

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 12, 2019

REBUILDING TOGETHER SAN FRANCISCO

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-055
Business Name: Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Business Address: Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
District: District 6
Applicant: Karen Nemsick, Executive Director
Nomination Date: May 5, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Rebuilding Together San Francisco (RTSF) is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all. The organization provides home repair and renovation programs for homeowners, renters, non-profit organizations and community spaces. The organization was established on September 13, 1989, as "Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco" through a collaborative response to neighbors living in substandard housing.

From the time RTSF was founded in 1989 until the year 2001, the organization's work consisted of one major annual event on the last Saturday in April, called Christmas in April. Hundreds of volunteers were assigned to 10-20 homes and community spaces throughout San Francisco. In February 2002, the organization's name was changed to Rebuilding Together San Francisco, and the "Christmas in April" event day became National Rebuilding Day (NRD). The impetus for the name change was reflective of the organization's secular nature – they didn't want to be identified with, or seem inclusive only of, a particular faith. Now, generally half of each year's NRD projects focus on renovating schools and community facilities, while the other half address a broad range of health and safety improvements for homes, including painting, decluttering, landscaping, critical electrical and plumbing repairs and more. In 2017, RTSF complemented NRD projects with a new program called SheBuilds, which engages all-women teams in repair projects.

The business is located on Pier 28 on The Embarcadero.

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

No commercial location from 1989 to 1990 (1 year).
Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero from 1990 to Present (29 years)





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

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

Yes, Rebuilding Together San Francisco has contributed to the history and identity of San Francisco.

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

- The business is associated with the building tradition.
The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status code of "A" (Historic Resource Present) due to its listing as the Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District.
Rebuilding Together San Francisco (Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco) has been featured in stories in numerous publications including the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Francisco Examiner, local neighborhood papers, San Francisco Bay Guardian, NBC News and KRON4.
Rebuilding Together San Francisco has received many commendations including: Senate Certificate of Recognition from Sen. Mark Leno, 2012; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Chris Daly, 2006; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from John Avalos, 2015; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from London Breed, 2016; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Malia Cohen, 2016; and Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency, 2018.

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

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Rebuilding Together San Francisco 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:

- Promotion of safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all.
Reputation as a reliable and committed community partner.
Volunteer structure.
Free repair services.

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.

- Home repair for low-income communities.





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Rebuilding Together San Francisco currently located at Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Program Manager
Legacy Business Program



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 12, 2019

REBUILDING TOGETHER SAN FRANCISCO

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-055
Business Name: Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Business Address: Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
District: District 6
Applicant: Karen Nemsick, Executive Director
Nomination Date: May 5, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR REBUILDING TOGETHER SAN FRANCISCO, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT PIER 28 #1, THE EMBARCADERO.

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 in 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 November 12, 2019, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Rebuilding Together San Francisco 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 Rebuilding Together San Francisco:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Promotion of safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all.
Reputation as a reliable and committed community partner.
Volunteer structure.
Free repair services.

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

- Home repair for low-income communities.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on November 12, 2019.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

- Ayes -
Nays -
Abstained -
Absent -





SAN FRANCISCO

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

**Legacy
Business
Registry**

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-055
Business Name: Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Business Address: Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
District: District 6
Applicant: Karen Nemsick, Executive Director
Nomination Date: May 5, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney

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

No commercial location from 1989 to 1990 (1 year).
Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero from 1990 to Present (29 years)

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: N/A

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 9, 2019

Richard Kurylo
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

MATT HANEY

May 5th, 2019

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director
San Francisco Small Business Commission
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Place, Room 110

Dear Dir Dick-Endrizzi,

It is my pleasure to nominate Rebuilding Together San Francisco as Legacy Business.

For thirty years Rebuilding Together San Francisco, located at Pier 28, has demonstrated an unequivocal commitment and dedication to supporting low-income, senior, and disabled members of our community. They have had immense impact upon residents in my district, having participated in both the SOMA Community Collaborative and the SOMA Stabilization Fund.

On the day of their anniversary this year, in addition to completing major renovations of homes and community spaces they will also provide services to the St. Vincent De Paul Riley Center—a critical resource in my district for survivors of domestic violence—just as they have provided for uncounted other spaces over the decades.

Rebuilding Together San Francisco certainly meets the criteria for the Legacy Business Registry and is a true San Francisco treasure. It provides renovations for neighbors, nonprofits, and community spaces to create safer and healthier environments, and helps to provide access to independent living for our most vulnerable residents. I hope that with the support of the Legacy Business program Rebuilding Together San Francisco will be able to continue its mission for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Matt Haney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Haney", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Section One:

Business / Applicant Information. Provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address, and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title, and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
Rebuilding Together San Francisco		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
No owners as we are a nonprofit. Karen Nemsick is Executive Director. Jaclyn Carpenter is Board President.		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
Pier 28 The Embarcadero San Francisco CA 94105		((415))905-1611
		EMAIL:
		info@rebuildingtogethersf.org
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
www.rebuildingtogethersf.org	https://www.facebook.com/rebuildingtogethersanfrancisco/	

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Karen Nemsick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
Executive Director	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	
Pier 28 The Embarcadero San Francisco CA 94105	
TELEPHONE:	
(415) 905-1611	
EMAIL:	
[REDACTED]	

SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
	A0578409

OFFICIAL USE Completed by OSB Staff	
NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:

Section Two:

Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
Pier 28 The Embarcadero	94105	9/13/1989
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	9/1990-present	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
		Start:
		End:

Section Three:

Disclosure Statement.

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified and a business deemed not current in 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 the Business Assistance Grant.

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.

Karen Nemsick 10/9/2019



Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

REBUILDING TOGETHER SAN FRANCISCO
FORMERLY “CHRISTMAS IN APRIL”
Section 4: Written Historical Narrative

CRITERION 1

a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.

Rebuilding Together San Francisco (RTSF) is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all. The organization, located at Pier 28 #1, provides home repair and renovation programs for homeowners, renters, non-profit organizations and community spaces. The organization was established on September 13, 1989, as “Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco” through a collaborative response to neighbors living in substandard housing.

“Christmas in April” is a national movement that was founded in Texas in 1974 and grew through the faith community. In 1989, a national office was established to provide visibility and help launch local affiliates. Each affiliate is established as an independent 501(c)(3) organization and determines home repair programs that are relevant to their community.

From September 1989 to March 1990, Teri Dowling and Joe Grubb managed Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco from their homes. In 1990, Sam Lawson became the Executive Director, and the first Rebuilding Day was held in April 1990. Sam worked out of his home and office space donated by a board member until October 1991, when the organization began renting office and warehouse space at Pier 28.

From the time RTSF was founded in 1989 until the year 2001, the organization’s work consisted of one major annual event on the last Saturday in April, called Christmas in April. Hundreds of volunteers were assigned to 10-20 homes and community spaces throughout San Francisco. In February 2002, the organization’s name was changed to Rebuilding Together San Francisco, and the “Christmas in April” event day became National Rebuilding Day (NRD). The impetus for the name change was reflective of the organization’s secular nature – they didn’t want to be identified with, or seem inclusive only of, a particular faith.

Rebuilding Together San Francisco has a high degree of independence from the national Rebuilding Together movement, managing its own programs and finances and raising 100% of its budget independently. RTSF does not receive unsolicited funds from the national office – in fact, RTSF pays them dues for the use of the name and logo. Each year, the national office holds

a conference for all Rebuilding Together affiliates to get together to share information and best practices.

RTSF has established its reputation as a reliable and committed community partner, providing free repair services for 3,800 low-income households and 380 community facilities with the help of over 30,000 volunteers. RTSF's services create safer, healthier spaces for seniors, families and people with disabilities to live and gather. The organization also aims to preserve affordable housing by equipping long-time residents to age in place in their own homes and communities.

While RTSF has grown its suite of services considerably since 2001, every year on the last Saturday in April, the organization still brings together hundreds of volunteers, community members and corporate partners for a day of repair projects throughout the city.

Generally half of each year's NRD projects focus on renovating schools and community facilities, while the other half address a broad range of health and safety improvements for homes, including painting, decluttering, landscaping, critical electrical and plumbing repairs and more. In 2017, RTSF complemented NRD projects with a new program called SheBuilds, which engages all-women teams in repair projects. Over the last three years, nearly 500 women have participated in repairs on six homes and eight women-focused community facilities.

In addition to National Rebuilding Day and SheBuilds, RTSF carries out a fall rebuilding day called Rebuild My Block (RMB). This day of service is similar to NRD but unique in that all of the day's projects are focused in a small area of one neighborhood with the goal of building community resiliency as neighbors help neighbors. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, RMB projects have been based in the Bayview. The projects were the result of a months-long community-involved planning process, and 50% of the volunteers completing them were individuals who live in the area.

The Safe at Home program provides year-round repairs and modifications focused on increasing the health and safety of the homes of low-income San Franciscans. These projects are executed by skilled volunteers and include installing grab bars, raised toilet seats, handrails, smoke and CO detectors and fire extinguishers. They can also involve replacing worn carpet, repairing and rebuilding exterior rear stairways, minor electrical work and more.

RTSF is proud to partner with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. With the Home Modification Fund, MOHCD has made a multi-year commitment meant to benefit homeowners and renters who are older or have limited mobility. Through this fund, RTSF is able to take on bigger projects that they may not otherwise tackle. This includes things like installing chair lifts and roll-in showers, replacing furnaces and repairing faulty plumbing. In 2018, RTSF used Home Modification funding for 35 projects, including 17 major repairs. Each repair created a safer, healthier home for a local family.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco has not ceased operations in 30 years. The name of the organization was changed in 2002, but the mission, programs and services and location of the organization have remained the same.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is not a family-owned business.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and therefore does not have an "owner." Since 1989, four executive directors have provided leadership and financial oversight of the organization.

e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Documentation of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this Legacy Business Registry application.

f. Note any other special features of the business location, such as, if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

The historic resource status of the building at Pier 28 that houses Rebuilding Together San Francisco is classified by the Planning Department as Category A – Historic Resource Present with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The office is located in the Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District. The property had been identified for its association with modern architecture (Mission Revival) and landscape design (1935-1970). The original tenant on the pier was Matson Navigation Co. in 1912.

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is the longest continuous tenant currently occupying the bulkhead offices on Pier 28.

CRITERION 2

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco positively affects communities across San Francisco with repair projects designed to create safer, healthier spaces for low-income families to live and gather. The organization also aims to preserve affordable housing by equipping long-time residents to age in place in their homes as valuable community anchors. This can be something as simple as installing a bathroom grab bar to prevent a fall or as involved as installing a chair lift to get a person back out into their community. In 2019, RTSF anticipates completing renovation and repair projects on 300+ homes, schools, and nonprofit facilities: 17 on National Rebuilding Day, 10 on Rebuild My Block Day and 280 through Safe at Home modifications throughout the year.

While Rebuilding Together San Francisco is proud to have a broad impact on communities across the city, the organization also strives to have a deep impact on its beneficiaries. The work is unique in that RTSF sees itself as engaged in an ongoing relationship with those they serve. The same homeowner may benefit from services from more than one program, and it is not unusual for Rebuilding Together San Francisco to return to a home several years later as new needs arise.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is associated with the Christmas in April program, now called National Rebuilding Day, which began when the organization was founded in 1989. Each year on the last Saturday in April and over the weekend, thousands of volunteers, community members and corporate partners join together to provide much needed and sometimes critical and life-saving repairs for vulnerable families in various communities throughout the city. Volunteers come together from area businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, civic and community groups and associations and work selflessly to help others. The work done is at no cost to the recipient families. Monies for materials are raised through sponsorships, donations and in-kind gifts. Generally half of each year's Rebuilding Day projects focus on renovating schools and community facilities, while the other half address a broad range of health and safety improvements for homes, including painting, decluttering, landscaping, critical electrical and plumbing repairs and more.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco (Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco) has been featured in stories in numerous publications including the San Francisco Chronicle, the San

Francisco Examiner, local neighborhood papers, San Francisco Bay Guardian, NBC News and KRON4.

RTSF has received many commendations including: Senate Certificate of Recognition from Sen. Mark Leno, 2012; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Chris Daly, 2006; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from John Avalos, 2015; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from London Breed, 2016; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Malia Cohen, 2016; and Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency, 2018.

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

For 10 years in the 1990s, Ben & Jerry's sponsored a "Celebrity Scoop" that benefitted Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together San Francisco. Celebrity "scoopers" included Wavy Gravy, Phil Lesh and Bob Weir.

The honorary committee for the organization's 10th anniversary included Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Mark Leno, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Many Mayors, city supervisors and politicians have visited and participated in RTSF's annual Rebuilding Day including: Mayor Willie Brown, Mayor Edwin Lee, Mayor London Breed, Senator Mark Leno, Senator Scott Weiner, Supervisor Katy Tang, Supervisor David Chiu, Supervisor John Avalos, Supervisor Chris Daly and more.

Artist JoeSam designed the iconic "dancing people" that adorned RTSF's event T-shirts for many years.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco has a large and comprehensive network of referral partners so when a resident needs more than repair support, they can refer them to in-home supportive services for personal care, meals or food assistance, or shared housing if they have a room in their home they would like to rent out for extra income. RTSF is at the table when neighborhood groups are meeting to discuss their community revitalization needs as building and repair support.

Over the last few years, RTSF has worked hard to position itself as a key player in collaborative neighborhood revitalization. To this end, RTSF has been an active participant in the Oceanside-Merced-Ingleside Community Collaborative (OMICC), the Excelsior Collaborative, Resilient Bayview and the Housing Workgroup of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council. RTSF also has strong working partnerships with Meals on Wheels, the Institute on Aging and the Community Living Fund. RTSF's relationships with more than 40 nonprofits and agencies located in the community allow the organization to promote their services directly to neighborhood-based and population-focused groups. In turn, these nonprofits and agencies inform RTSF about specific housing issues and vulnerable residents in their neighborhoods. Rebuilding Together

San Francisco is also able to coordinate their efforts via neighborhood events like resource fairs. Additionally, RTSF partners with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development as the administrator for its Community Action Grants in the SoMa neighborhood. Through this partnership, RTSF has developed ties to many community organizations and stakeholders in SoMa, as well as a stronger working relationship with the City and County of San Francisco.

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

Although RTSF serves San Franciscans of all ages, the majority of the people served are older adults who want to remain in their homes as they age. Nationwide, America's aging population presents an emerging housing challenge that will only grow in coming years. The 2015 American Community Survey indicates that 14% of San Francisco's population is over the age of 65, and 50% of that population lives alone. While RTSF's repair services are available to any household in San Francisco with an income under 80% of the AMI, most of the organization's clients are over 65 years old, have lived in their home an average 30 years and have an average household income of \$23,000/year. About 35% of the households are renters and 65% are homeowners. RTSF also provide repairs, free of charge, to nonprofits, schools and community spaces.

While there is strong evidence for the benefits of aging in place, this older population is likely to struggle with basic home maintenance tasks to prevent falls and improve health. They often require accessibility features that most homes don't currently possess. This is particularly true in San Francisco, where virtually every home includes stairways, and major home modification work like installing a chair lift can be prohibitively expensive for those on fixed incomes. Smaller modifications, while more affordable, are still out of reach for older people who are physically unable to perform the work. Rebuilding Together San Francisco's work in addressing smaller home modifications is an impressively cost-effective means for addressing health risks for older people.

Beyond the challenge of aging in place, deferred maintenance has a deep impact on residents of all ages. For many San Francisco families, the gulf between income and the actual cost of living means some combination of unstable, overpriced, overcrowded or ill-maintained housing. Most Americans spend 90% of their time indoors, and about 2/3 of this time is spent at home, so it is no surprise that research increasingly demonstrates the negative impact of unsafe housing on educational attainment, employment stability and health. In just one of many examples of this impact, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds that "approximately forty percent of diagnosed asthma among children is believed to be attributable to residential exposures." According to the National Center for Healthy Housing, "The chances of an injury at home are much higher than at work or school. Approximately 18,000 injury deaths and another 12 million non-fatal injuries occur each year in homes. Very young children and adults over age 70 are the most likely to be hurt at home." By addressing deferred maintenance, RTSF ensures that low-income families' homes work for them, not against them.

While all of this data can be discouraging, Rebuilding Together San Francisco sees it as a source of motivation. This is because RTSF knows that when you change a home, you change a life. RTSF is proud to initiate that change for more than 300 families each year.

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

Not applicable.

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is the only nonprofit in San Francisco that provides home health and safety repairs free of charge to our neighbors in need. If RTSF could no longer afford the rent or had to close due to other high operating costs, hundreds of San Francisco's long standing neighbors would not have access to home repairs that prevent falls, improve indoor air quality, increase the safety of the home and generally enable San Francisco's low income families to hold on to their key economic asset – their homes. In a city where the median home price is over \$1 million, being able to stay in the home a family has occupied for generations is the only way they can afford housing. Repair services not only provide affordable housing for the current residents, being able to pass a safe and healthy home provides affordable housing for future generations.

CRITERION 3

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

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all. Established as "Christmas in April" in 1989 through a grassroots collaborative response to seniors living in substandard housing, over the past 30 years RTSF has established its reputation as a reliable and committed community partner, providing free repair services for 3,600 low-income households and 349 community facilities with the help of over 30,000 volunteers. RTSF's services create safer, healthier spaces for seniors, families and people with disabilities to live and gather in San Francisco. For 30 years, the organization's essential mission has been to create safe and healthy homes and to enable our neighbors to age in place in homes they and their families have owned and/or lived in for generations.

RTSF has a staff of six permanent employees and benefits from the efforts of 600+ volunteers each year. RTSF also provides a job-training opportunity for 1-3 AmeriCorps members each year.

b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to

retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)

Rebuilding Together San Francisco is committed to maintaining its historical tradition by continuing to hold their annual Rebuilding Day on the last Saturday in April each year – engaging dozens of corporate partners and hundreds of local volunteers in repair projects annually. RTSF will also continue to engage volunteers in providing repairs throughout the year. The organization’s defining motto, “Neighbors helping neighbors build great neighborhoods!” will not change.

c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).

Not applicable.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

N/A









REPAIRING HOMES, REVITA

 **Rebuilding
Together**[®]












Longest & Largest Supporters

Bank of America
 California Federal Bank
 Dresdner RCM Capital Management
 GATX Capital
 George Lithograph
 Gerson Bakar & Associates
 Golden Gate Disposal
 Levi Strauss Foundation
 Mayor's Office of Housing
 McGuire Real Estate
 McKessonHBOC Foundation
 Pacific Gas and Electric
 Sunset Scavenger
 Wells Fargo
 Zephyr Real Estate


Founding Organizations

Building Trades Council
 Junior League of San Francisco
 Pacific Gas and Electric
 SF Department of Health




**Tip #3!
NOISY PIPES**

SQUEAKING: Only hot water pipes squeak. As the pipe expands, it moves in its strap, and friction causes the squeak. The solution is to cushion it as you would a banging pipe.



**Tip #1!
PLUMBING**

When trying to detect a tank leak, add food coloring to the tank water if you can't tell whether your toilet is leaking around the tank bolts or just sweating. Wait an hour, then touch the bolt tips and nuts under the tank with white tissue. If the tissue shows coloring, you have a leak; otherwise, it's condensation.




**Tip #2!
NOISY PIPES**

BANGING: If your pipes bang when you turn on the water, you may need to add straps, cushion the pipes with a rubber blanket, or both. When you anchor a pipe, especially a plastic one, leave room for expansion. Don't use galvanized straps on copper pipes.

Former Board Presidents

Kaki Desautels
 Teri Dowling
 Joe Grubb
 Bruce Lilienthal
 Mimi Murphy
 David Powell



**Tip #4!
ELECTRICAL**

FUSE SAFETY TIPS: When a fuse blows, always replace it with one of the same type and amperage rating. Never replace it with a higher rated fuse. When you need to change a blown fuse, shut off all power before touching the fuse and be sure you're standing on dry ground.

Host Committee

Ray Brown
 Art Gensler
 Wavy Gravy
 Roma Guy
 JoeSam.
 Sam Lauter
 Arthur Rock
 Don Solem
 Barbara Solomon
 Peter Thomsen
 Minnie & Lovie Ward
 Reverend Cecil Williams

Event Committee

Kristi Denton Cohen, *Chair*
 Valerie Camarda
 Maureen Carew
 Teri Dowling
 Joe Grubb
 Scott Kuehne
 Nancy Mackinnon
 Dan Whooley

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL



The powerful chemistry of Teri Dowling, Joe Grubb and Sam Lawson's personalities is the reason Christmas in April*San Francisco has been an enormous success from day one! In 1989, Teri, a San Francisco Department of Health employee introduced the program to Joe, a San Francisco building inspector who caught her contagious enthusiasm for Christmas in April. The program was born and ideas began to fly. Their first major achievement was bringing the creative and charismatic Sam Lawson on board as the first Executive Director of Christmas in April*San Francisco. Through their combined efforts, enthusiasm and extraordinary dedication, Christmas in April*San Francisco has become one of the most celebrated and successful community building efforts in San Francisco!

Christmas in April began in 1972 by Bobby Trimble and a group of friends in Texas who repaired the home of an elderly neighbor. Today there are more than 236 Christmas in April chapters in all 50 states. In San Francisco, more than 30,000 Christmas in April volunteers from business, labor and the community have renovated 375 homes and 122 nonprofit facilities serving children, youth, seniors, homeless people and individuals living with HIV and AIDS. Hundreds of elderly, low income or disabled San Franciscans are living safer and more comfortably in their beloved homes. Nonprofit facilities are assisting more clients in improved learning, working or living environments. Christmas in April truly is "good neighbors building good neighborhoods."

Board of Directors

Cynthia Christian,
President
 David Bohm
 Barry Bourbon
 Valerie Camarda
 Kristi Denton Cohen
 Teri Dowling
 Darryl Forman
 Thomas R. Fox
 Brian Gaines
 Mike Gilson
 Joe Grubb
 Scott Kuehne
 Sam Lawson
 Jack Lowry
 Nancy Mackinnon
 Lisa Spinali
 Javier Valencia
 Janice Weinstein
 Dan Whooley
 Craig Wolfson

Honorary Committee

Hon. Alicia D. Becerril
 Hon. Sue Bierman
 Hon. Barbara Boxer
 Hon. Leslie Katz
 Hon. Barbara Kaufman
 Hon. Mark Leno
 Hon. Carole Migden
 Hon. Gavin Newsom
 Hon. Nancy Pelosi
 Hon. Mabel Teng
 Hon. Michael Yaki
 Hon. Leland Y. Yee, Ph.D

Staff

Maureen Carew
 Jennifer Gaspar
 Dee-Dee Sberlo
 Sharon Wheeler
 Orlanda Wilson

Special thanks to Kristi Denton Cohen for her outstanding leadership as the 10th Anniversary Event Chair!

Union Volunteers Make It 'Christmas'

"Christmas in April" is one of a number of volunteer projects tackled by Northern California union building trades workers during the year.

In San Francisco, the mission of the Christmas in April foundation office is described as "helping low-income, elderly and disabled San Franciscans live in warmth, safety, dignity and decency through volunteer repair and renovation of owner-occupied homes and not-for-profit facilities that benefit underserved populations."

The annual April program brings volunteers and beneficiaries together in neighbor-helping-neighbor tradition, SF Foundation executive director Sam Lawson explains.

Funding and volunteer participation are organized around an "adopt a home" program, essentially a package whereby business and community service organizations contribute the average cost of rehabilitating one or more homes or shelters, and provide a core group of skilled and unskilled volunteers.

In 1991, executive director Lawson expects a 50 per cent increase in project activity compared to last April when some 900 volunteers worked to repair and renovate 22 single family homes, one shelter and a child care facility.

Targeted for April in 1991, are 25 homes in Visitation Valley, five in the Oceanview-Merced-Ingleside area, two not-for-profit facilities for the under-served populations, the Larkin St. Youth Center, a day-time drop-in center, and the Friends of St. Francis Childcare Center.

The Foundation also hopes to make improvements at the Sun-

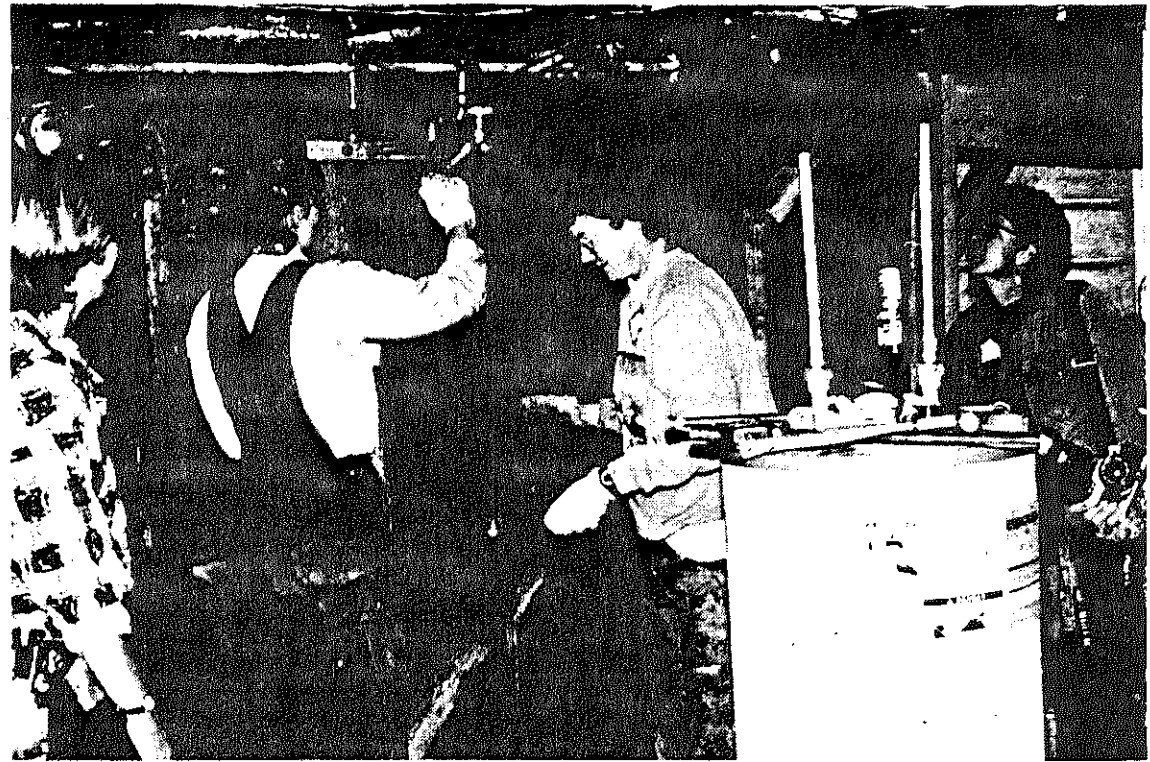
nydale Boys & Girls Club, "if we have sufficient volunteer response and meet the fund-raising goals for our other projects," Lawson says. He reports that the project is "desperately needed" by young people living in the Sunnydale Public Housing Project who have few options for after-school activity.

With the traditional Christmas coming up, the Foundation is starting to gear for next April's "adopt-a-home" program.

Lawson says: "Business can 'adopt' a Christmas-in-April home by donating \$2500 to the program. This investment covers the average cost of materials, supplies and related project costs, a value multiplied many times over by the value of our volunteers' labor."

In addition, the Foundation welcomes officers, directors, staff and friends of the business donor to work on the sponsored home. "Volunteering as part of an established working unit increases their satisfaction and productivity, and the businesses discover that having management and staff working side-by-side provides an excellent opportunity for 'team building' within the organization ... and they discover, first-hand, the value of their dollar contribution to the community."

Last year, Alexander Co., Bank of San Francisco, Gerson Bakar & Associates, GAT Capital Corp., George Lithograph Co., Grubb & Ellis, H.J. Kaiser Family Foundation, KRON-TV, McGuire Real Estate, Pacific Union Development, Polaris Aircraft Leasing/GE, Urban Pacific and Zephyr Real Estate Development among others, not only adopted houses but provided organized groups of



JOAN McQUARRIE (far left), house captain at 914 Capitol and a sr. building inspector for the City of San Francisco, checks progress made by volunteers from Tradeswomen, Inc.

volunteers.

San Francisco Building Trades Council was one of the early partners in the venture; its executive officer, Stan Smith, was on the founding board.

Last April, the Foundation expected to provide minor repairs and renovations on the adopted homes, essentially "paint-up, clean-up, fix-up" tasks performed primarily by unskilled volunteers.

Volunteer response, enthusiasm and talent so far exceeded the Foundation's expectations that the number and complexity of the projects were increased.

Besides the single family home renovations, which involved almost 600 volunteers, an additional 300

or more handled extensive remodelings at the Episcopal Sanctuary's shelter for "families in transition" and the Florence Crittenton Home's shelter for drug-exposed infants and toddlers. Volunteers also painted the entire interior of the Oceanview Park recreation Center's gymnasium.

Major system upgrades were performed. Several rotted staircases were replaced, new windows were installed and one 60 ft. long wheelchair ramp was built from scratch.

On one project, an all-woman crew employed in the construction trades completely rewired and replumbed a house, remodeled the bathroom and kitchen and install-

ed a new hot water heater — all in one day.

At the Episcopal Sanctuary, volunteer designers from the Hospitality Industry Assn. and International Furnishings & Design Assn. created space for a large classroom that can be subdivided, with movable partitions, into three smaller rooms, and also created additional classrooms, a library/resource center and study area. In addition, a dormitory-style sleeping room was set up for 20 homeless men; the work was not part of the original plan but became an important element, with some of the sanctuary's homeless, many with construction experience,

(Continued on page 27)

Volunteers tackle spring cleaning for low-income families

Christmas in April workers help spruce up homes, gardens

By Marsha Ginsburg
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

Nathan Miller, 9, painstakingly scraped purple graffiti off window panes Saturday, part of his gift to a homeless, HIV-positive family he's never met.

Earlier in the morning, before starting on the windows at Rafiki House, he painted part of the two-unit building in San Francisco's Bayview District, helping ready it for occupancy by June.

"It's fun," said Nathan, who began working in the annual "Christmas in April" program when he was five. "I get to do it for people who need help."

Last year, he painted a community center, and the year before that he was a delivery boy.

Although Nathan was probably among the youngest Christmas in April participants, he was not alone. Roughly 120,000 volunteers throughout the country — 9,500 of them in the Bay Area — spent Saturday renovating, repainting and sprucing up needy people's homes and gardens.

By the end of the day, 4,000 sites nationwide, including 42 houses and 13 community centers in San Francisco, were transformed from shabby, unsafe and unclean to sparkling and livable.

Volunteers from Levi-Strauss, the Black Coalition on AIDS, the Bernal Heights Housing Corp. and

the neighborhood surrounding Rafiki House on Precita Avenue helped Nathan Miller prepare the small duplex for two homeless or low-income families with HIV. They painted the outside in grayish green, cream and maroon, hauled away 40 bags of weeds and debris and began landscaping the jungle-like backyard to make it a haven for children. The cost in labor and supplies: about \$7,000.

"It's great," said Joy Rucker, with the Black Coalition on AIDS. "It's amazing what people can do once they decide to get together for a common cause."

Out in the backyard, Deirdre Harrington, whose husband works for Levi-Strauss, came to help Rafiki House and brought a neighbor with her. She and her husband have participated in Christmas in April several times.

"What's unique is that you see it at the beginning and you think, 'Oh God, that's insurmountable.' And then you see it to fruition and you know you've made a difference in someone's life. I think it would be great if they had this four times a year. There are so many homeless."

While San Francisco has held a Christmas in April for just the past five years, the program actually has been around far longer than that. It began 21 years ago in Midland, Texas, when independent oil scout Bobby Trimble suggested the parishioners at his church get together to help elderly congregants fix up their homes.

The program's name stuck

When someone remarked during one of the springtime projects that all the giving and warmth felt "just like Christmas," the name

"Christmas in April" stuck. The program now operates in 328 cities and towns in 30 states.

Dozens of Bay Area companies and organizations, from ritzy law firms to grass-roots neighborhood groups, donated time or money to help get the project under way.

At Barbara Brown's Gilman Street home, crew members from the USS Samuel Gompers worked side by side with World Savings employees to paint inside and outside, repair the faulty electric wiring in the bathroom, put up wood siding in the entry and patch the ceiling. They also cleaned up the yard, which was infested with weeds taller than some of the volunteers.

"It feels good anytime you give to people, and this area needs a lot of work," said Ron David, an appraiser with World Savings.

Brown, a longtime activist for the homeless, has suffered from renovation nightmares for the past five years.

After the 1989 earthquake severely damaged her home, she spent nearly a year trying to get help from FEMA. She finally got a private loan but she was bilked by her contractor. Brown sued and the contractor, from whom she is still trying to recover money, declared bankruptcy.

'We're having a lot of fun'

On Saturday she was off making chicken salad sandwiches for the crew as they hustled to paint the exterior of the house the color it was when her mother lived there — hot pink.

"She said she wanted it pink so when her friends come she can just say, 'It's the hot pink house,'" said Jane Howell, a senior loan representative for World Savings. "Here she's been doing all these things for people for all these years. It's so great to see how happy she is."

In the kitchen, the radio blared as the crew from the "Fat Sam" slapped on cheerful yellow paint.

"We're having a lot of fun," said Gwen Bates, who repaired wheelchairs at an orphanage in Bahrain while her ship was overseas. "It feels good to see the expression on her face."

SAN FRANCISCO

Volunteers give school fresh coat, renewed hope

Nonprofit helps provide much-needed paint job for Potrero Hill elementary school

By Anastasia Ustinova
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Enrollment is on the decline and budgets are tight, but a Potrero Hill elementary school received a major face-lift Saturday, as more than 100 volunteers painted its walls and planted flowers in hopes of wooing new students and their parents.

"A fresh coat of paint can do wonders for the community," said Stacey Bartlett with the Potrero Residents Education Fund, a group that supports Daniel Webster Elementary School. "The school district does not have money for the improvement, and it takes the community to help them out."

After the Board of Education put Webster on the closure list two years ago, local residents wrote letters to public officials, rallied parents to help boost enrollment and raised more than \$500,000 for a preschool program. One resident who works at Yahoo created a Web site about the potential closure and designed "Save Daniel Webster" T-shirts.

Thanks to their efforts, Webster was also selected out of more than 100 applicants for the annual rehabilitation housing program called Rebuilding Together San Francisco. The nonprofit organization uses volunteers on the last weekend of April to repair, remodel and clean up community facilities and homes for low-income and disabled people.

Next year, the volunteers will return to paint old classrooms and fix appliances.

"It's an extreme makeover for Daniel Webster," said Bartlett, whose daughter, Annabel, will attend Webster's new preschool in the fall. "It's so uplifting, and it does a lot for the kids who live (in Potrero Hill)."

On Saturday, Principal Moraima Machado watched as volunteers from the consulting firm Ernst & Young and the San Francisco financial services company

Charles Schwab put a fresh coat of paint on the old orange panels.

"These walls have not been painted since the 1980s," Machado said. "With all the state budget cuts, those people are sending a message to the community and they are making history."

Outside, a dozen of employees from the entertainment company DreamWorks got busy painting flowers, hills and goats — the old symbol of the neighborhood — for a new mural that faces the playground.

"You see the state school struggle for basic things. They shouldn't have to struggle," said Beth Hofer, head of the character development department at DreamWorks. "Giving them a fun environment and putting a smile on their face" is the least the volunteers can do, she said.

On Saturday, more than 2,000 volunteers from different organizations participated in Rebuilding Together San Francisco, which was founded after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. Since then, the nonprofit has helped more than 1,000 homes and 250 facilities in the area.

This year's projects included a residential recovery center for families in the Mission District, several child care centers and Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School.

Some volunteers, who have been involved with the project for several years, say they can't help keeping coming back.

"It just feels good," said Helen Hayes, a manager at Ernst & Young. "And it's also an opportunity to meet people who work in different departments."

Susie Albrecht, director of the employee communications at Charles Schwab, agreed.

"It's fun to get to work side-by-side with colleagues and see them outside of the office," Albrecht said. "It's a team-building effort."

E-mail Anastasia Ustinova at austinova@sfchronicle.com.



PAUL CHINN / The Chronicle

Sandy Kao (top) and Danielle Vogt paint a mural at Daniel Webster Elementary School in Potrero Hill.

OAKLAND

9-hour standoff ends peacefully; family OK

By Meredith May
and Henry K. Lee

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITERS

A gunman who barricaded himself inside a condo building at Oakland's Jack London Square and held his wife and two children hostage surrendered early Saturday after an all-night standoff, police said.

The suspect, a 41-year-old parolee whose name was not immediately released, gave himself up without incident at 4:25 a.m. and was being interviewed by police. His children, ages 3 and 5, were not harmed, and his wife was being treated for a minor injury, authorities said.

His arrest came after a nine-hour

standoff at the Sierra Condos at 311 Oak St.

Police received a call from a security guard about 7:30 p.m. Friday reporting some kind of domestic dispute in a fifth-floor apartment, said Sgt. Reggie Brown. The security guard said the man was armed with a large knife or a meat cleaver.

There had been reports of a woman and children inside the unit with the man, and some residents reported hearing children screaming in or around that location.

Officers came to the scene and tried to get through the door, but someone inside fired a shot at them, Brown said. No one was hurt, but police backed off and called in the

SWAT team and negotiators, in an effort to make contact with the man and persuade him to come out peacefully.

Police cordoned off four blocks around the scene and would let no one in the area come or go. Police partially evacuated the fourth and sixth floors of the eight-floor building.

By early Saturday, police were able to make contact with the gunman and persuade him to give up, authorities said.

A woman who lives two doors down from the apartment said she was on her way to a meeting when she saw SWAT officers running down the hallway, telling her to stay

inside.

"I'm very scared," said Liliانا Nakamura, speaking by cell phone from inside the building. "There are police running down the hallway pointing guns toward our door."

She said she called the front desk and was told not to come out.

"This is totally shocking," she said. "They're not letting us know what's going on."

People who were evacuated milled around the area, talking on cell phones to friends still inside.

E-mail the writers at mmay@sfchronicle.com and hlee@sfchronicle.com



Click to Print

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Opinion

UNDER THE DOME *City Hall Politics*

Thousands to gather for National Rebuilding Day

[\[Print\]](#) [\[Email\]](#)

[Share](#)

By: [Erin Sherbert](#)
Examiner Staff Writer
04/21/10 9:45 AM PDT

This Saturday, more than 1,000 volunteers from 40 Bay Area companies will help rebuild homes, schools and other community facilities as part of the 21st annual National Rebuilding Day.

“During these bleak economic times, when individual and foundation contributions are declining, we are so grateful for the continuing support of some of the Bay Area’s largest employers,” said Karen Nemsick, executive director, Rebuilding Together San Francisco, a local nonprofit. “Because they care about their less fortunate neighbors, we are able to maintain the number of much-needed rebuilding projects that we and our dedicated volunteer crews undertake on Rebuilding Day.

The San Francisco event is part of National Rebuilding Day, during which thousands of volunteers will carry out rebuilding projects in more than 500 communities across America. In the Bay Area, Rebuilding Together affiliates, supported by 184 sponsors and nearly 9,000 volunteers, will undertake repairs to a total of 127 homes and 55 schools and community facilities, according to the organization.

More from Erin Sherbert

- [Small-biz leaders ask supes to proceed with caution](#)
- [Newsom Tracker: Discussing the deficit](#)
- [Fewer calls coming into 311 since Twitter feed launched](#)
- [Bond aims to strengthen quake-vulnerable homes](#)
- [S.F. has \\$200K lottery winner](#)

Community Program Helps Thousands Nationwide

Rebuilding Together is the new name of the national, non-profit community building agency, Christmas in April, begun in 1973 when a group of volunteers in Midland, Texas, decided to repair the dilapidated homes of low-income, disabled seniors in their community.

A national program launched in 1988 today has chapters serving 600 cities and towns in 50 states.

The nondenominational organization holds a National Rebuilding Day on the last weekend in April, with Saturday being the traditional Christmas in April workday and Sunday the day when Jewish volunteers convened under the Sukkot in April banner. Rebuilding Together's national workdays will be April 28 and 29 this year, though some chapters, such as the Petaluma chapter (April 21), have set other dates to work.

Since 1988, an estimated 1,521,000 volunteers have done repairs worth \$424 million on 52,500 homes and nonprofit buildings nationwide. This year, 245,000 volunteers are expected to repair 7,800 homes and nonprofits to the tune of \$86 million.

Figures are equally impressive here in the Bay Area.

Between 1990 and 2000, the Mid-Peninsula chapter of Rebuilding Together has repaired 451 homes and 76 community facilities, with 31,800 volunteers doing repairs worth \$11,625,000. This year, the chapter, which was started in 1989 under the sponsorship of the Junior League of Palo Alto, will involve 5,000 volunteers in doing \$2 million in repairs to 50 homes and 14 community facilities.

According to its Web site, the Albany-Berkeley-Emerlyville chapter has rehabilitated 268 homes and 63 nonprofit facilities since 1991, and the Petaluma chapter, at five years the oldest of the North Bay chapters, has sent 1,350 volunteers into the community to renovate 78 homes and facilities.

San Francisco, of course, is the largest Bay Area program, with nearly 5,000 volunteers (500 of whom will come out on April 29 as part of the Jewish effort, formerly known as Sukkot in April). The 12-year-old chapter has rehabbed 400 homes and approximately 140 nonprofit facilities.

Though emphasis is focused on

owners; an emergency home repair program for those whose projects can't be put off until the following April; a supply lending program for nonprofit agencies rehabbing their own facilities; and a latex paint recycling program that takes in and redistributes useable surplus paint.

Helped and Helpers

Rebuilding Together chooses projects from homeowners who are low-income (meeting the federal government's income guidelines), over the age of 55 or disabled, who are unable to complete home repairs themselves, or nonprofit agencies that serve low-income people. Recipients are referred by neighbors, service providers, senior centers, churches and synagogues, or they may request an application themselves. The project is evaluated and the home visited before a committee of neighborhood leaders and skilled tradespeople selects the most appropriate projects.

Volunteers, working under house captains who coordinate individual projects, make up the labor force for Rebuilding Together, but businesses, churches, hospitals, labor unions, architects and contractors, schools and service organizations are crucial as sponsors, donating money, materials and expertise.

The chief sponsor for the Baldadano remodel in San Francisco, for example, is SEAONIC (Structural Engineers Association of Northern California) and, in East Palo Alto, AMD and Micro-Mechanics, Inc. are the main sponsors for the Lewis house rehab. Calix-Networks is a major sponsor for the Petaluma chapter's programs, with Stander's roof repair being a joint effort by Crandall Roofing, Allied Building Materials, Varner Trucking, North Coast Energy Systems and members of the Hispanic Community. With this year's energy crisis, the nonprofit PositivEnergy has partnered with the Petaluma chapter to provide energy-saving measures, such as weather stripping, water heater blankets and fluorescent lightbulbs, to recipients.

Each chapter publishes a wish list of items and services needed as well. The San Francisco program still needs skilled volunteers — HVAC professionals, plumbers, electricians and carpenters — to help with this April's projects. Roofing materials, lumber, carpet, elec-

S T A T E O F C A L I F O R N I A



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Rebuilding Together San Francisco

Congratulations on the occasion of Rebuilding Day and the culmination of one year's worth of planning in order to provide necessary repairs to ten houses in our community! I commend your dedication and commitment to preserving homeownership and neighborhoods by providing free services, support and volunteers. It is the efforts of organizations such as yours that make our community a brighter place for all. Congratulations and thank you!


MARK LENO
Senator, 9th District
April 28th, 2012

Certificate of Honor

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:

Rebuilding Together

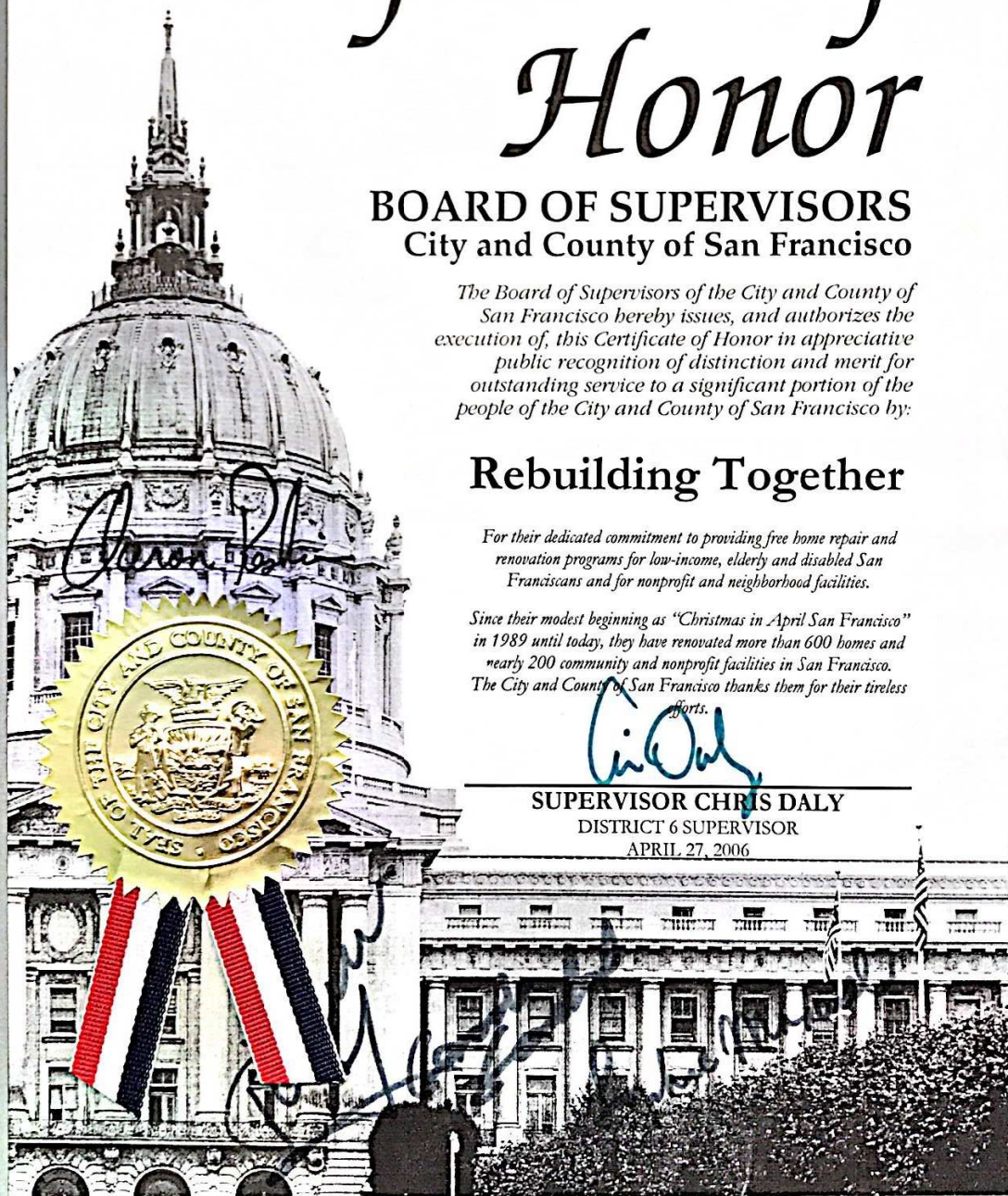
For their dedicated commitment to providing free home repair and renovation programs for low-income, elderly and disabled San Franciscans and for nonprofit and neighborhood facilities.

Since their modest beginning as "Christmas in April San Francisco" in 1989 until today, they have renovated more than 600 homes and nearly 200 community and nonprofit facilities in San Francisco. The City and County of San Francisco thanks them for their tireless efforts.

Chris Daly
SUPERVISOR CHRIS DALY

DISTRICT 6 SUPERVISOR

APRIL 27, 2006



Certificate of Honor

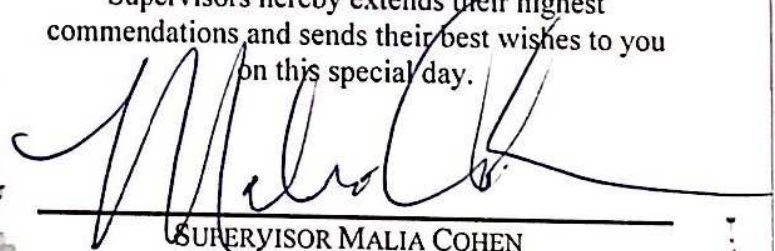
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:

Rebuilding Together San Francisco

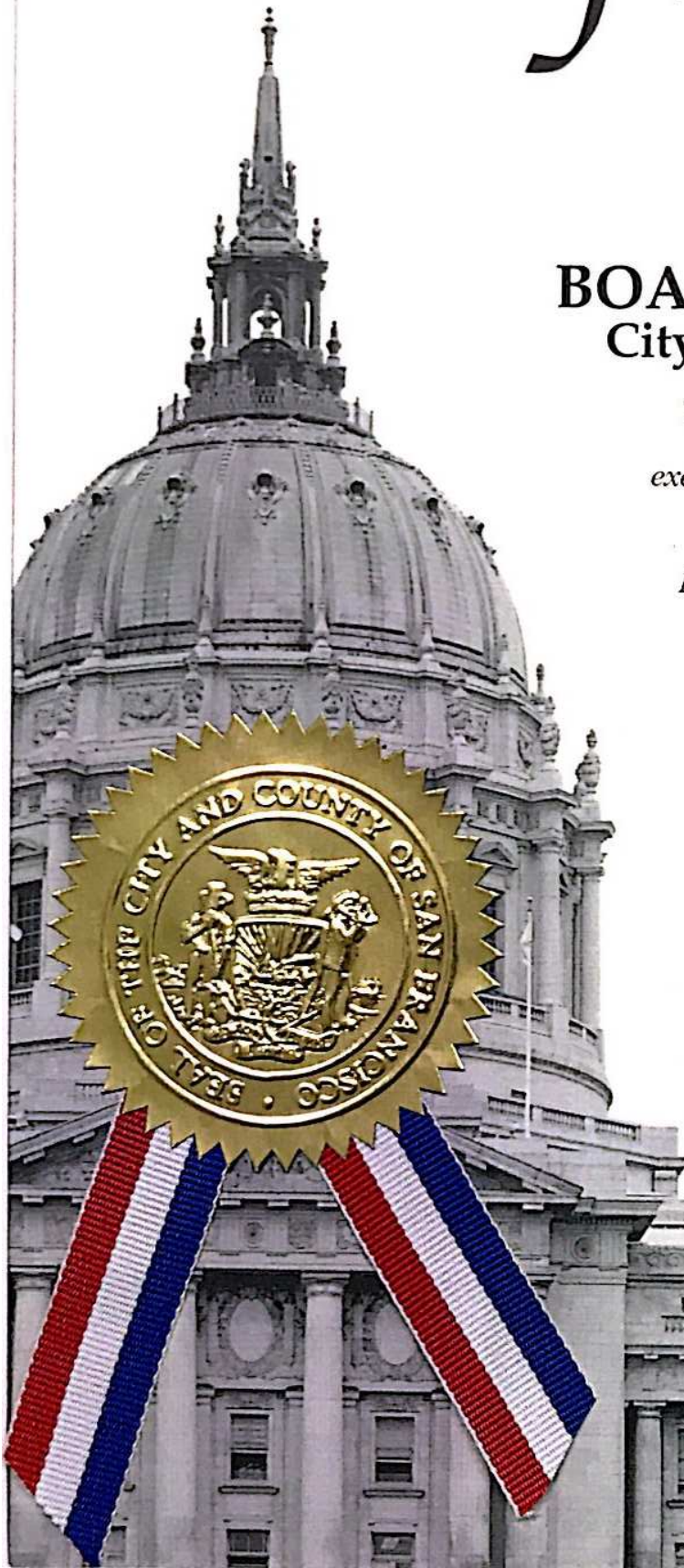
In honor of your ongoing commitment to better the lives of San Franciscans by rehabilitating homes and facilities in our City and in recognition of your dedication to serving homeowners in the Bayview community.

The City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby extends their highest commendations and sends their best wishes to you on this special day.



SUPERVISOR MALIA COHEN

FEBRUARY 5, 2016



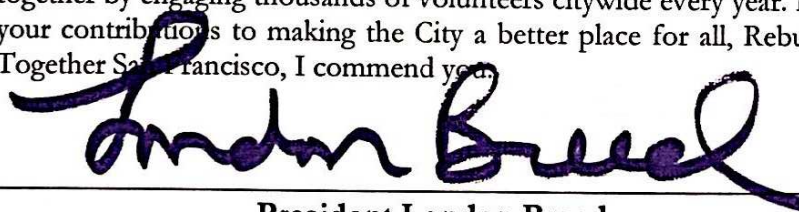
Certificate of Honor

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS City and County of San Francisco

The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby issues, and authorizes the execution of, this Certificate of Honor in appreciative public recognition of distinction and merit for outstanding service to a significant portion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco by:

Rebuilding Together San Francisco

On the occasion of the 27th Annual Rebuilding Day in San Francisco, the City and County of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors extends its highest commendation and appreciation to Rebuilding Together San Francisco. This organization not only supports our community by renovating non-profit facilities, schools, and houses, it also brings us together by engaging thousands of volunteers citywide every year. For all your contributions to making the City a better place for all, Rebuilding Together San Francisco, I commend you.



President London Breed
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Saturday, April 30th, 2016





The City and County of San Francisco

Certificate of Honor

Presented To

Rebuilding Together San Francisco

June 21, 2019

WHEREAS, on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, I am pleased to recognize Rebuilding Together San Francisco for their exemplary efforts in assisting the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Public Health, and the Human Services Agency during the heat wave in San Francisco from June 7 to June 11, 2019. Rebuilding Together SF's proactive measures in providing wellness checks and culturally competent, critical safety information to our elderly communities, individuals experiencing homelessness, and those with limited English proficiency in order to ensure their well-being during instances of severe weather greatly contributes to the safety of our City's most vulnerable populations. Rebuilding Together SF's commitment to our communities is truly commendable and represents San Francisco values at their best.



THEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "London Breed".

London N. Breed
Mayor

Filing Date: October 9, 2019
Case No.: 2019-020095LBR
Business Name: Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Business Address: Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
Zoning: M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 9900/028
Applicant: Karen Nemsick, Executive Director
Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney
Located In: District 6
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Rebuilding Together San Francisco (RTSF) is a local nonprofit dedicated to promoting safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all. The organization provides home repair and renovation programs for homeowners, renters, non-profit organizations and community spaces. The organization was established on September 13, 1989, as “Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco” through a collaborative response to neighbors living in substandard housing.

From the time RTSF was founded in 1989 until the year 2001, the organization’s work consisted of one major annual event on the last Saturday in April, called Christmas in April. Hundreds of volunteers were assigned to 10-20 homes and community spaces throughout San Francisco. In February 2002, the organization’s name was changed to Rebuilding Together San Francisco, and the “Christmas in April” event day became National Rebuilding Day (NRD). The impetus for the name change was reflective of the organization’s secular nature – they didn’t want to be identified with, or seem inclusive only of, a particular faith. Now, generally half of each year’s NRD projects focus on renovating schools and community facilities, while the other half address a broad range of health and safety improvements for homes, including painting, decluttering, landscaping, critical electrical and plumbing repairs and more. In 2017, RTSF complemented NRD projects with a new program called SheBuilds, which engages all-women teams in repair projects.

The business is located on Pier 28 on The Embarcadero. It is within M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in 1989.

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

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

- i. Rebuilding Together San Francisco has operated continuously in San Francisco for 30 years.
- ii. Rebuilding Together San Francisco has contributed to the history and identity of San Francisco.
- iii. Rebuilding Together San Francisco is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?*

Yes. The business is associated with the building tradition.

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

Yes. The historic resource status of the building at Pier 28 that houses Rebuilding Together San Francisco is classified by the Planning Department as Category A – Historic Resource Present with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act. The office is located in the Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District. The property had been identified for its association with modern architecture (Mission Revival) and landscape design (1935-1970). The original tenant on the pier was Matson Navigation Co. in 1912. Rebuilding Together San Francisco is the longest continuous tenant currently occupying the bulkhead offices on Pier 28.

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

Yes. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status code of “A” (Historic Resource Present) due to its listing as the Port of San Francisco Embarcadero Historic District.

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

No.

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

Yes. Rebuilding Together San Francisco (Christmas in April Foundation - San Francisco) has been featured in stories in numerous publications including the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Francisco Examiner, local neighborhood papers, San Francisco Bay Guardian, NBC News and KRON4. RTSF has received many commendations including: Senate Certificate of Recognition from Sen. Mark Leno, 2012; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Chris Daly, 2006; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from John Avalos, 2015; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from London Breed, 2016; San Francisco Certificate of Honor from Malia Cohen, 2016; and Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency, 2018.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero

Recommended by Applicant

- Promotion of safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all
- Reputation as a reliable and committed community partner
- Volunteer structure
- Free repair services

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Filing Date: October 9, 2019
Case No.: 2019-020095LBR
Business Name: Rebuilding Together San Francisco
Business Address: Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
Zoning: M-1 (Light Industrial) Zoning District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 9900/028
Applicant: Karen Nemsick, Executive Director
Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94105
Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney
Located In: District 6
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR REBUILDING TOGETHER SAN FRANCISCO CURRENTLY LOCATED AT PIER 28 #1, THE EMBARCADERO, BLOCK/LOT 9900/028.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 6, 2019, 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 Rebuilding Together San Francisco 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 Rebuilding Together San Francisco.

Location(s):

- *Pier 28 #1, The Embarcadero*

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- *Promotion of safe and healthy housing and community spaces for all*
- *Reputation as a reliable and committed community partner*
- *Volunteer structure*
- *Free repair services*

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 2019-020095LBR to the Office of Small Business November 6, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: