



# Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: May 23, 2022

## SAN FRANCISCO MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

*Application No.:* LBR-2021-22-011  
*Business Name:* San Francisco Microscopical Society  
*Business Address:* 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254  
*District:* District 9  
*Applicant:* Jenny Jacox, Recording Secretary  
*Nomination Letter Date:* December 16, 2021  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

### BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The San Francisco Microscopical Society, also known as “SFMS”, is a scientific organization with a focus on microscopy that was originally formed in 1870 by two members of the California Academy of Sciences, Hiram Bloomer and Henry Hanks. The Society’s original constitution, bylaws, and articles of incorporation date back to 1872. SFMS was established with the intention of studying the use of microscopes in science through periodic meetings, which consisted of discussion, research, demonstrations, and topic lectures pertaining to microscopy.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society met through 1905, when it then disbanded, and subsequently re-formed in 1946 under the guidance of George Needham, but was not officially registered with the California Secretary of State until 1954. It has continuously operated for the past 68 years and is the only society of its kind in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society’s was officially formed in 1870 with its first meetings held at 649 Clay Street in the present-day Financial District. Until disbanding in 1905, the Society met at several other locations downtown, including 531 California Street, 126 Kearny Street, 120 Sutter Street, and 432 Montgomery Street. When SFMS re-formed in 1946, it met at various locations, including various medical and scientific institutions such as the San Francisco Department of Health, the University of California School of Medicine, the University of California Medical School, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Randall Museum. Today, the Society is located at 3150 18th Street, Suite 254, in the Mission District. Though the location of the Society has changed many times during its existence, SFMS has continuously provided a gathering place for microscopy enthusiasts. From its inception, the Society has conducted research, published articles, hosted demonstrations and lectures, and provided education for a range of topics pertaining to microscopy. Scientific topics explored by SFMS research and events have varied greatly, and include geology, botany, biology, epidemiology, paleontology, and many more.

SFMS provides several important microscopy services for its members and the public. First, they hold regular in-person and online outreach and education events, providing expert knowledge on various topics in microscopy. Some of its engagement events are also in conjunction with science fairs or in partnership with scientific institutions, such as the Randall Museum and the California Academy of Sciences. Second, they serve as a resource for the public to access microscope technology not otherwise readily available. Lastly, SFMS provides professional microscopical services for scientific research and has provided consultations for museums, medical schools, colleges, and other scientific societies. SFMS strives to make microscopy accessible to all including those who are just learning how to use a microscope to institutions seeking advice from professional microscopists.

### Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business  
City Hall Room 140  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 554-6680  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org  
[www.legacybusiness.org](http://www.legacybusiness.org)





## CRITERION 1

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

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

649 Clay St., 1870-1873 (3 Years)  
531 California St., 1873-1876 (3 Years)  
126 Kearny St., 1876-1881 (5 Years)  
120 Sutter St., 1881-1894 (13 Years)  
432 Montgomery St., 1894-1905 (11 Years)  
Various meeting locations in San Francisco, 1946 to Present (76 Years)

## CRITERION 2

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

Yes, San Francisco Microscopical Society has contributed to the history and identity of the scientific community of 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 Society was initially formed in 1870 at a point in time when San Francisco was establishing itself as a nationally recognized commercial and financial center. This period was also characterized by increased scientific curiosity, technological advancement, research, and the establishment of many prominent scientific and educational institutions.
- The organization's primary location at 3150 18th Street is in a Category C (No Resource Present / Not Age Eligible) structure constructed in 2008. 3150 18th Street was included in the Showplace Square/Northeast Mission Historic Resource Survey (2011), where it received a California Historical Resource status code of "6Z" (found ineligible for NR, CR or Local designation through survey evaluation. Not age eligible).
- There are a number of historic newspaper articles on the San Francisco Microscopical Society in the Daily Alta California dating back to the 1870s. The Daily Alta California also consistently published SMFS' records of meetings.

## CRITERION 3

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

Yes, San Francisco Microscopical Society is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that San Francisco Microscopical Society 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.

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#### Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Organization focused on microscopy, the use of microscopes in scientific study, and expert knowledge of microscope technology.
- Society constitution and articles of incorporation, dating to 1872.
- Society meetings.
- Microscopical research for various scientific fields.
- Public outreach and educational events in-person and online pertaining to microscopy.
- Microscopical consulting services for the public and institutions including museums, colleges and universities, medical research centers, and other scientific societies.
- Microscope equipment and tools available for use by the public.
- Engagement with the San Francisco scientific community.

### 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.

- Community of microscopists.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include San Francisco Microscopical Society currently located at 3150 18th Street, Suite #254 in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds  
Legacy Business Program

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# Small Business Commission

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

May 23, 2022

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*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney  
*Staff Contact:* Richard Kurylo  
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

**Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for San Francisco Microscopical Society, currently located at 3150 18th Street, Suite #254.**

**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 May 23, 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 San Francisco Microscopical Society 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 San Francisco Microscopical Society.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Organization focused on microscopy, the use of microscopes in scientific study, and expert knowledge of microscope technology.
- Society constitution and articles of incorporation, dating to 1872.
- Society meetings.
- Microscopical research for various scientific fields.
- Public outreach and educational events in-person and online pertaining to microscopy.
- Microscopical consulting services for the public and institutions including museums, colleges and universities, medical research centers, and other scientific societies.
- Microscope equipment and tools available for use by the public.
- Engagement with the San Francisco scientific community.

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

- Community of microscopists.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on May 23, 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

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120 Sutter St., 1881-1894 (13 Years)  
432 Montgomery St., 1894-1905 (11 Years)  
Various meeting locations in San Francisco, 1946 to Present (76 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:** San Francisco Microscopical Society disbanded in 1906 and re-formed in 1946. Its official start date for this application is June 23, 1954, when it was established per the California Secretary of State.

**DELIVERY DATE TO HPC:** April 6, 2022

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds  
Legacy Business Program

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MATT HANEY

December 16th, 2021

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director  
San Francisco Small Business Commission  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place, Room 110

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi,

I am nominating the San Francisco Microscopical Society (SFMS) to San Francisco's Legacy Business Program. The SFMS is the only microscopical society in San Francisco, and carries a history of education, inspiration, and community-building that dates back to 1870.

The SFMS was incorporated in 1872. The Society disbanded just before 1906, but re-formed in 1946 by George H. Needham and was registered with the State of California on June 23, 1954.

Please contact the San Francisco Microscopical Society's Recording Secretary and Co-Editor Jenny Jacox [jejacox@gmail.com](mailto:jejacox@gmail.com) (510) 684-8193 to inform them of their nomination.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Haney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Haney", with a stylized flourish at the end.



# 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>	
San Francisco Microscopical Society	
<b>BUSINESS OWNER(S)</b> (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business):	
San Francisco Microscopical Society Board Leadership: Ariel Waldman, President; Taylor Bell, Vice President; Jasmine Richardson, Treasurer; Jenny Jacox, Recording Secretary; Anna McGaraghan, Corresponding Secretary	
<b>CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>
3150 18th Street, Suite #254 San Francisco, CA 94110	415-585-4747
	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
	hello@sfmicrosociety.org
<b>MAILING ADDRESS – STREET ADDRESS:</b>	<b>MAILING ADDRESS – CITY AND STATE:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business Address	San Francisco, CA
3150 18th Street, Suite #250, Mailbox #214	<b>MAILING ADDRESS – ZIP CODE:</b>
	94110
<b>WEBSITE ADDRESS:</b>	
https://sfmicrosociety.org/	
<b>FACEBOOK PAGE:</b>	
@sfmicrosoc	
<b>TWITTER NAME:</b>	
@sfmicrosociety	
<b>APPLICANT'S NAME:</b>	<b>APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER:</b>
Jenny Jacox	
<b>APPLICANT'S TITLE:</b>	<b>APPLICANT'S EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>
Recording Secretary	
<b>SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:</b>	
N/A	
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (If applicable):</b>	
C0288117	



## 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
649 Clay Street	94111	June 4, 1870
<b>IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<b>DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION</b>
		1870-1873

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
531 California Street	94104	Start: Dec 4, 1873
		End: Nov 2, 1876

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
126 Kearny Street	94108	Start: Nov 2, 1876
		End: 1881

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
120 Sutter Street	94104	Start: 1881
		End: 1894

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
432 Montgomery Street	94104	Start: 1894
		End: Dec 1905

OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION
3150 18th Street, Suite #254	94110	Start: January 2022
		End: Present

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.

Jenny Jacox

Oct 16, 2021



Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

## **THE SAN FRANCISCO MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY**

### **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.**

The San Francisco Microscopical Society (the “Society” or “SFMS”) was originally formed on June 4, 1870, and disbanded just before the 1906 earthquake and fire. The Society was re-formed in 1946. The California Secretary of State shows the organization as having been established on June 23, 1954, which is the official start date for their Legacy Business Registry application.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society originated from a proposal by two members of the California Academy of Sciences, Hiram G. Bloomer and Henry G. Hanks, to form a section within the California Academy of Sciences devoted to the use of microscopes in scientific studies. This proposal being declined by other Academy members, it was decided to form a new and independent society. A number of meetings were held at 649 Clay Street, and on the evening of June 4, 1870, the San Francisco Microscopical Society was formed, which included the framing of a constitution and bylaws, and the election of officers. While these original founding documents have been lost, the Society maintains a redraft of the constitution, dated April 5, 1872, as well as its original Article of Incorporation, dated August 30, 1872.

The Society met at various locations in San Francisco with a new organizational structure and fees to support equipment and other expenses. Members met monthly to discuss their research and to promote scientific study. Papers on subjects such as geology, biology, and botany were presented for discussion, and visiting scientists were brought in to share ideas and demonstrate new scientific equipment. The Society also elected corresponding members from other states and countries. Through exhibits, receptions, a journal, and proceedings published in local newspapers, the Society publicized their research efforts.

When the Society disbanded just before the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, its property and library were donated to the University of California at Berkeley where it remains archived at the Bancroft Library. The Society was re-formed in 1946 by George H. Needham, and continues to date. The Society was established with the California Secretary of State in 1954.

Since the San Francisco Microscopical Society was re-founded, it met at various locations in San Francisco, including San Francisco Department of Health (1946), the University of California School of Medicine (1947-1954), the University of California Medical School (1955-1960), the California Academy of Sciences, and the Randall Museum. The current address of the organization is 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit #254, San Francisco, CA 94110.

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

The first San Francisco Microscopical Society bloomed out of the great rush of people into California in the few years after the gold rush and of the very high scientific and social standing that this early society had in the community. When local financial and industrial affairs began to readjust themselves upon a new basis, those who patronized the Society as a pastime, or merely as worthy of their encouragement, found that they could make other uses of their funds.

After the Society was re-formed in 1946 and registered with the State of California in 1954, it has continued to the present without ceasing operations.

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

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is not a family-owned business.

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

The San Francisco Microscopical Society was originally formed in 1870 and incorporated in 1872. The Society disbanded just before 1906. The Society was re-formed in 1946 by George H. Needham and was registered with the State of California on June 23, 1954. The Society re-stated its Articles of Incorporation in 2012.

**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 organization 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 3150 18th Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. In a 2011 survey, the building was found ineligible for the National Register, California Register, and local designation because it was not age eligible.

## CRITERION 2

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

SFMS was founded when a group of people came together because doing so enabled them to satisfy their curiosity and desire to explore the world in a new way that was not yet accessible to all. This 'can-do' spirit, the uniting for a common goal, and the democratization of wonder and exploration are hallmarks of the culture and identity of San Francisco. SFMS is a long-standing microcosm of that larger identity, and has been part of its fabric since its founding.

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

SFMS has been associated with various public outreach and education days, often in association with various festivals, fairs, and museum events.

Following is a sampling of recent events held or otherwise supported by SFMS:

- 1986 Demonstration: Scanning Electron Microscope (California Academy of Sciences)  
Demonstration: Scanning Electron Tunneling Microscope (UC Berkeley)  
Historical Meeting of SFMS (California Academy of Sciences)
- 1987 Lecture: "Microscopy and Video" (California Academy of Sciences)  
Lecture: "Microscopy of Urine" (California Academy of Sciences)  
Lecture: "Sea Urchin Development" (California Academy of Sciences)
- 2000 Fall workshop on Lichens (San Francisco State University)
- 2002 Lecture: "Forensic Microscopy"  
Lecture: "The Scanning Electron Microscope and How It Works"  
Event: Tour of the Electron Microscopy Laboratory (UC Berkeley)
- 2003 Event: An Evening of Microscopy and surplus sale  
Lecture: "Identifying SARS virus"  
Lecture: "Microscopy in Education: A Tool for Teaching"  
Lecture: "West Nile Virus in California Mosquitos"
- 2004 Meeting: "Amateur Microscopy: Our Basic Mission" (Randall Museum)  
Lecture: "Bumblebees in San Francisco's Urban Parks"  
Lecture: "Low Cost Beginning to Advanced Microscopical Techniques"  
Event: Tour the CNR Biological Imaging Facility (UC Berkeley)
- 2005 Lecture: "Potpourri of Microscopic Exhibits & Techniques by Officers of the Society"  
Lecture: "Microfossils" (UC Berkeley)  
Event: Tour the Microscope Lab and the Electron Microscope Facility (CSU Hayward)

- 2006 Event: Night of Microscopy (Randall Museum)
- 2008 Diatoms, Recognition and Sources (Tule Pond Lab Facility)  
Sun, Wind, and Water Day (Randall Museum)  
Lecture: "Protozoology" (Randall Museum)
- 2009 SF Zoo Bug Day (San Francisco Zoo)  
Lecture: "Microscopy and Lichens" (Randall Museum)
- 2010 SF Mycological Society's annual Fungus Fair (Lawrence Hall of Science)
- 2011 Bug Day at the Randall Museum (Randall Museum)
- 2012 Lecture: "Golub Microscope Collection" (SFO International Terminal)  
Fermentation Festival (Tara Firma Farms, Petaluma)
- 2013 Bug Day at the Randall Museum (Randall Museum)  
Bay Area Science Festival "Discovery Days" (AT&T Park)  
SF Mycological Society's annual Fungus Fair (Golden Gate Park)
- 2014 Point Reyes Fungus Fair (Point Reyes)
- 2015 Bay Area Science Festival Discovery Day (Cal State East Bay Hayward Campus)  
Discovery Day at AT&T Park (AT&T Park)  
SF Mycological Society's annual Fungus Fair (Golden Gate Park)
- 2016 Bay Area Mycological Society Exhibition (Bear Valley Visitors Center, Point Reyes)  
Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive Micro-Exhibit (Berkeley Art Museum)
- 2018 SF Fermentation Festival (California Academy of Sciences)  
Lecture: "Diascopic Illumination" (Randall Museum)
- 2019 Plankton & microscopy (Randall Museum)  
Lecture: "Life Under the Ice" (Randall Museum)  
SF Mycological Society's annual Fungus Fair (SF County Fair Building)
- 2020 Lecture: "Introduction to Cheap Field Microscopy" (Randall Museum)
- 2021 Virtual event: [Microscopes for Space Exploration](#) (virtual)  
Ongoing (weekly) virtual event: "Microscopes and Chill" (virtual)  
Ongoing (monthly) virtual society meet-up/social hour (virtual)  
Event: Tidepooling with the SFMS x California Academy of Sciences (Pillar Point)

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

The Daily Alta California regularly published SMFS' records of meetings. That publication and several other newspapers often ran articles containing items of note from these meetings. Many of these mentions can be accessed through the California Digital Newspaper Collection at <https://cdnc.ucr.edu> administered by the UC Riverside Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research.

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

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is associated with the following significant/historical people:

- **Fritz Zernike (honorary member).** Dutch physicist and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1953 for his invention of the phase-contrast microscope.
- **Frank Mace MacFarland (member).** President of the California Academy of Sciences (1934-1946). Helped to found the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory (now Hopkins Marine Station) in Pacific Grove, California.
- **George Herbert Needham (member, President).** Curator of Paleontology (later Geology at the California Academy of Sciences. Recognized for pioneering contributions in micropalontology in the oil industry.

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

Since its inception, SFMS has demonstrated its commitment to the community through:

- **Outreach and education.** The organization is committed to educating and inspiring the community through regular outreach and education offerings. In addition to lectures delivered at SFMS meetings, offerings have been in conjunction with local fairs and festivals. More recently, due to COVID restrictions, offerings have been virtual (e.g., [Microscopes for Space Exploration](#) and a "Microscopes and Chill," a weekly meeting with live-share microscopical views).
- **Provision of services.** SFMS is consulted for, and provides, various microscopical services (e.g., specialized micrographic imaging, microplankton identification). Their provision of services to the general public is a long-standing tradition. Perhaps the earliest example of this is confirmation by SFMS that *Trichina*, a parasite, was not present in California pork.<sup>1</sup>
- **Community development.** SFMS meetings have always, and still do, serve to knit a diverse community of microscopists and scientists – as well as artists, naturalists, photographers, filmmakers, and more. Their open engagement through meetings always meant and means to serve and develop this community. Now, they are actively supporting, serving, and developing the community through virtual event offerings and a community Slack workspace.

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<sup>1</sup> Red Bluff Independent, July 14, 1870.



- **Resources.** SFMS is partnering with Zeiss to secure two new microscopes to enable SFMS members to utilize high-end microscopes not usually available to those not affiliated with a research or academic laboratory. They are committed to helping the community find access to microscopical tools and knowledge, whether it be through securement of new tools, the offering of microscopy advice, or use of their #buy-sell-free channel in the SF Microscopical Society Slack workspace.

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

The thread of SFMS is microscopy. However, because microscopy is a tool employed across a wide variety of disciplines and interests, SFMS has a record of service to a diverse community of institutions and individuals, including:

Institutions:

- Natural history museums (e.g., the Randall Museum)
- Natural science museums (e.g., California Academy of Science)
- Community colleges (e.g., Merritt College; San Francisco City College)
- Medical research centers (e.g., UCSF)
- Societies (e.g., San Francisco Mycological Society; California Lichen Society)

Individuals:

- Artists
- Naturalists
- Filmmakers
- Photographers
- Writers
- Scientists
- Farmers
- Technicians
- Medical physicians
- Engineers
- Conservationists
- Landscapers
- Students
- Retirees and hobbyists
- Professors and teachers

In addition to the above, the San Francisco Microscopical Society often acts as a contact point for those who are not familiar with microscopy but require advice, whether it be a technical consultation or someone who doesn't know what to do with a microscope that has been inherited. In this capacity, they serve the general public to address their microscopical needs.

SFMS also strives to serve the broader community through their education and outreach activities.

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

Not applicable.

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

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is the only microscopical society in San Francisco. They carry a history of education, inspiration, and community-building that dates back to 1870. A loss of SFMS would be a loss of the institution that proudly bears this legacy, and is evolving into a dynamic and inclusive future.

If SFMS were to dissolve, local institutions would lose a long-standing resource and a valued outreach partner. In addition, the community would lose a window to the microscopical world and a unique resource of information and advice. Further, SFMS is a node for the pollination of ideas and insight across a diverse community; this node enables visibility, and therefore connections, that would otherwise not exist.

### **CRITERION 3**

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

*Founded in 1870, members met monthly to discuss their research and to promote scientific study. Papers on subjects such as geology, biology, and botany were presented for discussion and visiting scientists were brought in to share ideas and demonstrate new scientific equipment. The Society also elected corresponding members from other states and countries. Through exhibits, receptions, a journal, and proceedings published in local newspapers, the Society publicized their research efforts.<sup>2</sup> These initial activities (discussion of research, promotion of scientific study, sharing of ideas, demonstration of new scientific equipment, exhibiting and communication of activities) remain essential features that define the character of SFMS.*

SFMS was founded by a group of individuals who, together, could pool sufficient funds to purchase a microscope and gain access to the microscopical world. This was not only pragmatic, but it was emblematic: by coming together, they find new access to technology but also to new ideas, knowledge, and training. As a nonprofit organization, SFMS is not only continuing to make microscopes available but microscopy more accessible and approachable to all.

In terms of sheer personality, SFMS is founded in exploration, curiosity, and wonder – and seems to have pursued these with a healthy dose of humor since the beginning. Early newspaper articles contain humorous recountings of microscopical adventures had by their membership (e.g., [\*Story of a Lost Quarto Told\*](#), Daily Alta California, 26 May 1887). Newsletters

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<sup>2</sup> [https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt85800632/entire\\_text/](https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt85800632/entire_text/), Online Archive of California (OAC) Guide to the San Francisco Microscopical Society records, 1870-1905.

from 2000 to present very much carried this tradition of humor, and so the Society remains quick to laugh. Humor and humility are essential to mindful questioning and exploration.

Words written in 1893 to explain the motivation to publish a journal, still summarize today the motivation behind SFMS' ongoing activities: *"First, the hope of **adding to the sum of human knowledge and of aiding in the promotion of general microscopic science**; second, the **establishment of closer relations and intercommunication with other societies** having similar aims; third, the encouragement of our own members to **increased effort in original work**, and to disseminate among the solitary votaries of the crystal-tipped scepter **an appreciation of the advantages of association, mutual conference, and sympathetic acquaintanceship.**"*<sup>3</sup>

**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)**

SFMS continues to carry out the traditions that define the Society, as follows:

- **Public education.** SFMS continues to educate the public about the craft and art of microscopy by hosting monthly social hours and through tabling, lectures, and virtual events.
- **Resources.** SFMS continues to enhance opportunities for access to microscopes and microscopical images.
- **Sharing of information.** SFMS continues to serve as a hub of information and knowledge, where everyone from novices to experts can come for advice or to share tricks, techniques, and information.
- **Community.** SFMS continues to foster community amongst its diverse membership and beyond.
- **Inspiration.** SFMS continues to inspire the public, especially youth, about the microscopical world.

The above, and the 'traditions' of humor, curiosity, transparency, and exploration are part of SFMS' historical character and should remain intact.

**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.).**

Not Applicable.

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<sup>3</sup> Transactions of the San Francisco Microscopical Society, Vol I Part I (1893).

**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.**

Documentation that demonstrates the San Francisco Microscopical Society has been a microscopical organization for 30+ years is included in this Legacy Business Registry application.



ROOMS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.







# Office of the County Clerk

OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

I, WILLIAM HARNEY, County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and Clerk of the County Court thereof, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the *Certificate of Incorporation of the "San Francisco Microscopical Society"*

*filed* in my office. on the *30<sup>th</sup>* day of August A. D. 1872

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this *30<sup>th</sup>* day of *August* A. D., 1872.

WILLIAM HARNEY, CLERK.

By

*John H. Harney*

Deputy Clerk.



San Francisco April 1<sup>st</sup> 1872

We hereby subscribe ourselves as members of The San Francisco Microscopical Society, and agree to pay ten (<sup>\$10.00</sup>) dollars initiation fee and two dollars and fifty cents per month from date for the purchase of a microscope and accessories. — for twelve months.

✓ 1	Charles H. Devison	11	H. J. Holmes
✓ 2	Henry G. Hanks	12	Kussel
3	D. P. Burkup	13	C. Mason King
4	Henry C. Hyde	14	J. Brandenburgh
5	A. J. Hunt	15	Charles E. Cumy
✓ 6	W. B. Harford	16	
7	F. H. Hill	17	
8	G. A. Freadwell	18	
9	J. A. Hays	19	
10	Merrill Wood	20	
6	James Stratton	21	



# San Francisco Microscopical Society,

Mercantile Library Hall, May 4th, 1874.

## OBJECTS EXHIBITED.

EXHIBITOR.	OBJECT.	LOCALITY.
1 MELVILLE ATTWOOD.	{ Native Gold. Native Silver. Amethyst.	Comstock Lode. Comstock Lode. Comstock Lode.
2 JOSEPH BECK, Of London.	{ Anatomy of Blow Fly. Aluminium Microscope.	
3 C. W. BONYNGE.	{ Stomata of Calla Lily. Polycistina.	San Francisco. Barbadoes.
4 C. H. DENISON	{ Gold Crystals. Cinnebar in Chalcedony. Native Silver.	
5 CHAS. G. EWING	{ Spine of Echinus. Trichina Spiralis. Casuarina Equisetifolia.	Monterey Bay.
6 SAM L. FOX, Of Philadelphia.	{ Platinocyanide of Magnesium. Crystals of Strychnine. Elytron of Pachyrhynchus.	
7 H. W. HARKNESS	{ Circulation in Lung of Living Frog. Vegetable forms in Water, Protoco- cus (Red), Pedastrum, Asterio- nella, etc.	Streams in San Francisco.
8 H. G. HANKS	{ Chloride of Barium. Salicine. Thallium. } Polariscopes.	San Francisco. San Francisco. San Francisco.
9 H. C. HYDE	{ Gallionella Aulacodiscus Oreganus. Pleurosigma. } Diatoms	San Francisco. Oregon. Oakland.
10 JOHN HEWSTON, Jr.	{ Silicious Spicules of Sponge. Crystals (Raphides) in Lily. Elytron of Curculio.	Caroline Islands San Francisco. Ceylon.
11 J. J. HUCKS	{ Crystals (Raphides) in Pie Plant. Spiral Ducts.	San Francisco.
12 H. J. HOLMES	{ Circulation of Blood in Frogs Foot. Pigment Cells	San Francisco.
13 FRED HILLER	{ Limnoria. Living Flea.	Bay of San Francisco.
14 C. MASON KINNE	{ Living Embryo Oyster. Cilia of Mussel. Living Diatoms.	Oakland. Bay of San Francisco. Streams in San Francisco.
15 S. M. MOUSER	{ Sheep's Kidney, Injected. Human Lung, " Human Tongue, "	
16 GEO. A. RAYMOND	{ Animal Forms in Water. Paramecium. Rotifer Vulgaris, etc.	San Antonio.
17 J. R. SOUPHAM	{ Fungus. Cell Rotation, Closterium. Conjugation of Zygnema.	Summit Tunnel. Oakland. Oakland.
18 G. A. TREADWELL	{ Protococcus Viridis. Vegetable Cells, Petal of Geranium. Spiral Ducts. "	Colfax. San Francisco. San Francisco.
19 J. W. WINTER	{ Longitudinal Section, Dentine. Transverse " Enamel.	San Francisco.



# Daily Alta California, Volume 26, Number 8908, 22 August 1874

[Daily Alta California 22 August 1874 — California Digital Newspaper Collection \(ucr.edu\)](#)

<p>ery. Cer- le will be</p> <p>away on noon, and a terrific ght below</p> <p>a horrible e to run a acramento Fall, each</p> <p>er day to t showed ed it, she n much</p> <p>adia at the ew York, s warmly Since the</p>	<p>repaired. In a day or two the place will be entirely changed on the surface.</p> <hr/> <div data-bbox="562 548 1537 662"><b>MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.</b></div> <hr/> <div data-bbox="478 678 1579 734"><b>New Instrument—Valuable Donations.</b></div> <hr/> <p>The regular meeting of the San Francisco Micro- scopical Society was held in its rooms last Thursday evening.</p> <p>Mr. J. F. L. Schirmer, in charge of the United States Mint at Denver, Colorado, was present as a visitor.</p> <p>Under the head of donations, Mr. Henry Edwards presented a portion of a leaf from a tree on one of the Japanese group of islands, which appeared much like the furry skin of animals, and also presented the wings and other parts of various insects for mounting.</p> <p>Mr. J. R. Scupham presented the sloughed cuticle of the <i>Phrynosoma Regala</i> (horned toad), which ex-</p>	<p>report of th</p> <hr/> <p>FRIDAY, 22 journment, Niles, Rhod No. 3606— trial reverse No. 3835— reversed and costs to abi No. 3788— affirmed. No. 3849— affirmed. No. 4334— order revers to dismiss t No. 4408— order denyi No. 3997—</p>
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[Become a Member](#)

# Since 1870, we have fostered a community where anyone can learn and grow their microscopy practice.

## About

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is a community of aspirational, amateur, and professional microscopists. Our mission is to be a focal point for all microscopists across all disciplines of both science and the arts. We welcome all people of any age or background - from those who have not used a microscope to those who have been working with them for decades. Since 1870, we have fostered a society where anyone can learn and grow their microscopy practice.

Sign up as a member to get access to our online community platform and events. These are friendly spaces where you can ask questions and meet people from a multitude of disciplines. Our in-person activities are primarily focused in the San Francisco Bay Area, but we welcome members from any location and offer many virtual opportunities to connect.

[Become a Member](#)

## History

On June 4th in the year 1870, members of the California Academy of Sciences made the first attempt to establish a microscopical society in San Francisco. Approximately two years later, on August 30, 1872, the society adopted a constitution, elected officers and incorporated as the San Francisco Microscopical Society.

[Learn More](#)

## Board of Directors





## Ariel Waldman *President*

Ariel Waldman is an Antarctic explorer and microscopic wildlife filmmaker. An art school graduate who pivoted to science, she was recognized by the Obama White House as a *Champion of Change* in citizen science. Ariel is a National Geographic Explorer and the global director of Science Hack Day. She previously served as the advisory chair to NASA's Innovative Advanced Concepts program.



## Taylor Bell *Vice President*

Microscopist, chef, photographer, and all-around nerd, Taylor is obsessed with observing the world's phenomena from unseen perspectives and sharing those perspectives with the world!



## Jasmine Richardson *Treasurer*

Jasmine Richardson is a microscopist specializing in mycorrhizae. She is the former VP of the SF Microscopical Society and regularly hosts microscopical and mushroom cultivation workshops. Jasmine is passionate about fostering scientific and community-based collaborations and bridging the divide between conventional American farming and mycology. Currently, she's establishing a *Tuber melanosporum* orchard on her family farm in Southern Virginia.



## Jenny Jacox *Recording Secretary & Lead Editor*

Jenny Jacox holds a PhD in Ocean Sciences from UC Santa Cruz. While her research focus is coastal phytoplankton ecology and bloom dynamics, she is an avid ultrarunner and her wonder is as far-ranging as the trails she wanders.



## Anna McGaraghan *Corresponding Secretary*

Anna is a phytoplankton ecologist at UCSC, as well as a mom, an artist, and an open water swimmer. Her love of the ocean and all marine creatures has led her on many salty adventures. She currently works closely with an ill-tempered phytoplankton imaging robot named Miranda.



## Eric Weinstein *Board Member*

Eric Weinstein works in biotech as a lab leader. He also volunteers at the Marine Mammal Center. He enjoys weightlifting, swimming, trail running, surfing, or rock climbing most days. Eric's goals are to get into med school, run a marathon for his birthday, and freedive to 80 meters depth.



## Janai Southworth *Board Member*

Janai Southworth is a Naturalist with the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and a plankton enthusiast. Her background in Fine Art has helped her create visually interesting images of the local San Francisco Bay plankton. These images are used for science communication and local educational programs. In her free time she livestreams plankton online. Capturing the charismatic micro fauna one



## Lena Blackmon *Board Member*

Lena builds microscopes and tools to help diagnose human disease. Their research interests include biophotonics, microscopy and optics, and signal processing. Additionally, Lena cares deeply about educational equity and looks forward to working with SFMS to establish outreach opportunities. Outside of the lab, you can find Lena growing herbs, vermicomposting, or rollerblading around the Bay.



## Henry Schott *Emeritus Board Member*

Henry Schott is the Co-Editor of Micro-News, the newsletter of the SF Microscopical Society. He joined the society in 1986 and served as president, vice-president, and treasurer in the past. He is a retired teacher from Merritt College in Oakland where he was the chair of the Biology Department.





## Myron Chan

### *Emeritus Board Member*

A third-generation San Franciscan with a degree in Zoology, Myron Chan joined SFMS in 2009 and served as Treasurer from 2009-2021. An astronomer, engineer, and tinkerer since a young age, Myron has a passion for turning 'trash' to treasure and has been building telescopes and refurbishing microscopes for over 5 decades.

## Code of Conduct

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is an inclusive community based on treating all individuals respectfully, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, ethnicity, national origin, race, religion (or lack thereof), body size, or microscope preferences. So please don't be nasty or mean. Be nice. Be considerate. Be civil. It's easy. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact the [President](#) and/or [Vice President](#) of the San Francisco Microscopical Society directly. If you can't immediately get in touch with the President or Vice President, please send an email to all SFMS Board Members at [hello@sfmicrosociety.org](mailto:hello@sfmicrosociety.org). If you require any further clarification of these terms please get in touch.

[Read the full Code of Conduct](#)

*Header image above features a mast cell showing histamine granules, by the University of Edinburgh.*

## Make a donation.

The SF Microscopical Society is a non-profit run entirely by volunteers and made possible thanks to donors like you.

\$10

\$50

\$25

\$100

**San Francisco Microscopical Society**

A California 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation

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San Francisco Microscopical Society is in Pacifica, California.

...

August 24, 2021 · 🌐

SF Micro Society member @alan\_rockefeller took this gorgeous picture of *Amanita muscaria* subsp. *flavivolvata* mycelium growing on agar.

🔬 100x, Nikon BX41 + Nikon Z7. Found growing along the top of a ridge under *Pinus radiata*. Fruiting from the fog drip.

SF Micro Society welcomes people of all backgrounds to learn and grow their microscopy practice. Sign up to be a member for \$12/year at [sfmicrosociety.org/join](https://sfmicrosociety.org/join). Membership gives you access to our community events and Slack space to connect with others.

#microscopy #mycology #mycelium #agar #fungi #fungus  
#microscopic #micro #microscope #nature @nikoninstruments  
#nikonmicroscope #petridish #microphotography  
#moodyphotography #science #mushroomphotography #mushrooms  
#mushroomobserver



👍 1

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share





## San Francisco Microscopical Society is at Pillar Point Tide Pools.

...

November 6, 2021 · Half Moon Bay, CA · 🌐

The San Francisco Microscopical Society had a fantastic time out at the tide pools yesterday!

Photos by @mattbiddulph.

[#tidepools](#) [#sanfrancisco](#) [#sfbayarea](#) [#tidepooling](#) [#microscopy](#)  
[#microscopeart](#) [#halfmoonbay](#) [#explorers](#) [#pacificocean](#)



👍❤️ 12

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💬 Comment

➦ Share


## MARVELOUS MICROSCOPIC MARINE PLANKTON

**Friday** April 29, 2022, 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

🔗 Audience: 3rd - 6th Grade, Teens, Adults, Families 🔗 Topic: Biology, Environmental Science 🔗 Format: Virtual

Join the San Francisco Microscopical Society and an Education & Outreach Specialist for NOAA's Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries on a Marvelous Microscopic Marine Plankton Exploration of San Francisco Bay. This virtual event will explore elements of biology, oceanography, and microscopy. We will use microscopy to highlight and share the beauty and diversity of the micro-algae and micro-animals that call our world ocean home. From the San Francisco Bay directly to the microscope, the process of collecting to imaging will be highlighted and explained.



 Add to Calendar

[Register here](#)

## EVENT HOSTS

### SAN FRANCISCO MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

The San Francisco Microscopical Society is a community of aspirational, amateur, and professional microscopists. Our mission is to be a focal point for all microscopists across all disciplines of both science and the arts. We welcome all people of any age or background – from those who have not used a microscope to those who have been working with them for decades. Since 1870, we have fostered a society where anyone can learn and grow their microscopy practice.

[Visit This Host](#)





# LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**HEARING DATE: MAY 4, 2022**

*Filing Date:* April 6, 2022  
*Case No.:* **2022-003187LBR**  
*Business Name:* San Francisco Microscopical Society  
*Business Address:* 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254  
*Zoning:* PDR-1-G (Production, Distribution & Repair - 1 - General) Zoning District  
58-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 3573/106  
*Applicant:* Jenny Jacox  
3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney  
*Located In:* District 9  
*Staff Contact:* Gretel Gunther - 628-652-7607  
[gretel.gunther@sfgov.org](mailto:gretel.gunther@sfgov.org)

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

## Business Description

The San Francisco Microscopical Society, also known as “SFMS”, is a scientific organization with a focus on microscopy that was originally formed in 1870 by two members of the California Academy of Sciences, Hiram Bloomer and Henry Hanks. The Society’s original constitution, bylaws, and articles of incorporation date back to 1872. SFMS was established with the intention of studying the use of microscopes in science through periodic meetings, which consisted of discussion, research, demonstrations, and topic lectures pertaining to microscopy. The San Francisco Microscopical Society met through 1905, when it then disbanded, and subsequently re-formed in 1946 under the guidance of George Needham, but was not officially registered with the California Secretary of State until 1954. It has continuously operated for the past 68 years and is the only society of its kind in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society’s was officially formed in 1870 with its first meetings held at 649 Clay Street in the present-day Financial District. Until disbanding in 1905, the Society met at several other locations downtown, including 531 California Street, 126 Kearny Street, 120 Sutter Street, and 432 Montgomery Street. When

SFMS re-formed in 1946, it met at various locations, including various medical and scientific institutions such as the San Francisco Department of Health, the University of California School of Medicine, the University of California Medical School, the California Academy of Sciences, and the Randall Museum. Today, the Society is located at 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 254, in the Mission District. Though the location of the Society has changed many times during its existence, SFMS has continuously provided a gathering place for microscopy enthusiasts. From its inception, the Society has conducted research, published articles, hosted demonstrations and lectures, and provided education for a range of topics pertaining to microscopy. Scientific topics explored by SFMS research and events have varied greatly, and include geology, botany, biology, epidemiology, paleontology, and many more.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society's members and meeting attendees are diverse. While many of the attendees are scientists, SFMS brings together a community that consists of artists, naturalists, photographers, writers, engineers, students, and hobbyists, to name a few. SFMS provides several important microscopy services for its members and the public. First, SFMS holds regular in-person and online outreach and education events, providing expert knowledge on various topics in microscopy. Some of its engagement events are also in conjunction with science fairs or in partnership with scientific institutions, such as the Randall Museum and the California Academy of Sciences. Second, The San Francisco Microscopical Society serves as a resource for the public to access microscope technology not otherwise readily available, including access through their live demonstrations of different microscope tools and through providing Society members access to high-end microscope equipment. Lastly, SFMS provides professional microscopical services for scientific research and has provided consultations for museums, medical schools, colleges, and other scientific societies.

The San Francisco Microscopical Society continues to give back to the community it serves, primarily through its outreach and microscope education events. SFMS provides anyone in the public with a curiosity about microscopes an opportunity to connect with others with a similar curiosity and with those who are experts in microscopy. Further, SFMS strives to make microscopy accessible to all and offers expert advice to a range of individuals, including those who are just learning how to use a microscope, to institutions seeking advice from professional microscopists.

The organization's primary location at 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street is a Category C (No Resource Present / Not Age Eligible) structure on the north side of 18th Street, Suite 254, between Treat Avenue and Folsom Street in the Mission District neighborhood. It is within a PDR-1-G (Production, Distribution & Repair - 1 – General) Zoning District and a 58-X Height and Bulk District. It is also located within the Mission Alcohol Restricted Use District and the Mission Eastern Neighborhoods Planning Area. 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street is subject to the Mission District Streetscape Plan.

## Staff Analysis

### Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The organization was founded in 1954.

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



Yes. San Francisco Microscopical Society qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. San Francisco Microscopical Society has operated continuously in San Francisco for 68 years.
- b. San Francisco Microscopical Society has contributed to the history and identity of the scientific community of San Francisco.
- c. San Francisco Microscopical Society 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/tradition?***

No.

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

No, however the Society was initially formed in 1870 at a point in time when San Francisco was establishing itself as a nationally recognized commercial and financial center. This period was also characterized by increased scientific curiosity, technological advancement, research, and the establishment of many prominent scientific and educational institutions.

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

No. The businesses' primary location at 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street is in a Category C (No Resource Present / Not Age Eligible) structure constructed in 2008. 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street was included in the Showplace Square/Northeast Mission Historic Resource Survey (2011), where it received a California Historical Resource status code of "6Z" (found ineligible for NR, CR or Local designation through survey evaluation. Not age eligible).

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

No, not as of the date of this Executive Summary.

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

Yes. There are a number of historic newspaper articles on the San Francisco Microscopical Society in the *Daily Alta California* dating back to the 1870s. The *Daily Alta California* also consistently published SMFS' records of meetings.

**Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business**

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- Various meeting locations in San Francisco (1954 – 2021)
- 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254 (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations (prior to 1905, when the Society disbanded):

- 649 Clay Street (1870 – 1873)
- 531 California Street (1873 – 1876)

- 126 Kearny Street (1876 – 1881)
- 120 Sutter Street (1881 – 1894)
- 432 Montgomery Street (1894 – 1905)

#### Recommended by Applicant

- Organization focused on microscopy, the use of microscopes in scientific study, and expert knowledge of microscope technology.
- Society constitution and articles of incorporation, dating to 1872.
- Society meetings.
- Microscopical research for various scientific fields.
- Public outreach and educational events in-person and online pertaining to microscopy.
- Microscopical consulting services for the public and institutions including museums, colleges and universities, medical research centers, and other scientific societies.
- Microscope equipment and tools available for use by the public.
- Engagement with the San Francisco scientific community.

#### Additional Recommended by Staff

- None

### 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. 1246

**HEARING DATE: MAY 4, 2022**

*Case No.:* **2022-003187LBR**  
*Business Name:* San Francisco Microscopical Society  
*Business Address:* 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254  
*Zoning:* PDR-1-G (Production, Distribution & Repair - 1 - General) Zoning District  
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3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254  
*Nominated By:* Supervisor Matt Haney  
*Located In:* District 9  
*Staff Contact:* Gretel Gunther - 628-652-7607  
[Gretel.Gunther@sfgov.org](mailto:Gretel.Gunther@sfgov.org)

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 3150 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 254, BLOCK/LOT 3573/106.

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; 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 May 4, 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 San Francisco Microscopical Society 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 San Francisco Microscopical Society.

*Location(s):*

Current Locations:

- Various meeting locations in San Francisco (1954 – 2021)
- 3150 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #254 (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations (prior to 1905, when the Society disbanded):

- 649 Clay Street (1870 – 1873)
- 531 California Street (1873 – 1876)
- 126 Kearny Street (1876 – 1881)
- 120 Sutter Street (1881 – 1894)
- 432 Montgomery Street (1894 – 1905)

*Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:*

- Organization focused on microscopy, the use of microscopes in scientific study, and expert knowledge of microscope technology.
- Society constitution and articles of incorporation, dating to 1872.
- Society meetings.
- Microscopical research for various scientific fields.
- Public outreach and educational events in-person and online pertaining to microscopy.
- Microscopical consulting services for the public and institutions including museums, colleges and universities, medical research centers, and other scientific societies.
- Microscope equipment and tools available for use by the public.
- Engagement with the San Francisco scientific community.

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 2022-003187LBR to the Office of Small Business on May 4, 2022.



Jonas P. Ionin  
*Commission Secretary*

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: May 4, 2022