugh D' Andrade.
- Trompe-l'oeil mural located at the 824 Valencia Street painted by Todd Standish.
- Thematic Window Displays.
- The eccentric range of store inventory.
- Taxidermy of animals and insects.

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## **CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS**

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

- Curio shop.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Paxton Gate currently located at 824 Valencia St. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds  
Legacy Business Program

### **Legacy Business Program**

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# Small Business Commission

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

April 25, 2022

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**Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Paxton Gate, currently located at 824 Valencia St.**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included on the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

**WHEREAS**, at a duly noticed public hearing held on April 25, 2022, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Paxton Gate in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Paxton Gate.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- "Paxton Gate" Logo that was illustrated by Hugh D' Andrade.
- Trompe-l'oeil mural located at the 824 Valencia Street painted by Todd Standish.
- Thematic Window Displays.
- The eccentric range of store inventory.
- Taxidermy of animals and insects.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Paxton Gate on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Curio shop.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on April 25, 2022.

---

Katy Tang  
Director

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes –  
Nays –  
Abstained –  
Absent –

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## Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

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**CRITERION 1:** Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

☒ Yes ☐ No

1204 Stevenson St. from 1992 to 1999 (7 Years)  
824 Valencia St. from 1999 to Present (23 Years)  
766 Valencia St. from 2008 to Present (14 Years)

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

☒ Yes ☐ No

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

☒ Yes ☐ No

**NOTES:** Paxton Gate will be 30 years old on December 2, 2022.

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** March 9, 2022

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds  
Legacy Business Program

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**RAFAEL MANDELMAN**

March 8, 2022

Richard Kurylo  
Office of Small Business  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place, Room 140  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: Legacy Business Nomination for Paxton Gate**

Mr. Kurylo:

It is my pleasure to nominate Paxton Gate, currently located at 824 Valencia Street, as a San Francisco Legacy Business. Paxton Gate has been an oasis of eccentricity in a changing San Francisco for 30 years, first at 1204 Stevenson Street, and since 1999, at their current location in the Mission. Paxton Gate offers a range of curiosities, home décor, furniture, jewelry, books, and accessories that provide an unfailingly unique and memorable experience to residents and visitors alike. Over the years, Paxton Gate has become a pillar of Valencia Street, helping to ensure its reputation as one of the most prominent independent retail corridors in the United States, and a bastion of local retail and creativity in San Francisco. Paxton Gate's contribution to the neighborhood extends beyond their enduring presence on Valencia, with co-founder Sean Quigley serving as President of the Valencia Corridor Merchants Association from 2013 to 2020.

Paxton Gate is deserving of the City's recognition and appreciation as a Legacy Business, and I urge the Office of Small Business to proceed with this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mandelman".

Rafael Mandelman

# Section One:

## Business / Applicant Information.

Please provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

<b>NAME OF BUSINESS:</b>	
Paxton Gate	
<b>BUSINESS OWNER(S)</b> (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business):	
Sean Quigley	
<b>CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>
766 Valencia Street, 3rd Floor San Francisco, CA 94110	415-824-1882
	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
<b>MAILING ADDRESS – STREET ADDRESS:</b>	<b>MAILING ADDRESS – CITY AND STATE:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business Address	
	<b>MAILING ADDRESS – ZIP CODE:</b>
<b>WEBSITE ADDRESS:</b>	
paxtongate.com	
<b>FACEBOOK PAGE:</b>	
facebook.com/paxtongate	
<b>TWITTER NAME:</b>	
<b>APPLICANT'S NAME:</b>	<b>APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>
Sean Quigley	415-824-1882
<b>APPLICANT'S TITLE:</b>	<b>APPLICANT'S EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
Founder	
<b>SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:</b>	
0430861	
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (If applicable):</b>	



## Section Two:

### Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	START DATE OF BUSINESS
1204 Stevenson St.	94103	December 2, 1992
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	December 2, 1992 - May 1999	

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
824 Valencia St.	94110	Start: 2/16/1999 End: Present

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
766 Valencia St.	94110	Start: 10/20/2008 End: Present

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start: End:

## Section Three:

### Disclosure Statement.

#### San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- ☒ I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- ☒ I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- ☒ I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- ☒ I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- ☒ I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- ☒ I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- ☒ I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

SEAN QUIGLEY 7.28.21

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

## **PAXTON GATE**

### **Section 4: Written Historical Narrative**

#### **CRITERION 1**

**a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.**

Late one San Francisco winter, two landscape designers dreamed big. Inspired by a fascination with the natural world, and driven by a desire to create something unlike anything they had ever seen before, they opened the doors of Paxton Gate on December 2, 1992.

In its original incarnation, tucked away from the beaten path in an alley off of Market Street at 1204 Stevenson Street, Paxton Gate was 300 square feet of eccentric gardening merchandise and featured curiosities inspired by the natural world. Soon after its inception, a predilection for the bizarre side of nature became apparent, and oddities such as rare insects and taxidermy began to creep onto the scene. But 6-foot-high office ceilings and crawl space storage rooms couldn't last forever: The business' growth necessitated a big move.

After seven years, Paxton Gate relocated to its current, larger space at 824 Valencia Street in the Mission District. The move more than quadrupled the size of the previous retail location, allowing the business to branch out into new areas including furniture, vintage and antique architectural elements, jewelry, personal goods, and a growing selection of books and home décor items. The new location also afforded the design-build branch the opportunity to show off their skills in the backyard garden space, where they created a breathtaking refuge from the hustle and bustle of the busy neighborhood streets. All the while, Paxton Gate has remained true to its vision: Treasures and oddities inspired by the garden and natural sciences.

As Paxton Gate approached its 16th anniversary in 2008, owner Quigley again expanded operations when it opened Paxton Gate's Curiosities for Kids at 766 Valencia Street. The store features a nostalgic mix of toys and games evoking the pre-digital era for children and children-at-heart. This also became the new, and still current, home for its shipping and receiving operations since online shopping was becoming a bigger part of the business' revenue.

Based on the success of Paxton Gate, two close friends of Sean Quigley and huge fans of Paxton Gate, Andy and Susan Brown, expanded the company by opening their own licensed Paxton Gate store in Portland, Oregon, in 2010, which is closely linked with the San Francisco stores.

In 2014, the website was upgraded, and Paxton Gate moved some services to 766 Valencia Street, including its offices, buying, accounting, web administration/marketing, design services, and shipping/receiving for the retail store and the eCommerce business. The location at 824 Valencia Street remains the location of the retail store.

**b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?**

The only time Paxton Gate has shut down for any significant amount of time since opening was the early months of the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic. The business shut down per Mayor Breed's order on March 15, 2020. The eCommerce business remained open, but the brick and mortar store was closed until early June 2020, at which time the business started "selling at the door." The retail staff was fearful of catching COVID-19, so Paxton Gate opted not to allow customers into the store for some time. Sales during this time were miniscule and didn't even cover rent, much less payroll. The eCommerce sales increased notably—in fact, this was the first time ever it paid for itself, yet it still wasn't enough to cover fixed costs. It wasn't until October 2020 that Paxton Gate opened for in-store sales with a limited schedule (Thursday to Sunday). And, it wasn't until 2022 that sales started approaching pre-pandemic levels.

**c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.**

The business is not a family-owned business, defined here as any business in which two or more family members are involved and the majority of ownership or control lies within a family.

Sean Quigley, one of our original founders, now owns Paxton Gate. Quigley, who oversees the retail operations and heads the Design/Build arm, has worked and lived in San Francisco's Mission District since the early 1990s.

**d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.**

The ownership history of Paxton Gate is as follows:

1992 to 1995:	Sean Quigley and Peter Kline
1995 to Present:	Sean Quigley

**e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

Documentation of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this Legacy Business Registry application.

**f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.**

The historic resource status of the building at 824 Valencia Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental

Quality Act. The building was evaluated in the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey in 2004 and found ineligible for the National Registry, California Registry, or local designation.

The historic resource status of the building at 766 Valencia Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The building, however, appears to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources per the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey in 2004. The property is a Mediterranean Eclectic-style building constructed in 1914. The building appears to be in good condition. There are no apparent alterations.

## **CRITERION 2**

### **a. Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community or San Francisco.**

Sean Quigley founded Paxton Gate in December of 1992. What began as “a quirky gardening store” on Stevenson Street off of Market relocated to 824 Valencia Street in 1999 in order to expand inventory and fulfill Quigley’s vision of a retail operation dedicated to the natural sciences, curiosities, taxidermy, carnivorous plants, succulents and other unique plants, gardening, and vintage architectural elements.

This involved a rethinking of the operation and a redesign of the space in order to conjure the atmosphere of a natural history museum, albeit one that also would carry home products, books, plants, jewelry and ephemera of the plant and animal variety, assorted neo-Victoriana, oddities, and artworks associated with the Steampunk movement.

Over the years, Paxton Gate has become synonymous with both the Mission and Valencia Street as a destination in San Francisco for residents and tourists alike. It represents a funky and varied cross section of the city both in terms of residents and businesses. It also underscores San Francisco’s reputation as a city that honors unique, creative, and independently operated shops.

### **b. Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city, or the business industry?**

When Paxton Gate originally moved to its current Valencia Street location, it was not a shopping district per-se, but rather a corridor of industrial and unused spaces, some cafés and bars, and a few very small retail mom-and-pop-type operations. In order to better merchandise what the store had to offer, Quigley embarked on a major renovation of the building he was renting. He remodeled the interior and exterior by adding a large-scale trompe l'oeil mural on the building that includes painted windows in the upper portion of the façade and assorted animals, plants, and foliage, and he opened up the front window and entrance so passersby could experience the curated interior from the street. He also updated the space to meet ADA requirements. Things began to change shortly after that. Folks stopped to look and then come in and say, “Oh, I’ve never seen anything like this.” There was definitely an increase in business. To this day, there is not a single store on Valencia Street that looks like Paxton Gate.

**c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?**

Paxton Gate has been featured in all kinds of media, including The New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, SF Magazine, 7x7, Time Out London, and dozens of other publications and outlets, with the historical nature of its inventory often a focus. Following are a few examples:

- “Paxton Gate celebrates 25 years of taxidermy, fossils and more”  
San Francisco Chronicle  
October 12, 2017  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/style/article/Paxton-Gate-celebrates-25-years-of-taxidermy-12273959.php>
- “We Wanna Be Friends With: Sean P. Quigley of Paxton Gate”  
7x7  
September 5, 2013  
<https://www.7x7.com/we-wanna-be-friends-with-sean-p-quigley-of-paxton-gate-1786515409.html>
- “Sean Quigley of Paxton Gate in style spotlight”  
San Francisco Chronicle  
May 10, 2009  
<https://www.sfgate.com/homeandgarden/article/Sean-Quigley-of-Paxton-Gate-in-style-spotlight-3242783.php>
- “Hipster Hunting Ground”  
New York Times  
July 15, 2008  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/travel/15iht-13surfacing.14498817.html>
- “Paxton Gate”  
Atlas Obscura  
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/paxton-gate>
- “Shop for Natural Oddities at Paxton Gate in San Francisco”  
AFAR  
<https://www.afar.com/places/paxton-gate-san-francisco>
- “Fodor’s Expert Review: Paxton Gate”  
<https://www.fodors.com/world/north-america/usa/california/san-francisco/things-to-do/shopping/reviews/paxton-gate-121780>

**d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?**

Paxton Gate was inspired by Sir Joseph Paxton, who was an English gardener, architect, and engineer of the Victorian era who had an abiding fascination with greenhouses. This is the

source of the store's overall Victorian gentleman/inventor/botanist/biologist aesthetic and a source of personal inspiration for Quigley.

Paxton Gate has had many significant customers dating back to even the small location on Stevenson Street including, but not limited to, the following:

- Martha Stewart
- Chris Isaak
- Tracy Chapman
- Kirk Hammett of Metallica
- James Hetfield of Metallica
- Mike Patton of Faith No More
- Buzz Osborne of The Melvins
- Daryl Hannah
- David Sedaris
- Jason Momoa
- Lisa Bonet

As far as anyone knows, Lady Gaga, Mila Jovovich, and Grimes have not been patrons of the store, but they wear masks created by Lance Moore (<https://www.lancevictormoore.com>) who procures materials from Paxton Gate to make many of his pieces.

**e. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?**

Paxton Gate has supported many local organizations including the San Francisco Women's Building, the Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco Women Against Rape, Caral, Swing for Choice, The National AIDS Memorial Grove, The Randal Museum Friends, The San Francisco Naturalists Society, and more.

Owner Sean Quigley and Paxton Gate are deeply involved with the Valencia Corridor Merchants Association. Its goal is to help other business on the street succeed as well as safeguard the variety of enterprises that are essential to the street's continued viability. Quigley joined the organization in 2010 and became its president in 2013. Under his stewardship as president, it became a nonprofit organization complete with a board and continues to this day. Quigley served as President until 2020 and continues to sit on the board.

**f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.**

The store caters to a unique community of enthusiasts and creators dedicated to the natural sciences, oddities, curiosities, taxidermy, plants, and related ephemera. This community exists both in the neighborhood itself as well as the city and world at large. Time Out London described Paxton Gate as "Martha Stewart Meets David Lynch."

**g. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?**

While the business trades in goods and objects that would be considered culturally significant, the building itself would not qualify except perhaps for the trompe-l'oeil mural, which is now 20 years old.

The vintage taxidermy alone, much of it amassed from collectors or collections, is considered especially significant because the rules, laws, and social concerns about the effect of hunting over the last decades have changed so dramatically.

Paxton Gate has a deep fascination and respect for the natural world. Part of their philosophy is ensuring that their product offering is ethically sourced.

Taxidermy, along with animal skulls and skeletons are among the many items that their customers purchase online and in the stores. Paxton Gate goes out of its way to source items that have either died of natural causes or were otherwise trapped and euthanized in humane ways as part of animal care and control programs intended to manage wildlife populations. In some cases, individual animals are collected and euthanized by licensed nuisance trappers. Additionally, all of the baby livestock (deer, boars, ostrich, etc.) that the store occasionally carries were stillborn or died shortly after birth of natural causes. Most of the larger and game items are vintage pieces from many years ago, and therefore original sourcing is difficult to confirm. Others come from areas where certain animals are much more common than they are here, and licensed hunters are required to meet legal quotas as part of a system of wildlife management. Paxton Gate does not support the trade of poached or endangered animals nor cruel ranching practices.

Insects are often collected in their native habitats by people indigenous to the same locale. This regulated practice gives people the means to make an income off the surrounding habitat by keeping it in its natural state, and even in some cases reforestation with native host plants intended for particular species. In the end, the effect on insect populations is positive as opposed to the alternative—loss of habitat due to farming, development, and pesticides. Paxton Gate's insects are often from South-East Asia but also endemic to the Americas, Africa, Madagascar, and other regions of the world. Many of the larger and “bird-wing” butterflies are reared by conservationists who release about 50% of what they raise and sell the remainder to fund their organizations, thereby helping to replenish sometimes threatened species in the wild.

#### **h. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?**

If Paxton Gate were to close, the character of Valencia Street no doubt would be diminished, as there is no store on the corridor, nor in the city for that matter, remotely like Paxton Gate in terms of exterior and inventory. The community of folks who seek out the store – which consists of residents and tourists alike – would have no other options locally. One of the returning demographics to the store consists of adults who either lived in the area or visited it with their parents as children, and who now bring their children. This cross-generational perspective was enhanced when the inventory of Curiosities for Kids was folded into the



original Paxton Gate operation. Changes in the neighborhood's demographic meant the presence of two separate stores made less sense.

### **CRITERION 3**

#### **a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.**

Paxton Gate is like a natural history museum merged with a home products store and quirky gardening shop. And, unlike the museum, most everything is for sale. The store carries an odd array of merchandise inspired by the garden and the natural sciences. From big dream to reality, Paxton Gate is thrilled to have found a curious community that loves to learn, share, and grow with the business.

#### **b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)**

Artists and crafters both local and otherwise are a constant source of inventory for the store, as it gives them an outlet of note to show and sell their wares that they otherwise would not have. Below you will find a list of select local artists the store carries:

- Austin Press (cards) - San Francisco, CA  
<https://www.austinpress.com/>
- Savanna Crow (jewelry) Oakland, CA  
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/SavannaCrow>
- Tanya Herrera (bone pyrography art)- Daly City, CA (650) 759-3117  
<http://www.tanyaherrera.com/>
- Vicki Nelson / Fool Crow (taxidermy artwork) -- Rio Vista, CA  
<https://www.instagram.com/foolcrow/?hl=en>
- Margaret Dilley (jewelry) - San Francisco, CA  
<https://www.instagram.com/itsme.margaret.jewelry/?hl=en>
- Merritt Grooms (Art/Photo Prints on Aluminum)  
<https://www.photobiker.com/merritt/index.html>
- Rudy's Greenhouse (plants) - San Mateo County  
<https://rudysgreenhouses.com/>
- Lauren Wolf (jewelry) - Oakland, CA  
<https://www.laurenwolfjewelry.com/>

In addition to the fact that many of those who come to work at Paxton Gate are artists themselves, artists and designers source materials from Paxton Gate in their own work, such as Lance Moore, whose masks have been worn by Lady Gaga (most recently at the MTV Video Music Awards) and who has called out Paxton Gate specifically in his own interviews with the press: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPUbLpXFigI>.

Finally, Paxton Gate employs a fulltime buyer specifically tasked with finding goods, crafts, art, taxidermy, books, jewelry and other items that are then added to inventory to be sold to customers and ongoing clients. @paxtongate on Instagram showcases some of these items, as does the website, [www.paxtongate.com](http://www.paxtongate.com).

**c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).**

The Paxton Gate logo by local illustrator Hugh D'Andrade, hand painted signage, exterior mural by local artist Todd Standish, and interior are a constant on the street, with a window display that changes thematically or to reflect the season. The window itself is one of the few on the street to change on a regular basis, all to enhance optics and visual variety. In an essential way, the inventory itself is the primary physical feature of Paxton Gate because that is what drives the feeling of being inside a natural history museum. In this instance though, guests are welcome to purchase a piece of the museum and take it home.

**d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.**

N/A

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI# \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
CHR Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 1 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) **824 Valencia Street**

**P1. Other Identifier:**

**Form Number** 406

**P2. Location:** ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

**\*a. County**

San Francisco

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad** San Francisco North **Date:** 1995

**c. Address** 824 Valencia St

**City** San Francisco

**Zip** 94110

**e. Other Locational Data:** Assessor's Block and Lot 3597 071

**\*P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

This building is set on an urban lot, measuring 26 feet wide by 100 feet deep, in San Francisco's Inner Mission neighborhood. It is located on the west side of Valencia Street between 19th and 20th Streets, with the primary façade facing Valencia. It is built to the front lot line, with no setback. This building appears to be in good condition.

This is a rectangular plan, two-story residential-over-commercial building, with a flat roof, clad in stucco. "Paxton Gate" store occupies the ground floor commercial space. The primary commercial entry is recessed and contains a metal-frame glass door. Large fixed windows, with transoms and projecting exterior lamps above, further characterize the storefront. The primary residential entry door is located at the north side of the facade. Windows in the upper story bays are aluminum sliders under wood awning windows. Trompe l'oeil painting on the building includes painted windows in the upper portion of the façade and assorted animals, plants, and foliage. A raised band of squared molding across the center of the second story connects to the façade of the adjacent building to the south. This façade connection causes it to appear as though the buildings could be attached or semi-attached. A fire escape is located at the north window on the second floor.

With its relative lack of ornamentation, save for what is painted on the façade, and the appearance of possible alterations at the storefront, this building appears to be altered without a distinct architectural style.

**\*P3b. Resources Attributes:** HP6. 1-3 Story Commercial Building

**Style or Period** Altered

**\*P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☒ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

**P5b. Photo:** (view and date)  
West, May 2006.

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source**

1908

☒ Historic

Assessor

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

Dare, Colbert T. & Chu Patty

497 Loring Ave.

Mill Valley, CA 94941

**\*P8. Recorded by:**

Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco, 1660 Mission Street, Ste. 500, San Francisco, CA, 94112.

**\*P9. Date Recorded** 10/6/2006

**\*P10. Survey Type** Reconnaissance



**\*P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")

None

**Attachments:** ☒ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)





25 YEARS



1.1992





















State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI# \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
CHR Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 1 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) **766-770 Valencia Street**

**P1. Other Identifier:**

**Form Number** 398

**P2. Location:** ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

**\*a. County**

San Francisco

**\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad** San Francisco North **Date:** 1995

**c. Address** 766 770 Valencia St

**City** San Francisco

**Zip** 94110

**e. Other Locational Data:** Assessor's Block and Lot 3588 009

**\*P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

This commercial building, located at the west side of Valencia Street between 18th and 19th Streets, covers most of a wide lot measuring 50' x 100'. It is built to the front lot line and north side lot lines, and is slightly setback at the south side lot line. The building is occupied by a private college.

This is a rectangular plan, three-story at the front, single-story with basement at the rear, flat roof, stucco-clad building. The façade is separated into four structural bays. The second bay contains a rectangular recessed entrance, containing a door with multi-light grilled sash, and flanked by a pair of lanterns. The second bay entrance features beveled edges, a robust surround that is scored to resemble masonry block quoins, and a molded hood, supported by decorative inverted pilasters, above a pair of eagle medallions at the architrave. A recessed arched entrance with heavy surround that is scored to resemble masonry block occupies the third and fourth bays of the ground floor. The entry arch contains double doors with full-length grilled sashes and a large arched transom with radial tracing. At the second story, the first, third, and fourth bays contain French windows with fanlight transoms and decorative metal balconies. The second bay contains a multi-light, double-leaf casement window with wide flat surround, above a raised relief panel with a festooned shield, framed by decorative molding that connects to the entry hood below. Over the second bay windows is found a large foliated shield bearing a Latin cross. At the third story, the four bays contain multi-light, double-leaf casement windows, with flat sills resting on the belt course. Between the casement windows, the façade displays large rosette relief panels. All windows are wood. The pent roof cornice, clad in Mission tile, slopes up and back behind the facade.

With its pent roof cornice clad in Mission tile, stucco cladding, asymmetrical façade, French window balconies, robust entrances, arches, and elaborate molding, this building displays Mediterranean Eclectic architectural style. There are no apparent alterations. The building appears to be in good condition.

**\*P3b. Resources Attributes:** HP6. 1-3 Story Commercial Building

**Style or Period** Mediterranean Eclectic

**\*P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☒ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

**P5b. Photo:** (view and date)  
West, May 2006.

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source**

1914

☒ Historic

Assessor

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**

Glenn & Ariel J. Hobson

195 Spur Ridge Ct.

Healdsburg, CA 95448

**\*P8. Recorded by:**

Planning Department, City and County  
of San Francisco, 1660 Mission Street,  
Ste. 500, San Francisco, CA, 94112.

**\*P9. Date Recorded** 10/6/2006

**\*P10. Survey Type** Reconnaissance

**\*P11. Report Citation:** (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none")

None

**Attachments:** ☒ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)







Local

## Stuffed giraffes, unicorns and other rare and strange goods lurk in San Francisco's Paxton Gate



Michelle Robertson, SFGATE

Oct. 25, 2021



Some of the taxidermy and oddities inside Paxton Gate, a shop in the Mission District of San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 20, 2021. Douglas Zimmerman/SFGATE

Turkey toes. Cat hearts. A baby pig floating in isopropyl alcohol. The collection at Paxton's Gate reads like a witch's ingredient list.

Perched on Valencia and 19th streets in the Mission, Paxton Gate has been serving up oddities, taxidermy and gardening supplies since the late 1990s. But before it became the Mission's much-loved — and photographed — supply store for all things creepy, weird and curious, it started with a "bug wall."

Sean Quigley, an original founder and the current owner of Paxton Gate, was an undergraduate when he — and two pals he met bartending — decided to open a gardening supply store.

“I actually opened Paxton Gate before graduating college,” Quigley said. “I did a marketing plan and a business plan and all those silly things you do in business school. But I did them for a real business.”



— A pedestrian walks by Paxton Gate, a taxidermy and oddities shop in the Mission District of San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 20, 2021.

Douglas Zimmerman/SFGATE

The 300-square-foot store opened off Market Street in December 1992. On a natural cork bark wall, Quigley and his colleagues pinned colorful beetles ordered from an entomology supply company.

“We eventually had this huge insect wall,” Quigley said. “So much so that people started calling us ‘the bug store.’”

The bug wall eventually grew into even more insects, then fossils, minerals, bones and smaller taxidermy pieces.





Some of the taxidermy and oddities inside Paxton Gate, a shop in the Mission District of San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 20, 2021.  
Douglas Zimmerman/SFGATE

Then, in 1999, after Paxton Gate moved to its current, larger space on Valencia Street, fate intervened.

“We were approached by a former game hunter, kind of an oil baron, who had this huge collection that he had moved from house to house,” Quigley said.

He said at the time, Quigley recalled, “No one’s wife wants this stuff in the house.” And at the time, it wasn’t in the house, but stored in a large warehouse.

“He had a grizzly bear, a walrus, but also tons of common antelopes, gazelles and so on,” Quigley said.

“So we went from a few little taxidermies to an entire wall of taxidermy.”



— A customer browses through some of the taxidermy and oddities inside Paxton Gate, a shop in the Mission District of San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 20, 2021.  
Douglas Zimmerman/SFGATE

In the time since that fateful encounter with the game hunter, Paxton Gate has played host to dozens of strange, and often rare creatures.

There's an albino peacock on the wall, and in previous years, the store also boasted huge, stuffed giraffes and even a “unicorn” — a stuffed horse with a faux narwhal horn attached to its forehead.

At Paxton Gate, the weird, and sometimes morbid, mingle with the mundane. There might be crystals next to human skulls. Stuffed mice on tires swing besides wall posters. And most of it tends not to offend the store's many daily visitors.

“In the early years, when we first started getting more taxidermy, once a week someone would say, ‘This is offensive,’ and walk out,” Quigley said. “I don’t think it’s quite as shocking as it was in 1999...It’s very rare now that we have any issues.”

Most of the taxidermy at Paxton Gate is vintage, and all of it is ethically sourced: Many of the creatures died of natural causes.



Quigley is not sure why taxidermy has become so popular these days. It was particularly trendy during the Victorian era, when natural history was at its peak. Perhaps today's taxidermy lovers are seeking a closer connection to the natural world — especially a connection that can sit on a desk or in an entranceway and get people asking questions.



— Some of the taxidermy and oddities inside Paxton Gate, a shop in the Mission District of San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 20, 2021.  
Douglas Zimmerman/SFGATE

For Quigley, that's the best part of this work — the curiosity aspect.


"There's nothing in Paxton Gate you need to survive, but it's not just pretty stuff," he said.

Rather, the objects teach you something. They are, as Paxton Gate's motto goes, "curiously mind expanding."

"And that's the fun part," Quigley said.



Written By  
**Michelle Robertson**

Reach Michelle on 

Michelle Robertson is an SFGATE features reporter.



# LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**HEARING DATE: April 6, 2022**

*Filing Date:* March 9, 2022  
*Case No.:* 2022-002361LBR  
*Business Name:* Paxton Gate  
*Business Address:* 824 Valencia Street (Primary Address)  
766 Valencia Street  
*Zoning:* NCT – Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit  
55-X Height and Bulk District  
Mission Alcohol Restrict  
Fringe Financial Service Restricted Use District  
*Block/Lot:* 3597/071  
*Applicant:* Sean Quigley  
766 Valencia Street 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
*Located In:* District 8  
*Staff Contact:* Elton Wu- 628-652-7415  
[elton.wu@sfgov.org](mailto:elton.wu@sfgov.org)

**Recommendation:** Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

## Business Description

Paxton Gate is a local retail store that has a large collection of eccentric oddities located within the Mission Neighborhood. Starting in 1992, Sean Quigley and Peter Kline started their business located at 1204 Stevenson Street selling unusual garden merchandise and other merchandise, like rare insects and taxidermy. In 1999, Quigley relocated the business to 824 Valencia Street to expand their store's possibilities. The store location allowed them to increase their merchandise to sell furniture, vintage and architectural elements, jewelry, personal goods, and books. In 2008, Quigley expanded operations and opened up "Paxton Gate's Curiosities for Kids" at 766 Valencia Street. The new location focuses on toys and games for children and adults to inspire their curiosity. The store has expanded to online stores, which has helped them during the Coronavirus pandemic. Paxton Gate has a store location in Portland, Oregon operated by Andy and Susan Brown.

As Paxton Gate expands, they have kept true to their vision, which is “Treasures and oddities inspired by the garden and natural sciences”. Paxton Gate’s inventory is dedicated to the natural sciences, curiosities, taxidermy, vintage architectural elements, and unique plants. One of Paxton Gate’s main appeals is their collection of vintage taxidermy. Paxton Gate ensures that their products are ethically sourced. All taxidermy animals died of natural causes or were euthanized in humane ways as part of animal care and control programs for managing wildlife populations. Insects are collected in their native habitats by locals and provides funds to conservation organizations and local economies.

Paxton Gate is a unique store with its merchandise and elaborate storefronts and is an essential part of the Mission Street neighborhood and San Francisco community. Paxton Gate sources merchandise from local artists and crafters. In addition, many artists and crafters are also employees of the store. Paxton Gate has supported many local organizations like, the San Francisco Women's Building, the Conservatory of Flowers, San Francisco Women Against Rape, Caral, Swing for Choice, The National AIDS Memorial Grove, The Randal Museum Friends, The San Francisco Naturalists Society, and more. Quigley is also an active member of the Valencia Corridor Merchants Association and was president from 2013-2020 of the organization.

The business location at 824 Valencia Street is located in a Category B (Unknown / Age Eligible) structure on the west side of Valencia Street between 19<sup>th</sup> Street and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. It is within the Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit District (NCT) Zoning District and a 55-X Height and Bulk District.

The business location at 766 Valencia Street is located in a Category B (Unknown / Age Eligible) structure on the west side of Valencia Street between 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street. It is within the Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit District (NCT) Zoning District and a 55-X Height and Bulk District.

## Staff Analysis

### Review Criteria

**1. *When was business founded?***

The business was founded in 1992.

**2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?***

Yes. Paxton Gate qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. Paxton Gate has operated continuously in San Francisco for 30 years in December 2, 2022.
- b. Paxton Gate has contributed to the history and identity of the Mission neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. Paxton Gate is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art, craft, cuisine, or tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the botanical, taxidermy, children's toys, and other artwork oddities.

4. *Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and/or architecture?*

Patrons include Martha Stewart, Chris Issac, Tracy Chapman, Kirk Hammett, James Hetfield, Mike Patton, Buzz Osborne of the Melvins, Daryl Hanna, David Sedaris, Jason Momoa, Lisa Bonet, and more.

5. *Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?*

No. The business location at 824 Valencia Street, was surveyed in 2006 as part of the National Register and was not evaluated. In 2004, 824 Valencia was also part of the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey and was found ineligible for National Registry, California Registry, and Local designation through survey evaluation.

The business location at 766 Valencia Street, was surveyed in 2006 as part of the National Register and was not evaluated. In 2004, 766 Valencia was also part of the Inner Mission North Historic Resource Survey and was found eligible for California Registry as an individual property through survey evaluation.

6. *Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?*

No, not as of the date of this Executive Summary, but it is located within the boundaries of an ongoing Neighborhood Commercial Corridors Historic Resources Survey.

7. *Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?*

Yes. Paxton Gate has been mentioned in the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, SF Magazine, 7X7, Time Out London, and many more publications.

## Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

### Location(s) associated with the business:

#### Current Locations:

- 824 Valencia Street (1999 – Present)
- 766 Valencia Street (2008 – Present)

#### Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 1204 Stevenson Street (1992 – 1999)

### Recommended by Applicant

- “Paxton Gate” Logo that was illustrated by Hugh D’ Andrade
- Trompe-l’oeil mural located at the 824 Valencia Street painted by Todd Standish
- Thematic Window Displays
- The eccentric range of store inventory

### Additional Recommended by Staff

- Taxidermy of animals and insects

## Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends the Historic Preservation Commission adopt a resolution recommending the business listed above be adopted by the Small Business Commission to the Legacy Business Registry.

### ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

- Application Review Sheet
- Section 1 – Business / Applicant Information
- Section 2 – Business Location(s)
- Section 3 – Disclosure Statement
- Section 4 – Written Historical Narrative
  - Criterion 1 – History and Description of Business
  - Criterion 2 – Contribution to Local History
  - Criterion 3 – Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1236

**HEARING DATE: APRIL 6, 2022**

*Case No.:* 2022-002361LBR  
*Business Name:* Paxton Gate  
*Business Address:* 766 Valencia Street (Primary Address)  
824 Valencia Street  
*Zoning:* NCT – Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit  
55-X Height and Bulk District  
Mission Alcohol Restrict  
Fringe Financial Service Restricted Use District  
*Block/Lot:* 3588/009  
3597 /071  
*Applicant:* Sean Quigley  
766 Valencia Street 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Rafael Mandelman  
*Located In:* District 8  
*Staff Contact:* Elton Wu- 628-652-7415  
[elton.wu@sfgov.org](mailto:elton.wu@sfgov.org)

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR PAXTON GATE CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 766 VALENCIA STREET (PRIMARY ADDRESS), BLOCK/LOT 3588/009; 824 VALENCIA STREET, BLOCK 3597/071.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for almost 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on April 6, 2022, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that Paxton Gate qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for Paxton Gate.

*Location(s):*

Current Locations:

- 824 Valencia Street (1999 – Present)
- 766 Valencia Street (2008 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

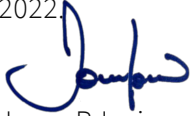
- 1204 Stevenson Street (1992 – 1999)

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:*

- “Paxton Gate” Logo that was illustrated by Hugh D’ Andrade
- Trompe-l’oeil mural located at the 824 Valencia Street painted by Todd Standish
- Thematic Window Displays
- The eccentric range of store inventory
- Taxidermy of animals and insects

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission’s findings and recommendations are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business’s eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on April 6, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin  
*Commission Secretary*

AYES: Wright, Black, Foley, Johns, So, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: April 6, 2022