



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: August 28, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-002
Business Name: San Francisco Go Club
Business Address: 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501
District: District 5
Applicant: Matthew Barcus, President
Nomination Date: July 19, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The San Francisco Go Club is the oldest continuously operating Go club in the United States. It was founded by Japanese enthusiasts in 1931, and since then has remained an integral part of the Asian community of San Francisco. The San Francisco Go Club currently is in the Japan Center Mall and is a place for casual play, weekly lessons, and tournaments. Its membership reflects the multicultural diversity of San Francisco, with about half its members of Asian descent. People of all ages can be seen at the boards, and members are eager to teach and show the wonders of this mysterious game to the many tourists and passersby.

Go in San Francisco has a long and colorful history, stretching back to the post-Gold Rush wave of Asian immigration in the 19th century. The game was played informally until the 1920s when two small clubs were formed in San Francisco. Then in 1931, the two small clubs merged to form the San Francisco Go Club. This new club rented space at 1881 Bush Street in what was originally a Jewish synagogue, Congregation Ohabai Shalom, and would later become the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church. The club thrived, and in 1936 was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association (Nihon Ki-in).

With the outbreak of World War II, most of the club's Japanese members were forcibly "relocated" to internment camps throughout the western part of the country as a result of government actions based on race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The club closed, and the building was used as a homeless shelter by the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. With little else to do in the internment camps, many of the Japanese club members played Go, and their skill improved significantly. After the war, they were allowed to return, and in 1947 moved with the Zen Temple back into the old building.

The club flourished, especially in the 1970s when it became a gathering place not only for Japanese seniors, but young "flower children" spilling over from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury scene. In the early 1980s when the Soto Zen Mission left, the club moved from its small downstairs room to the large, high-ceilinged room upstairs. The members put in a lot of work painting and making repairs. On any given day from noon to 9:00 p.m., through thick cigarette smoke, you could see long tables covered with dozens of Go boards, and Japanese octogenarians playing intently with young hippies.

In 1994, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, SF Go Club's landlord, revealed plans to renovate the building, and the club had to find a new home. Since then, the club spent about five years on Balboa Street in the Outer Richmond district, another 15 years on Anza Street in the Inner Richmond district, then four years renting a room from the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist

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Church at 2016 Pine Street. The club was closed due to the COVID lockdowns for two years and finally found their current wonderful space in the Japan Center Mall in January 2022.

The San Francisco Go Club is not only a place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go, but part of the fabric of the Asian diaspora community in San Francisco. It has persisted through decades of trial and tribulation, including the shameful chapter of internment in the U.S., as well as more recent challenges in finding a new home in the City. Yet throughout, it has remained a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather and share friendly competition.

CRITERION 1

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

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

Prior to establishment with the California Secretary of State:

1881 Bush St. from 1931 to 1982 (51 years)

After establishment with the California Secretary of State:

1881 Bush St. from 1982 to 1994 (12 years)

Balboa St. from 1995 to 2000 (5 years)

500 8th Ave. from 2000 to 2015 (15 years)

2016 Pine St. from 2016 to 2020 (4 years)

555 Fulton St. from 2021 to 2022 (1 year)

22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 from 2022 to Present (1 year)

CRITERION 2

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

Yes, The San Francisco Go Club has contributed to the history and identity of the Western Addition and Japantown neighborhoods 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 Go, an ancient oriental board game for two players invented some four thousand years ago in China. Today, Go is played all over the world but is extremely popular in Japan, China, and Korea.
- The club is associated with many professional Go players famous in their home countries as well as in San Francisco's Asian community. In 1936, for example, when the club was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association, the strongest Go player in Japan at that time, Honinbo Shusai (about whom the Nobel Prize-winning author, Yasunari Kawabata, wrote the novel *The Master of Go*), was so pleased that he gave a large-scale commemorative sample of his masterful calligraphy as a present for the new branch. The club still has the calligraphy and displays it proudly on a wall of pictures and mementos.

A much beloved visitor to the club was Kaoru Iwamoto, 9-dan (the highest rank among professional Go players), famous for the "Atomic Bomb Game." On August 6, 1945, the then Go champion, Utaru Hashimoto, faced the young challenger, Kaoru Iwamoto. The game was held in the suburbs of Hiroshima, about five kilometers from ground zero. The game was about to enter its third and final day of play when the bomb dropped at 8:15 am. The game was disrupted but resumed after lunch. Hashimoto won by five points.

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One of the club's most distinguished visitors was Go Seigen, 9-dan, considered the greatest player of the 20th century, and perhaps of all time. When Go Seigen visited the club in 1972, he consented to play about 50 simultaneous games, giving all his opponents generous first-move advantages. He won all but one.

In 1991, when Jerry Brown announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1992 election, he visited San Francisco with a large entourage and stopped by the Go Club at 1881 Bush Street.

In 2010, California State Senator Leland Yee (Assistant President pro-Tempore) came to the San Francisco Go Club to present Jiang Ming Jiu, 7-dan, with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate in honor of the Ing Chang-Ki Go Foundation and their continued sponsorship of the World Youth Go Championship.

- The San Francisco Go Club, along with other Bay Area clubs, hosted the 1999 U.S. Go Congress — the largest annual Go event in the United States.
- The site was surveyed in the Department of City Planning 1976 Survey. It is also located within the active survey area of the ongoing San Francisco Citywide Cultural Resources Survey. The property is called out in the *San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design, 1935-1970 Historic Context Statement* for design by Royston, Hanamoto, and Mayes (landscape architects) and collaboration with Van Bourg Nakamura (architect).
- The San Francisco Go Club has been mentioned occasionally in the San Francisco Chronicle, and it has been the focus of several long articles in the American Go E-Journal, the online journal of American Go. In 1961, KPIX News did a news story with video footage when three strong professional players visited the club.
- The Go Club has been a fixture of Asian, and especially Japanese, culture in San Francisco since the 1930s. The club's Japanese members were forced to move to isolated relocation camps during World War II, but they persevered — sustained by their rich heritage and traditions, not least of which was the game of Go. After the war, when they were allowed to return, the club was re-established in Japantown and has been a beacon of Asian culture in San Francisco ever since. Spreading the game of Go, as well as the Asian culture surrounding it, has always been part of the mission of the San Francisco Go Club. In its current home in the Japan Center Mall, the club attracts many passersby who are always welcome to come in for a free lesson. The club has a tradition of sending volunteers out into the community to teach kids in San Francisco's schools. Every year, San Francisco Go Club has a booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival celebrating Japanese and Japanese American culture.

CRITERION 3

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

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- A place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go.
- A large-scale commemorative calligraphy given to the San Francisco Go Club by Japanese Go player Honinbo Shusai.
- Professional quality Go equipment.

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 Go.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include San Francisco Go Club currently located at 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

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Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

August 28, 2023

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Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for San Francisco Go Club, currently located at 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501.

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 August 28, 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 San Francisco Go Club in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at San Francisco Go Club.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- A place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go.
- A large-scale commemorative calligraphy given to the San Francisco Go Club by Japanese Go player Honinbo Shusai.
- Professional quality Go equipment.

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

- Promotion of Go.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 28, 2023.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

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Nomination Date: July 19, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

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

Prior to establishment with the California Secretary of State:
1881 Bush St. from 1931 to 1982 (51 years)

After establishment with the California Secretary of State:
1881 Bush St. from 1982 to 1994 (12 years)
Balboa St. from 1995 to 2000 (5 years)
500 8th Ave. from 2000 to 2015 (15 years)
2016 Pine St. from 2016 to 2020 (4 years)
555 Fulton St. from 2021 to 2022 (1 year)
22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 from 2022 to Present (1 year)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?
 Yes No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?
 Yes No

NOTES: San Francisco Go Club has been in existence since 1931, but was officially established with the California Secretary of State on October 4, 1982.

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: July 19, 2023

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

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DEAN PRESTON

July 19, 2023

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 San Francisco Go Club to the Legacy Business Registry*

Dear Mr. Kurylo:

I am writing to nominate the San Francisco Go Club, the oldest continuously operating Go Club in the United States, to the Legacy Business Registry.

For nearly a century, the San Francisco Go Club has hosted Go, a strategy board game invented in China some four thousand years ago. Go in San Francisco has a long and colorful history, stretching back to the post-Gold Rush wave of Asian immigration in the 19th century. The game was played informally until the 1920s when two small clubs were formed in San Francisco. Then in 1931, the two small clubs merged to form the San Francisco Go Club. This new club rented space at 1881 Bush Street in what was originally a Jewish synagogue, Congregation Ohabai Shalom, and would later become the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church. The club thrived, and in 1936 was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association (Nihon Ki-in).

With the outbreak of World War II, most of the club's Japanese members were forcibly relocated to internment camps throughout the Western part of the country as a result of government actions based on racism, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The club closed, and the building was used as a homeless shelter by the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. With little else to do in the internment camps, many of the Japanese club members played Go, and their skill improved significantly. After the war, they were allowed to return, and in 1947 moved with the Zen Temple back into the old building.

The club flourished, especially in the 1970s when it became a gathering place not only for Japanese seniors, but young "flower children" from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury scene. In the early 1980s when the Soto Zen Mission left, the club moved from its small downstairs room to the large, high-ceilinged room upstairs. The members put in a lot of work painting and

making repairs. On any given day from noon to 9:00 p.m., through thick cigarette smoke, you could see long tables covered with dozens of Go boards, and Japanese octogenarians playing intently with young hippies. As representative of District 5, which includes both Japantown and the Haight Ashbury, I particularly appreciate this cross-cultural connection.

In 1994, SF Go Club's landlord revealed plans to renovate the building, and the club had to find a new home. Since then, the club spent about five years on Balboa Street in the Outer Richmond district, another 15 years on Anza Street in the Inner Richmond district, then four years renting a room from the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist Church at 2016 Pine Street. The club was closed due to the COVID lockdowns for two years and finally found their current wonderful space in the Japan Center Mall in January 2022.

In its current home in the Japan Center Mall, the club attracts many passersby who are always welcome to come in for a free lesson. The club maintains a website with a calendar of current events, including weekly lessons for beginners and intermediate players. They also have a tradition of sending volunteers out into the community to teach kids in San Francisco's schools. In particular, in the summer of 2023, they will be introducing Go at Daruma No Gakko, a Japanese summer school in Berkeley. Every year, San Francisco Go Club has a booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival celebrating Japanese and Japanese American culture.

The San Francisco Go Club is part of the fabric of the Asian diaspora community in San Francisco. It has persisted through decades of trial and tribulation, including the shameful chapter of internment in the U.S., as well as more recent challenges in finding a new home in the City. Yet throughout, it has remained a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather and share friendly competition. My office sincerely appreciates the contribution the San Francisco Go Club has made to the Japantown neighborhood, the Asian-American community at large, and the city of San Francisco, and I am honored to nominate the Go Club to the San Francisco Legacy Business Registry.

Sincerely,



Dean Preston
District 5 Supervisor



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: San Francisco Go Club

Business owner name(s): Matthew Barcus

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

Current business address: 22 Peace Plz, Suite 501, San Francisco, CA

Telephone: () - **Email:**

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website: sfgoclub.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sfgoclub/ **Twitter:** SFGoClub

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

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: Matthew Barcus

Contact person title: President

Contact telephone: () - **Contact email:**

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.

Original San Francisco address: 1881 Bush St **Zip Code:** 94115

Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N): Y

Dates at this location: From: 1931 **To:** 1994

Other address (if applicable): Balboa Street **Zip Code:** 94121

Dates at this location: From: 1995 **To:** 2000

Other address (if applicable): 500 8th Ave **Zip Code:** 94118

Dates at this location: From: 2000 **To:** 2015

Other address (if applicable): 2016 Pine St **Zip Code:** 94115

Dates at this location: From: 2016 **To:** 2020

Other Address (if applicable): 555 Fulton St **Zip Code:** 94102

Dates at this location: From: 2021 **To:** 2022

Other address (if applicable): 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 **Zip Code:** 94115

Dates at this location: From: 2022 **To:** Present

Applicant Disclosures

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.

Name: Matthew Barcus

Signature:



Date: 06/20/2023

SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

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

Go is an ancient oriental board game for two players invented some four thousand years ago in China. Today, Go is played all over the world but is extremely popular in Japan, China, and Korea. Like Western chess but on steroids, Go has rich and complex strategies that emerge naturally from a few simple rules.

The San Francisco Go Club is the oldest continuously operating Go club in the United States. It was founded by Japanese enthusiasts in 1931, and since then has remained an integral part of the Asian community of San Francisco.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

The San Francisco Go Club is available for casual play, lessons, and tournaments. The membership reflects the multicultural diversity of San Francisco, with about half its members of Asian descent. The club currently is located in the Japan Center Mall and attracts quite a few tourists and passersby. People of all ages can be seen at the boards, and they actively reach out to local schools with lessons for interested students.

A few years ago when the artificial intelligence program AlphaGo beat a world champion Go player, interest in the game surged, especially among people in the tech industry, and many of them have become its most active members.

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

The best place to play Go.

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.

The San Francisco Go Club has been in existence since 1931, but was officially established with the California Secretary of State as a not-for-profit corporation on October 4, 1982.

Go in San Francisco has a long and colorful history, stretching back to the wave of Asian immigration in the 19th century after the gold rush. The game was played informally until the 1920s when two small clubs were formed in San Francisco. Then in 1931, the two small clubs merged to form the San Francisco Go Club. This new club rented space at 1881 Bush St. in what was originally a Jewish synagogue, Congregation Ohabai Shalom, and would later become the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church. The club thrived, and in 1936 was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association (Nihon Ki-in).

With the outbreak of World War II, most of the club's Japanese members were forcibly "relocated" to internment camps throughout the western part of the country as a result of government actions based on race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The club closed, and the building was used as a homeless shelter by the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. With little else to do in the internment camps, many of the Japanese club members played Go, and their skill improved significantly. After the war, they were allowed to return, and in 1947 moved with the Zen Temple back into the old building.

The club flourished, especially in the 1970s when it became a gathering place not only for Japanese seniors, but young "flower children" spilling over from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury scene. In the early 1980s when the Soto Zen Mission left, the club moved from its small downstairs room to the large, high-ceilinged room upstairs. The members put in a lot of work painting and making repairs. On any given day from noon to 9:00 p.m., through thick cigarette smoke, you could see long tables covered with dozens of Go boards, and Japanese octogenarians playing intently with young hippies.

In 1994, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, SF Go Club's landlord, revealed plans to renovate the building, and the club had to find a new home. Since then, the club spent about five years on Balboa Street in the Outer Richmond district, another 15 years on Anza Street in the Inner Richmond district, then four years renting a room from the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist Church at 2016 Pine Street.

The club was closed due to the COVID lockdowns for two years and finally found their current wonderful space in the Japan Center Mall in January 2022.

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

As a not-for-profit corporation, San Francisco Go Club does not have an owner.

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

The club was forcibly "relocated" along with San Francisco's Japanese community during World War II, and was closed for face-to-face games for two years due to COVID restrictions.

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.

In the ninth century Tang Dynasty, a Chinese scholar-gentleman was expected to know the four classic arts: music, painting, calligraphy, and Go. In Asia today, an estimated 100 million people play Go. Professional players in Japan, Korea, and China are as famous as Tiger Woods is in the United States. Go here has not yet reached that level of popularity, but there is a rapidly rising American Go culture, and San Francisco is its hub. The Go Club has been a fixture of Asian, and especially Japanese, culture in San Francisco since the 1930s. The club's Japanese members were forced to move to isolated relocation camps during World War II, but they persevered — sustained by their rich heritage and traditions, not least of which was the game of Go. After the war, when they were allowed to return, the club was reestablished in Japantown and has been a beacon of Asian culture in San Francisco ever since.

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

Although the club is not associated with any well-known San Francisco personalities, it is associated with many professional Go players famous in their home countries as well as in San Francisco's Asian community. In 1936, for example, when the club was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association, the strongest Go player in Japan at that time, Honinbo Shusai (about whom the Nobel Prize winning author, Yasunari Kawabata, wrote the novel *The Master of Go*), was so pleased that he gave a large-scale commemorative sample of his masterful calligraphy as a present for the new branch. The club still has the calligraphy and displays it proudly on a wall of pictures and mementos.

One of the club's most distinguished visitors was Go Seigen (9-dan — the highest rank among professional Go players), considered the greatest player of the 20th century, and perhaps of all time. When Go Seigen visited the club in 1972, he consented to play about 50 simultaneous games, giving all his opponents generous first move advantages. He won all but one.

A much beloved visitor to the club was Kaoru Iwamoto, 9-dan, famous for the "Atomic Bomb Game." On August 6, 1945, the then Go champion, Utaru Hashimoto, faced the young challenger, Kaoru Iwamoto. The game was held in the suburbs of Hiroshima, about 5 kilometers from ground zero. The game was about to enter its third and final day of play when the bomb dropped at 8:15 am. The game was disrupted(!) ... but resumed after lunch. Hashimoto won by 5 points.

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

Spreading the game of Go, as well as the Asian culture surrounding it, has always been part of the mission of the San Francisco Go Club. In its current home in the Japan Center Mall, the club

attracts many passersby who are always welcome to come in for a free lesson. The club maintains a website with a calendar of current events, including weekly lessons for beginners and intermediate players. They also have a tradition of sending volunteers out into the community to teach kids in San Francisco's schools. In particular, in the summer of 2023, they will be introducing Go at Daruma No Gakko, a Japanese summer school in Berkeley. Every year, San Francisco Go Club has a booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival celebrating Japanese and Japanese American culture.

The World Youth Go Championship, the second longest running amateur Go tournament in the world, was hosted in San Francisco in early 1994. San Francisco Go Club, along with other Bay Area clubs, hosted the 1999 U.S. Go Congress — the largest annual Go event in the United States.

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

San Francisco Go Club has been mentioned occasionally in the San Francisco Chronicle, and it has been the focus of several long articles in the American Go E-Journal, the online journal of American Go.

In 1961, KPIX News did a news story with video footage when three strong women professional players visited the club (<https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/190384>).

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

In 1936, the Japanese Go Association was so impressed with the new club in San Francisco that it honored it as its first overseas chapter. At that time, the club was given the name "Nihon Ki-in Soko Shibu" (Japanese Go Association San Francisco Branch).

In 1991, when Jerry Brown announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1992 election, he visited San Francisco with a large entourage and stopped by the Go club at 1881 Bush Street. (Jerry Brown lost to Bill Clinton in a close primary campaign.)

In 2010, California State Senator Leland Yee (Assistant President pro Tempore) came to the San Francisco Go Club to present Jiang Ming Jiu, 7-dan, with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate in honor of the Ing Chang-Ki Go Foundation and their continued sponsorship of the World Youth Go Championship.

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

If San Francisco Go Club were to close, it would be the end of a San Francisco tradition going back to 1931. The Japanese, Chinese, and Korean heritage is a rich one, and Go is no small part. The Japanese community in particular lost much during the internment of World War II, but the

San Francisco Go Club survived, and then thrived. How ironic if the club were to fade away today simply for want of a good lease.

It might also be the end of a bright future. Being in San Francisco, surrounded by high tech industries and world class universities, the club attracts many gifted, young people curious about the game. A few years ago, the AI program Alpha Go beat the strongest player in the world. Since then, accomplished computer scientists and programmers have become interested in the game. The presence of the most active Go club in the United States is one more benefit to these talented, young people of life in San Francisco.

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?

The Japan Center Malls, in which the San Francisco Go Club is located, officially opened for business on March 28, 1968, to highlight goods from Japan. Originally called the Japan Trade and Cultural Center, the Japan Center Malls today includes over 35 businesses that serve cultural foods, goods, and items from Japan.

The large-scale commemorative calligraphy given to the San Francisco Go Club by Japanese Go player Honinbo Shusai is a treasured item.

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

A place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go.

c. What challenges is the business facing today?

When the COVID epidemic struck San Francisco in 2020, the San Francisco Go Club temporarily had to close its doors. They had been renting a small, basement space in the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist Church at 2016 Pine Street. At the end of 2021, they approached the Japan Center Mall about the possibility of renting a space there. At that time, half the storefronts in the mall were vacant due to the pandemic, and the mall was delighted to have the club. They were a good fit, representing an important part of Japanese culture, and they offered the club a wonderful space for an affordable, below market rent — but only month-to-month. The club moved in and invested a lot of money and energy to make the space a beautiful place to play Go. The club has grown and thrived in their new home, but now, with the economy much improved, the mall wants the organization to sign a long-term lease at current market rates. Their rent would more than quadruple, making it impossible to stay in Japantown, their

traditional home. They are hoping that with being listed on the Legacy Business Registry, the City could help them negotiate a lease on terms they can afford.

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 the board game Go.

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 Japan Center Malls appear to have a Planning Department Historic Resource Status of "A - Historic Resource Present." Although they are not significant for architecture/design, the property has been identified for its association with modern architecture and landscape design (1935-1970).



This photo was taken by Dr. David Kent during a visit to the club by Go Seigen in 1972. John Givens was the only winner in this simul. Herb Doughty is also in this photo.



場道部碁港桑

SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB DOJO

501

OFFICE OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO
GO CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB

PRO SHUJI GAMES
WITH GO BOARD

PRO SHUJI GAMES
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Informational brochures and papers on a table.











한일바둑관 국제 (0

8, 269-7858

Tournament Schedule

Registration	9:30am
Round 1 Pairing	9:55am
Round 1 Begin	10:00am
Lunch	11:30pm - 12:50pm
Round 2 Pairing	12:55pm
Round 2 Begin	1:00pm
Round 3 Pairing	2:55pm
Round 3 Begin	3:00pm
Awards Ceremony	5:00pm

You must be present at round pairing to play.

Thank you!
San Francisco Go Club

Tourney Pairings

Round 1 of 3

Rank	Black	White	Rank	Black	White
1	Chiu, Jeremy	Yan, Brandon	1	Wang, Matt	
2	Lee, Alan	Larkins, Will	2	Wang, Matt	
3	Lee, James	Chiu, Qilin	3	Wang, Matt	
4	Chiu, Eshan	Wu, James	4	Wang, Matt	
5	Chan, Zach	James, Paul	5	Wang, Matt	
6	Chan, David	Ford, John	6	Wang, Matt	
7	Lee, Aaron	Lu, William	7	Wang, Matt	
8	Wu, James	Dayton, Matt	8	Wang, Matt	
9	Wang, Matt	Lee, Alan	9	Wang, Matt	
10	Larkins, Will	Sullivan, Sean	10	Wang, Matt	
11	Wang, Matt	Wu, James	11	Wang, Matt	
12	Chiu, Eshan	Lee, Alan	12	Wang, Matt	
13	Lee, Benjamin	Chiu, Qilin	13	Wang, Matt	
14	Lee, Alan	Wu, James	14	Wang, Matt	
15	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	15	Wang, Matt	
16	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	16	Wang, Matt	
17	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	17	Wang, Matt	
18	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	18	Wang, Matt	
19	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	19	Wang, Matt	
20	Wang, Matt	Wang, Matt	20	Wang, Matt	







SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB



About



The SF Go Club is the best place to play Go in the SF Bay Area and the oldest Go club in North America. Started in the 1880s by Japanese sailors looking to play Go, it established itself as an official club in 1935 and incorporated as a non-profit in 1984. The club has a rich community of members and a wonderful club-room filled with equipment, both for playing and teaching. It's a great place to meet interesting people and share this exciting game with them in person.

The club is welcoming to all players new and old and especially beginners. Members are eager to teach and show you the wonders of this mysterious game. There are regular introductory teaching sessions to help get you started.

Membership at the club is available for a nominal fee and a suggested donation is requested for those visiting.

The Dojo

- Large 50 player dojo with custom height tables and professional quality Go equipment.
- Large teaching magnet board, simul playing area, and tatami Go playing area with floor boards.
- Kitchen with sink, fridge, microwave, tea, and hot water kettle.
- Library with over 200 Go books available for check-out by members.
- Seating area with couch, armchairs, and coffee table.
- Co-working space with desks and office chairs.
- Private accessible bathroom.
- Monthly events including tournaments, workshops, socials, visiting professionals, and more!



How to participate

- Stay up to date on all of our events by signing up for our **Newsletter**.
- Join our **Discord channel** and **Google Mailing Group** to communicate with members and club directors.
- Subscribe to our schedule of events by visiting the **Calendar Page**.
- Visit the dojo!

Leadership

- Matthew Barcus – President
- Eric Smith – Vice President
- Brianna Forster – Secretary
- Winta Pang – Treasurer

Board of Directors

- Paul Goodman – Director at Large
- Mishal Awadah – Member at Large
- Ernest Brown – Member at Large
- David Marvit – Member at Large

Code of Conduct

- Members and visitors are expected to abide by our club's **Code of Conduct**.
- Tournament participants are expected to abide by our **Tournament Rules** and the **AGA Code of Conduct**.



https://www.capenews.net/arts_and_entertainment/the-go-club-of-san-francisco/article_a4107171-5bb6-5513-b8b3-07742baa6b34.html

See What I Mean?

The Go Club Of San Francisco

By MARK CHESTER

Jul 7, 2023

Home / Arts & Entertainment

1 of 2



Mark Chester shot this photo, titled "Go Players," in San Francisco in 1975.

Why I took the photo

I wandered into the Go Club out of curiosity, not knowing about the game of Go.

How I took the photo

[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

I stood by the entry door observing the various players seated at the game boards and focused my attention on the two intense men in the corner of the room. I used a Nikon F manual camera with a 135mm lens. They were very intense, completely unaware of my presence or anything else on the planet.

What I like about the photo

I like their body language and their hat and coats in the background that complemented their sitting position.

And one more thing

I moved to San Francisco from New York in 1975 to a diverse neighborhood bordering Japan town. Exploring this vibrant residential community, I came upon an unpretentious building with a sign on the door: Go Club of San Francisco. Engraved into the building's stone edifice was a Star of David. I immediately felt at home. The building was a former orthodox Jewish synagogue built in the 1880s, named Temple Ohabi Shalom, at 1881 Bush Street; it was then converted to a Buddhist church where it was housed the San Francisco Go Club—Nihon Ki-in Soko Shubu. It is the oldest club of its kind in the country. (The club has since relocated to a modern facility in the Japan town mall nearby.)

It was a typical winter San Francisco day: chilly, cloudy and slightly drizzling. The few people inside were seated at a table facing each other with a raised game board between them. Black and white M & M-like shapes were scattered on the 19x19-inch board, which has a grid of consisting of 361 points. A beautifully carved wooden bowl rested next to the board filled with the playing pieces, which are called stones.

At a corner table two men sat with intense concentration. The room was very quiet; you could almost hear them think—if you understood Japanese.

I silently observed them from a distance, fearful to move an inch, so as not to disturb their concentration. The hat and coat hanging on the wall, their body language and facial expressions created an eye-catching composition. Every element aligned in sync. So intense was their playing, the two men did not sense my presence. I took the photo without asking because the moment was perfect. They didn't hear the click of the camera.

Go is an abstract strategy board game for two players in which the aim is to surround more territory than the opponent. The game was invented in China more than 2,500 years ago and is believed to be the oldest board game continuously played to the present day. A 2016 survey by the International

Go Federation's 75 member nations found that there are more than 46 million people worldwide who know how to play Go and over 20 million current players, the majority of whom live in East Asia, according to a website.

An average game lasts 45 minutes, although many can last for hours, sometime days. It is defined that playing Go takes 10 minutes to learn, but a lifetime to master. It's the kind of game that attracts players from the fields of mathematics, engineering, music and science.

This photograph was on display in an exhibition of mine sponsored by the San Francisco Arts Commission. A gentleman contacted me via the internet many years later after moving to the Cape. He emailed me:

In 1987 my family came across an exhibition of yours at San Francisco International Airport ... to their surprise, they came across a photograph of yours which included my grandfather, who had passed away some four years earlier ... you had taken it at one of his favorite places in the world, the old Go Club (gokaisho, in Japanese) in the city on Bush Street, presumably late one weekend night where he could often be found ... he was the player with his back toward you, and his coat, which I now wear, hangs on the coat rack in the background, with that of his colleague/opponent/friend ... is there a possibility of receiving a print from you, of this very meaningful image for my mother (my grandfather's only daughter)? If so, please inform me of your fee ... Thank you for your consideration ... and for capturing that poignant moment for our family through your art,

in spirit, Peter Suzuki"

I was floored when I received his email, as well as impressed by his perseverance in searching for me. The incident reconfirmed the poignancy and importance of a photograph. I was very touched and responded to him the same day and sent the photo and another one, with compliments.

"Go Players" is currently in the juried group exhibition "In Tandem" at the Cape Cod Museum of Art through July 30, where it has garnered third-place recognition and a monetary award. Juror Peter Michael Martin describes it:

"This photo immediately draws you in. It's almost like a still from a short video. The gentlemen's motionless dark coats neatly hanging against the white background in a way escort the viewer to the activity below. (In tandem) the composition creates a sense of expectation as the longer you look at

it the more you assume one of them will make a move. The spontaneous mood of the photographer creates a delightful window for the viewer just on the edge of eavesdropping.”

A photograph is worth more than 1,000 words. It is priceless.

Editor's note: A selection of twenty photographs from Chester's book Twosomes is on view at the Springfield Museums of Art through July 30. Contact: www.markchesterphotography.com, springfieldmuseums.org. The film "Go Masters," a 1982 Chinese Japanese co-production tells the story of a Japanese Go master and his Chinese rival meet in China to play a game of Go at the outbreak of Japan's invasion of China.



LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2023

Filing Date: July 19, 2023
Case No.: 2023-006615LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Go Club
Business Address: 22 Peach Plaza, Suite 501
Zoning: NCD (JAPANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) Zoning District
Japantown Special Use District
50-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Japantown
Block/Lot: 0700/027
Applicant: Matthew Barcus
22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Located In: District 5
Staff Contact: Elizabeth Mau – (628) 652-7583
Elizabeth.Mau@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

The San Francisco Go Club is the oldest continuously operating Go club in the United States. It was founded by Japanese enthusiasts in 1931, and since then has remained an integral part of the Asian community of San Francisco. The San Francisco Go Club currently is in the Japan Center Mall and is a place for casual play, weekly lessons, and tournaments. Its membership reflects the multicultural diversity of San Francisco, with about half its members of Asian descent. People of all ages can be seen at the boards, and members are eager to teach and show the wonders of this mysterious game to the many tourists and passersby.

Go in San Francisco has a long and colorful history, stretching back to the post-Gold Rush wave of Asian immigration in the 19th century. The game was played informally until the 1920s when two small clubs were formed in San Francisco. Then in 1931, the two small clubs merged to form the San Francisco Go Club. This new club rented space at 1881 Bush Street in what was originally a Jewish synagogue, Congregation Ohabai Shalom,

and would later become the Soto Zen Mission of the Sokoji Buddhist Church. The club thrived, and in 1936 was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association (Nihon Ki-in).

With the outbreak of World War II, most of the club's Japanese members were forcibly "relocated" to internment camps throughout the western part of the country as a result of government actions based on race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The club closed, and the building was used as a homeless shelter by the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. With little else to do in the internment camps, many of the Japanese club members played Go, and their skill improved significantly. After the war, they were allowed to return, and in 1947 moved with the Zen Temple back into the old building.

The club flourished, especially in the 1970s when it became a gathering place not only for Japanese seniors, but young "flower children" spilling over from San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury scene. In the early 1980s when the Soto Zen Mission left, the club moved from its small downstairs room to the large, high-ceilinged room upstairs. The members put in a lot of work painting and making repairs. On any given day from noon to 9:00 p.m., through thick cigarette smoke, you could see long tables covered with dozens of Go boards, and Japanese octogenarians playing intently with young hippies.

In 1994, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, SF Go Club's landlord, revealed plans to renovate the building, and the club had to find a new home. Since then, the club spent about five years on Balboa Street in the Outer Richmond district, another 15 years on Anza Street in the Inner Richmond district, then four years renting a room from the Nichiren Hokke Buddhist Church at 2016 Pine Street. The club was closed due to the COVID lockdowns for two years and finally found their current wonderful space in the Japan Center Mall in January 2022.

The San Francisco Go Club is not only a place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go, but part of the fabric of the Asian diaspora community in San Francisco. It has persisted through decades of trial and tribulation, including the shameful chapter of internment in the U.S., as well as more recent challenges in finding a new home in the City. Yet throughout, it has remained a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather and share friendly competition.

The business's primary location at 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 is a Category B (Unknown/Age Eligible) structure on the north side of Geary Boulevard between Webster and Laguna streets in the Japantown neighborhood. It is within the Japantown NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) Zoning District, the Japantown Special Use District, the Japantown Cultural District, and a 50-X Height and Bulk District.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1931.

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

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

- a. The San Francisco Go Club has operated continuously in San Francisco for 92 years.
- b. The San Francisco Go Club has contributed to the history and identity of the Western Addition and Japantown neighborhoods and San Francisco.
- c. The San Francisco Go 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 business is associated with Go, an ancient oriental board game for two players invented some four thousand years ago in China. Today, Go is played all over the world but is extremely popular in Japan, China, and Korea.

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

Yes. The club is associated with many professional Go players famous in their home countries as well as in San Francisco's Asian community. In 1936, for example, when the club was made the first overseas branch of the Japanese Go Association, the strongest Go player in Japan at that time, Honinbo Shusai (about whom the Nobel Prize-winning author, Yasunari Kawabata, wrote the novel *The Master of Go*), was so pleased that he gave a large-scale commemorative sample of his masterful calligraphy as a present for the new branch. The club still has the calligraphy and displays it proudly on a wall of pictures and mementos.

A much beloved visitor to the club was Kaoru Iwamoto, 9-dan (the highest rank among professional Go players), famous for the "Atomic Bomb Game." On August 6, 1945, the then Go champion, Utaru Hashimoto, faced the young challenger, Kaoru Iwamoto. The game was held in the suburbs of Hiroshima, about five kilometers from ground zero. The game was about to enter its third and final day of play when the bomb dropped at 8:15 am. The game was disrupted but resumed after lunch. Hashimoto won by five points.

One of the club's most distinguished visitors was Go Seigen, 9-dan, considered the greatest player of the 20th century, and perhaps of all time. When Go Seigen visited the club in 1972, he consented to play about 50 simultaneous games, giving all his opponents generous first-move advantages. He won all but one.

In 1991, when Jerry Brown announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1992 election, he visited San Francisco with a large entourage and stopped by the Go Club at 1881 Bush Street.

The San Francisco Go Club, along with other Bay Area clubs, hosted the 1999 U.S. Go Congress — the largest annual Go event in the United States.

In 2010, California State Senator Leland Yee (Assistant President pro-Tempore) came to the San Francisco Go Club to present Jiang Ming Jiu, 7-dan, with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate in honor of the Ing Chang-Ki Go Foundation and their continued sponsorship of the World Youth Go Championship.

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

No. However, the site was surveyed in the Department of City Planning 1976 Survey. It is also located within the active survey area of the ongoing San Francisco Citywide Cultural Resources Survey.

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

Yes. The property is called out in the *San Francisco Modern Architecture and Landscape Design, 1935-1970 Historic Context Statement* for design by Royston, Hanamoto, and Mayes (landscape architects) and collaboration with Van Bourg Nakamura (architect).

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

Yes. The San Francisco Go Club has been mentioned occasionally in the San Francisco Chronicle, and it has been the focus of several long articles in the American Go E-Journal, the online journal of American Go.

In 1961, KPIX News did a news story with video footage when three strong professional players visited the club.

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 Go Club has been a fixture of Asian, and especially Japanese, culture in San Francisco since the 1930s. The club's Japanese members were forced to move to isolated relocation camps during World War II, but they persevered — sustained by their rich heritage and traditions, not least of which was the game of Go. After the war, when they were allowed to return, the club was re-established in Japantown and has been a beacon of Asian culture in San Francisco ever since. Spreading the game of Go, as well as the Asian culture surrounding it, has always been part of the mission of the San Francisco Go Club. In its current home in the Japan Center Mall, the club attracts many passersby who are always welcome to come in for a free lesson. The club has a tradition of sending volunteers out into the community to teach kids in San Francisco's schools. Every year, San Francisco Go Club has a booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival celebrating Japanese and Japanese American culture.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 555 Fulton Street (2021 – 2022)
- 2016 Pine Street (2016 – 2020)
- 500 8th Avenue (2000 – 2015)
- Balboa Street (1995 – 2000)
- 1881 Bush Street (1931 – 1994)

Recommended by Applicant

- A place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go
- A large-scale commemorative calligraphy given to the San Francisco Go Club by Japanese Go player Honinbo Shusai

Additional Recommended by Staff

- Professional quality Go equipment

Basis for Recommendation

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

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

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



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1341

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 16, 2023

Case No.: 2023-006615LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Go Club
Business Address: 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501
Zoning: NCD (JAPANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) Zoning District
 Japantown Special Use District
 50-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Japantown
Block/Lot: 0700/027
Applicant: Matthew Barcus
 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Located In: District 5
Staff Contact: Elizabeth Mau – (628) 652-7583
Elizabeth.Mau@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO GO CLUB CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 22 PEACE PLAZA, SUITE 501, BLOCK/LOT 0700/027.

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 16, 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 San Francisco Go 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 San Francisco Go Club.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

- 22 Peace Plaza, Suite 501 (2022 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 555 Fulton Street (2021 – 2022)
- 2016 Pine Street (2016 – 2020)
- 500 8th Avenue (2000 – 2015)
- Balboa Street (1995 – 2000)
- 1881 Bush Street (1931 – 1994)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- A place to play and teach the ancient Asian game of Go
- A large-scale commemorative calligraphy given to the San Francisco Go Club by Japanese Go player Honinbo Shusai
- Professional quality Go equipment

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 August 16, 2023.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

Jonas P Ionin Digitally signed by Jonas P Ionin
Date: 2023.08.18 09:27:15 -07'00'

AYES: Vergara, Wright, Foley, Nageswaran
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
RECUSED: Matsuda
ADOPTED: August 16, 2023