

### **Legacy Business Registry Staff Report**

**Hearing Date: September 12, 2022** 

#### ST. JOHN COLTRANE CHURCH

Application No.: LBR-2021-22-019

Business Name: St. John Coltrane Church Business Address: 2 Marina Blvd., Building D

District: District 2

Applicant: Pastor Wanika Stephens, Arch Priest

Nomination Letter Date: March 3, 2022

Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

#### **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

St. John Coltrane Church is a religious community and jazz organization that was founded by Archbishop Franzo W. King and Reverend Marina King at 351 Divisadero Street in 1977. Although formally established in 1977, Coltrane Church traces its roots back to the 1960s in Bayview-Hunters Point, where the Kings opened a jazz club in their garage. Then, in 1969, the couple created the Yardbird Temple with the goal of educating Black youth about African American jazz musicians, supporting local artists, and creating a place where members of different generations could gather to exchange music and ideas. The Church moved to the Fillmore in 1972, changed its name to the One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Church of Christ in 1977, and canonized John Coltrane as its patron saint in 1982, officially becoming Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church.

For the last half century, Coltrane Church has been a hub of spiritual life, chronicler of jazz history, and advocate for justice in the Fillmore district. The organization holds weekly meditation services on "Coltrane Consciousness," hosts a weekly radio program on the life and music of John Coltrane, and produces annual concerts at Grace Cathedral celebrating his birthday and ascension. It is committed to not only celebrating the cultural legacy of John Coltrane and jazz music in San Francisco, but also supporting the local ecosystem of Bay Area musicians so that jazz can continue to thrive here. Through sermons and song, Coltrane Church draws congregants from across the city and tourists from around the world who want to experience the spiritual power of jazz. Coltrane Church's interior is also defined by a collection of Byzantine-style icon paintings, which the organization has been commissioning for decades.

Throughout its history, Coltrane Church has been dedicated to pursuing justice for residents of the Fillmore district. The organization has provided free vegetarian meals to low-income and elderly residents, and held classes on health, social justice, and inclusion. It has also been a vocal advocate on issues that impact the Black community in San Francisco, including environmental racism, illegal foreclosures, and police relations. Although Coltrane Church has been displaced several times due to the impacts of redevelopment and gentrification in the Western Addition, it is currently transitioning to a new space in District 2 and remains the city's oldest Black jazz 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
(415) 554-6680
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www.legacybusiness.org



Yes, St. John Coltrane Church has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

351 Divisadero Street from 1977 to 2003 (26 Years) 930 Gough Street from 2003 to 2006 (3 Years) 1286 Fillmore Street from 2006 to 2016 (10 Years) 2097 Turk Blvd. from 2016 to 2022 (6 Years) 2 Marina Blvd., Building D from June 2022 to Present (1 Month)

#### **CRITERION 2**

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

Yes, St. John Coltrane Church has contributed to the history and identity of the Fillmore 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 organization's current location is listed in the California Register and National Register as a contributor to the Fort Mason Historic District.

The church's new building at 2 Marina Boulevard is located within the boundaries of the National Register-listed Fort Mason Historic District and U.S. Army Port of Embarkation National Historic Landmark, which are significant for their association with San Francisco's military history.

- The business is associated with jazz music and African American history in San Francisco.
- The organization is associated with its canonized patron saint, saxophonist John Coltrane, and his wife, renowned musician Alice Coltrane. Throughout its history, Coltrane Church has collaborated with other famous musicians and community leaders including Jason Moran, Teodross Avery, and Huey P. Newton.
- Coltrane Church is mentioned in a draft of the in-progress African American Citywide Historic Context Statement.
- There have been numerous stories on Coltrane Church in publications including the New York Times, the New Yorker, NPR, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Coltrane Church was also the subject of a Jazz Night in America documentary that was featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

#### **CRITERION 3**

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

Yes, St. John Coltrane Church is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define its craft of the organization.

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that St. John Coltrane Church 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.

**Legacy Business Program** 





Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Production of jazz events, programming, and media including:
  - Weekly Uplift radio program on KPOO FM.
  - 24/7 Coltrane Consciousness internet radio network.
  - Weekly spiritual meditation sessions for local citizens and tourists.
  - Annual concerts on John Coltrane Day (July 20th) and John Coltrane's Birthday (September 24th).
- Byzantine-style icon paintings.

#### 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.

Faith-based organization.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include St. John Coltrane Church currently located at 2 Marina Blvd., Building D 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**





#### **Small Business Commission**

Resolution No. **September 12, 2022** 

#### ST. JOHN COLTRANE CHURCH

LBR-2021-22-019 Application No.:

Business Name: St. John Coltrane Church Business Address: 2 Marina Blvd., Building D

District: District 2

Pastor Wanika Stephens, Arch Priest Applicant:

Nomination Letter Date: March 3, 2022

Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

#### Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for St. John Coltrane Church, currently located at 2 Marina Blvd., Building 2.

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 September 12, 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 St. John Coltrane Church in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

#### **Legacy Business Program**





**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at St. John Coltrane Church.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Production of jazz events, programming, and media including:
  - Weekly Uplift radio program on KPOO FM.
  - 24/7 Coltrane Consciousness internet radio network.
  - o Weekly spiritual meditation sessions for local citizens and tourists.
  - Annual concerts on John Coltrane Day (July 20th) and John Coltrane's Birthday (September 24th).
- Byzantine-style icon paintings.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain St. John Coltrane Church on the Legacy Business Registry:

•	Faith-based organization.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on September 12, 2022.

Katy Tang	-
Director	
RESOLUTION NO.	

Ayes -

Nays -

Abstained -

Absent -

#### **Legacy Business Program**





## Legacy Business Registry

## **Application Review Sheet**

Application No.: LBR-2021-22-019

Business Name: St. John Coltrane Church Business Address: 2 Marina Blvd., Building D

District: District 2

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds

Legacy Business Program

Applicant: Pastor Wanika Stephens, Arch Priest

Nomination Letter Date: March 3, 2022

Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

<b>CRITERION 1:</b> Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?  X Yes No
351 Divisadero Street from 1977 to 2003 (26 Years) 930 Gough Street from 2003 to 2006 (3 Years) 1286 Fillmore Street from 2006 to 2016 (10 Years) 2097 Turk Blvd. from 2016 to 2022 (6 Years) 2 Marina Blvd., Building D from June 2022 to Present (1 Month)
<b>CRITERION 2:</b> Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/of the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?
<b>CRITERION 3:</b> Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?
<b>NOTES:</b> As of June 26, 2022, St. John Coltrane Church signed a new agreement and is transitioning from Saint Cyprian's to the Magic Theatre at 2 Marina Blvd. Building D, in the Fort Mason Center.
DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: July 20, 2022

**Legacy Business Program** 



#### Member, Board of Supervisors District 5



#### **DEAN PRESTON**

March 3, 2022

Office of Small Business
Attn: Legacy Business Registration Application
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Letter of Nomination for Coltrane Church to the Legacy Business Registry

#### Dear Mr. Kurylo:

I am writing to nominate the Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church, known as the Coltrane Church, a longtime fixture of the Western Addition and San Francisco's emerging "Jazz Preservation District", to the Legacy Business Registry.

Founded in 1967 by Archbishop F. W. King and Marina King, Coltrane Church was established on the basis of spreading love, the word of God, and beautiful music to enrich one's life. Their focus is love first and fighting to preserve the Jazz culture that once filled the streets of the Fillmore while advocating for and helping those in need. Through playing John Coltrane's music, elevating Bay Area musicians, mentoring young artists, and preaching and prayer, they uplift the community of District 5.

For decades, the church has been a powerful advocate for justice. In the 70s, the church offered free meals to those who needed it, expanding its food program during the AIDS epidemic. The Church has fought to clean up toxins in the Bayview and address environmental racism. The Church has also fought for victims of predatory lending during the foreclosure crisis and stood up for black and brown communities impacted by police violence. Throughout its history, the Coltrane church was there when people needed it most, and always stood ready to challenge the powers that be. The Church, in Bishop King's words, "is a revolutionary outpost in the Western Addition."

The founders of the Church have served and continue to serve their community in every way possible. Their mission is to spread the message of love to as many people as they can and as far as possible. People around the world come to the Church to be a part of the beautiful services.

Even though they have been moved due to gentrification and other factors, starting in 1982 on Divisadero Street, continuing in the Fillmore, and most recently operating in St. Cyprian's Church, they continue to spread love as far and wide as possible. They are one of the most vital parts of Black history in San Francisco.

With great appreciation for the community that is the Coltrane Church and for all of the work that Coltrane Church has done for San Francisco, the Fillmore, and the Black community, I am honored to nominate the Coltrane Church to the San Francisco Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,

Dean Preston

District 5 Supervisor

#### **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.

NAME OF BUSINESS:					
The Saint John Coltrane Church					
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business):					
Archbishop Franzo W. King and Reverend Mother Marina King					
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:				
2 Marina Blvd., Building D	(415) 596-3878				
San Francisco, CA 94123	EMAIL ADDRESS:				
	coltraneaoc@gmail.com				
MAILING ADDRESS – STREET ADDRESS:	MAILING ADDRESS – CITY AND STATE:				
Same as Business Address	San Francisco, CA				
2804 Ingalls Street	MAILING ADDRESS – ZIP CODE:				
	94124				
WEBSITE ADDRESS:					
https://www.coltranechurch.org					
FACEBOOK PAGE:					
https://www.facebook.com/ColtraneChurch/					
TWITTER NAME:					
APPLICANT'S NAME:	APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER:				
Pastor Wanika Stephens					
APPLICANT'S TITLE:	APPLICANT'S EMAIL ADDRESS:				
Arch Priest					
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:					
0818131					
SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (If applicable):					
C-0818131					

#### **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	
351 Divisadero St.	94117	June 21, 1977	
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION		
☑ Yes □ No	June 21, 1977 to October 1, 2003		
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
930 Gough St.	94102	Start: 10/27/2003	
		End: 3/31/2006	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
1286 Fillmore St.	94115	Start: 4/15/2006	
		End: 5/1/2016	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
2097 Turk Blvd.	94115	Start: 6/1/2016	
		End: 6/26/2022	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
2 Marina Blvd., Building D	94123	Start: 6/26/2022	
		End: Present	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
		Start:	
		End:	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODF	DATES OF OPERATION	
The state of the s	2 3052	Start:	
		End:	
OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable)	ZIP CODE	DATES OF OPERATION	
The state of the s		Start:	
		End:	
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#### **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.

Wanika Stephens 04-1-2022 Doi Stephens Date: Signature:

## SAINT JOHN WILL-I-AM COLTRANE AFRICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH JURISDICTION OF THE WEST 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 Saint John Will-I-Am Coltrane African Orthodox Church Jurisdiction of the West (AKA "Saint John Coltrane Church of San Francisco" or "John Coltrane Church" or "Coltrane Church") — where the legendary jazz musician <u>John Coltrane</u> is the canonized patron saint — is a family affair. It was founded on June 21, 1977, by His Eminence Archbishop Franzo W. King, D.D., and his wife, the Most Rev. Supreme Mother Marina King. The church has origins that date back to 1969 and is a branch of the African Orthodox Church.

The Coltrane Church began as the Yardbird Temple on February 19, 1969, which was originally located at 1529 Galvez Street in the Bayview district of San Francisco. The objectives were three-fold. First, to educate Black youth to the contributions made by African American musicians to the incredible music of jazz. The second objective was to provide musicians and artists a vital space to explore and create the possibilities of their music. And the third objective was to create a place where inter-generational gathering between old and young can interchange musical creativity to further advance the music of jazz in all of its varied forms of expression.

In 1970 and by way of imminent domain actions by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, the church was legally forced to relocate from its Galvez Street origins to 201 Sawyer Street in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. While disruptive, foundational success was further accomplished and because of a growing ecumenical vision (i.e., promoting unity among the world's Christian Churches).

In addition to its spiritual jazz and gospel musical activities, the church successfully provided free vegetarian meals to the poor and hungry as well as delivering meals to the old and indigent. These programs were financed by the church's growing flock and musical collaborators via the solicitation of donations from merchants and residents.

In 1972, the church moved to 351 Divisadero Street in the Western Addition neighborhood, where its growth further blossomed. Its popularity grew from its ecumenical philosophy and allowance of all people to participate in its activities. Throughout its existence, there has never been any requirement to adhere to religious doctrine. Additionally, classes were held on health wellness, social justice, racial tolerance/inclusion, as well as religious unity. The Coltrane Church also has affiliated and supported issues such as: environmental justice, illegal foreclosure, Black & Brown Coalition, and the African American Police Relations Board.

Given this growth, it was decided to change the church's name to the One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Church of Christ, which was completed on June 21, 1977. Alice Coltrane, the artist's widow (and his piano player in the last years of his career), was a close friend and business partner of the Kings and a religious leader in her own right. She converted to Hinduism after Coltrane's death and jointly founded with the Kings to create the Vedantic Center near Malibu via incorporation with the State of California. Collectively and together, they practiced Hinduism and performed on several of her musical albums. In fact, to this day, the Coltrane Church sings in Sanskrit in various aspects of their devotional music.

In 1982, the African Orthodox Church officially canonized John Coltrane and changed its name from One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Church of Christ to that of Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church. The Coltrane Church maintains its initial filing date of June 21, 1977, with the California Secretary of State, so that date remains the organization's founding date despite the name change.

It was at this time that the church began commissioning icon paintings in the Byzantine style. In the years since, gentrification has forced church to move around San Francisco, holding weekly services of "Coltrane Consciousness." Gentrification issues have relocated the church several times to include stints at: 930 Gough Street; 1286 Fillmore Street; and to its current locale of 2097 Turk Blvd. in the Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Throughout this legacy, people from around the world have made pilgrimages to attend the popular mediation services.

Since 1978, the Coltrane Church has provided the world with the only weekly radio program focused on the music and culture of John Coltrane via KPOO FM and as well as its 24/7 internet radio network "Coltrane Consciousness Radio."

As of June 26, 2022, St. John Coltrane Church signed a new agreement and is transitioning from Saint Cyprian's to the Magic Theatre at 2 Marina Blvd., Building D, in the Fort Mason Center.

Clearly, as Joe D'Alessandro of SF Travel states, "the Coltrane Church is essential to the story of San Francisco and to the fabric of the communities it serves. It also the City's oldest surviving Black jazz organization. San Francisco must do what it can to preserve and protect cultural institutions like the Coltrane Church for future generations."

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

There are no such circumstances. Since its inception in 1977, the Coltrane Church has continuously operated in San Francisco in various locales.

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

The Coltrane Church is a not-for-profit religious entity and not family owned.

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

Not applicable.

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 2097 Turk Blvd. is classified by the Planning Department as Category B, Unknown / Age Eligible, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The historic resource status of the Magic Theatre building at 2 Marina Blvd., Building D, in the Fort Mason Center is classified by the Planning Department as Category A, Historic Resource Present, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The building is a contributor to the Fort Mason Historic District.

#### **CRITERION 2**

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

On March 6, 1913, the first use of the word "jazz" in connection with music appeared in an article about the neighborhood clubs of San Francisco. Since that time, the city has always had a special relationship with Black music. San Francisco was the nurturing epicenter of blackness and jazz. In the 1940s and '50s, San Francisco's Fillmore District became the quintessential spot for jazz west of the Mississippi River. It was here in the Fillmore where people of color could go for entertainment. It was here that multitudes of legendary African American musicians displayed their legendary talents. It was here that the Fillmore was coined as "Harlem of the West." During this period, the district reflected scores of jazz clubs within a radius of 20 blocks. It was here in this jazz ecosystem that undergirded a wide litany of Black-owned businesses such as restaurants, pool halls, theaters, and countless stores.

But then the Fillmore District was destroyed by racist land speculators and with the support of the City and County of San Francisco. It was because of this destruction that the Coltrane Church has been on a mission to undergird the memory and legacy of Harlem of the West. It has been their interest and actions to acknowledge and promote this legacy and to help galvanize and maintain the Bay Area's never-ending grassroots jazz environment. As a consequence, the Coltrane Church has provided multi-faceted entertainment to the local and global community via music production, live events, radio, and the Internet. Musically, they

performed on several recordings of Alice Coltrane. In terms of live event(s), they have annually held a multitude of celebrated and well attended events to include Coltrane Birthday Concerts at Grace Cathedral as well as John Coltrane Day, which was bestowed by the honorable Mayor Willie Brown. Regarding radio, the Coltrane Church operates the longest running radio program on the music of John Coltrane in San Francisco and probably the entire world with Uplift on KPOO FM. The radio program has been in continuous operation since 1978.

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

Honorable Mayor Willie Brown proclaimed July 20, 2001, as John Coltrane Day, of which the Coltrane Church has produced concerts commemorating the death of the great musician. Additionally, the Coltrane Church has a partnership agreement with Grace Cathedral to produce mediation and concerts, several of which have already been produced.

The Coltrane Church produces two annual major concerts celebrating the life of John Coltrane: Ascension on July 20th and the Coltrane Birthday celebration on September 24th, which is normally at Grace Cathedral.

The Coltrane Church has strategic partnerships with both Grace Cathedral and SF Travel. With these partnerships and others being planned, the overall business objective is to create a multifaceted entertainment entity that develops compelling content for worldwide distribution. The focus is on servicing neglected consumer segments in the areas of jazz and jazz culture. The canvases are music, live events, streaming, book publishing, merchandising, traditional radio and internet base radio.

Clearly, San Francisco attracts visitors who seek rich cultural experiences that other destinations cannot offer, and the Coltrane Church is one of those unique experiences. The Coltrane Church is an asset to its community, the Fillmore District, and San Francisco.

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

There have been a plethora of articles and other media produced on the history and activities of the Coltrane Church, which includes the New York Times, the New Yorker Magazine, Jazz Night in America (NPR), and numerous coverages by the San Francisco Chronicle. Additionally, Professor Nicholas Baham III has chronicled the history of the Coltrane Church in his book, *The Coltrane Church: Apostles of Sound, Agents of Social Justice*.

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

The Coltrane Church is dedicated the to the spiritual artistry of the great American jazz musician and composer, John Coltrane, whose instrument was the saxophone. Coltrane was, and will forever be, a monumental spiritual entity that began in bebop and hard bop idioms of jazz but eventually pioneered the essence of free jazz. This canonized figured led at least 50 recording sessions and appeared on a wide swath of albums created by other legendary musicians that include Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, and Duke Ellington, among others. Over

the course of his career, Coltrane's music took on an increasingly spiritual dimension. He remains one of the most influential saxophonists in music history. It is because of this significance that he remains the only jazz musician to be canonized. The Coltrane Church is the only entity in the world that is dedicated to the essence of John Coltrane. Additionally, the Coltrane Church worked extensively with the widow of John Coltrane, renowned musician Alice Coltrane. They have also worked with a wide variety of acclaimed musicians such as Jason Moran, Teodross Avery, *et al* as well as the late great Dr. Huey P. Newton.

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

In addition to the live events, the Coltrane Church also provides two salient elements to the community. One element is that of the advancement of tourism by producing weekly spiritual jazz mediation sessions available to both local and foreign tourists. The other element is that of producing the Uplift radio program on KPOO FM in San Francisco. In fact, Pastor Wanika Stephens has been both producer and DJ since 1999. These two elements help to undergird the church's business objective(s) for the next 50 years, which is to continuously develop compelling content for worldwide distribution and to continuously market and promote the great city of San Francisco as a bastion for grassroots jazz. Additionally, the Coltrane Church has recently launched the 24/7 internet radio network Coltrane Consciousness Radio that is structured to provide a platform to directly undergird the jazz ecosystem ranging from musicians, clubs, producers, and tourism entities.

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

Prior to COVID, the Coltrane Church operated a sustainable weekly mediations service out of Saint Cyprian Church catering to local church members, local jazz enthusiasts, and foreign tourists. Often the event(s) included local jazz performers, which is how the Coltrane Church seeks to undergird elements of the jazz ecosystem. Helping to advance this strategy was a partnership with SF Travel. Additionally, the Coltrane Church maintains producing the two larger concerts. During its entire history, all services and programs are open to all regardless of religious affiliation or other protected status.

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

Currently, the Coltrane Church has a user agreement and partnership with Grace Cathedral for the concert for Coltrane's Ascension (July) and Birthday (September).

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

The community has already been devastatingly diminished with the destruction of the Fillmore District because of "redevelopment" and so-called urban renewal. Suffice it to say, the Coltrane Church believes that the creative economy of jazz still exists and wants to revive this ecosystem. And as the oldest black jazz organization in the city, it would be devastating if the Coltrane Church would cease to operate and not fulfil its business objectives of helping to revitalize the legacy of the Fillmore District and that of Harlem of the West.

#### **CRITERION 3**

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

The Saint John Coltrane Church in San Francisco is a branch of the African Orthodox Church, where the jazz musician John Coltrane is the canonized patron saint. It was founded in 1969 as Yardbird Temple by His Eminence Archbishop Franzo W. King, D.D., and his wife, the Most Rev. Supreme Mother Marina King. The church origins date back even further, to 1964, as the Jazz Club in the couple's Bayview-Hunters Point home garage — "a listening clinic." In 1977, the church was established as One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Church of Christ, which later became Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church.

Today in year 2022, the church celebrates 53rd Anniversary and is dedicated the to the spiritual artistry of the great American jazz musician and composer, whose instrument was the saxophone. Coltrane was, and will forever be, a monumental spiritual entity that began in bebop and hard bop idioms of jazz but eventually pioneered the essence of free jazz. Over these five decades, the church has operated in the city of San Francisco. To date, the Coltrane Church is the oldest surviving black jazz organization in the city of San Francisco, and possibly the state of California.

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)

The Coltrane Church has provided multi-faceted entertainment to the local and global community via music production, live events, radio, and the internet. Musically, they performed on several recordings of Alice Coltrane. In terms of live event(s) they have annually held a multitude of celebrated and well attended events to include Coltrane Birthday Concerts at Grace Cathedral as well as John Coltrane Day, which was bestowed by the honorable Mayor Willie Brown. The Coltrane Church must retain its ability to produce these concerts and its weekly meditations programs that cater to local citizens and the global tourism ecosystem that regularly visits San Francisco. Regarding radio, the Coltrane Church must be able to continue operating the nation's longest running radio program on the music of John Coltrane on KPOO FM. Additionally, this radio program was the basis for the development of the 24/7 internet radio network that will be used to undergird the jazz ecosystem for the city of San Francisco.

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.).

Since its inception, the Coltrane Church has continuously produced a litany of unique iconography that has branded the church and San Francisco as the city associated with John Coltrane. The artistic iconography has been prominently displayed in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and the New Yorker Magazine. Jazz Night in America produced a

sustentative documentary about the church that was nominated by the Sundance Festival. While not owning its own building, the Coltrane Church had been leasing space in the city's first constructed Black church, Saint Cyprians. It is currently transitioning from that space to the Magic Theatre at 2 Marina Blvd., Building D, in the Fort Mason Center.

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.

As the Coltrane Church is a not-for-profit entity, this question is not applicable.







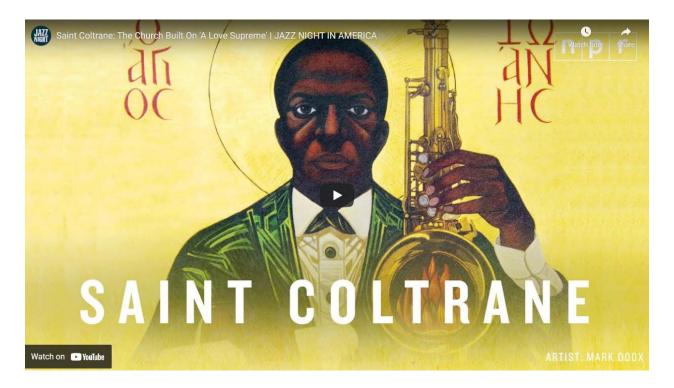








#### SAINT JOHN COLTRANE CHURCH VIDEO



#### Saint Coltrane: The Church Built On 'A Love Supreme'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAgJ-igwuSQ&feature=emb\_imp\_woyt
Published on February 2, 2021
Posted by NPR's Jazz Night in America

John Coltrane composed these words in December 1964, as part of a poem he called A Love Supreme.

I have seen God – I have seen ungodly – none can be greater – none can compare to God.

He included the poem in the inside gatefold of an album by the same name, released the following year. That same year, a young couple in San Francisco heard Coltrane in concert, sharing a jolt of higher purpose when he seemed to fix them in his sights with the bell of his saxophone.

That couple, Franzo and Marina King, went on to establish a church devoted to Coltrane and his spiritual message, incorporating A Love Supreme as their chief liturgical text. Their house of worship — known today as the St. John Will-I-Am Coltrane African Orthodox Church — has survived decades of change in a gentrifying city, while making a few notable revisions to its charter.

In this 20-minute documentary short, Jazz Night in America pays a visit to the Coltrane Church, thoughtfully tracing its winding history — including a tumultuous period when Alice Coltrane, John's widow, bestowed and then revoked her support. We'll delve into the spiritual mysteries of A Love Supreme, from "Acknowledgment" to "Psalm," and consider what it means to be of service — to a calling, to a community, and to the music that sparked it all.

## THE NEW FILLMORE

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#### It's St. John Coltrane's Church

Posted on July 2, 2009 by editors



By James DeKoven

Without hestitation, the Rev. Wanika King-Stephens can name her favorite John Coltrane song: "What's New?" Then, true to form for any music obsessive, she provides additional knowledge: The song was originally on the album Ballads, released by the Impulse! label.

Jazz records and churches are not usually an easy fit. But this church, at 1286 Fillmore Street, is no ordinary house of worship. It's the Saint John Will-I-Am Coltrane African Orthodox Church, or as it's known to people around the world, the Church of John Coltrane.

Every Sunday from noon to 3 p.m., Rev. King-Stephens sits in with other members of the house band — the "Ministers of Sound" — and they perform the music of John Coltrane as a vehicle to praise God. They call it "sound praise."

Looking at the exterior of the church, passersby might assume they're seeing the entrance to a business or an office for the community center upstairs. Only upon stepping inside does it become clear it is in fact a holy place.

Adorning the walls are murals of Jesus, Madonna with child and John Coltrane wearing religious vestments. The smell of sweet incense fills the air. Approximately 50 chairs snugly fit into a small room. On a recent Sunday, the congregation is a mix of church members, 'Trane devotees, curious tourists and locals just wondering what it's all about.



The band sets up at the front of the room, without a stage, and with no formal introductions immediately goes into "Lonnie's Lament." There's the reverend herself on bass, Frederick Harris on electric piano, Roberto De Haven on tenor sax and Max Hoff on drums. In the far left corner, behind Hoff, is Arthur Trotter at the congas, wearing a Che Guevara T-shirt. The church founder, Archbishop Franzo King, who usually takes the tenor sax seat, couldn't make it that day.

The performance is part of a traditional Christian liturgy, comprised of prayers and confessionals that are sung to some of the jazz great's more devotional songs, including beautiful interpretations of "Spiritual," "Acknowledgement" and, fittingly, "A Love Supreme." Two hours of music is followed by an hour-long sermon.

A communal vibe and a joyous energy permeate the room. A few parishioners play tambourines against a palm or thigh. Some shout "hallelujah." Others do call and response with choir. Faces smile, heads nod, bodies move.

As Harris plays a cascading piano solo over the plodding hum of bass and drums, Toes Tiranoff and Megan Haungs — unofficial members of the band — take turns tap dancing on a tabletop placed on the floor.

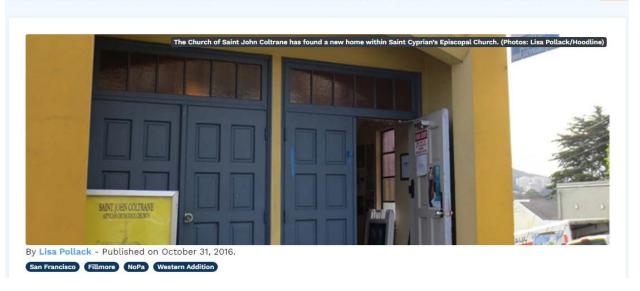


The Ministers of Sound is not a tribute band playing note-for-note renditions. Nor is it a group of amateurs just giving it a go. These are expert musicians, spiritually dedicated to the author of the compositions, playing music not of this earth for reasons that float in the heavens.

Even before his death in 1967, 'Trane was awarded divine status by jazz aficionados. Many found his performances unworldly. Albert Ayler, his lesser known but equally innovative contemporary, once said: "Trane was the Father, Pharoah (Sanders) was the Son, I was the Holy Ghost." Then, Coltrane ascended from figurative to literal saint when Franzo King founded the church in 1971, and after it became associated with the African Orthodox Church, he was officially canonized.

"A saint is simply someone who lives a sanctified life," is Reverend King-Stephens' retort to anyone challenging Coltrane's qualifications, given that he died a mere 42 years ago and wasn't responsible for any miracle. "He wanted to make music that would make people happy," she says.

#### Saint John Coltrane Church Finds A New Groove In NoPa



Despite an eviction and subsequent relocation, the African Orthodox Church of Saint John Coltrane continues to groove in the Western Addition.

As <u>Hoodline reported in February</u>, the Coltrane Church faced uncertainty after being forced to leave its Fillmore space, at which it was <u>served an eviction notice</u> in April.

When the church's plight made the news, welcome invitations flooded in from across the Bay Area, southern California and as far away as Baltimore. But an offer to share the space of Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church stood out, and the two churches joined forces in May.

Founded in honor of late saxophone legend Coltrane, who serves as its modern-day patron saint, the church is unique in its call upon jazz to affirm devotion. It's brought in a new wave of worship <u>since its founding on Divisadero Street in 1971</u>, as well as community engagement in the form of counseling services and youth music programming.

"We're happy to be [at St. Cyprian's']," says the church's pastor, Wanika Stephens. "As nice as some of the other churches were, this one made the most sense," as its location at the corner of Turk and Lyon streets allowed the congregation to remain adjacent to its former district.

Stephens also noted the historical connection between the Episcopal and African Orthodox churches. St. Cyprian's was founded in 1923 as the first black Episcopal church in the Diocese of California, with an inaugural service at Grace Cathedral. That same decade, the African Orthodox Church was founded, prompted also by issues of race. This shared sense of place within the context of African-American history heightens the connection between the two congregations.

In 1960, St. Cyprian's moved into its current location, and the church's vicar, Father Thomas C. Jackson, says that bringing in a diverse community of spiritual searchers is part of its mission.



Pastor Wanika Stephens (right) plays bass in the clergy's musical homage to Saint John Coltrane.

"We started off as a neighborhood church when the Western Addition was predominantly black," Jackson said. But in recent years, St. Cyprian's has engaged the local community by forging new partnerships. "We had already welcomed the First United Lutheran Church as well as the Sophia in Trinity Roman Catholic, so when St. John Coltrane needed a place, it seemed logical."

In the face of gentrification, "we're trying to be a bridge between what used to be and what is becoming so that everyone can live together," Jackson said. "St. John Coltrane transcends things like race and class and economic barriers—the music does that."

Despite finding a comfortable new home, Pastor Stephens admits that relocating has had some challenges. "We used to get a lot of foot traffic," says Stephens, but these days, Sunday services have seen dwindling numbers.

On Wednesday, Dec. 7th, Bishop Marc Andrus of Grace Cathedral, the presiding Episcopal Bishop of California, will lead an official service to mark St. John Coltrane's new chapter. With this fitting resolution to the Coltrane chronicle, the blessing will bring both congregations full circle.

The two churches are also looking to collaborate, a first for St. John Coltrane. On Christmas Eve, they're hoping to co-host a service with an ode to jazz, blending the best of what each church has to offer.



Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church is located at the corner of Turk and Lyon

Times are uncertain for many in the neighborhood, and "I don't know exactly what to expect" from the partnership, says Stephens. "But that's jazz. We're improvising."

Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church (2097 Turk St.) holds services at 10:10am on Sundays, followed by St. John Coltrane's worship service at noon.

Home > Others > Others >

## ST. JOHN COLTRANE AFRICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

BY TOBY ROGERS | OCTOBER 19,2018



PHOTO: Percussionist Lucky Busalachi and saxophonists David Bird and Archbishop Franzo W. King jamming at the St, John Coltrane African Orthodox Church

"I think music is an instrument. It can create the initial thought patterns that can change the thinking of the people."

-St. John Coltrane

Long before you enter the doors of the St. John Coltrane Church African Orthodox Church (SJCAOC), way on the top of Turk Street in the Fillmore district of San Francisco, the sense of being on a religious pilgrimage sets in quick while walking up one rolling hill after another.

Once your there, winded and lightheaded from the uphill climb, it starts. After a short, quiet prayer, the saxophones begin to honk and squeal from all corners of the alter. Uplifting notes and harmonies from the Coltrane musical songbook fill the church, as the bass, drums and piano start to flow between the woodwinds.

A groove sets in and the spirit is awoken. The church band plays a hybrid-blend of different Coltrane periods of "classic quartet" and Free jazz. Soon it is indelibly embedded in your brain- whether you are an avid Coltrane listener or not- that the remarkably dynamic, soulful, intimate, emotionally vulnerable and personable music of John William Coltrane -even if the late saxophonist and composer did not realize ittruly belongs and should be heard (at least once) in church. And afterwords, when you go home and listen to a Trane record- 50's be-bop or 60's free- on youtube, the holiness you experienced that morning in church will come forever to life wherever you and your smartphone, tablet or laptop happen to be.

However you are exposed to the powerful, spiritual music of John Coltrane, it is a transforming experience, particularly for musicians. For me, it happened in the fall of 1991. After listening to a recently released CD box-set of James Brown at a friends apartment over early morning bong hits and strongly brewed coffee, our host switched gears and played John Coltrane's record *OM*. As the cliche goes, long before I heard about a Coltrane Church, I was never the same afterwards.

Millions of people around the world have had similar experiences, transformed by Coltrane's music almost from the instant they hear it. For trumpeter Arthur Brooks it was Coltrane's "Out Of This World." At the Coltrane church, this is called a "sound baptism."

But Fanzo W. King's baptism in the musical world John Coltrane cut much deeper. For in 1965, Mr. King saw John Coltrane live at the Jazz Workshop in North Beach and briefly met him. Coming out of the back of the club to the stage, King has testified that a "light" illuminated around Coltrane. Soon after, it was revealed to him, that the music of John Coltrane was the "divine sounds from the throne of heaven and the mind of God."

King had grown up in the Pentecostal church and was groomed to become a preacher. He began preaching at five years old. Not fond of the strictness of the Pentecostal faith, he rebelled and opted out of it altogether. "But when I saw John Coltrane I knew that call was on my life to be a minister of the gospel. I felt the transference of the Holy Ghost and that anointing coming through the saturating sound of John Coltrane and it began to turn my life around God,"

It was then that he and Reverend Mother Marina King began to create what would ultimately become, what many refer to as "the Coltrane Church."

The SJCAOC went through several evolutionary stages in the 1960's and 70's. It began in King's Potrero Hill apartment as a cultural space for listening and learning about jazz and African American culture, eventually turning into the Yardbird Club in the Fillmore district known as the "Harlem of the West" for its rich African-American culture and jazz roots.

The Yardbird Club became a place where jazz players from in and out of town could experiment and jam out late into the night. As other black owners began being pushed out of jazz club ownership in the Fillmore, the Yardbird Club became a viable alternative outside the orbit of the market place. The Yarbird Club eventually became the Yardbird Temple, then the One Mind Temple. As One Mind Temple, the church was deeply involved in community service and partnered with the Black Panther Party to provide food, clothes and shelter programs for the poor. One Mind Templealso began to discover the binding truths of all religions and how Coltrane's music transcended traditional barriers of language, culture and religious dogma. This was reinforced as more and more pilgrims of many faiths from all over the world would show up for worship services.

In 1978, John Coltrane's wife, Alice began working with One Mind and through her involvement was renamed the Vedantic Center. The meteoric rise of One Mind Temple/Vedantic Center caught the attention His Eminence Archbishop George Duncan Hinkson of the African Orthodox Church through

Bishop Ajaril and in 1981, Hinkson asked the "Coltrane congregation" to join the African Orthodox Church.

The following year, after the ordination of King and the canonization of John Coltrane into sainthood, the transformation of what we now know as the Saint John Coltrane Church African Orthodox Church was complete.

Their address has changed over time, but the Coltrane church's popularity has steadily grown over the decades in a time when larger denominations are downsizing, even closing down large church structures that don't fill up pews anymore. Even Coltrane's band mate, drummer, Rashied Ali attended Sunday services before his passing in 2009.

The SJCAOC's latest incarnation at 2097 Turk St., home of the Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church, is a great space for the music and the "global spiritual movement." Lead by Pastor Wanika Stephens, with guidance from the dynamic Bishop King, SJCAOC's future could not be in better hands. Having been raised in SJCAOC, almost no one on the planet has as much grace, humility, empathy and wisdom as Pastor Stephens who is truly living the life of A Love Supreme.

Living A Love Supreme Pastor Stephens says is not just about jamming on Sundays, but being involved in social issues as well. "SJCAOC is a social justice church,' she said. In between the music, you may a catch a sermon on police brutality or how the existence of poverty around the world is not accidental, but of design. Another unique aspect of SJCAOC service is when they turn the mike around (being that their are so many first time visitors each Sunday) and ask church goers where they are from and why they came. The services I attended, there was people from all over America and the world; Congo, Norway even as far off as Australia making the pilgrimage to the house of Trane. Sometimes, they bring instruments of their own to demonstrate, like one young musician from Germany, who played a "Hang," a UFO shaped metallic drum invented in Germany in 2000.

After attending several worship services, it became plainly apparent why this small, "schismatic" denomination has continued ministering in the Fillmore district of San Francisco for going on half a century. It is because the SJCAOC is the true house of worship on this planet. This reporter has attended many worship services of almost every religion, denomination- you name it. There is one thing all those other groups do not have: The undeniable spiritual force of John Coltrane's music. A force that both unifies and transcends our antiquated dogmas and creeds of yesteryear, bringing humanity to a higher, universal plain , closer to the source of our Mother and Creator in the Universe. And no church, temple of mosque I have been to has more welcoming to outsiders than SJCAOC. It is utterly dismaying, that with all the millions of dollars recently spent renovating the Fillmore St. "Jazz district," that a space could not be made this preeminent cultural Jazz cornerstone in San Francisco? What could be better for any jazz district than Coltrane every Sunday afternoon, no cover charge?

As the 50th anniversary of SJCAOC comes closer (Feb-2019), one can only hope, that SJCAOC will start live streaming Sunday's Trane Masses, unifying the "global spiritual movement' around the world. As climate temperatures rise and the oceans begin to pour over the world's coastlines and islands, as the Holocene extinction unfolds and the fascist politics of "us vs. them" continues to spread, what could be more important than the entire creation of Earth to listen and receive the music and message of Saint John Coltrane?



# Gertificate C

Presented Jo:

Reverend Mother Marina & Sisters of Compassion

In Honor Of:

Twenty years of dedicated and selfless service to the poor and needy of San Francisco.

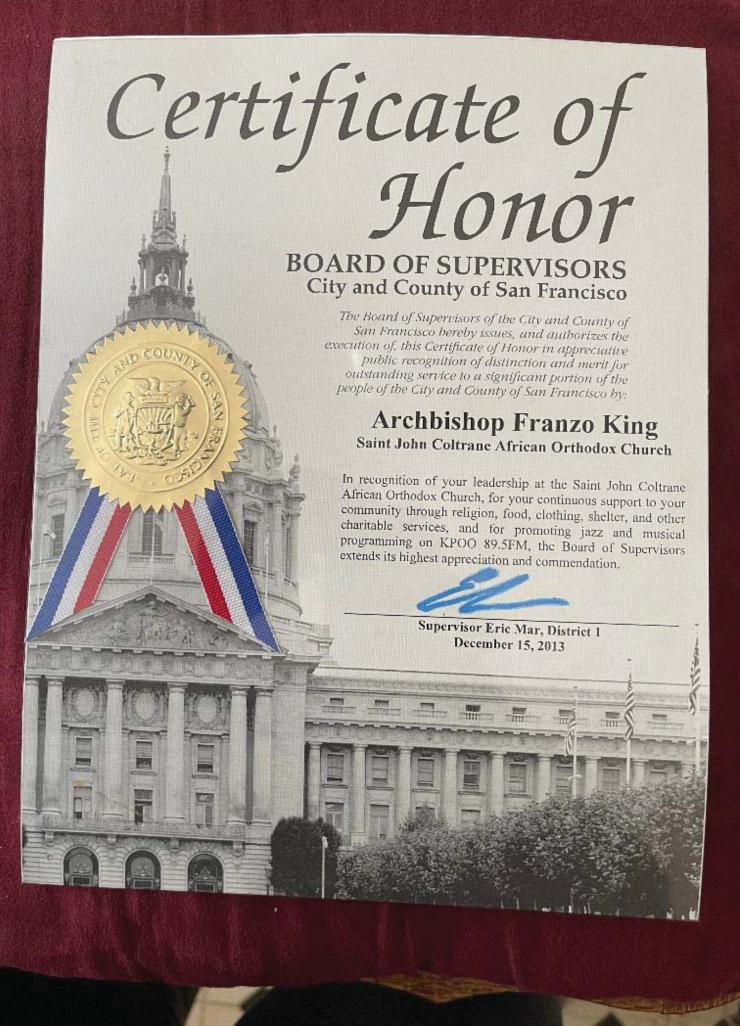
Place and Date:

Sunday, May 24, 1992 San Francisco, California



Member of the Assembly

17th Assembly District California State Legislature









## LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**HEARING DATE: AUGUST 17, 2022** 

Filing Date: July 20, 2022
Case No.: 2022-007219LBR

Business Name: Saint John Coltrane Church
 Business Address: 2 Marina Boulevard, Building D
 Zoning: P (Public) Zoning District

40-X, OS Height and Bulk District

*Block/Lot:* 0409/002

Applicant: Wanika Stephens

2 Marina Boulevard, Building D

Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

Located In: District 2

Staff Contact: Alessandro Hall – (628) 652-7336

Alessandro.Hall@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

#### **Business Description**

Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church (Coltrane Church) is a religious community and jazz organization that was founded by Archbishop Franzo W. King and Reverend Marina King at 351 Divisadero Street in 1977. Although formally established in 1977, Coltrane Church traces its roots back to the 1960s in Bayview-Hunters Point, where the Kings opened a jazz club in their garage. Then, in 1969, the couple created the Yardbird Temple with the goal of educating Black youth about African American jazz musicians, supporting local artists, and creating a place where members of different generations could gather to exchange music and ideas. The Church moved to the Fillmore in 1972, changed its name to the One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Church of Christ in 1977, and canonized John Coltrane as its patron saint in 1982, officially becoming Saint John Coltrane African Orthodox Church.

For the last half century, Coltrane Church has been a hub of spiritual life, chronicler of jazz history, and advocate for justice in the Fillmore district. The organization holds weekly meditation services on "Coltrane Consciousness," hosts a weekly radio program on the life and music of John Coltrane, and produces annual concerts at Grace

Cathedral celebrating his birthday and ascension. It is committed to not only celebrating the cultural legacy of John Coltrane and jazz music in San Francisco, but also supporting the local ecosystem of Bay Area musicians so that jazz can continue to thrive here. Through sermons and song, Coltrane Church draws congregants from across the city and tourists from around the world who want to experience the spiritual power of jazz. Coltrane Church's interior is also defined by a collection Byzantine-style icon paintings, which the organization has been commissioning for decades.

Throughout its history, Coltrane Church has been dedicated to pursuing justice for residents of the Fillmore district. The organization has provided free vegetarian meals to low-income and elderly residents, and held classes on health, social justice, and inclusion. It has also been a vocal advocate on issues that impact the Black community in San Francisco, including environmental racism, illegal foreclosures, and police relations. Although Coltrane Church has been displaced several times due to the impacts of redevelopment and gentrification in the Western Addition, it is currently transitioning to a new space in District 2 and remains the city's oldest Black jazz organization.

Coltrane Church's new location is a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure at the Fort Mason Center in the Marina neighborhood. It is within a P (Public) Zoning District and a 40X, OS Height and Bulk District. The structure has been identified as a contributor to the Fort Mason Historic District and is within the boundaries of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation U.S. Army National Historic Landmark.

#### **Staff Analysis**

#### **Review Criteria**

#### 1. When was business founded?

The business was founded in 1977.

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

Yes. St. John Coltrane Church qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. St. John Coltrane Church has operated continuously in San Francisco for 45 years.
- b. St. John Coltrane Church has contributed to the history and identity of the Fillmore and San Francisco.
- c. St. John Coltrane Church 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?

Yes. The business is associated with jazz music and African American history in San Francisco.



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

Yes. The organization is associated with its canonized patron saint, saxophonist John Coltrane, and his wife, renowned musician Alice Coltrane. Throughout its history, Coltrane Church has collaborated with other famous musicians and community leaders including Jason Moran, Teodross Avery, and Huey P. Newton.

The church's new building at 2 Marina Boulevard is located within the boundaries of the National Register-listed Fort Mason Historic District and U.S. Army Port of Embarkation National Historic Landmark, which are significant for their association with San Francisco's military history.

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

Yes. The organization's current location is listed in the California Register and National Register as a contributor to the Fort Mason Historic District.

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

Yes. Coltrane Church is mentioned in a draft of the in-progress African American Citywide Historic Context Statement.

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

Yes. There have been numerous stories on Coltrane Church in publications including the New York Times, the New Yorker, NPR, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Coltrane Church was also the subject of a Jazz Night in America documentary that was featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

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

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

**Current Locations:** 

• 2 Marina Boulevard, Building D (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 351 Divisadero Street (1977–2003)
- 930 Gough Street (2003–2006)
- 1286 Filmore Street (2006-2016)
- 2097 Turk Boulevard (2016-2022)

#### Recommended by Applicant

- Production of jazz events, programming, and media including:
  - o Weekly Uplift radio program on KPOO FM
  - o 24/7 Coltrane Consciousness internet radio network
  - o Weekly spiritual meditation sessions for local citizens and tourists
  - o Annual concerts on John Coltrane Day (July 20th) and John Coltrane's Birthday (September 24th)
- Byzantine-style icon paintings

#### 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
  - o Criterion 1 History and Description of Business
  - o Criterion 2 Contribution to Local History
  - o Criterion 3 Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation





## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1262

**HEARING DATE: AUGUST 17, 2022** 

Case No.: 2022-007219LBR

Business Name: Saint John Coltrane ChurchBusiness Address: 2 Marina Boulevard, Building DZoning: P (Public) Zoning District

40-X,OS Height and Bulk District

*Block/Lot:* 0409/002

Applicant: Wanika Stephens

2 Marina Boulevard, Building D

Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

Located In: District 2

Staff Contact: Alessandro Hall – (628)-652-7336

Alessandro.Hall@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SAINT JOHN COLTRANE CHURCH CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 2 MARINA BLVD., BLDG. D, BLOCK/LOT 0409/002;

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 August 17, 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 Saint John Coltrane Church 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 Saint John Coltrane Church

#### Location(s):

**Current Locations:** 

• 2 Marina Boulevard, Building D (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 351 Divisadero Street (1977 2003)
- 930 Gough Street (2003 2006)
- 1286 Filmore Street (2006 2016)
- 2097 Turk Boulevard (2016-2022)

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

- Production of jazz events, programming, and media including:
  - o Weekly Uplift radio program on KPOO FM
  - o 24/7 Coltrane Consciousness internet radio network
  - o Weekly spiritual meditation sessions for local citizens and tourists
  - o Annual concerts on John Coltrane Day (July 20th) and John Coltrane's Birthday (September 24th)
- Byzantine-style icon paintings

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 2022-007219LBR to the Office of Small Business on August 17,2022.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

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

NOES: None ABSENT: Johns

ADOPTED: August 17, 2022

