Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: December 12, 2022

CANTON BAZAAR

Application No.: LBR-2022-23-019
Business Name: Canton Bazaar
Business Address: 616 Grant Ave.
District: District 3
Applicant: Maria Szeto, Owner
Nomination Letter Date: September 22, 2022
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Canton Bazaar is a “one-stop shop” souvenir retail store located in the heart of San Francisco’s Chinatown at 616 Grant Avenue. This unique treasure was one of the largest Chinatown businesses to first reopen after the 1906 earthquake and has remained a cornerstone of this community since its establishment over a century ago. At Canton Bazaar, shoppers can find a wide array of souvenirs and art. Ranging from a pair of chopsticks or a seven-foot giltwood Buddha with mirror inlay to a wide selection of kimonos, ceramics (including antique porcelain), furniture, and jewelry. At Canton Bazaar, there is a souvenir or art piece for all visitors.

Having changed ownership only four times since its establishment over a century ago. Canton Bazaar has been owned by prominent leaders in the Chinatown community. The business was originally owned by the Louie family and was sold to another Louie family in the 1940s. This second Louie family was the founder of the Chinatown Merchants Association and Chinatown Moon Festival. Canton Bazaar was transferred to the Tam family in the 1990s. The Tam family is a multigenerational family that still has a business base in Chinatown. The Tam family patriarch is a community leader and actively involved in community associations. Currently, the Canton Bazaar is owned by Maria Szeto, who took over the business in 2021. She has owned her own business for over 20 years in Chinatown and is also the President of the Chinatown Merchants Association.

To support the Chinatown community, Canton Bazaar donates directly and indirectly to community groups and mostly hires immigrants with no experience, and trains them on the job.

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, Canton Bazaar has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

616 Grant Ave. from Early 1900s to Present (115+ Years)

CRITERION 2

Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?
Yes, Canton Bazaar has contributed to the history and identity of the Chinatown neighborhood and San Francisco.

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

- The business is associated with the culture of Chinese immigrants in San Francisco's Chinatown.
- Prominent politicians and celebrities such as Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, NBA player Klay Thompson, NBA commissioner Adam Silver, and the People’s Republic of China’s Consul General Zhang Jianmin have visited Canton Bazaar.
- The business is associated with the California and National Register-eligible Chinatown Historic District. This neighborhood includes buildings along Stockton Street, Grant Avenue, Kearney Street, and connecting side streets and alleys between Broadway and Bush Street. A postcard from 1908 stated that Canton Bazaar was one of the first large Chinatown businesses to reopen after the 1906 earthquake.
- There have been several features and articles on Canton Bazaar from The San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Business Times, 7X7 magazine, and many Chinese language publications. Some of these articles feature Canton Bazaar as a must-visit location for tourists visiting San Francisco and the City’s Chinatown.

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

Yes, Canton Bazaar is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Canton Bazaar qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:
- Iconic Canton Bazaar signage.
- Selection of singing bowls, bronze art, porcelain ware, Kwum Yum, and Asian apparel.
- Identity as a niche business offering quality and unique gift items.

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.
- Gift shop.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Canton Bazaar currently located at 616 Grant Ave. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program
Small Business Commission

Resolution No. ____________

December 12, 2022

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legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Canton Bazaar, currently located at 616 Grant Ave.

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 December 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 Canton Bazaar in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Canton Bazaar.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:
- Iconic Canton Bazaar signage.
- Selection of singing bowls, bronze art, porcelain ware, Kwum Yum, and Asian apparel.
- Identity as a niche business offering quality and unique gift items.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Canton Bazaar on the Legacy Business Registry:
- Gift shop.

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

____________________________________
Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _________________________

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –
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?

X Yes  No

616 Grant Ave. from Early 1900s to Present (115+ Years)

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

X 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?

X Yes  No

NOTES: n/a

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 19, 2022

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program
September 22, 2022

Katy Tang, Director via email <Katy.Tang@sfgov.org>
San Francisco Office of Small Business
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Director Tang:

I am writing to nominate Canton Bazaar located on 616 Grant Avenue for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

Established in 1910, Canton Bazaar continues to be a unique treasure in the heart of Chinatown, operating as a 3-story “stop-and-shop” commercial bazaar filled with sundry traditional Chinese goods and accessories, including colorful clothing, jewelry, and hand-crafted furniture. Canton Bazaar has played a critical role as an anchor tenant in Chinatown’s core commercial corridor of Grant Avenue for over a century, providing a market-style hub for visitors looking to memorialize their time in the oldest intact Chinatown in the United States with souvenirs and gifts.

Canton Bazaar would benefit from inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry, and it is my honor to nominate them.

Sincerely,

Aaron Peskin
# Legacy Business Registry Application

## Business Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business name:</strong></td>
<td>Canton Bazaar</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business owner name(s):</strong></td>
<td>Maria Szeto</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current business address:</strong></td>
<td>616 Grant Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone:</strong></td>
<td>(415) 365 - 5750</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mailing address (if different than above):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Website:</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<td><strong>Facebook:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Twitter:</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN):</strong></td>
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**Do any of these describe your business?** (select all that apply)

- [x] Immigrant-Owned Business
- [ ] LGBTQ+-Owned Business
- [x] Minority-Owned Business*
- [ ] Owned by Person with a Disability
- [ ] Veteran-Owned Business
- [ ] Woman-Owned Business

*Minority is defined as one or more of the following racial or ethnic groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

## Contact Person Information

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<tr>
<td><strong>Contact person name:</strong></td>
<td>Maria Szeto</td>
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<td><strong>Contact person title:</strong></td>
<td>Owner</td>
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<td><strong>Contact telephone:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Contact email:</strong></td>
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</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original San Francisco address</th>
<th>Zip Code:</th>
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<tr>
<td>616 Grant Ave.</td>
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<th>Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N)</th>
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<td>Y</td>
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Section Three:
Disclosure Statement.

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.


Name (Print): MARIA SZETO  Date: 5/13/2022  Signature:  

1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 140, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4626
(415) 664-6600 / sf.gov/legacybusiness / LegacyBusiness@sfgov.org
CANTON BAZAAR
Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

a. Describe the business. What does it sell or provide?

Canton Bazaar is a retail gift store located at 616 Grant Avenue in Chinatown that specializes in Asian-inspired merchandise.

The store is a place where you can find “great souvenirs from Chinatown,” according to City Seeker. “There are many places to buy souvenirs in Chinatown, ranging from anything small to the museum-quality antiques. For those interested in something in between, there’s Canton Bazaar. Its two floors in the heart of Chinatown are virtually a one-stop shopping experience for souvenirs and art. You can get a pair of chopsticks or a seven-foot gilt-wood Buddha with mirror inlay. There is also a nice selection of kimonos, ceramics (including antique porcelain), furniture and jewelry, the most intriguing piece of which may be an antique fingernail guard reborn as a brooch. The staff is very helpful and always there when you need them, too.”¹

b. Describe who the business serves.

Canton Bazaar’s target customers are mostly tourists. It also has many Bay Area locals as returning customers. The store is located in the heart of historic San Francisco Chinatown. Canton Bazaar caters to anyone, young and old, who is interested in a fun, unique, and cultural environment.

c. In about 2-5 words (15-30 characters), describe what the business is known for.

Asian-inspired arts and gifts.

CRITERION 1: The business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years

a. Provide a short history of the business, including locations and owners.

Canton Bazaar, located at 616 Grant Avenue in the heart of Chinatown, was founded prior to the 1906 earthquake and fire, likely in the very early 1900s. The business has been located at the same location for well over a century.

¹ https://cityseeker.com/san-francisco/23847-canton-bazaar
The earliest photo found is a picture of a postcard circa 1908 that reads, “Interior of the Canton Bazaar. The first large store, reopening after the fire, in New Chinatown, San Francisco, California.” This indicates that Canton Bazaar was originally open prior to the 1906 earthquake and fire.

The business was originally owned by the Louie family.

In the 1940s, the business was sold to another Louie family. This Louie family was the founder of the Chinatown Merchants Association and Chinatown Moon Festival to promote Chinatown after the Embarcadero Freeway was torn down. Their descendants continue the promotional efforts with numerous projects such as the street lanterns display on Grant Avenue and art installations.

Canton Bazaar was then taken over the Tam family in 1990s. The Tam family is a multi-generational family that still has their business base in Chinatown. The patriarch is a community leader and actively involved in community associations.

Currently, Canton Bazaar is owned by Maria Szeto, who took over the business in 2021. She had owned her own business for over 20 years in Chinatown. She is also the President of the Chinatown Merchants Associations.

b. Provide the ownership history of the business in a consolidated year-to-year format.

1900s to 1940s: Louie Family
1940s to 1990s: Sinclair Louie and May Louie
1990s to 2021: Andrew Tam
2021 to Present: Maria Szeto

c. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for any significant length of time.

Canton Bazaar was likely closed for two years after the 1906 earthquake while Chinatown was rebuilt. Per a historic postcard, it was the first large store to re-open after Chinatown was rebuilt.

The COVID-19 pandemic shut down Canton Bazaar as a “non-essential” business for 3 months in 2020. The entire staff was laid off and business was operated by email and curbside pickup when that became an option. During the remainder of 2020 and into 2021, the store struggled to regain business, as off and on shutdowns made people afraid to go out and shop. The store would have permanently closed if the Tam family had not invested their savings along with getting small amounts of federal and state grant money to pay rent and payroll.
CRITERION 2: The business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community

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

Canton Bazaar is the oldest and longest running Asian arts and gifts store in San Francisco’s Chinatown. It is a staple in Chinatown with multi-generational customers. The business has a large selection of singing bowls, bronze art, porcelain ware, Kwun Yum, and Asian apparel.

b. Is the business associated with significant people or events, either now or in the past?

Canton Bazaar was the first large store to reopen in Chinatown after the 1906 earthquake and fire.

Sinclair and May Louie, former owners of Canton Bazaar, were intimately involved in the Chinatown community. May Louie served for years on the board and as President of the Chinatown Merchants Association.

The current owner of Canton Bazaar, Maria Szeto, is a member of several local business and family associations. She is the President of Chinatown Merchants Association, which promotes Chinatown merchants and hosts the annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Many politicians and celebrities have visited Canton Bazaar, including Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, NBA player Klay Thompson, NBA commissioner Adam Silver, and the People’s Republic of China’s Consul General Zhang Jianmin.

c. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

Canton Bazaar donates directly and indirectly to community groups. In addition, the business mostly hires immigrants with no experience, and trains them on the job.

d. Has the business ever been referenced in the media, business trade publication, and/or historical documents?

Canton Bazaar has been featured in the San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, 7X7 magazine, San Francisco Business Times, and many Chinese language publications. Following are some notable mentions:

- Guide to Eastern Influence in San Francisco
  https://www.sftravel.com/article/guide-eastern-influence-san-francisco

- A Walking Tour of San Francisco
  https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna14013324
e. Has the business ever received any awards, recognition, or political commendations?

There is no knowledge of any awards or recognition.

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

If the business were to close, it would be a great loss to the community. Customers have fond memories of their parents or grandparents bringing them to the store, and many generations of customers make return trips to the store wanting to continue the traditions. There is not another store with this long history in Chinatown.

Any lost business is a loss to the community and the city. Canton Bazaar has encouraged local hiring, making room for high school and college students to have weekend work while going to school, enabling them to gain important first job experience. Canton Bazaar is pleased to have given dozens of young people their first jobs, where they learn the value of customer service.

CRITERION 3: The business is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business

a. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building, structure, object, signage, mural, architectural detail, neon sign, or any other special physical feature that defines the business?

Canton Bazaar has been the same business in the same building for over 100 years.

b. In a few words, describe the main business activity you commit to maintaining.

Canton Bazaar store is a niche business offering quality and unique gift items. Tours visit Canton Bazaar and find clothing and accessories in a variety of price ranges and items not found at big stores.
c. What challenges is the business facing today?

A constant challenge of Chinatown business is being overlooked by outside communities and city officials. Chinatown is surrounded and overshadowed by Union Square, the Financial District, and North Beach. Chinatown businesses need help to get positive exposure to generate more traffic to the area. More dedicated funding to businesses in the area is needed. During the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants were greatly helped by city funding, but retail businesses were left out, and many retail businesses had closed as evident by the empty storefronts on Grant Avenue. Retail businesses are still struggling and still need desperate help.

Legacy Business Program staff will add the following details:

a. Features or traditions that define the business and should be maintained for the business to remain on the Legacy Business Registry.

Arts and gifts store.

b. 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 property at 616 Grant Avenue has a Planning Dept. Historic Resource Status of “A – Historic Resource Present.” The building was constructed in 1906 following the earthquake and is a contributor to the Chinatown Historic District. The building appears eligible for listing on the National Register through a survey evaluation in 1997.
Interior of the Canton Bazaar, Chinatown, San Francisco, California, USA -- the first large store to reopen in Chinatown after the earthquake and fire of 1906. Date: circa 1908
Antique Chinatown Trade Card, Canton Bazaar Shop Card, Chinese Goods, San Francisco, Dragon Boat, circa 1900s

$16.00

Out of stock

Highlights
- Vintage from the 1900s
- Materials: paper

Description
Fascinating antique shop trade card from Canton Bazaar, a store in the heart of San Francisco's Chinatown district. The store is still there to this day, selling all sorts of Asian goods such as jewelry and kimonos, touristy souvenirs and even more culturally significant treasures. The image on the front of the card depicts a dragon boat loaded with Chinese sailors; the Canton Bazaar standard is held aloft by one determined looking soul.

I found this exact image for a Canton Bazaar advertisement at the back of a 1909 Cal yearbook; I presume the card dates to that period as well.

CONDITION (Poor-->Fair-->Good-->Very Good-->Excellent-->Mint):
VERY GOOD

Slightly bent corners and rubbed edges; a bit more on one side than the other. Mild tanning/soling around the edges. A smudge of reddish ink on the back side.
CANTON BAZAAR
SANG CHONG LUNG CO., Proprietors

Importers, Wholesale and Retail ORIENTAL ART GOODS

614-616 Grant Avenue
BET. CALIFORNIA AND SACRAMENTO

PHONES, CHINA 24, HOME C. 5228 SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

CLOISONNE, Satsuma, Bronze, Porcelain Wares, Silk and Linen
Embroideries, Kimonos, Dress Patterns, Silk Underwear, Jade Stone Jewelry,
Ebony Furniture, Etc.
"Great Souvenirs from Chinatown"

There are many places to buy souvenirs in Chinatown, ranging from anything small to the museum-quality antiques. For those interested in something in between, there's Canton Bazaar. Its two floors in the heart of Chinatown are virtually a one-stop shopping experience for souvenirs and art. You can get a pair of chopsticks or a seven-foot gilt-wood Buddha with mirror inlay. There is also a nice selection of kimonos, ceramics (including antique porcelain), furniture and jewelry, the most intriguing piece of which may be an antique fingernail guard reborn as a brooch. The staff is very helpful and always there when you need them, too.

616 Grant Street, San Francisco, CA, United States, 94108
+1 415 362 5750
admin@oldshanghaionline.com
http://www.cantonbazaar.com/
Follow the Canton Bazaar
LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: November 16, 2022

Filing Date: October 19, 2022
Case No.: 2022-010321LBR
Business Name: Canton Bazaar
Business Address: 616 Grant Avenue
Zoning: CVR (CHINATOWN- VISITOR RETAIL) Zoning District
50-N Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0241 / 014
Applicant: Maria Szeto
616 Grant Avenue
Nominated By: Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Located In: District 3
Staff Contact: Wesley Wong - 628-652-7466
wesley.a.wong@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

Canton Bazaar is a “one-stop shop” souvenir retail store located in the heart of San Francisco’s Chinatown at 616 Grant Avenue. This unique treasure was one of the largest Chinatown businesses to first reopen after the 1906 earthquake and has remained a cornerstone of this community since its establishment over a century. At Canton Bazaar, shoppers can find a wide array of souvenirs and art. Ranging from a pair of chopsticks or a seven-foot gilt-wood Buddha with mirror inlay to wide a selection of kimonos, ceramics (including antique porcelain), furniture and jewelry, at Canton Bazaar, there is a souvenir or art for all visitors.

Having changed ownership only four times since its establishment over a century ago. Canton Bazaar has been owned by prominent leaders in the Chinatown community. The business was originally owned by the Louie family and was sold to another Louie family in the 1940s. This Louie family was the founder of the Chinatown Merchants Association and Chinatown Moon Festival. Canton Bazaar was transferred to the Tam family in the 1990s. The Tam family is a multigenerational family that still has a business base in Chinatown. The Tam family patriarch is a community leader and actively involved in community associations. Currently, the Canton Bazaar is owned by
Maria Szeto, who took over the business in 2021. She has owned her own business for over 20 years in Chinatown and is also the President of the Chinatown Merchants Association. To support the Chinatown community, Canton Bazaar donates directly and indirectly to community groups and mostly hires immigrants with no experience, and trains them on the job.

The business’s location at 616 Grant Avenue is a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure on the east side of Grant Avenue between California and Sacramento Streets in the Chinatown neighborhood. It is within the Chinatown Visitor Retail (CVR) Zoning District and a 50-N Height and Bulk District. It is located within the Chinatown Planning Area. The property is located within the eligible California and National Register Chinatown Historic District. The property was included in several survey areas, including the Foundation for San Francisco Architectural Heritage (1978), Chinatown (1994), and National Register (1997), where it received a status code of “C” (identified as contextual importance), “C” (Contributory), and “3D” (eligible for National Register as a contributor to a National Register eligible district), respectively.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

The business was founded in the very early 1900s. The earliest known documentation was a postcard that showed the Canton Bazaar rebuilt in 1908, 2 years after the 1906 earthquake.

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

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

a. Canton Bazaar has operated continuously in San Francisco for at least 114 years.

b. Canton Bazaar has contributed to the history and identity of the Chinatown neighborhood and San Francisco.

c. Canton Bazaar 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 the culture of Chinese immigrants in San Francisco’s Chinatown.

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

Yes. A postcard from 1908 stated that Canton Bazaar was one of the first large Chinatown businesses to reopen after the 1906 earthquake. In addition, prominent politicians and celebrities such as Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, NBA player Klay Thompson, NBA commissioner Adam Silver, and the People’s Republic of China’s Consul General Zhang Jianmin have visited Canton Bazaar. Additionally, the business is associated with the California and National Register-eligible Chinatown Historic District. This neighborhood includes buildings along Stockton Street, Grant Avenue, Kearney Street, and connecting side streets and alleys between...
Broadway and Bush in San Francisco. The business was associated as part of the eligible Chinatown Historic District as part of the prominent gateway into the district along the two imposing Chinese styled structures, Sing Chong and Sing Fat, sitting at the intersection of California and Grant Avenue.

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

No. However, this property is associated with the California and National register eligible Chinatown Historic District.

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 have been several features and articles on Canton Bazaar from The San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Business Times, 7X7 magazine, and many Chinese language publications. Some of these articles feature Canton Bazaar as a must-visit location for tourists visiting San Francisco and the City's Chinatown.

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

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

- Current Locations:
  - 616 Grant Avenue (Very Early 1900s – Present)

**Recommended by Applicant**

- None

**Additional Recommended by Staff**

- Iconic Canton Bazaar signage
- Selection of singing bowls, bronze art, porcelain ware, Kwum Yum, and Asian apparel
- Identity as a niche business offering quality and unique gift items

**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
ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR CANTON BAZAAR CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 616 GRANT AVE (BLOCK/LOT 0241/014).

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 November 16, 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 Canton Bazaar 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 Canton Bazaar.

Location(s):

Current Locations:
- 616 Grant Avenue (Very Early 1900s – Present)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:
- Iconic Canton Bazaar signage
- Selection of singing bowls, bronze art, porcelain ware, Kwum Yum, and Asian apparel
- Identity as a niche business offering quality and unique gift items

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 2022-010321LBR to the Office of Small Business on November 16, 2022.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wright, Black, Johns, So, Nageswaran
NOES: None
ABSENT: Foley, Matsuda
ADOPTED: November 16, 2022