



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: December 11, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN ARTISTS

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-017
Business Name: San Francisco Women Artists
Business Address: 647 Irving St.
District: District 7
Applicant: Mary Lou Licwinko, Vice President
Nomination Date: November 6, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is a nonprofit arts organization that maintains a gallery that exhibits and sells contemporary art, hand-crafted jewelry, sculpture, and ceramics. Their mission is to be a presence in the San Francisco arts community that supports, empowers, and expands representation of women in the arts and to encourage a diversity of aspiring artists at all stages in their careers. SFWA presents monthly juried all-media art exhibitions by Bay Area artists, featuring 600 artworks annually in the main gallery. Additionally, the SFWA Artist Salon holds monthly group exhibits of SFWA artists, hosts community art organizations, features a Youth Wall, and presents special events and fundraisers for nonprofits.

The organization was established in 1925, though its origin is from an organization known as the Sketch Club, which dates to 1887. The organization was established by a group of independent women who met regularly to share and critique each other's work and to counter the all-male Bohemian Club. Their group's activities included lectures, semi-annual exhibits, weekly sketching trips to the East Bay, and trips to Aptos and Pacific Grove. The group remained quite active, establishing a university art scholarship in 1887 to support aspiring artists as well as exhibiting artwork from 28 of their artists in the California Midwinter International Exposition of 1894. The group's San Francisco headquarters was destroyed during the 1906 Earthquake. After the earthquake, the group expanded their collection to also exhibit men's work regularly.

In 1915, the Sketch Club merged with the San Francisco Art Association to create a coed organization.

In 1925, the women of the organization branched off and formed the Society of San Francisco Women Artists (SSFVA), which conducted its meeting at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; they held their first solo exhibit in 1926. In 1946, SSFVA changed its name to the San Francisco Women Artists, as it is known today, becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1952. Through the years, the organization has moved its locations within San Francisco due to the demand for more space to continue to grow their collection and provide more space to display local artists. In 2014, the exhibit even began to grow its presence online, display art at other locations, and to create a platform for member events. They moved to their current location that provides a well-lit and spacious gallery within the Inner Sunset neighborhood in 2015.

SFWA is dedicated to serving its vibrant Inner Sunset neighborhood and attracting a myriad of clients, visitors, and artists from the greater Bay Area. The organization has built and maintained relationships with the Inner Sunset Merchants Association and other nonprofit art groups and neighborhood residents.

Legacy Business Program

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





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

No location from 1925 to 1983 (58 years)
451 Hayes St. from 1983 to 1985 (2 years)
370 Hayes St. from 1985 to 2004 (19 years)
3489 Sacramento St. from 2005 to 2014 (9 years)
647 Irving St. from 2015 to Present (8 years)

CRITERION 2

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

Yes, San Francisco Women Artists has contributed to the history and identity of the Inner Sunset 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:

- San Francisco Women Artists is committed to building community through art, providing San Francisco a singular opportunity to support its women artists while underscoring its historic commitment to the arts and to artistic expression.
- San Francisco Women Artists has contributed or partaken in numerous historic arts events. In 1931, the organization sponsored the first decorative native arts exhibit at the De Young Museum. The group exhibited Frida Kahlo's "Frida and Diego Rivera" at the organization's "Sixth Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists," which marked the first public showing of Kahlo's work. The organization contributed to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition with murals, artists, and landscape architects. During World War II, the organization partnered with the Red Cross to help rehabilitate servicemen in the local hospitals.
- Past prominent members of the San Francisco Women Artists are Ruth Asawa, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Claire Falkenstein, Emmy Loy Packard, Dorothy Winslade, and Ruth Benhard.
- San Francisco Women Artists has been featured in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution, showing records from 1925 to 1999. Additionally, the organization was highlighted on KRON TV on August 17th, 2022, in an interview of the then-director Susan R. Kirshenbaum, who discussed the composition of the organization to be a supportive space for artists at all stages of their careers.
- Regarding racial and social equity, San Francisco Women Artists is a women-run organization that contributes to the cultural fabric of San Francisco through its dedication to providing a space for art to be exhibited not only created by women, but by people of all walks of life. The SFWA seeks a diverse group of people to be Jurors for the monthly themed exhibitions, including gallerists, art consultants, and curators; SFWA includes Jurors from the de Young Museum and the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) to provide new perspectives and to attract diverse audiences and a range of expertise and inspiration to the process.

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SFWA members are inspired by art that allows one to imagine a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. SFWA believes in the power of the arts in bringing people together, changing hearts and minds, and imagining a better future.

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 Women Artists 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 Women Artists 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:

- Dedication to provide support of women in the arts.

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 women artists.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include San Francisco Women Artists currently located at 647 Irving St. 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. _____

December 11, 2023

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Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for San Francisco Women Artists, currently located at 647 Irving St.

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

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

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included on the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

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

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on December 11, 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 Women Artists 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 San Francisco Women Artists.

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Dedication to provide support of women in the arts.

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

- Promotion of women artists.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 11, 2023.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-017
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District: District 7
Applicant: Mary Lou Licwinko, Vice President
Nomination Date: November 6, 2023
Nominated By: Supervisor Myrna Melgar

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

No location from 1925 to 1983 (58 years)
451 Hayes St. from 1983 to 1985 (2 years)
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3489 Sacramento St. from 2005 to 2014 (9 years)
647 Irving St. from 2015 to Present (8 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: November 8, 2023

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
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Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

MYRNA MELGAR

November 6, 2023

Katy Tang, Director,
Department of Small Business

Dear Director Tang,

I am writing to nominate San Francisco Women Artists located at 647 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA for legacy business status. San Francisco Women Artists is one of the oldest arts organizations in San Francisco, attracting many prominent 20th and 21st century artists during its ongoing tenure in the city.

SFWA, originating from the “Sketch Club” in 1887, began as an independent group of women artists who met to build community through art, as well as mentor, share, and critique one another’s work. The organization eventually evolved into the historic nonprofit organization we know today – San Francisco Women Artists.

Over the years, SFWA has showcased many notable Bay Area artists long before they were recognized by other organizations.

With the support of my Office, the Office of Small Business, and the City & County of San Francisco, SFWA will continue to build community through art, providing San Francisco a singular opportunity to support its women artists while underscoring its historic commitment to the arts and to artistic expression.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myrna Melgar".

Myrna Melgar
Member of the Board of Supervisors, District 7
City & County of San Francisco



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: San Francisco Women Artists

Business owner name(s): Pam Borrelli, President

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

Current business address: 647 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122

Telephone: (415) 566 – 8550 **Email:** sfwomenartists@sbcglobal.net

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website: www.sfwomenartists.org

Facebook: sfwomenartistsgallery **Twitter:** @SFWomenArtists

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 3 8 9 7 2 5

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant-Owned Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Owned by Person with a Disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+-Owned Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran-Owned Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minority-Owned Business* | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woman-Owned Business |

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

Contact Person Information

Contact person name: Mary Lou Licwinko

Contact person title: SFWA Vice 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: 451 Hayes Street **Zip Code:** 94102

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

Dates at this location: From: 1983 **To:** 1985

Other address (if applicable): 370 Hayes Street **Zip Code:** 94102

Dates at this location: From: 1985 **To:** 2004

Other address (if applicable): 3489 Sacramento Street **Zip Code:** 94118

Dates at this location: From: 2005 **To:** 2014

Other address (if applicable): 647 Irving Street **Zip Code:** 94122

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

Other Address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

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

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: Mary Lou Licwinko

Signature: *Mary Lou Licwinko*

Date: August 21, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN ARTISTS

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

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

As one of the one of the oldest arts organizations in the city, San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA), a historic nonprofit arts organization, maintains a gallery that exhibits and sells contemporary art, hand-crafted jewelry, sculpture, and ceramics. SFWA presents monthly juried all-media art exhibitions by Bay Area artists, featuring 600 artworks annually in the main gallery. In addition, the SFWA Artist Salon hosts monthly group exhibits of SFWA artists, hosts community art organizations, features a Youth Wall, and presents special events and fundraisers for nonprofits.

SFWA is the Art Coordinator for the UCSF Women's Health Center, managing and curating the "Serenity" series of exhibitions displayed on five floors three times a year. These exhibits feature over 300 artworks annually, providing opportunities to local women artists— with a focus on positive, healing, and uplifting artwork.

All Bay Area artists are welcome, and SFWA remains firmly committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts for all people.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

The SFWA Gallery is located in the city's vibrant Inner Sunset neighborhood. The gallery attracts clients, visitors, and artist members from its local neighborhood and throughout San Francisco and the Bay Area. Golden Gate Park is nearby, and the Gallery welcomes many tourists each year. SFWA provides exhibition space and access to an expanding community of artists and actively cultivates events in a welcoming gallery setting that help foster a shared, cultural relationship between its artists and the public.

Over the years, SFWA has built and maintained relationships with the Inner Sunset Merchants Association (ISMA), other non-profit arts groups, and neighborhood residents.

The community SFWA serves – Bay Area artists – is a diverse blend of talents and backgrounds, cultures, ages, and ethnicities.

SFWA customers include a diverse mix of established and newly-aware patrons of the arts from all over the city, art organizations, the Inner/Outer Sunset community itself, and long-time supporters of SFWA. The Gallery attracts world travelers visiting nearby Golden Gate Park. Many are drawn to the vibrancy of the Inner Sunset with its variety of shops, restaurants, and small legacy businesses.

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

Supporting Bay Area artists.

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 SFWA was established on January 8, 1925, but has a storied background beginning in 1887. Following is a timeline of the organization:

- **1887 – 1915:** An organization known as Sketch Club was established by independent women who met to share and critique each other's work and to counter the all-male Bohemian Club. The Sketch Club met monthly and also went on field trips. In 1887, the group's activities included lectures, semi-annual exhibits, weekly sketching trips to the East Bay, summer trips to Aptos, and trips to Pacific Grove. The group also established a university art scholarship in 1887. In 1894, 28 members exhibited their artwork in the California Midwinter International Exposition of 1894, held in the California Pavilion. The organization was active until its San Francisco headquarters was destroyed during the 1906 earthquake. After the earthquake, the group began to exhibit men's work regularly.¹
- **1915 – 1925:** Sketch Club merged with the San Francisco Art Association to create a coed organization.²
- **1925 – 1946:** The women of the organization branched off and formed the Society of San Francisco Women Artists (SSFWA). Per an honor roll of past presidents, the “Society formed at the studio of Helen Forbes, Jan. 8, 1925.” SSFWA held its first solo exhibit in 1926, and its meetings were held at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, which was at that time located on Van Ness Avenue.³
- **1946 – 1983:** SSFWA changed its name to San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) and began a 30+ year relationship with Marchelle Labaudt (future Executive Secretary) and her Gough Street location of the Lucien Labaudt Art Gallery.⁴

August 1952: San Francisco Women Artists became a 501(c)(3) organization.

- **1983 – 1985:** Katherine MacDonald, long time SFWA Director, and her committee opened the first gallery location at 451 Hayes Street in Hayes Valley. It served as an exhibition space with sales and art rentals, and as a showcase for emerging artists.
- **1985 – 2004:** SFWA moved to 370 Hayes Street in Hayes Valley.

¹ Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20\(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.)

² Ibid.

³ Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20\(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.)

⁴ Ibid.

- **2004 – February 2005:** The SFWA Gallery at 370 Hayes Street closed so the organization could purchase a commercial condominium.
- **March 2005 – 2014:** The organization purchased a retail unit at 3489 Sacramento Street and opened March 2005. In this new location, the Gallery continued to provide space for artists to display their work and the public to view the art.
- **April 2014 – July 2015:** SFWA closed 3489 Sacramento Street, partially because the gallery space was not large. During this time, it expanded its website online presence, presented shows at other locations, and created member events. The Board of Directors sought a more diverse neighborhood with a larger gallery space.
- **2015 – Present:** and SFWA subsequently moved to a more diverse neighborhood with larger gallery space at 647 Irving Street in the vibrant Inner Sunset area of San Francisco. The current location provides a well-lit and spacious gallery and is easily accessible to the neighborhood and Bay Area community.

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

As a nonprofit organization, San Francisco Women Artists has not had owners.

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

The SFWA Gallery closed between 2004 and February 2005 when the location at 370 Hayes Street was closed so the organization could find a more affordable location.

From April 2014 through July 2015, SFWA closed its location at 3489 Sacramento Street while the Board of Directors sought a more diverse neighborhood with a larger gallery space.

Between March 2020 and July 2020, during the initial phase of the COVID pandemic, SFWA temporarily closed due to San Francisco health department mandates. SFWA immediately expanded its website services including a new online gallery store. The 647 Irving Street space reopened part-time in July 2020, returning to regular hours in September 2020.

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.

San Francisco Women Artists is one of the oldest arts organizations in San Francisco, attracting many prominent 20th and 21st century artists during its ongoing tenure in the city.

SFWA, originating from the “Sketch Club” in 1887, began as an independent group of women artists who met to build community through art, as well as mentor, share, and critique one another’s work. The organization eventually evolved into the historic nonprofit organization we know today – San Francisco Women Artists. Female artists were under-represented in the arts, and the SFWA mission was to encourage and inspire women to become artists. The organization remains committed to that mission today.

SFWA was the first organization in San Francisco to support women artists at a time when few were recognized. SFWA showcased many notable Bay Area artists long before they were recognized by other organizations. SFWA continues to build community through art, providing San Francisco a singular opportunity to support its women artists while underscoring its historic commitment to the arts and to artistic expression.

The SFWA Gallery is in a remodeled building that is fully ADA compliant and located in the Inner Sunset neighborhood near a main Golden Gate Park entrance.

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

Twenty-eight members of the organization Sketch Club exhibited in the California Pavilion at the “1894 Mid-Winter Fair.”

In 1931, when the organization was known as the Society of San Francisco Women Artists (SSFWA), the group sponsored the first decorative native arts exhibit at the De Young Museum.⁵

In 1932, the SSFWA exhibited Frida Kahlo's "Frida and Diego Rivera" at the organization’s “Sixth Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists.” This exhibit marked the first public showing of Kahlo's work.⁶

In 1939, the organization contributed to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition with murals, artists, and landscape architects.⁷

During World War II, the SSFWA partnered with the Red Cross to help rehabilitate servicemen in local hospitals.⁸

Past prominent members of San Francisco Women Artists are Ruth Asawa, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Claire Falkenstein, Emmy Lou Packard, Dorothy Winlade, and Ruth Bernhard.

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

⁵ Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20\(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

SFWA supports and promotes the talents of Bay Area artists, providing a place where the art community can develop and flourish, and offers an inviting space for the Greater Bay Area community to experience art. SFWA welcomes all Bay Area artists and remains firmly committed to promoting equity in the arts for all people. The SFWA Gallery is located within the city's vibrant Inner Sunset. The organization is an active member of the Inner Sunset Merchants Association and hosts community meetings for the organization.

SFWA equitable practices are reflected in its commitment to understand and effectively interact with people across cultures and communities, foster a positive relationship with all members, inspire a sense of belonging, and provide affirmation and support of their artistic endeavor. SFWA prides itself on being aware and sensitive that changes in one part of the world affect people everywhere – including our artist community.

Each year, SFWA seeks new Jurors for their monthly themed exhibitions – gallerists, art consultants, and curators (including the de Young Museum and Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), to provide new perspectives, attract diverse audiences and bring a fresh range of expertise to the process, providing inspiration for artists.

SFWA members are inspired by art that allows one to imagine a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. SFWA believes in the power of the arts in bringing people together, changing hearts and minds, and imagining a better future.

The SFWA Gallery Director supervises its Student Intern Program. SFWA partners with the Mayor's Youth Education & Employment Program (MYEEP) to provide job readiness training, work experience and personal growth opportunities for San Francisco youth.

The SFWA Artist Salon hosts monthly group exhibits of SFWA artists and community nonprofit organizations. Annual fundraisers include ALS Awareness Month and Kid & Art Cancer Foundation. The SFWA Gallery also feature a Youth Wall, providing exhibition opportunities for local high school and college students.

SFWA curates the "Serenity Series" exhibitions on five floors three times a year at the UCSF Women's Health Center featuring over 300 artworks annually by local women artists, which helps to provide a supportive and healing environment for women using the services.

SFWA's success is seen in the positive results of its efforts in the development of new community partnerships and by its expanded visibility and presence in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

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

Below are some notable examples of SFWA in the media and publications:

- **“Century old non-profit ‘San Francisco Women Artist’”**
KRON TV
August 17, 2022
San Francisco Women Artists shared how they are aspiring artists at all stages of their careers. SFWA Exhibition Director Susan R. Kirshenbaum was interviewed on "LIVE! in The Bay."
<https://www.kron4.com/live-in-the-bay/century-old-non-profit-san-francisco-women-artist/>
- **“San Francisco Women Artists records, 1925-1999”**
SFWA historical records included in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/san-francisco-women-artists-records-6248>
- **SFWA History Timeline**
Provides additional information on the history of SFWA
<https://www.sfwomenartists.org/SFWATimeline2016.pdf>
- SFWA has also been featured in the local Inner Sunset paper, Sunset Beacon, on numerous occasions since the Gallery moved to Irving Street.

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

San Francisco Women Artists have received the following awards, recognition, and political commendations:

- "Outstanding contributions to the cultural enhancement of the City of San Francisco" to SFWA and Marcelle Labaudt (Executive Director) from the California Senate, 1976.⁹
- Letter of support for SFWA from First Lady Hillary Clinton when the organization held two landmark exhibitions, "Hands and Heart, the Art of Healing" in 1997 and "To Life" in 1998.¹⁰
- “Certificate of Merit” from the SF Mayor’s Youth Education and Employment (MYEEP) for outstanding mentorship of their student interns, 2018.
- “Certificate of Recognition” from the SF Office of the City Attorney, David Chiu, December 7, 2022.
- San Francisco Women Artists has been awarded grants from the California Arts Council, San Francisco Grants for the Arts, Neighborhood Arts Collaborative, the Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund, and California Relief.

⁹ Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20\(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Women_Artists#:~:text=San%20Francisco%20Women%20Artists%20(SF%20WA,emerging%20Bay%20Area%20women%20artists.)

¹⁰ Ibid.

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

If SFWA were to close, both the city and the Inner Sunset neighborhood would lose an anchor of stability in the regional art community, while affecting people throughout the Bay Area who utilize the organization's offerings, both its arts and educational community programs. Offerings include student intern programs, artist talks and demonstrations, monthly art exhibitions and receptions open to the public featuring local musicians. The Inner Sunset Merchants Association would lose one of its active members, as SFWA hosts merchant gatherings at its gallery.

Committed to a sustained effort to foster positive social change through art, SFWA has throughout its history been at the forefront, challenging both cultural and social hierarchies to effect positive change. They believe arts and culture play a role in creating a thriving Bay Area by ensuring the voices, experiences, traditions, and dreams of all individuals and communities can be appreciated and celebrated.

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?

No.

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

SFWA is committed to providing exhibition opportunities for all Bay Area artists, supporting and promoting DEI (diversity, equity, access) throughout the art community.

c. What challenges is the business facing today?

As with many nonprofits, adequate financial resources is a challenge, particularly following the COVID pandemic years. The fixed overhead costs of leasing a gallery space and maintaining a full-time director increase annually. The SFWA Board of Directors is fully engaged and passionate about the mission and legacy of San Francisco Women Artists and is committed to stabilize its unique position in San Francisco's arts community.

Due to the loss of revenue during the COVID lockdown, a SFWA Recovery Fund was created, and \$30,000 was raised in contributions from the community and individual donors. Annual fundraising efforts include Online Art Auctions. SFWA hosted a successful Benefit Art Auction Gala at the top of Salesforce Tower in December 2022. Establishing a SFWA Gallery Online Store has been a source of new revenue.

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.

Support of women in the arts.

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 Planning Department Historic Resource Status of the building at 647 Irving Street is "B - Unknown / Age Eligible."



TART & TART
FINEST ITALIAN PASTAS

GALLERY

SAN FRANCISCO MODERN ARTS / GALLERY

FIRST

24 HR
ATM

RED BENCH

TOW AWAY



SAN FRANCISCO
WOMEN ARTISTS

GALLERY



SAN FRANCISCO
WOMEN ARTISTS

ART & GIFTS

LOCALLY MADE

CURRENT GALLERY SHOW

Annual **BAY ARTIST'S CHOICE**

A. Homelick, "Maskerlicher Trees"

T. Christensen, "A Gaze"

Oct 3 - Nov 10

COMING SOON

DON'T MISS

ARTISTIC VISION

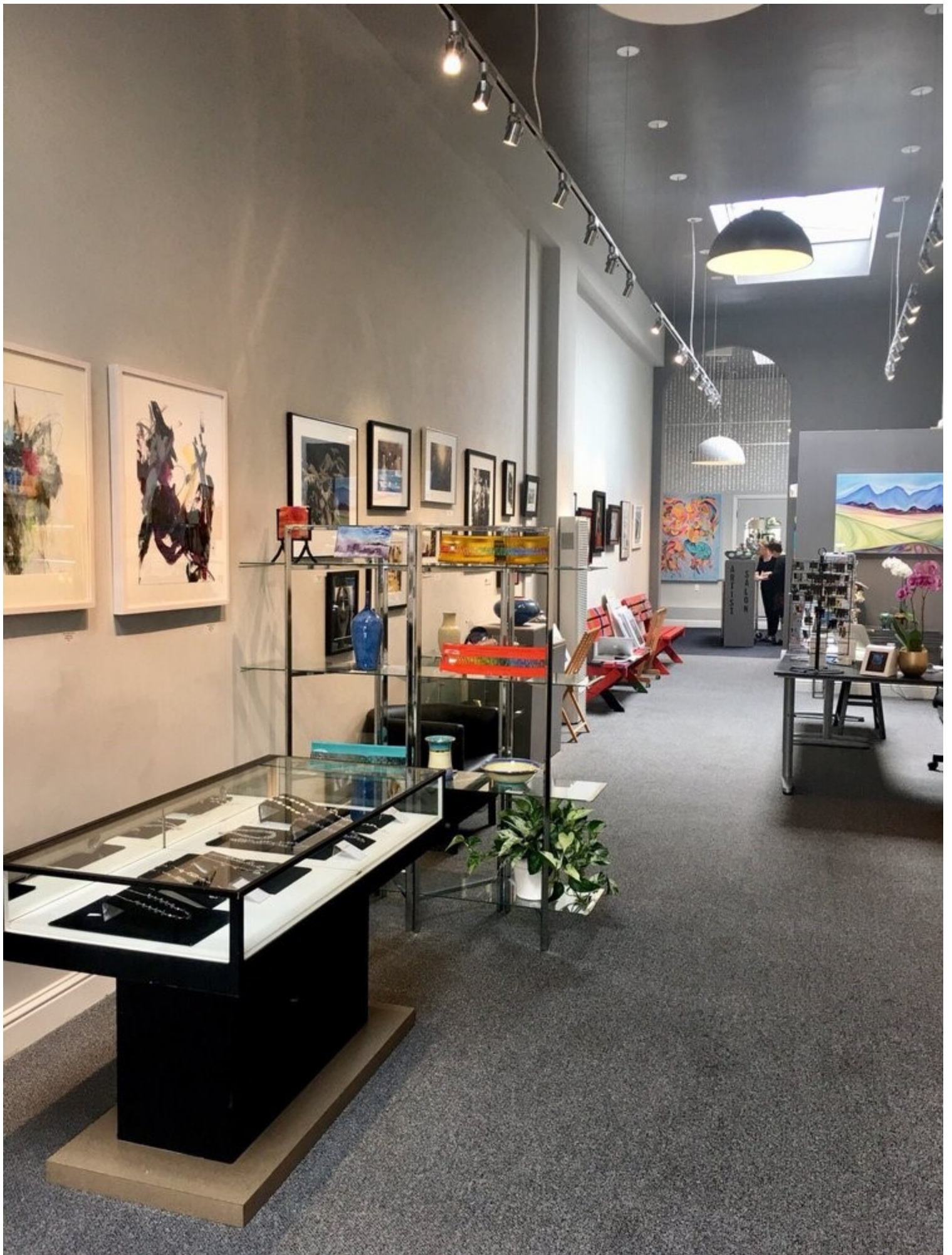
NOV 14 - DEC 8

CHOICE

GALLERY HOURS: TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10 - 6, SUNDAY 12 -









ARTIST
SALON



Gallery and Salon - San Francisco Women Artists Gallery

647 Irving St., San Francisco, California 94122

[Request for Information](#)

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DESCRIPTION

Make your next event a success by hosting it at the SFWA Gallery in the vibrant, Inner Sunset neighborhood! San Francisco Women Artists offers a beautiful, artistic venue with curated, inspiring, contemporary fine art. The 1200 square foot gallery is attractive, well lit with skylights and custom lighting, and includes an open floor plan perfect for cocktail parties, meetings, and events. The gallery is near the entrance to Golden Gate Park, the De Young Museum, the Academy of Sciences and the Arboretum. Numerous restaurants, shops and services are conveniently located nearby. Municipal light rail and buses stop within a block of the gallery entrance. The ambiance created by the gallery's art display makes every event intriguing, exciting and festive! Event Rates: Monday - Fridays: \$110/hr 4 hr minimum. Weekends/ Holidays: \$125/hr 4 hr minimum

[Rental Agreement](#)

GENERAL DETAILS

TYPE : Unique Space
FLOOR LEVEL : 1
ROOM SIZE : 1200 Sq Ft

ATTRIBUTES

- ✓ WINDOWS
- ✓ HEAT
- ✗ AC
- ✓ BATHROOM
- ✗ ELEVATOR
- ✗ KITCHEN
- ✗ DECK / PATIO
- ✓ TABLES / CHAIRS
- ✗ PERMANENT STAGE

PARKING

Paid parking nearby.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

Event Space Availability Hours Holidays/Monday/Sundays: 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

SUPPORTED ROOM CONFIGURATIONS



OPEN: 80

INTERNET/AUDIO/VIDEO

- ✓ INTERNET ACCESS
- ✓ WIRELESS INTERNET
- ✗ WHITEBOARDS
- ✗ BUILT-IN AV
- ✗ BUILT-IN SCREENS
- ✗ LCD PROJECTOR
- ✗ OVERHEAD PROJECTOR
- ✗ CONFERENCE PHONE
- ✗ VIDEO CONFERENCING

CATERING

- ✗ IN HOUSE
- ✓ OUTSIDE

HOURLY \$\$\$\$	DAILY -	CAPACITY 80
4 hour min		
AMENITIES (flat rate)		
Chair (max 20)		\$1
Sound System		\$30
Mini, Hi-top, Round, Cocktail Table (1 - 4)		\$7
8 foot Table (1)		\$12
6 foot Table (1 or 2)		\$10
LEGEND OF SERVICE		
CANCELLATION POLICY		
100% back 7 days out		

November 2023 ▶

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

To check availability or schedule a site visit, please complete the inquiry form.

[Inquire Form](#)

<https://hoodline.com/2015/06/san-francisco-women-artists-new-gallery-opens-wednesday/>



[San Francisco Inner Sunset](#)

San Francisco Women Artists' New Gallery Opens Wednesday



By [Caitlin Harrington](#)

Published on June 29, 2015

After months of renovation and some unanticipated delays, [San Francisco Women Artists](#) will open the doors to their new gallery at 647 Irving St. on July 1st, with an opening reception to follow on July 9th. The gallery will feature a collection of paintings, jewelry, sculptures, photographs, and other art from Bay Area women, plus a few men. Classes, receptions, and other activities to engage the community are also set to roll out in the coming months.

While the gallery is new, the nonprofit is California's oldest arts organization. Founded in 1887 by a group of exhibiting women artists, they originally called themselves the "Sketch Club" and met to share and critique one another's work. The women were well educated, many having studied with the best artists in Europe. Several prominent artists exhibited with the group, including Frida Kahlo, whose first public exhibition took place with them in 1932.

At the group's outset, its members were women of prominence. "They had extra time to paint, so they were part of the socially more elite," said Janice Rumbaugh-Coddington, the gallery's director. Because women of their class were expected to be chaperoned by men, "It was risqué for them in the late 1800s to be going out and sketching with women."



San Francisco Women Artists' photo of their forebears.

The organization, and women's rights in general, have evolved since its origins, but they remain true to their founders' vision. "We carry on this tradition of wanting to empower women and be supportive," said Rumbaugh-Coddington. "And right from the very start our forebears were so energetic and forthright, so I think that's great."

In recent decades, the gallery has changed locations and fluctuated in size, often tied to the city's economy. When their gallery was on Hayes Street in Hayes Valley from 1983 to 2005,

membership reached 300 people. "Then it became unaffordable with the same thing that's going on now with the increase in rents," said Rumbaugh-Coddington.

With the help of a bequeathment, they purchased their next location on Sacramento Street in Presidio Heights. "Our gallery was about half this [Irving Street] room right now, so it was pretty small," said SFWA president Pam Borrelli. Wanting to grow their membership and increase visibility, they began searching for a new space last year.



SFWA's former location in Presidio Heights. Photo: [San Francisco Women Artists](#)

The women said they were attracted to Irving Street for several reasons, not least of which was the neighborhood's sense of community. "Pam was very much involved in looking at the different areas of the city, and where we could move where we could find a community. This location met that criteria," said Rumbaugh-Coddington. "Pam and the board were really motivated by that, and it's been really important to us in the move."

Currently, SFWA has about 110 members and counting. "We've gotten more new members in the last six months than we have for a long time because there's so much excitement with [the

new gallery opening]," said Borrelli. "There's something about the timing," said Rumbaugh-Coddington. "We're reading in the papers about the struggles artists are having, and I think that's really motivating artists to push forward a little bit more and become more supportive and be part of organizations."



Pam Borrelli (left) and Janice Rumbaugh-Coddington (right). Photo: Caitlin Harrington/Hoodline

Their plan to [open in January](#) was delayed after city inspections and renovations took longer than expected. "I think [the delay] was because of the building boom the city's experiencing, and a lot of unforeseen events, code things," Borrelli said. "Some things they'd have to start over. Since everything was gutted, they had to start from scratch, and everything brand new had to be brought up to code."

The space's current incarnation bears little resemblance to [the former Irving Variety Store](#). The space has been divided in two—the other half [will be a bubble tea lounge](#)—and the drop ceilings have been removed to reveal two large skylights. They've painted the walls a soft grey ("San Francisco fog,' it's called," said Borrelli) and installed new track lighting, white-paned front windows, and an archway leading to a back room they plan to use for display space and art classes.



Rear display/teaching space inside the new gallery. Photo: Pam Borrelli

Their upcoming roster of activities aims for strong community involvement, and they welcome suggestions. "We're going to be doing fun things," said Borrelli. "Like maybe having a bebop night. Depending on the month, there may be some famous artists we want to celebrate."

Other ideas include monthly receptions to accompany their shows and live music. "We would play music and have wine and refreshments, maybe have somebody doing portraits, just enjoying the space." They also plan to offer classes in drawing, painting, collage, jewelry-making, and even sock puppet-making for kids. "We're going to be feeling our way around to see what ideas happen," Borrelli said.

Additionally, they're exploring ways to engage local schools. Possibilities include an internship program, classes for students, and space to feature work "to highlight and encourage young artists."

For member artists, SFWA provides gallery space and holds monthly juried shows. Their work is also visible around the city. They recently wrapped up a show at Flax on Market Street, and UCSF just purchased several paintings from them, which they plan to exhibit in the lobby of a new imaging clinic on the Embarcadero.



New gallery from the entryway. Photo: Pam Borrelli

Following their July 1st opening, SFWA will host an opening reception July 9th from 5:30pm to 9pm. They plan to regularly stay open until 7pm Tuesday through Sunday and later for special events. The first show's theme will be "artist's choice," with more focused themes to follow. Their big Grand Opening event is set for September, and the theme will be a nod to their new neighborhood. "Sunset Rising is going to be the theme for the Grand Opening show," Borrelli said, noting the play on words.

SFWA is a nonprofit, member-based, volunteer-run organization. Membership levels range from artists, some of whom volunteer, to student artists and non-exhibiting supporters. Membership is open to anyone, male or female, who supports the group's mission. If you're interested in joining or learning more, visit their [website](#), or drop by their gallery on 647 Irving St.

Richmond Review/Sunset Beacon

NEWS FOR SAN FRANCISCO'S RICHMOND AND SUNSET DISTRICTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2023



ART

SFWA Offers Supportive Space for Women Artists of Diverse Ethnicity and Experience

ON JUNE 13, 2023 • (LEAVE A COMMENT)

By Judith Kahn

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA), founded in 1887 as the “Sketch Club,” is a nonprofit arts organization in the Sunset District providing a supportive space for women artists of diverse ethnicity and experience.

Its belief in art’s transformative potential encourages and mentors its members, seeking empowerment and expanded “representation of women in the arts.”

The organization is proud of its lineage, and its many former members include artists Ruth Asawa, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Claire Falkenstein, Emmy Lou Packard, Dorothy Winslade and Ruth Bernhard.



Member artist Mary Albert of Glass Vox (Instagram: @glassvoxbyhand) stands next to a couple of her creations at a recent show at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery (SFWA) in the Inner Sunset. SFWA is a nonprofit that was founded in 1887 as the “Sketch Club.” Story on page 13. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

As part of its mission, SFWA focuses on equitable practices that recognize the problematic history and status of women and people of color in our society and in the art world.

“Resolving deeply ingrained patterns and structures of inequality will take sustained attention and dedication, and to this end, SFWA invites and welcomes Bay Area artists of all genders and racial identities,” its website states.

SFWA’s Gallery first opened in Hayes Valley, then Presidio Heights, and since 2015, is housed in a newly remodeled building at 647 Irving St. Monthly themed competitions are held to select works to show in the gallery, juried by SF Bay Area art consultants, gallerists and art curators, with jurors resourced by Susan R. Kirshenbaum, exhibitions director. Each year, six shows are open to all Bay Area artists and 12 shows are available to SFWA members.



San Francisco Women Artists Gallery Director Janice Rumbaugh with member artist Bettina Schneider at a recent gallery show. Photo by Michael Durand.

The SFWA Artist Salon is a second exhibition space within the gallery which offers Bay Area artists an additional opportunity to exhibit their artwork by renting wall space for a one-month period. In the salon, artists are selected by a SFWA member curator or by an outside group, such as Art of the African Diaspora (AOTAD), which “supports artists of African descent ... through representation, professional development and building a creative community,” aligning it closely with SFWA’s mission.

This is one example of how SFWA connects to the larger community, bringing focus to other nonprofits and illuminating the diverse artistic community in the Bay Area. In March of this year, the Artist’s Salon hosted AOTAD in an exhibit by four Black Bay Area artists, and in January, Art with Elders (AWE) artists were represented in The Women of AWE.

Janice Rumbaugh, gallery director since 2005, is passionate about nonprofit organizations and the critical role they play in a community. She has a B.A. in Studio and Fine Art, with an emphasis in Conceptual Information Art from San Francisco State University.

In her final research project, Rumbaugh conducted her own exploration and documentation of Bay Area nonprofit arts groups. Her own art pushes the boundaries of traditional printmaking techniques, jewelry design, fiber/mixed media and digital art in a journey concerning “place, communities, and ancestors.” Examples of her work can be seen on the SFWA website along with the work of many other member artists.

SFWA determines the success of its in-house and outreach programs by the increase in growth and diversity of the membership. Artists from ages 18-96 find themselves in a “caring community and a beautiful venue where their art may be exhibited.”

SFWA artists conduct artist-in-action demonstrations that engage and educate the community in a variety of techniques in painting, sculpture, photography, encaustic art, glass art and jewelry making. Professional Development Workshops, which are open to the public, are offered throughout the year.

Its Student Intern Program partners with the Mayor’s Youth Education and Employment Program (MYEEP) to facilitate job readiness training, work experience and opportunities for personal growth for San Francisco’s youth. Interns train in-house for up to 20 hours per week in the hands-on experience of gallery dynamics, including small business operations, marketing and sales of art, and curating an exhibition of student artwork. Student interns carry out the installation and assist with promotion of the show, planning the reception and student artists’ discussion of their work.

As of 2022, SFWA has become the Art Curator for San Francisco’s UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. On floors three to seven at UCSF’s 2356 Sutter St. location, Bay Area artists exhibit their work embodying a particular theme in the “Serenity” series, currently themed “Serenity: Dreaming.” The selected theme and artwork are chosen to contribute an atmosphere of calm, healing and uplift to patients and staff. Exhibits change three times each year. The opening reception for “Dreaming” will be Wednesday, June 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.



A view from inside the SFWA gallery looking out toward Irving Street in the Inner Sunset. *Courtesy photo.*

From the SFWA website, its perspective on art as a tool for wellness is explained.

“With the understanding that wellness is a holistic ideal, we embrace the transformative power of art as a core belief of SFWA. Art inspires, produces profound insights and can serve as a healing force.”

A member of Inner Sunset Merchants Association (ISMA), SFWA hosts meetings of the neighborhood nonprofit.

SFWA is funded by foundations, sponsors and individuals, as well as the California Art Council, California Relief Grant, SF Grants for the Arts, Neighborhood Arts Collaborative and the Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund.

For June, SFWA presents Bay Area artists in two exhibitions, “Black, White, and Shades Between,” juried by Emebet B. Korn, founder and director at Desta Gallery, Mill Valley. In the Artist Salon, Pride Month is celebrated with “Art of Pride – Moving Forward,” juried by Marti McKee, artist and activist.

SFWA welcomes the public to the exhibition spaces at 647 Irving St. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, visit SFWA’s website at [sfwomenartists.org](https://www.sfwomenartists.org) (<https://www.sfwomenartists.org/>) or call 415-566-8550.



LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: December 6th, 2023

Filing Date: November 8th, 2023
Case No.: 2023-010585LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Women Artists
Business Address: 647 Irving Street
Zoning: Inner Sunset Neighborhood Commercial District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Not Applicable
Block/Lot: 1762/044
Applicant: Mary Lou Licwinko
647 Irving Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Located In: District 7
Staff Contact: Heather Samuels - 628-652-7545
Heather.Samuels@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA) is a historic nonprofit arts organization that maintains a gallery that exhibits and sells contemporary art, hand-crafted jewelry, sculpture, and ceramics. Their mission is to be a presence in the San Francisco arts community that supports, empowers, and expands representation of women in the arts and to encourage a diversity of aspiring artists at all stages in their careers. SFWA presents monthly juried all-media art exhibitions by Bay Area artists, featuring 600 artworks annually in the main gallery. Additionally, the SFWA Artist Salon holds monthly group exhibits of SFWA artists, hosts community art organizations, features a Youth Wall, and presents special events and fundraisers for nonprofits.

This organization was established in 1925, though its origin is from an organization known as the Sketch Club, which dates to 1887. This organization was established by a group of independent women who met regularly to share and critique each other's work and to counter the all-male Bohemian Club. Their group's activities included lectures, semi-annual exhibits, weekly sketching trips to the East Bay, and trips to Aptos and Pacific Grove. The

group remained quite active, establishing a university art scholarship in 1887 to support aspiring artists as well as exhibiting artwork from 28 of their artists in the California Midwinter International Exposition of 1894. The group's San Francisco headquarters was destroyed during the 1906 Earthquake. After the earthquake, the group expanded their collection to also exhibit men's work regularly.

Continuing their work and organizational growth, in 1915, the Sketch Club merged with the San Francisco Art Association to create a coed organization. In 1925, the women of the organization branched off and formed the Society of San Francisco Women Artists (SSFWA), which conducted its meeting at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; they held their first solo exhibit in 1926.

In 1946, SSFWA changed its name to the San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA), as it is known today, becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1952. Through the years, the organization has moved its locations within San Francisco due to the demand for more space to continue to grow their collection and provide more space to display local artists. In 2014, the exhibit even began to grow its presence online, display art at other locations, and to create a platform for member events. They moved to their current location that provides a well-lit and spacious gallery within the Inner Sunset neighborhood in 2015.

SFWA is dedicated to serving its vibrant Inner Sunset neighborhood, attracting a myriad of clients, visitors, and artists from its local neighborhood, throughout San Francisco, and the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The organization has built and maintained relationships with the Inner Sunset Merchants Association and other non-profit art groups and neighborhood residents.

The business's location at 647 Irving Street is in a Category B (Unknown / Age Eligible) structure on the south side of Irving Street between 8th and 7th Avenues within the Inner Sunset neighborhood. It is within the Inner Sunset Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District. 647 Irving Street was surveyed in the Neighborhood Commercial Corridors Survey in 2015 with a survey rating which determined that it does not appear, by design or architecture, to be significant. However, despite these former evaluations, none have been conclusive, and the property maintains a Planning Department status code of "B" (Unknown / Age Eligible).

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. *When was the business founded?*

The business was founded in 1925.

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

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

- a. San Francisco Women Artists has operated continuously in San Francisco for 98 years.
- b. San Francisco Women Artists has contributed to the history and identity of the Inner Sunset neighborhood and San Francisco.

- c. San Francisco Women Artists 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 San Francisco Women Artists is committed to building community through art, providing San Francisco a singular opportunity to support its women artists while underscoring its historic commitment to the arts and to artistic expression.

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

Yes. The San Francisco Women Artists has contributed or partaken in numerous historic arts events like the 1894 Midwinter Fair, where 28 members of the Sketch Club exhibited their work. In 1931, the organization sponsored the first decorative native arts exhibit at the De Young Museum. The group exhibited Frida Kahlo's "Frida and Diego Rivera" at the organization's "Sixth Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Society of Women Artists," which marked the first public showing of Kahlo's work. The organization contributed to the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition with murals, artists, and landscape architects.

During World War II, the SSFWA partnered with the Red Cross to help rehabilitate servicemen in the local hospitals.

Past prominent members of the San Francisco Women Artists are Ruth Asawa, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Claire Falkenstein, Emmy Loy Packard, Dorothy Winslade, and Ruth Benhard.

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

No. However, the property is located within an active SF Survey area and is undergoing historic evaluation currently.

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

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

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

Yes. The San Francisco Women Artists has been featured in the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian Institution, showing records from 1925 to 1999. Additionally, the organization was highlighted on KRON TV on August 17th, 2022, in an interview of the then-director Susan R. Kirshenbaum, who discussed the composition of the organization to be a supportive space for artists at all stages of their careers.

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.

San Francisco Women Artists is a women-run organization that contributes to the cultural fabric of San Francisco through its dedication to providing a space for art to be exhibited not only created by women, but by people of all walks of life. The SFWA seeks a diverse group of people to be Jurors for the monthly themed exhibitions, including gallerists, art consultants, and curators; SFWA includes Jurors from the de Young Museum and the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) to provide new perspectives and to attract diverse audiences and a range of expertise and inspiration to the process.

SFWA members are inspired by art that allows one to imagine a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. SFWA believes in the power of the arts in bringing people together, changing hearts and minds, and imagining a better future.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 647 Irving Street (2015 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 451 Hayes Street (1983 – 1985)
- 370 Hayes Street (1985 – 2004)
- 3489 Sacramento Street (2005 – 2014)

Recommended by Applicant

- Dedication to provide support of women in the arts

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 DRAFT RESOLUTION NO.

HEARING DATE: December 6th, 2023

Case No.: 2023-010585LBR
Business Name: San Francisco Women Artists
Business Address: 647 Irving Street
Zoning: Inner Sunset Neighborhood Commercial District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 1762/044
Applicant: Mary Lou Licwinko
647 Irving Street
Nominated By: Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Located In: District 7
Staff Contact: Heather Samuels - 628-652-7545
Heather.Samuels@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN ARTISTS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 647 IRVING STREET, 1762/044.

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 December 6th, 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 Women Artists 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 Women Artists.

Locations

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 647 Irving Street (2015 – Present)

Previous (No Longer Extant) Locations:

- 451 Hayes Street (1983 – 1985)
- 370 Hayes Street (1985 – 2004)
- 3489 Sacramento Street (2005 – 2014)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Dedication to provide support of women in the arts.

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 December 6th, 2023.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RECUSE:

ADOPTED: December 6th, 2023