

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE AUGUST 12, 2019

TIN WAH NOODLE CO.

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-069
Business Name: Tin Wah Noodle Co.
Business Address: 1950 Innes Avenue #2
District: District 10
Applicant: Ginger Kong, Business Owner's Daughter
Nomination Date: June 12, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Tin Wah Noodle Company is currently located in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. Founded sometime in the 1940s, it was originally located in two different storefronts in Chinatown, including 870 Washington Street and 805 Stockton Street, before moving to the Bayview. It is a noodle manufacturer specializing in Taiwanese and Japanese style noodles and wraps with a current product line of ramen, udon, soba and gyoza. The business caters to wholesalers, restaurants and culinary institutions throughout the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Their noodles are served in some of the Bay Area's favorite establishments, including several award-winning eateries.

The current owners, The Kong Family, have a long history with the business and the craft of noodlemaking. Tin Wah Noodle Company has been in continuous operation since husband and wife team, Aaron and Connie Kong, purchased the business in 1994. When the Kongs purchased the business, Tin Wah Noodle Company only specialized in egg noodles and a handful of Taiwanese-style pasta and wrappers. The company now makes a range of fresh, artisanal noodles using traditional noodle-making methods passed down through the generations. The vintage machinery used to make the noodles are culturally significant and no longer in production. The mixers, rollers and cutters were passed down from artisanal noodle makers at Tin Wah Noodle Company made in the United States and in Asia. The craft of operating these heavy machines requires a master noodle maker.

The business is located on the north side of Innes Avenue in the Bayview neighborhood.

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, Tin Wah Noodle Co. has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:



870 Washington Street from 1940s to 1964 (Appr. 24 years)
805 Stockton Street from 1964 to 1982 (18 years)
1950 Innes Avenue # 2 from 1982 to Present (37 years)

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

Yes, Tin Wah Noodle Company 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:

- Tin-Wah Noodle Co. is significant for its associations with the noodle-making industry in the Bay Area. It is also significant for its associations with Taiwanese and Japanese cuisine. Additionally, the vintage machinery used to hand-craft the noodles is culturally significant and no longer in production.
- The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "B" (Historic Resource Present) because of the building's age (constructed 1964).
- A photograph of Tin Wah Noodle Company was featured in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960," published September 16, 2014. The picture appeared in an SFO Museum Exhibit titled "Fred Lyon: San Francisco Yesterday 1948-1958" from March 2013 to May 2013 and in an article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "San Francisco during the 40s and 50s, captured by photographer Fred Lyon" dated July 23, 2016. A family member of the previous owner of Tin Wah Noodle Company recounted his experience working at the noodle shop in Edmund S. Wong's book "Growing Up in San Francisco's Chinatown: Boomer Memories: Boomer Memories from Noodle Rolls to Apple Pie," published February 5, 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, Tin Wah Noodle Company is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Tin Wah Noodle Co. 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:

- Production of a variety of artisanal Taiwanese and Japanese noodles and wraps.
- Use of traditional noodle-making techniques, machinery and recipes.
- Use of fresh ingredients.

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.

- Manufacturing of noodles.





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 Tin Wah Noodle Co. currently located at 1950 Innes Avenue #2 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 AUGUST 12, 2019

TIN WAH NOODLE CO.

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-069
Business Name: Tin Wah Noodle Co.
Business Address: 1950 Innes Avenue #2
District: District 10
Applicant: Ginger Kong, Business Owner's Daughter
Nomination Date: June 12, 2019
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legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR TIN WAH NOODLE CO., CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1950 INNES AVENUE #2.

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





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LONDON N. BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Tin Wah Noodle Co. 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 Tin Wah Noodle Co.:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Production of a variety of artisanal Taiwanese and Japanese noodles and wraps.
Use of traditional noodle-making techniques, machinery and recipes.
Use of fresh ingredients.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Tin Wah Noodle Co. on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Manufacturing of noodles.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 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-2018-19-069
Business Name: Tin Wah Noodle Co.
Business Address: 1950 Innes Avenue #2
District: District 10
Applicant: Ginger Kong, Business Owner's Daughter
Nomination Date: June 12, 2019
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton

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

870 Washington Street from 1940s to 1964 (Appr. 24 years)
 805 Stockton Street from 1964 to 1982 (18 years)
 1950 Innes Avenue # 2 from 1982 to Present (37 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: June 20, 2019

Richard Kurylo
Program Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 10



City and County of San Francisco

SHAMANN WALTON
華頌善

June 12, 2019

Office of Small Business
Attn: Small Business Commission
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Tin Wah Noodle Company
Attn: Ginger Kong
1950 Innes Avenue #2
San Francisco, California 94124


Re: Legacy Business Nomination for Tin Wah Noodle Company

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for Ginger Kong's application to recognize Tin Wah Noodle Company as a Legacy Business.

San Francisco has always been a City that embraces diversity and the entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens. Tin Wah is one of the oldest family-run noodle factories in San Francisco; in business since the 1940s. Moving to Bayview in the early 1990's, Tin Wah still make noodles and wraps using the traditional noodle-making methods. Tin Wah positively contributes to the community by retaining long-standing relationships with locally-based businesses and non-profits. By providing jobs for more than 30 years, Tin Wah Noodle Company is a critical asset to the Bayview-Hunters Point community.

Thank you for your consideration.



Supervisor Shamann Walton, District 10

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:		
Tin Wah Noodle Co.		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Connie L. Kong		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
1950 Innes Ave. #2 San Francisco, CA 94080		((415))648-4606
		EMAIL:
		[REDACTED]
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
tinwahnoodlecompany.wordpress.com	NA	NA

APPLICANT'S NAME	
Ginger Kong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Business
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
Business Owner's Daughter	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
	([REDACTED])
	EMAIL:

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

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
870 Washington Street	94108	1940's (Exact Date Unknown)
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	1940's - 1964	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
805 Stockton Street	94108	Start: 1964
		End: 1982

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
1950 Innes Ave. #2	94124	Start: 1982
		End: Current Address

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.

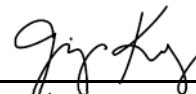
In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

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.

Ginger Kong

December 21, 2018



Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:

TIN WAH NOODLE CO.

天華麵廠

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.

Tin Wah Noodle Co. is a noodle manufacturer specializing in Taiwanese and Japanese style noodles and wraps with a product line of ramen, udon, soba and gyoza. The business caters to wholesalers, restaurants and culinary institutions throughout the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Their noodles are served in some of the Bay Area's favorite establishments, including a number of award-winning eateries.

The origin of Tin Wah Noodle Co. dates back to 1940s. The exact date when the business first opened in San Francisco is unclear. A photograph taken by San Francisco's famous photographer, Fred Lyon, dated 1948 shows Tin Wah Noodle Co. at 870 Washington Street in San Francisco's Chinatown. The photo is published in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960."

Company archives show Tin Wah Noodle Co. at 805 Stockton Street in Chinatown. According to Polk's Crocker-Langley San Francisco City Directory, Tin Wah Noodle Co. moved from Washington Street to Stockton Street around 1964. The business relocated to 1950 Innes Ave. #2 next to San Francisco Produce Market in the Bayview neighborhood in 1982.

The original owner of the Tin Wah Noodle Co. was Gin Lee. It was sold to Edward, Ruth and Gabriel Tom around 1976. Chang C. Tuan and Winnie Tuan took over the business around 1979. When the Tuans retired in 1994, husband and wife team Aaron and Connie Kong purchased the noodle shop and continued it as a family business. Aaron's father, Man Kaw Gong, worked at Tin Wah Noodle Co. in the 1980s.

The current owners, The Kong Family, have a long history with the business and the craft of noodle-making. When the Kongs purchased the business, Tin Wah Noodle Co. only specialized in egg noodles and a handful of Taiwanese style pasta and wrappers. Aaron and his son Peter transformed Tin Wah into one of the first noodle factories in Northern California to make fresh soba, udon, ramen and gyoza. The company makes fresh, artisanal noodles using traditional noodle-making methods passed down by generations. Each batch is concoction of a family recipe and rolled out in vintage machinery that require a master noodle-maker to adjust its proper

thickness and texture. Tin Wah Noodle Co. still operates the same way it always has: fresh noodles made to order and a delicious taste in every bite.

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. has been in continuous operation since husband and wife team, Aaron and Connie Kong, purchased the business in 1994.

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

Noodle-making has been a family tradition for the Kong Family. Prior to immigrating to the United States, the Kongs owned a noodle shop in Hong Kong. Aaron's grandfather, Chip T. Gong, and father, Man Kaw Gong, made fresh egg noodles, wonton noodles and rice noodles daily. Aaron grew up working in the noodle shop and helped with deliveries.

When Aaron's father, Man Kaw Gong, came to the U.S., he continued the trade at Tin Wah Noodle Co. in the 1980s. At the time, Chang C. Tuan and Winnie Tuan owned the business. Fast forward a couple of years, Aaron and his family immigrated to the United States and purchased another noodle factory, Mon Sing Noodle Co. Learning that the Tuans wanted to retire, Aaron and Connie then purchased Tin Wah Noodle Co. in 1994. The father and son team, Man Kaw and Aaron, managed daily operations while Connie handled administrative duties for the business.

Over the years, Aaron and Connie's children, Peter and Ginger Kong, began helping out at the shop. After school and weekends, Peter followed Aaron on deliveries while Ginger assembled and packed orders for deliveries. Eventually, Peter learned family recipes to making noodles. As a fourth-generation noodle maker, Peter would later carry on the family tradition and take over operations at Tin Wah Noodle Co. Customers are very fond of the Kong family, watching both Peter and Ginger grow up in the business.

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

The business ownership of Tin Wah Noodle Co. from 1940s-1990s is unclear. The ownership history is as follows:

1940s? to 1975?:	Gin Lee
1976 to 1979?:	Edw, Ruth, and Gabriel Tom
1979? to 1994:	Chang C. Tuan and Winnie Tuan
1994 to 2018:	Aaron H. Kong and Connie L. Kong
2018 to Present:	Connie L. Kong

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.

There is a photograph of Tin Wah Noodle Co. dated 1948 that was published in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960."



A digital version of picture can be found at this link:
<https://www.flysfo.com/sites/default/files/003.jpg>

Other 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.

Tin Wah Noodle Co. is currently located at 1950 Innes Ave. #2 in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. The building is an industrial warehouse built in 1964.

Prior to its current location, Tin Wah Noodle Co. was located at 870 Washington Street in San Francisco Chinatown in the 1940s. The mixed-use building is constructed of masonry/concrete and built in 1907. It has a loading area to the basement similar to many commercial spaces in Chinatown.

From company archives, an old business stamp shows Tin Wah Noodle Co. at 805 Stockton Street location in Chinatown. The dates of the business at this location are unknown.

CRITERION 2

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. represents family, from the family making the noodles to families enjoying them. Customers are part of the Tin Wah family. Customers travel from afar to order Tin Wah's noodles, especially during the holidays. Perhaps, Tin Wah's noodles are reminiscence of something their mom used to make at family gatherings. In many cultures, noodles represent long life. Long-time customers come back to purchase noodles for their birthdays. For the Kongs, it is a time to catch up with old friends.

Tin Wah Noodle Co. manufactures Taiwanese and Japanese style noodles. Tin Wah was one of the first noodle factories in Northern California to make fresh ramen, udon, soba and gyoza. Their products are different than the noodles at their sister company, Mon Sing Noodle Co., which manufactures egg noodles, Asian noodles, wonton wraps, potsticker wraps, eggroll wraps, sui mai wraps, Middle Eastern pasta and Italian pasta. The artisanal family-owned noodle shop makes fresh noodles using recipes passed down through generations.

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. has been a humble part of everyday lives. Tin Wah's noodles are served throughout Bay Area restaurants including some award-winning restaurants. Knowing that a hot bowl of noodles can warm a customer is joy for the owners of Tin Wah Noodle Co.

Tin Wah Noodle Co. and its sister company Mon Sing Noodle Co., also owned by the Kong Family, are possibly two of the oldest noodle factories in San Francisco still in business. Tin Wah dates back to the 1940s – at least 1948 – and Mon Sing was established in 1932. Mon Sing Noodle Co. was inducted into San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry on March 11, 2019.

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

A photograph of Tin Wah Noodle Co. was featured in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960," published September 16, 2014. The picture appeared in a SFO Museum Exhibit titled "Fred Lyon: San Francisco Yesterday 1948-1958" from March 2013 to May 2013 and in an article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "San Francisco during the 40s and 50s, captured by photographer Fred Lyon" dated July 23, 2016.

A family member of the previous owner of Tin Wah Noodle Co. recounted his experience working at the noodle shop in Edmund S. Wong's book "Growing Up in San Francisco's Chinatown: Boomer Memories: Boomer Memories from Noodle Rolls to Apple Pie," published February 5, 2018.

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

Tin Wah's previous owner, Winnie Tuan, is the author of the book, *The Wok Way*.

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. donates noodles to communities in time of need. During the Santa Rosa fires in 2017, the Kong Family donated noodles to restaurants serving distressed neighborhoods.

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. caters to wholesalers, restaurants and culinary institutions throughout the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Through these institutions, the business serves generations of families. Once available only in San Francisco's Chinatown, Tin Wah's noodles have reached the Greater San Francisco Bay Area and other states through increased manufacturing and distribution. Their noodles have transcended beyond Asian culture.

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

The vintage machinery used to make the noodles are culturally significant. The mixers, rollers and cutters were passed down through generations of artisanal noodle makers at Tin Wah Noodle Co. Made in the United States and in Asia, the vintage machinery is no longer in production. The craft of operating these heavy machines requires a master noodle maker to orchestrate the gear settings by the feel of the dough. Unlike automated machinery, the vintage machinery gives Tin Wah's noodle makers full control to the quality of the final product. Each batch of noodles is heavily dependent on the skillfulness of its noodle maker, understanding the texture and characteristics of each type of noodle. The artisanal noodle maker must know which direction and how many times each noodle sheet is folded and pressed through the rollers to create the chewiness and bite of the noodle.

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

Tin Wah Noodle Co. is a respected family-owned establishment. Using recipes passed down generations, Tin Wah's noodles are a favorite with chefs at heart. Their specialty noodles can only be found at Tin Wah. It would be a lost craft to the culinary community without their artisanal noodles.

CRITERION 3

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

Tin Wah's specialty noodles and generations of customers speak volume on its business. The company manufactures Taiwanese and Japanese style noodles and wraps using traditional noodle-making methods rolled out in vintage machinery.

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)

Tin Wah Noodle Co. is committed to maintaining the noodle-making tradition that defines the business. Noodle-making is an art form. Tin Wah Noodle Co. takes pride in producing fresh noodles using traditional methods. Recipes passed from generations cannot be replicated by others. They continue to share their passion in noodle-making and reintroducing old-style noodles to a new generation.

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.).

From the outside, Tin Wah Noodle Co. may just be an ordinary industrial warehouse next to the San Francisco Produce Market. The magic happens inside. Upon entrance, you see pallets of fresh ingredients in a clean environment. You can hear the Kongs and their trained staff working meticulously in the workroom, making hundreds of pounds of noodles daily.

d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30years; 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.

Tin Wah Noodle Co. has been family-owned since the Kongs purchased the business in 1989. As described, the Kongs has an extensive history in noodle-making dated back to Aaron's grandfather and father in Hong Kong.

Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)

Business License Certificate, 1997-98.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO — OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR					
ACCOUNT NO.		CLASS	DESCRIPTION	STARTING DATE	EXPIRATION DATE
[REDACTED]		H22	FOOD MKT/MFG/PROC.	09/01/97	08/31/98
BUSINESS LOCATION			TYPE		
1950 INNES AV #2					
OWNER	KONG, CONNIE L		DATE ISSUED 09/19/97		
DBA	TIN WAH NOODLE CO.		** THIS IS NOT A BILL **		
CARE OF MAILING ADDRESS	1950 INNESS AVE				
CITY-STATE	SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94124		RICHARD A. SULLIVAN TAX COLLECTOR		

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
PLEASE POST CONSPICUOUSLY AT THE BUSINESS LOCATION

B 101 308XX (02/95)

Department of Public Health Permit to Operate, 1994.

PERMIT TO OPERATE

AND CERTIFICATE OF SANITARY INSPECTION

Issued according to provisions of the San Francisco Health Code

B 14833

AUTHORIZING conduct of the following class of
FOOD PRODUCT AND MARKETING ESTABLISHMENT

Business: Noodle Factory ISSUED June 20, 1994

Name and Address below:

Connie L. Kong
DBA: TIN WAH NOODLE CO.
1950 Innes Avenue #2
San Francisco, CA 94124

FOI/132773

THIS PERMIT TO OPERATE MAY BE REVOKED OR SUSPENDED FOR CAUSE AND IS NOT TRANSFERABLE. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP must be reported immediately.

Dan Furgason
Inspector

Lawrence Pugh
Principal Inspector

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Environmental Health
City and County of San Francisco

Ben Gale
Bureau Chief

Janet R. Williams
Director of Public Health

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - 101 GROVE STREET - SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

8310-108 5/92 Display this Permit prominently. This margin may be trimmed for standard 6 x 8 frame. CT609 - 3 (oc)

Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)

Exterior photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co. dated 1948 by Fred Lyon:



<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/San-Francisco-during-the-40s-and-50s-according-8385335.php#photo-2323850>

Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)

Exterior photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co., 1994. (Photo by Aaron Kong)



Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)



Image capture: Sep 2017 © 2019 Google

Current exterior photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co., Dec. 2018 (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)

Current exterior photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co. signage (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Current interior photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co. signage

The Kong Family (from left to right: Peter Kong, Connie Kong, and Ginger Kong) pictured with Fred Lyon's 1948 photo of Tin Wah Noodle Co.; courtesy of Fred Lyon.



Artisanal noodle-maker cutting pasta sheets by hand (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Vintage noodle cutter (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Vintage mixer (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Vintage roller (Photo by Ginger Kong)



Aaron and Connie Kong at the noodle shop



Three generations of noodle-makers

(From left to right: Peter Kong, Man-Kaw Gong, and Aaron Kong)



Label: Tin Wah Noodle Co. Enriched Egg Noodle

大 人 麵 華 天 山
TIN WAH NOODLE CO.
805 STOCKTON ST., SAN FRANCISCO CAL. 94108
TEL: 362-6209
ENRICHED EGG NOODLE
麵、蛋、全
INGREDIENTS: ENRICHED FLOUR, WATER, FRESH
EGGS, SALT, STARCH, SODIUM BENZOATE (BEN-
ZOATE OF SODA ADDED AS A PRESERVATIVE)
NET. WT. 10 LB.

Address Stamp: 805 Stockton Street Location

天 華 麵 廠 山
TIN WAH NOODLE Co.
805 Stockton St.
San Francisco, Calif.
Phone: DO2-6209

Address Stamp: 1950 Innes Street Location

Tin Wah Noodle Co
1950 Innes Avenue, #2
San Francisco, CA 94124
Tel: (415) 648-4606

Legacy Business Registry | Application: Tin Wah Noodle Co. (天華麵廠)

Packaging (Current)



Flyer (Current)



Filing Date: June 20, 2019
Case No.: 2019-013682LBR
Business Name: Tin Wah Noodle Company
Business Address: 1950 Innes Avenue #2
Zoning: PDR-2 (Core Production, Distribution, Repair) Zoning District
80-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 5250/005
Applicant: Ginger Kong, Daughter of Business Owner
1950 Innes Avenue #2
San Francisco, CA 94080
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Located In: District 10
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Jeff Joslin – (415) 575-9117
jeff.joslin@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Tin Wah Noodle Company is currently located in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. Founded sometime in the 1940s, it was originally located in two different storefronts in Chinatown, including 870 Washington Street and 805 Stockton Street, before moving to the Bayview. It is a noodle manufacturer specializing in Taiwanese and Japanese style noodles and wraps with a current product line of ramen, udon, soba and gyoza. The business caters to wholesalers, restaurants and culinary institutions throughout the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Their noodles are served in some of the Bay Area's favorite establishments, including several award-winning eateries.

The current owners, The Kong Family, have a long history with the business and the craft of noodle-making. Tin Wah Noodle Company has been in continuous operation since husband and wife team, Aaron and Connie Kong, purchased the business in 1994. When the Kongs purchased the business, Tin Wah Noodle Company only specialized in egg noodles and a handful of Taiwanese-style pasta and wrappers. The company now makes a range of fresh, artisanal noodles using traditional noodle-making methods passed down through the generations. The vintage machinery used to make the noodles are culturally significant and no longer in production. The mixers, rollers and cutters were passed down from artisanal noodle makers at Tin Wah Noodle Company made in the United States and in Asia. The craft of operating these heavy machines requires a master noodle maker.

The business is located on the north side of Innes Avenue in the Bayview neighborhood. It is within a PDR-2 (Core Production, Distribution, Repair) Zoning District and an 80-X Height and Bulk District.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

The business was founded in the 1940s, but the exact date is unknown. According to the applicant,

a photograph taken by a famous San Francisco photographer, Fred Lyon, dated 1948 shows Tin Wah Noodle Company at 870 Washington Street in San Francisco's Chinatown. The photo is published in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960."

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

Yes. Tin Wah Noodle Company qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. Tin Wah Noodle Company has operated continuously in San Francisco for 70 years.
- ii. Tin Wah Noodle Company has contributed to the history and identity of San Francisco.
- iii. Tin Wah Noodle Company 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. Tin-Wah Noodle Co. is significant for its associations with the noodle-making industry in the Bay Area. It is also significant for its associations with Taiwanese and Japanese cuisine. Additionally, the vintage machinery used to hand-craft the noodles is culturally significant and no longer in production.

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

No.

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

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "B" (Historic Resource Present) because of the building's age (constructed 1964).

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. A photograph of Tin Wah Noodle Company was featured in Fred Lyon's book "San Francisco, Portrait of a City: 1940-1960," published September 16, 2014. The picture appeared in an SFO Museum Exhibit titled "Fred Lyon: San Francisco Yesterday 1948-1958" from March 2013 to May 2013 and in an article in the San Francisco Chronicle titled "San Francisco during the 40s and 50s, captured by photographer Fred Lyon" dated July 23, 2016. A family member of the previous owner of Tin Wah Noodle Company recounted his experience working at the noodle shop in Edmund S. Wong's book "Growing Up in San Francisco's Chinatown: Boomer Memories: Boomer Memories from Noodle Rolls to Apple Pie," published February 5, 2018.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- 1950 Innes Avenue #2

Recommended by Applicant

- Production of a variety of artisanal Taiwanese and Japanese noodles and wraps
- Use of traditional noodle-making techniques, machinery, and recipes
- Use of fresh ingredients

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: JULY 17, 2019

Case No.: 2019-013682LBR
Business Name: Tin Wah Noodle Company
Business Address: 1950 Innes Avenue #2
Zoning: PDR-2 (Core Production, Distribution, Repair) Zoning District
80-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 5250/005
Applicant: Ginger Kong, Daughter of Business Owner
1950 Innes Avenue #2
San Francisco, CA 94080
Nominated By: Supervisor Shamann Walton
Located In: District 10
Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625
shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Jeff Joslin - (415) 575-9117
jeff.joslin@sfgov.org

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ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR TIN WAH NOODLE COMPANY CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1950 INNES AVENUE #2, BLOCK/LOT 5250/005.

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 July 17, 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 Tin Wah Noodle Company 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 Tin Wah Noodle Company.

Location(s):

- *1950 Innes Avenue #2*

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- *Production of a variety of artisanal Taiwanese and Japanese noodles and wraps*
- *Use of traditional noodle-making techniques, machinery, and recipes*
- *Use of fresh ingredients*

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 2019-013682LBR to the Office of Small Business July 17, 2019.

Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: