Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: June 26, 2023

SOUTH BEACH YACHT CLUB

Application No.: LBR-2022-23-038
Business Name: South Beach Yacht Club
Business Address: 889 2nd St., Pier 40
District: District 6
Applicant: Suni Petersen, Secretary
Nomination Date: March 13, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Dorsey
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The South Beach Yacht Club is a non-profit community-based membership organization specializing in the promotion of boating and waterfront activities. In every year of its existence except for 2011, the club has had a different yacht club president, or “Commodore”. Other examples that show the grassroots nature of this club include the volunteering of members’ yachts for instructing youth on boating; the sustaining of the club through volunteer hours and donations; and the commitment to youth, the disabled, and underprivileged youth.

The club had humble beginnings – its first meeting in 1988 was without a location but members built a home in 1989. Their first clubhouse was a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex. It was paid for by one member’s credit card and altered for club purposes by club members. After 14 years in the trailer, the club moved a stone’s throw away to the newly constructed building on South Beach Harbor in 2006. The entire interior infrastructure was constructed by the club members. Led by Frank Navarro, club members, some with flooring and architecture experience, built what is now the South Beach Yacht Club’s new clubhouse.

The club has 485 members strong, shares a unique experience with approximately 150 children and teens annually, and has sponsored the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS) since inception. Its extensive efforts in community engagement are recognized by the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association, an organization of 105 yacht and boat clubs in Northern California, awarding the club “Club of the Year” in 2019, 2021, and 2022. The club began its Youth Sailing Program in 1992, and partnership with BAADS resulted in the first ADA-accessible harbor in San Francisco.

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, South Beach Yacht Club has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

889 2nd St., Pier 40 from 1989 to Present (34 years)

CRITERION 2

Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?
Yes, South Beach Yacht Club has contributed to the history and identity of the South of Market 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 South Beach Yacht Club is associated with boating and waterfront activities.

• The South Beach Yacht Club is located within the South Beach Harbor Building, constructed in 2006. Prior to this location, the club was based in a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex. This trailer was a meeting space for members of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Redevelopment Commission, and former Mayor Willie Brown during the redevelopment of South Beach and Rincon Hill.

While Pier 40 is rated a Category A (Historic Resource Present) from its inclusion in the National Register-eligible and California Register-listed Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District, the building in which the South Beach Yacht Club is located was built in 2006 and is therefore not age eligible and is rated a Category C.

• The South Beach Yacht Club was an early investor, and continues to be an active investor, in the restoration of the South of Market neighborhood. Examples include becoming an official host in the 2013 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race stopover and has continuously provided events for Navy and Coast Guard families every year.

• The South Beach Yacht Club has been cited by the San Francisco Chronicle, SFGATE, ABC Channel 7, Latitude 38, and Bay & Delta Yachtsmen. The business won Club of the Year in 2019, 2021, and 2022, awarded by the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association, an organization of 105 yacht clubs in Northern California.

• The South Beach Yacht Club has a history of helping minorities. The business has a Youth Sailing Program since 1992 and recently began offering scholarships to underprivileged youth in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, community organizations, and the YMCA. It sponsored the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors since inception and has made the South Beach Harbor the first ADA accessible harbor in San Francisco.

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

Yes, South Beach Yacht Club is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Business Name 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:
• ADA-compliant harbor.
• South Beach Harbor Building interior infrastructure entirely built by members, as licensed, union workers.
• Offering recreational boating and waterfront activities to the diverse population of San Francisco.
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.

- Promotion of recreational boating.

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

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program
Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for South Beach Yacht Club, currently located at 889 2nd St., Pier 40.

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 June 26, 2023, 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 South Beach Yacht Club 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 South Beach Yacht Club.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:
- ADA-compliant harbor.
- South Beach Harbor Building interior infrastructure entirely built by members, as licensed, union workers.
- Offering recreational boating and waterfront activities to the diverse population of San Francisco.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain South Beach Yacht Club on the Legacy Business Registry:
- Promotion of recreational boating.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on June 26, 2023.

_________________________
Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _________________________

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –
Legacy Business Registry

Application No.: LBR-2022-23-038
Business Name: South Beach Yacht Club
Business Address: 889 2nd St., Pier 40
District: District 6
Applicant: Suni Petersen, Secretary
Nomination Date: March 13, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Dorsey

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

889 2nd St., Pier 40 from 1989 to Present (34 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: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: April 19, 2023

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program
March 13, 2023

Director Katy Tang, Via email <Katy.Tang@sfgov.org>
San Francisco Office of Small Business
City Hall, Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Director Tang,

It would be my pleasure to nominate South Beach Yacht Club for inclusion on the Legacy Business Registry.

South Beach Yacht Club (SBYC) is a community-based, membership club supporting boating and waterfront activities in San Francisco. SBYC is a not-for-profit organization with a parallel non-profit foundation. SBYC serves the Bay Area community with 485 members. Members support the club’s activities through volunteer hours, dues, and donations. SBYC will be providing our Youth and Community Sailing Program in collaboration with the Port of San Francisco on Pier 28.

SBYC is embedded in the history and restoration of this Southern portion of the City of San Francisco, being a constant contributor to the current environment for the past 35 years without disruption. SBYC began as a club without a location in April 1988 and, by the beginning of 1989 was permitted for a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex.

SBYC actively supported the City’s Redevelopment plans as an early investor in the area from the very beginning and continues to play an active role in the well-being of San Francisco’s South Beach Waterfront. SBYC collaboration with the Pier 40 Redevelopment project with PWP ensures the growth of our existing Youth Sailing. SBYC would benefit from being included in the Legacy Business Registry, and it is my pleasure to nominate them.

MATT DORSEY
Legacy Business Registry
Application

Business Information

Business name: South Beach Yacht Club

Business owner name(s): Membership-owned and operated

Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business

Current business address: 889 2nd St., Pier 40, San Francisco, CA 94107

Telephone: (415) 495 2295

Email: secretary@southbeachyachtclub.org

Mailing address (if different than above): same

Website: southbeachyachtclub.org

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/58724366941

Twitter:

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0478511

Do any of these describe your business? (select all that apply)

Requires at least 51% of the business be owned, operated, and controlled by the business designation below.

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

*Minority is defined as on 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

Contact person name: Suni Petersen

Contact person title: Secretary

Contact telephone: (415) 2295

Contact email: secretary@southbeachyachtclub.org
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>889 2nd St., Pier 40</th>
<th>Zip Code:</th>
<th>94107</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N):</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates at this location:</td>
<td>From:</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>To:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other address (if applicable): | | Zip Code: | |
| Dates at this location: | From: | | To: | |

| Other address (if applicable): | | Zip Code: | |
| Dates at this location: | From: | | To: | |

| Other address (if applicable): | | Zip Code: | |
| Dates at this location: | From: | | To: | |

| Other Address (if applicable): | | Zip Code: | |
| Dates at this location: | From: | | To: | |

| Other address (if applicable): | | Zip Code: | |
| Dates at this location: | From: | | To: | |

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.

- [x] I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- [x] I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- [x] I attest that the business’s business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- [x] 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.
- [x] 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.
- [x] I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- [x] 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: Suni Petersen

Signature: Suni Petersen

Date: April 19, 2023
INTRODUCTION

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

South Beach Yacht Club (SBYC) is a community-based membership club supporting boating and waterfront activities in San Francisco. SBYC is a not-for-profit organization with a parallel non-profit SBYC Community Sailing Foundation (SBYC Foundation).

SBYC provides an active Racing Program sponsored by US Sailing, a Youth Sailing Program, and a small Community Sailing Program open to the public. SBYC sponsors the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS). SBYC is located at the South Beach Harbor Building, by Pier 40.

SBYC Foundation provides scholarships for young people who cannot afford sailing lessons, through which the organization coordinates with the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and police youth organizations.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

SBYC serves the Bay Area community with 485 members. It’s a volunteer run organization. Members support the club’s activities through volunteer hours, dues, and donations. The club emphasizes diversity and inclusivity in its outreach, making sailing accessible and approachable to anyone in City and County of San Francisco, as well as surrounding areas. SBYC’s Youth Sailing Program serves approximately 150 children and teens annually. SBYC will be providing an expanded Youth and Community Sailing Program in collaboration with the Port of San Francisco and Pacific Waterfront Partners on Pier 38 when redevelopment is completed. SBYC has sponsored Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS) since its inception supporting disabled sailors, and hosting US Sailing training for Adaptive Instructors. SBYC holds over 25 US Sailing races annually, with racers numbering 25 to 100 boats in each race, 125-500 crew, and 20 race committee member volunteers per race.

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

Community-based affordable yacht club.

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.
South Beach Yacht Club is embedded in the history and restoration of the southern portion of the city of San Francisco, being a constant contributor to the current environment without disruption since the 1980s.

In the 1870s, the area surrounding Pier 40 was a thriving shipwright and watercraft maritime business center. By the 1970s, the area was characterized -- in the words of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency -- by “dilapidated warehouses, open cargo storage yards, abandoned or underutilized buildings, several piers in unsound condition and an extensive network of underutilized street rights-of-way.” The Planning Commission of San Francisco approved a Redevelopment Plan on January 5, 1981. A key element included the development of a 700-berth marina and the use of Pier 40 for marina-related commercial enterprise and public access.

South Beach Yacht Club began as a club without a location in April 1988. On Saturday, April 30, 1988, Harbormaster Carter Strauch invited South Beach Harbor slipholders interested in forming a yacht club to meet at the Longshoreman and Warehouse Union Hall. Fifty-six boat owners attended what turned out to be the initial meeting of SBYC.

By the beginning of 1989, this active group had elected officers, adopted Rules and By-Laws, filed the articles of incorporation, acquired needed licenses and permits, and actively sponsored club activities from racing to social events. South Beach Yacht Club was officially established with the California Secretary of State on January 4, 1989.

By the beginning of 1989, the organization was permitted for a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex overlooking South Beach Harbor. In June 1989, volunteer members started work on Club facilities. Construction on the trailer, always considered a temporary clubhouse, was performed solely by member volunteers. On December 18, 1989, at 13:56 hours, the Port of San Francisco issued the permit to occupy the double-wide home of SBYC.

During the San Francisco redevelopment of South Beach and Rincon Hill, SBYC provided meeting space in its double-wide trailer for members of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency; Redevelopment Commission; and community leaders such as Mayor Willie Brown, Larry Baer, and Alfonso Felder (Vice President of the San Francisco Giants). SBYC was always represented at these meetings. The trailer also housed the Harbormaster’s Office as the marina developed and surrounding buildings, including the South Beach Harbor Building, were under construction. SBYC also provided the local community with a polling place, moving all the tables and equipment to set up voting machines and welcoming the local citizens.

The year 2003 brought a long-awaited milestone for the Club. On August 7, Commodore Pete Hamm executed the lease with the Redevelopment Agency for SBYC’s new facility at 899 2nd Street. In 2005, SBYC members saw construction start, also at the hands of volunteer members, on their new permanent home and held a ribbon-cutting in the fall of 2006.
b. Provide the ownership history of the business in a consolidated year-to-year format.

The Board of Directors of the South Beach Yacht Club has run the organization continuously from 1988 to the present.

Following are the Commodores of the South Beach Yacht Club from 1988 to 2023:


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

South Beach Yacht Club has retained a growing membership since it was established. Declines in its membership rarely exceeded 1% of its nearly 500 members. SBYC has been fiscally viable since its inception without disruption or fiscal threat.

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.

South Beach Yacht Club actively supported the City’s redevelopment plans as an early investor in the area from the very beginning and continues to play an active role in the well-being of San Francisco’s South Beach waterfront.

Since it was founded, SBYC held Bay Area supported races and related social events. Their regular races that extend beyond South Beach Yacht Club include the Jazz Cup with over 100 boats in conjunction with Benicia Yacht Club, the Herb Meyer Race for BAADS, and the J-Stop race for the J-105 fleet around the Bay. SBYC hosted the America’s Cup Engineering Group, the New Zealand Team in 2013, and Sail GP in 2022 and 2023. They hosted a dinner for Coast Guard families for many years and hold regular cruise-ins from area yacht clubs as far as Stockton and Half Moon Bay. They send delegates to the state legislature through the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association and support bills that affect boaters and clean water.
SBYC began its Youth Sailing Program in 1992 with the purpose of making sailing accessible to boys and girls in the community at a reasonable cost. Club volunteers used their own boats and expertise to bring young people onto the water. One story of training youth is blindfolding them at the helm to teach them how to use the feel of the boat to judge the wind and currents. This program has grown to 10 one-week classes all summer, access to boats on weekends, and three advanced courses. Some of SBYC’s former students have gone on to college scholarships, professional racing and certified sailing instructors, and opening their own sailing centers in other states.

SBYC also assumed sponsorship of BAADS, Bay Area Association for Disabled Sailors, awarding the organization club privileges. The two organizations hold reciprocal Board positions. The effect of this collaboration has resulted in the first ADA-accessible harbor in San Francisco. Members of BAADS have competed and won many national and international championships.

South Bay Yacht Club’s current collaboration with the Pier 40 redevelopment project with Pacific Waterfront Partners (PWP) ensures the growth of the existing Youth Sailing Program and an emerging Community Sailing Program, thereby committing to deeper integration with the Community. The PWP project is a $383 million proposal to remake Piers 38 and 40 in South Beach into a waterfront playground and community market.

Lastly, in 2022 SBYC established the SBYC Community Sailing Foundation as a parallel non-profit foundation to increase the diversity of participants in their Youth Sailing Program. The funds received in this separate 501(c)(3) organization will be used for scholarships for youth sailing programs throughout the Bay Area.

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

Throughout the redevelopment phases, SBYC has been actively engaged in Bay Area racing, youth sailing instruction, and collaborative efforts with other community events such as the San Francisco Giants, the America’s Cup, and Rolex Big Boat Series. SBYC founded a 501(c)(3) for youth sailing and has connected with the Boys and Girls Clubs and the YMCA. In addition, the organization has hosted events for San Francisco political figures, from Willie Brown to Matt Dorsey. In 2015, SBYC hosted the Clipper Round the World Race with 12 historic tall ships. SBYC has continuously provided events for the Coast Guard and Navy personnel and their families.

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

South Bay Yacht Club has demonstrated its commitment to the community in many ways:

- From the earliest times, SBYC served as a holding place for the redevelopment of South Beach / Rincon Hill area.
- SBYC was a designated polling place.
- SBYC has been committed to their Youth Sailing Program since 1992.
SBYC attends Port Commission meetings and has been actively meeting with Pacific Waterfront Partners in planning the future Community Sailing Center within the Pier 38/40 redevelopment, which has received approval from the Port and the Board of Supervisors. This Center will offer boating opportunities and an expanded Youth Sailing Program to more San Francisco city residents.

- SBYC has sponsored BAADS (Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors), assisting in making South Beach Harbor the first ADA accessible harbor in San Francisco.
- SBYC recently developed a 501(c)(3) for their Youth Sailing Program to be able to offer scholarships to underprivileged youth, in conjunction with Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, community organizations, and YMCA.

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

SBYC has been in community news media frequently since it was founded, most often in the following publications: Latitude 38, Bay & Delta Yachtsmen, San Francisco Chronicle, ABC Channel 7, and PICYA Yachting Yearbook. Following are just a few:

- “Celebrate Christmas on the water”  
  SFGATE  
  December 18, 2009  
  Note: Brad Ketchum is still South Beach Yacht Club’s Santa Claus in 2023

- “Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors' success”  
  SFGATE  
  December 25, 2010  

- “Redevelopment salvaged, redefined S.F. waterfront”  
  SFGATE  
  January 28, 2012  
  Note: The interview was taken on the deck of South Beach Yacht Club

- “SBYC to host San Francisco Clipper Round the World Yacht Race stopover”  
  Sail-World  
  June 14, 2013  
• “Dinner for unpaid Coast Guard members, families helps ease shutdown’s sting”
San Francisco Chronicle
January 20, 2019

• “Bay Area Association Of Disabled Sailors”
Bay & Delta Yachtsman
March 2023
https://yachtsmanmagazine.com/what-i-saw-by-jackie-philpott-13/

e. Has the business ever received any awards, recognition, or political commendations?

SBYC has been awarded Club of the Year in 2019, 2021, and 2022 by the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association (an organization of 105 yacht clubs in Northern California) based on community engagement.

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

If SBYC were to close, many boaters may move their boats to a different harbor with a yacht club. The only youth sailing available to the San Francisco community would be at the St. Francis Yacht Club or Golden Gate Yacht Club, both of which have no public transportation access and cater to a different demographic, or Bay View Boat Club, which has a small youth program. BAADS might remain but would be without a facility to use for meetings and social events. There would be little connection between disabled sailors and those who are not. The resources SBYC shares would add to the expense and storage needs of each.

In general, the water activities in San Francisco would diminish, and the citizenry would see a quiet, inaccessible marina. At this time, many of SBYC’s races are run from McCovey Cove. When the racers are coming in, local people come to the pier to watch. In fact, the boats crossing the finish line are often shown on the San Francisco Giants screen to their national audiences. SBYC are the only ones in the South Beach area to host cruise-ins from other clubs around the Northern California area, bringing people to the city.

Furthermore, South Beach Yacht Club’s nearly 500 members would be heartbroken! These member connections helped everyone get through the isolation of COVID as they connected online before they could re-open the clubhouse.
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?

South Beach Yacht Club is located within the South Beach Harbor Building. Over 100 of SBYC’s members are Harbor tenants. The Port Captain and Director of the Harbor Tenants Association is also an active member of SBYC. South Beach Yacht Club membership supports the activity of the City Marina Harbormaster, and the Harbormaster supports SBYC activities.

When SBYC leased the space in the South Beach Harbor Building at 899 2nd Street in 2003, their members, as licensed, union workers, built the entire interior infrastructure as volunteers, thus having a very deep and personal connection to the building. As such, SBYC maintains the character and condition of the building contributing to the look and feel of the waterfront considerably more than the harbor’s office and workshop that are also located in the building. SBYC keeps the flags flying, the laughter spilling onto the deck, and the smell of good food circulating the waterfront.

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

SBYC is committed to promoting and expanding on-the-water activities and social activities related to boating to the diverse population of San Francisco.

c. What challenges is the business facing today?

At this time, SBYC faces challenges faced by all boating entities around the United States.

1) One challenge is the perception of the sport. Boating is often seen as an elite sport. However, it is not. It is a priority and a commitment to many boaters with ordinary incomes. It is a clean, safe, engaging, communal activity for all people who are interested in being on the water. It is SBYC’s mission to make boating more accessible to more and more people. This problem can be remedied with more support and recognition from the Port of San Francisco and the City and County of San Francisco.

2) Another challenge faced by many boat clubs, including SBYC, is having short term leases. Short term leases inhibit growth of an organization. If SBYC is chosen as a Legacy Business, the organization hopes it will have a greater chance of obtaining more favorable lease conditions that will greatly enhance their ability to invest even more in the community, especially expanding their Youth Sailing Program within the schools.

3) Physical expansion restraints also present a challenge for SBYC. They have a growing Youth Sailing Program and Community Sailing Program. The redevelopment of Pier 40 will be able to house those programs over a long period of time. However, the redevelopment also reduces the space for their very active Racing Program and growth in membership. SBYC is ready and
able to grow but will require additional space in the South Beach Harbor Building, on the docks, or in the area to forward their planned agenda and to replace the lost space from Pier 40 redevelopment. The remedy would be to acquire more space in or around the South Beach Harbor Building, dinghy docks, or the marina.

4) SBYC has a foundation for scholarships for underprivileged youth. They have been connecting with YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs, and they wish to connect with San Francisco public schools. The remedy for this challenge might also be advanced with a Legacy designation, making their proposals to the schools more credible.

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**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.**

Promotion of recreational boating.

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 parcel of land along the waterfront appears to have a Planning Department Historic Resource Status of “A - Historic Resource Present” as part of the Eligible Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District. It is unclear whether the South Beach Harbor Building at 899 2nd Street has the same designation.
The term "yacht club" conjures a snobby stereotype: The ultra-wealthy in designer nautical outfits, being waited on hand and foot as they decide who's worthy of joining their exclusive ranks.

But the South Beach Yacht Club, nestled between Pier 40 and AT&T Park, is the antidote to snobbery. The early members of this down-to-earth, do-it-yourself operation even built their first clubhouse themselves, out of an old double-wide trailer. They don't discriminate, either; anyone with an honest interest in, and knowledge of, sailing is welcome. Even the membership fees aren't that steep by sailing standards.
The SBYC's first clubhouse, in raw form. (Photo: SBYC)

The SBYC's new clubhouse is more modern and boasts dazzling views, but it, too, was a hands-on project, and all of the members volunteer to keep it going. Ray Hall, the club's historian, sat down with Hoodline to talk about the club and what makes it special. "We organized it, we built it and we run it," he said.

The club's history starts back in 1986, when the South Beach Harbor opened at Pier 40. It was built by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, on property leased from the Port of San Francisco and with funding provided by the State Department of Boating and Waterways. Hall moved his boat there from Alameda, because it was an easier commute from his home in Belmont.

At the time, few people wanted to be in SoMa. AT&T Park hadn't been built, the Embarcadero Freeway was still in use, and the area was "deserted," Hall said. "We had more seagulls than we had people." The harbor had to rent berths to commercial fishermen in the area for the smelt run.
These days, there's a five- to 15-year wait list at the South Beach Harbor for a berth, depending on the size of the boat. Everything changed in SoMa after the Embarcadero Freeway was knocked down and the view was opened up, Hall said. "They couldn’t give these berths away. It was a real bad part of town. Now, it’s so fancy and charming, you can’t believe it."

Back to the 1980s: as the harbor's ranks slowly grew, Harbor Master Carter Strauch called a meeting of anyone interested in forming a yacht club. At the first meeting, on April 30th, 1988, 53 people showed up. “The first meeting was shaking hands and trying to remember names,” Hall recalled. The club formed, and the inaugural Friday-night race was held on June 24th, 1988.

After that, the SBYC met monthly in the nearby International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 34 hall at 4 Berry St. The club is a 501(c)(7) nonprofit, "organized for pleasure, recreation, and other nonprofitable purposes," according to the Internal Revenue Service.
Meanwhile, the yacht club's members were hoping to build their own clubhouse. One day, they got a lead on a double-wide mobile home that had been used as a classroom; one of the members paid for it with a credit card and had it towed to the site.

Construction started in June 1989, under the leadership of Fred and Rae Maeder, who were in charge of the facilities committee. Their hands-on crew of club members, dubbed "Maeder's Raiders," built a deck and painted it with a blue-and-yellow maritime theme. The SBYC got its permit to occupy the building on December 18th, 1990.

The first SBYC cruise was held January 27th–28th, 1990, with members sailing to Ballena Bay Yacht Club in Benicia. As it happened, Benicia was having a jazz festival that weekend, so the race was named the Jazz Cup. The next year, the fledgling club earned a first-place prize for group effort at the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association's Opening Day on San Francisco Bay.
Decorated Boat Parade. Their yacht was decked out with a pagoda and a dragon that emitted "smoke" from its mouth (provided by fire extinguishers).

The club was housed in the renovated trailer for 14 years until it moved into its new building, erected by the Port. But despite the larger digs, the new clubhouse still took some elbow grease to put together. "When we walked in, there was nothing here," Hall said, except for plywood on the floor, glass in the windows and a roof. "That was it."

"Everything you can see right now is new," Hall said. "That’s what our club members built here. [Club member] Frank Navarro was in construction, and he was the one who ran this job. We also had a member that was in the flooring business," and another who was an architect and lent his skills to the layout of the space. Work on the current building started in 2004, and it opened in 2006.
SBYC members built the beautiful curved-wood bar, and they staff it, too—all of the bartenders on duty are also club members. Tips go are donated to a youth sailing program or to the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors, a nonprofit group that uses SBYC facilities and strives to make sailing accessible. Inside, you can see hundreds of burgees, or flags, from other yacht clubs that also have an SBYC yacht club flag inside the clubhouse, showing the dizzying array of destinations club members have visited.

Today, the club hosts a long list of events, from junior sailing camps to Friday night races. You don't have to own a boat to join—the club is seeking new members, even though berths aren't available—but an interest in boating and some experience is necessary.
Nancy Ellen, who is on the membership committee, said if an applicant has no sailing experience, she'll tell them to go take some courses. They want members who will be involved, and not just use the club to gain access to the area's other clubs. They have reciprocity agreements with all the other clubs in the area, except for the St. Francis Yacht Club. All applicants must receive a referral from three current members.

Hall summed up the attitude of the type of people who belong to SBYC: "They are goers and doers; they’re not waiting for someone else to do it."

_SBYC clubhouse with burgees. (Photo: Geri Koeppel/Hoodline)_
Welcome to the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association
Established in 1896

Past Club of the Year Winners:


2021 Ebony Boat Club (http://www.ebonyboatclub.com/), San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/) and South Beach Yacht Club (http://southbeachyc.org)

2019 Ebony Boat Club (http://www.ebonyboatclub.com/), San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/) and South Beach Yacht Club (http://www.southbeachyachtclub.org/)

2018 Ebony Boat Club (http://www.ebonyboatclub.com/) and San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/)

2017 Ebony Boat Club (http://www.ebonyboatclub.com/) and San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/)

2016 Ebony Boat Club (http://www.ebonyboatclub.com/) and San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/)

2015 Alameda Yacht Club (http://www.alamedayachtclub.org/), San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/), (http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net/) and Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2014 Encinal Yacht Club (http://www.encinal.org/), Oakland Yacht Club, (http://www.oaklandyachtclub.net/) Richmond Yacht Club, (http://www.richmondyc.org/Page/13823-113469) and Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2013 Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/), San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/), Mariposa Hunters Pt. Yacht Club (http://mhpyc.org/)

2012 Benicia Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/), Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2011 Benicia Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/)

2010 Benicia Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/)& Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2009 Richmond Yacht Club (http://www.richmondyc.org/) & Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2008 Benicia Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/)& Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)

2007 Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)
2006  Richmond Yacht Club (http://www.richmondyc.org/) & Vallejo Yacht Club (http://www.vyc.org/)
2005  Richmond Yacht Club (http://www.richmondyc.org/)
2004  Richmond Yacht Club (http://www.richmondyc.org/)
'00 -'03  Benicia Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/)

'98 -'99  Sequoia (http://www.sequoiyc.org/) Yacht Club (http://www.beniciayachtclub.com/)
1997  San Jose Sailing Club (http://www.sanjosesailingclub.com/)
1995  Bel Marin Keys Yacht Club (https://www.facebook.com/BelMarinKeysYachtClub)
1994  Bel Marin Keys Yacht Club (https://www.facebook.com/BelMarinKeysYachtClub), Metropolitan Yacht Club (http://www.metyc.com/)
1993  Bel Marin Keys Yacht Club (http://www.facebook.com/BelMarinKeysYachtClub)
LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HEARING DATE: May 17th, 2023

Filing Date: April 19, 2023
Case No.: 2023-003662LBR
Business Name: South Beach Yacht Club
Business Address: 889 2nd Street (Pier 40)
Zoning: M-2 (Heavy Industrial) Zoning District
Waterfront SUD (Special Use District) No. 1
40-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Not Applicable
Block/Lot: 9900/040
Applicant: Suni Petersen
889 2nd St, Pier 40
San Francisco, CA 94107
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Dorsey
Located In: District 6
Staff Contact: Jia Hong Situ – 628.652.7384
jiahong.situ@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description
The South Beach Yacht Club is a non-profit community-based membership organization specializing in the promotion of boating and waterfront activities. In every year of its existence except for 2011, the club has had a different yacht club president, or “Commodore”. Other examples which show the grassroots nature of this club include the volunteering of members’ yachts for instructing youth on boating, the sustaining of the club through volunteer hours and donations, and the commitment to youth, the disabled, and underprivileged youth.

The club had humble beginnings – its first meeting in 1988 was without a location but members built a home in 1989. Their first clubhouse was a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex. It was paid for by one member’s credit card and altered for club purposes by club members. After fourteen years in the trailer, in 2006, the club moved a stone’s throw away to the newly constructed building on South Beach Harbor. The entire interior infrastructure
was constructed by the club members – led by Frank Navarro, club members, some with flooring and architecture experience, built what is now the South Beach Yacht Club’s new clubhouse.

The club has 485 members strong, shares a unique experience with approximately 150 children and teens annually, and has sponsored the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors (BAADS) since inception. Its extensive efforts in community engagement are recognized by the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association, an organization of 105 yachts in Northern California, awarding the club Club of the Year in 2019, 2021, and 2022. The club began its Youth Sailing Program in 1992 and partnership with BAADS resulted in the first ADA-accessible harbor in San Francisco.

The South Beach Yacht Club’s clubhouse, located at 889 2nd Street, is within the South Beach Harbor Building just off the Embarcadero & Townsend Street. Due to inconsistent port parcel mapping, the business is associated with the Pier 40 parcel, although it is technically on the mainland section, which does not have a recognized parcel. The pier as a whole is within the M-2 Zoning District, the Waterfront Special Use District No. 1, and the 40-X Height and Bulk District. The area was included in several survey areas, including the Port of San Francisco Survey (2006) and the Department of City Planning 1976 Survey where it received a survey rating of 2, with 5 being the highest. While Pier 40 is rated a Category A (Historic Resource Present) from its inclusion in the National Register-eligible and California Register-listed Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District, the building in which the South Beach Yacht Club is located was built in 2006 and is therefore not age eligible and is rated a Category C.

**Staff Analysis**

**Review Criteria**

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

   The South Beach Yacht Club was founded in 1989.

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

   Yes. South Beach Yacht Club qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

   a. South Beach Yacht Club has operated continuously in San Francisco for 34 years.

   b. South Beach Yacht Club has contributed to the history and identity of the South of Market neighborhood and San Francisco.

   c. South Beach Yacht Club 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 club is associated with boating and waterfront activities.
4. **Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and / or architecture?**

Yes. The South Beach Yacht Club is located within the South Beach Harbor Building, constructed in 2006. Prior to this location, the club was based in a double-wide trailer on the Pier 40 complex. This trailer was a meeting space for members of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Redevelopment Commission, and former mayor Willie Brown, during the redevelopment of South Beach and Rincon Hill.

The club was an early and continues to be an active investor in the restoration of the South of Market neighborhood: examples include becoming an official host in the 2013 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race stopover and has continuously provided events for Navy and Coast Guard families every year.

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

No. While Pier 40 is rated a Category A (Historic Resource Present) from its inclusion in the National Register-eligible and California Register-listed Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District, the building in which the South Beach Yacht Club is located was built in 2006 and is therefore not age eligible and is rated a Category C.

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

No.

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

Yes. The South Beach Yacht Club has been cited by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, SFGATE, ABC Channel 7, *Latitude 38*, and *Bay & Delta Yachtsmen*. The business won Club of the Year in 2019, 2021, and 2022, awarded by the Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association, an organization of 105 yacht clubs in Northern California.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted Resolution No. 1127 centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. Understanding the benefits, burdens, and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Preservation Planning documents provide is part of the Department’s Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor’s Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which required all Departments to conduct this analysis.

The Legacy Business Program is deeply intertwined with these goals. One of the primary purposes of the Legacy Business Program is to maintain San Francisco's cultural fabric and to foster civic engagement and pride by assisting long-operating businesses remain in the city. The Legacy Business Registry was established to recognize longstanding, community-serving businesses that are valuable cultural assets of the city. These businesses, ranging from restaurants to art galleries to tire shops to community shelters, are key to sustaining the racial and social diversity in San Francisco and adding to the identity and character of our city and the many communities within it.

The South Beach Yacht Club has a history of helping minorities. The business has a Youth Sailing Program since 1992 and recently began offering scholarships to underprivileged youth in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of
San Francisco, community organizations, and the YMCA. It sponsored the Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors since inception and has made the South Beach Harbor the first ADA accessible harbor in San Francisco.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

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

Current Locations:
- 889 2nd St., Pier 40 (1989 – Present)

**Recommended by Applicant**
- ADA-compliant harbor
- South Beach Harbor Building interior infrastructure entirely built by members, as licensed, union workers
- Offering recreational boating and waterfront activities to the diverse population of San Francisco

**Additional Recommended by Staff**
- None

**Basis for Recommendation**

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

**ATTACHMENTS**

Draft Resolution
Legacy Business Registry Application:
- Application Review Sheet
- Section 1 – Business / Applicant Information
- Section 2 – Business Location(s)
- Section 3 – Disclosure Statement
- Section 4 – Written Historical Narrative
  - Criterion 1 – History and Description of Business
  - Criterion 2 – Contribution to Local History
  - Criterion 3 – Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation
ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SOUTH BEACH YACHT CLUB CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 889 2ND STREET (PIER 40), BLOCK/LOT 9900/040.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and
WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on May 17, 2023, 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 South Beach Yacht Club 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 South Beach Yacht Club.

Location(s):
- Current Location: 889 2nd St., Pier 40 (1989 – Present)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:
- ADA-compliant harbor
- South Beach Harbor Building interior infrastructure entirely built by members, as licensed, union workers
- Offering recreational boating and waterfront activities to the diverse population of San Francisco

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on May 17, 2023.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wright, Foley, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Johns, So

ADOPTED: May 17, 2023