



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 28, 2016

CASTRO COUNTRY CLUB

Application No.: LBR-2015-16-025
Business Name: Castro Country Club
Business Address: 4058 18th Street
District: District 8
Applicant: Billy Lemon, Operations Manager
Nomination Date: April 6, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Castro Country Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit clean-and-sober coffeehouse/meeting place whose mission is "to provide a clean & sober gathering place in the Castro neighborhood, and to help foster a strong, healthy and diverse recovery community in San Francisco." The Castro Country Club, located on 18th Street between Castro and Hartford streets, was founded in 1983 as a social alternative to the gay bars and also served as the first social coffee house in the Castro. As alcoholism and drug addiction has disproportionately affected the LGBTQ community, it was and continues to be a place for gay men and lesbians to gather for fellowship without alcohol or drugs. Upon its founding, the Castro Country Club quickly became a sober destination in the neighborhood which eventually expanded with the onset and spread of the AIDS epidemic when the space became a second home for men and women living with and impacted by AIDS. The Castro Country Club has become a place for those who are part of, or friends of those, in a 12-step recovery program could gather and help to keep each other safe, clean, sober and supported. The organization operates five programs meant to help people on their journeys to recovery and sobriety that include: Meetings, Unstructured Peer Counseling, Job Training/Skills Building, Social Support and Fellowship, and Fine Arts/Performance Art. The Castro Country Club also hosts 12-step meetings and continues to work hard to support those seeking sobriety and to offer solace to those seeking a comforting and supportive community. The Castro Country Club's ultimate goal is "not only to continue to serve the LGBTQ recovery community, but the community at large by providing a safe space in the heart of the Castro District; a safe space where all can seek wisdom, serenity, courage and joy for many years to come."

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

4058 18th Street from 1983-Present (33 years)

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



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

Yes, the applicant has contributed to the Castro neighborhood's history and identity.

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 Castro Country Club is associated with the tradition of supporting and offering services to those seeking sobriety.
- The Castro Country Club has contributed to the Castro community's history and identity by continuing to help people achieve sobriety by providing a safe refuge for people in recovery to help each other. Castro Country Club continues to be a vital part of the Castro community through its continual work to help others through providing a space of support, positivity, and caring.
- The 1901 property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a "Category B Property" that requires further review per the Planning Department's CEQA review procedures for historical resources.
- The Castro Country Club is mentioned in the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
 - Bay Area Reporter, 5/1/2014, "Castro sober space reopens," by Sean Piverger.

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

Yes, the Castro Country Club is committed to maintaining the physical features that define its tradition of being a social gathering place and offering services for those seeking help and support on their journeys to sobriety.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

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

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Newly renovated meeting room.
- Spacious back patio and café space.
- Location in the Castro District.
- The strong tradition of being a supportive, safe and positive space for those seeking help with recovery and addiction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Castro Country Club currently located at 4058 18th Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager
Legacy Business Program



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 28, 2016

CASTRO COUNTRY CLUB

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

Application No.: LBR-2015-16-025
Business Name: Castro Country Club
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ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR CASTRO COUNTRY CLUB, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 4058 18TH STREET.

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 28, 2016, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

BE IT RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Castro Country Club in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Castro Country Club:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Newly renovated meeting room.
- Spacious back patio and café space.
- Location in the Castro District.
- The strong tradition of being a supportive, safe and positive space for those seeking help with recovery and addiction.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on November 28, 2016.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –



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1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
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**Legacy
Business
Registry**

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2015-16-025
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District: District 8
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Nomination Date: April 6, 2016
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CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years? X Yes No

4058 18th Street from 1983-Present (33 years)

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

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

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 3, 2016

Richard Kurylo
Manager, Legacy Business Program



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

SCOTT WIENER
威善高

April 6, 2016

Re: Nomination of Castro Country Club to the Legacy Business Registry

Dear Director Regina Dick Endrizzi:

I'm writing to nominate the Castro Country Club for the Legacy Business Registry. Since it first opened its doors in April 1983, the Castro Country Club has helped countless people achieve sobriety by providing a safe refuge for people in recovery to help each other. The volunteer-based Club operates a Peet's café with free wifi, a welcoming meeting room, and a spacious back patio open to the public from early morning until late at night, 365 days a year.

The Castro Country Club is a touchstone for LGBT sober people in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, and would benefit greatly from being a part of San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Wiener".

Scott Wiener
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

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:		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
		()
		EMAIL:
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
APPLICANT’S NAME		
<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business		
APPLICANT’S TITLE		
APPLICANT’S ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
		()
		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
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		

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
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		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.

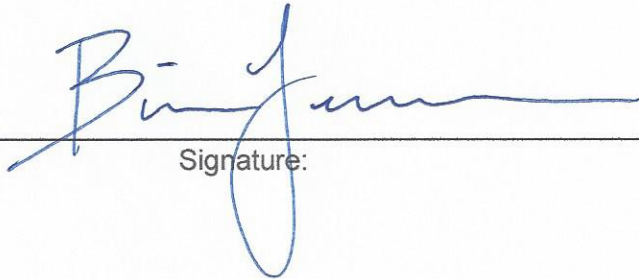
- I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- I attest that the Office of Labor Standards 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.

Billy Lemon 7/5/2016

Name (Print):

Date:

Signature:



Castro County Club Historical Narrative

Restaurateur Steve Harris founded the Castro Country Club (CCC) in April of 1983 as a social alternative to the gay bars. It was a place where gay men and lesbians could gather for fellowship without alcohol or drugs. It also served as the first social coffee house in the Castro District. The Castro District is now home to over ten commercial coffeehouses. Data continues to show that alcoholism and drug addiction disproportionately affect the LGBTQ community, and, unsurprisingly, the CCC quickly became a neighborhood clean and sober destination that was neither a bar nor a nightclub. As the AIDS epidemic ravaged the gay and bisexual men's community in San Francisco, the role of the CCC expanded. The CCC became a second home for the men and women dealing with the immediacy of those living with and impacted by the AIDS epidemic.

Steve Harris passed away in 1988, leaving the CCC in the capable hands of his friend Joe Healy. Healy was an openly gay man who was also a recovering alcoholic. Under Healy's guidance, the CCC began to pivot more explicitly to a clean and sober destination in the Castro District of San Francisco. The CCC became a place where those who were either a part of, or friends to those in a 12-step recovery fellowship, could gather, congregate, and help to keep each other safe, clean and sober, and well supported.

In addition to managing the CCC, Joe Healy worked as a counselor at Baker Places Inc., a local non-profit agency. Joe remained a vital community leader in San Francisco's public health response to substance abuse, mental health, and LGBTQ and the HIV/AIDS crises. To this day, Baker Places continues to be a substance abuse/mental health /LGBTQ/HIV&AIDS non-profit provider, specializing in residential and aftercare counseling services helping substance abusers to recover.

"Joe possessed not only vision but also a sense of our common humanity and when those characteristics come together in the same person it is nothing less than inspirational." – J. Vernick Baker Places Inc.

From 1988 through 1993, with only a modest stipend for actually managing the CCC, Joe Healy kept the CCC stable and relevant. His decision to leave the world of social services and enter the priesthood signaled an end to his tenure at the CCC. This decision also saw the club's fiscal sponsorship and titular management shift from an individual to an institution, namely Baker Places Inc., under the guidance of Jonathan Vernick, the Executive Director of Baker Places.

With ownership of the club now in a trust and under the direct supervision of Jonathan Vernick, Baker Places maintained their initial agreement of fiscal sponsorship from 1993 until 1999. During this period of time, Baker Places Inc. hired managers for the CCC as well as underwrote all of the club's expenses, which roughly averaged \$45,000 annually. Even with revenue from the CCC's barebones cafe and lite refreshment bar, the club struggled to cover even half of their operating expenses. Eventually, due to economic conditions, Jonathan Vernick and Baker Places Inc. came to the decision that they could no longer remain the fiscal sponsor for the CCC. While the value of maintaining a safe space for the clean and sober LGBTQ community was clear, the financial wherewithal to maintain and support the club was financially untenable, especially since the CCC was not funded by any government, civic grant, nor any other funding stream outside its café revenue.

Regrettably, in 1999, the CCC closed its doors at 4058 18th Street ending 16 continuous years of serving the LGBTQ clean and sober community. This closure lasted five-months, but the loss of the club spurred immediate community action. While shuttered for those five months, the neighborhood's sober community continued to congregate on the steps of the CCC holding impromptu 12 step meetings. This eventually led a group of clean and sober activists and community leaders, to convene a community forum with the hope of generating a groundswell of community support to reopen and renovate the club. Led by such notable community leaders as Dan Cusick, Hank Wilson, Dr. Steven Tierney, Eric Ciasullo, Tony Robbins, and Ric West, this small group of individuals was able to convince Baker Places to again reopen and fiscally sponsor the CCC, but with the caveat that at some point, the CCC would need to critically re-conceptualize its business model.

Dan Cusick was then named manager of the club. Cusick, a long time AIDS activist and a highly visible member of the San Francisco LGBTQ recovery community, operated the club from 2000 until his passing in 2009. Under Cusick's leadership, the CCC undertook its first all volunteer renovation. The CCC at this time was able to recognize the need to provide a space for the increasing number of LGBTQ-inclusive 12-step meetings and so it created a dedicated space to rent out to 12-step meetings. In doing so, the CCC created a new, and critical source of income for the club's operating expenses, which included rent and utilities. Dan Cusick passed in 2009. Worthy of note, Dan Cusick, Steve Harris and Joe Healy's contributions to the life and success of the club are memorialized on the steps of the CCC.

Succeeding Dan Cusick, Terry Beswick, yet another leader in both the recovery and HIV/AIDS world, assumed the role of manager. Under Beswick's tenure, the club maintained its mission to serve the LGBTQ recovery community and then some. The number of 12-step meetings at the club grew from 3 to over 30. Additionally, the core volunteer group who helped staff and run the CCC stabilized and then expanded under Beswick's leadership. The club expanded its hours of operation as well as the number of consistent volunteers who worked as baristas and "docents" to the recovery community.

Because of a death in the family that owned the CCC's building, the property was put on the market in 2010; the future of the CCC was jeopardized once again. In response to this imminent threat, under Terry Beswick's leadership, the CCC Community responded to the crisis with action. A Community Advisory Board was created, at first to begin a campaign to raise money in an attempt to buy the building, but it soon morphed into a de facto Board of Directors which began to assume the role of helping to shape and protect the future of the club. The CCC at this point launched the "Keep The Steps In The Castro" capital campaign, with the intention to raise enough money to buy the building. In the event that buying the building could not be accomplished, the CCC sought to either relocate the club or renovate the current site. Renovation was dependent on the ability to negotiate its residency in the same space with a new landlord.

While it was unable to raise sufficient funds to buy the building, with the support of the community, and District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener of the City and County of San Francisco, the CCC was able to negotiate a 10-year lease with the new owner of the property. Finally, the CCC was also able to professionally renovate the space to become not just an inviting, but fiscally solvent cafe and site for 12-step meetings.

It was during this troubling time that Baker Places announced it could no longer shoulder what had grown to be a \$50,000+ annual deficit, and needed to let go of the financial liability the CCC had become. Furthermore, they could no longer assume fiscal sponsorship. Thankfully, the Advisory Board rose to the challenge, and found a new fiscal sponsor in The San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The

relationship with The San Francisco AIDS Foundation was predicated on the CCC developing and executing a budget that both kept the doors to the Club open and supported the hiring of at least one full-time staff person. Several major grants that the CCC applied for, and received, helped jump-start this new era of self-determination and autonomy.

Now in its fourth decade of service to the LGBTQ community, the CCC celebrated its 30th anniversary on April 1, 2013. Today the CCC is self-supporting and governed by said Advisory Board. The budget has grown to nearly \$400,000.

The CCC organization as a whole has worked hard in recent years to professionalize, build a strong infrastructure, and develop into an organization that can continue to grow and serve the LGBTQ Community. Funding to support the CCC programs comes from over 100 monthly community donors, grants, café revenue, merchandise sales, fundraisers, meeting space rental revenue, and sales of fine art.

With the departure of Terry Beswick in February of 2016, the CCC began the search for a replacement in the form of an Executive Director. Two full time employees, 60 volunteers, and a 14-member advisory board currently manage the CCC operations.

“The club, in my view, is the fundamental example of what community organizations should be about. It’s not about the funding that you get. It’s about an organic institute in the community.” – J. Vernick (Bay Area Reporter 06/06/10)

The CCC currently operates five programs that serve the community and the CCC mission to provide, “...a clean & sober gathering place for all people and a home for the queer recovery community. We endeavor to be a space where all can seek wisdom, serenity, courage and joy.”

The five CCC programs are Meetings, Unstructured Peer Counseling, Job Training/Skills Building, Social Support and Fellowship, and Fine Art/Performance Art.

Over 40 12-step meetings a week call the Castro Country Club home, and these groups form the core of our programs. Our newly renovated meeting room holds up to 60 people, and as our groups average about 20 participants per meeting, the Castro Country Club estimates that it hosts approximately 40,000 attendees annually. Each group that uses the space is self-governing. About 1/3 are Alcoholics Anonymous, 1/3 are Crystal Meth Anonymous, and the remainder are Narcotics Anonymous, Al Anon, Overeaters Anonymous, Food Addicts Anonymous, Under-earners Anonymous, Codependents Anonymous, Refuge Recovery and the one and only Heroin Anonymous meeting in San Francisco.

Unstructured Peer Counseling also occurs daily. During peak hours, the café back deck and meeting room are often full with people holding one on one meetings, whether formally studying 12-step literature or simply chatting over a cup of coffee and a sandwich with their sponsor or peers. At the club, there is no stigma attached to being LGBTQ or HIV positive. These programs of recovery work because each alcoholic or addict identifies with another who has had similar experiences and recovered. The club provides a clean and welcoming space, refreshments, and supportive information and resource materials. There is no place like it in the neighborhood or elsewhere in the city that specifically caters to the LGBTQ community and its allies; members of the community consider the CCC a safe space to speak freely, discover shared values, and find comfort and security in a supportive environment.

"It's not just a building. It's not just an address. It's a Community" Stephen Henry, 25 years sober (SFGATE April 25th 2010)

The Job Training/Skills Building program is how many learn the skills necessary to re-enter the work force. While some newcomers to recovery have managed to hold on to their jobs and housing, many others have been unemployed for some time, and may be homeless or marginally housed. People often feel hopeless and unemployable, and are challenged by low self-esteem and depression. The CCC gives them social structure and a place to be of service to the community, while also learning valuable job skills, such as learning the skillset for becoming a Barista, cash handling and reporting, customer service, information referral, team building and cooperation with co-workers.

Social Support and Fellowship are important to the community we serve. Building and maintaining social structure and connections has been shown to be key in making and sustaining healthy life choices. The CCC supports these connections by sponsoring numerous athletic, artistic, social and social service events. The CCC sponsors a softball team that plays for San Francisco Gay Softball League, provides a safe and sober space at SF Pride, holiday potlucks, summer barbeques, white water rafting trips, and sobriety anniversary celebrations. This component of the Club's community role cannot be underestimated for it is a big piece of the puzzle for people looking to change their lives for the better.

The newest program to be recognized at the CCC is the Fine Art/Performance Art Program. The CCC has been turned into a Fine Art Gallery providing an opportunity for the LGBTQ Recovery Community and our allies to showcase their talents, develop their work into a gallery show, and sell their art. Variety shows are held from time to time, allowing many performers to reconnect with their entertainer selves and showcase their various performance talents. Mascara, a monthly drag show benefiting the CCC was born as a fundraising effort as part of the "Keep The Steps In The Castro" capital campaign. Mascara, now in its 7th year has given many established and new performers in the LGBTQ community an opportunity to showcase their performance art talents, express themselves, and raise much needed funds for the CCC.

The CCC has helped countless thousands rebuild their lives, including the current staff, the entire advisory board and all of our volunteers.

"I consider myself blessed and fortunate enough to be among those whose lives have been positively impacted by the CCC. Without the opportunities afforded me by the CCC I would never have found my way to recovery or been able to find such a strong sense of community. The CCC is without question a legacy. The passing on of a mission to always keep the doors open for our community is something the Castro Country Club holds sacred." – Billy Lemon, CCC Assistant Manager

The goal of the Castro Country Club Community is not only to continue to serve the LGBTQ recovery community, but the community at large by providing a safe space in the heart of the Castro District; a safe space where all can seek wisdom, serenity, courage and joy for many years to come.



CASTRO Country Club
A Clean and Sober Social Space

CASTRO
Country Club
Open to Public
Reservations for
special events are
available
Serving food &
drinks
All types of
sober recovery
community
This Club is Pa





In honor of Daniel J. Cusick * 1959-2009
KEEP THE STEPS IN THE CASTRO



WE RESERVE
THE RIGHT
TO REFUSE
SERVICE
TO ANYONE !

THE VENDOR'S BLEND
Peets Coffee & Tea
Major Dickson's

THE VENDOR'S BLEND
Peets Coffee & Tea
Cala Organic Blend

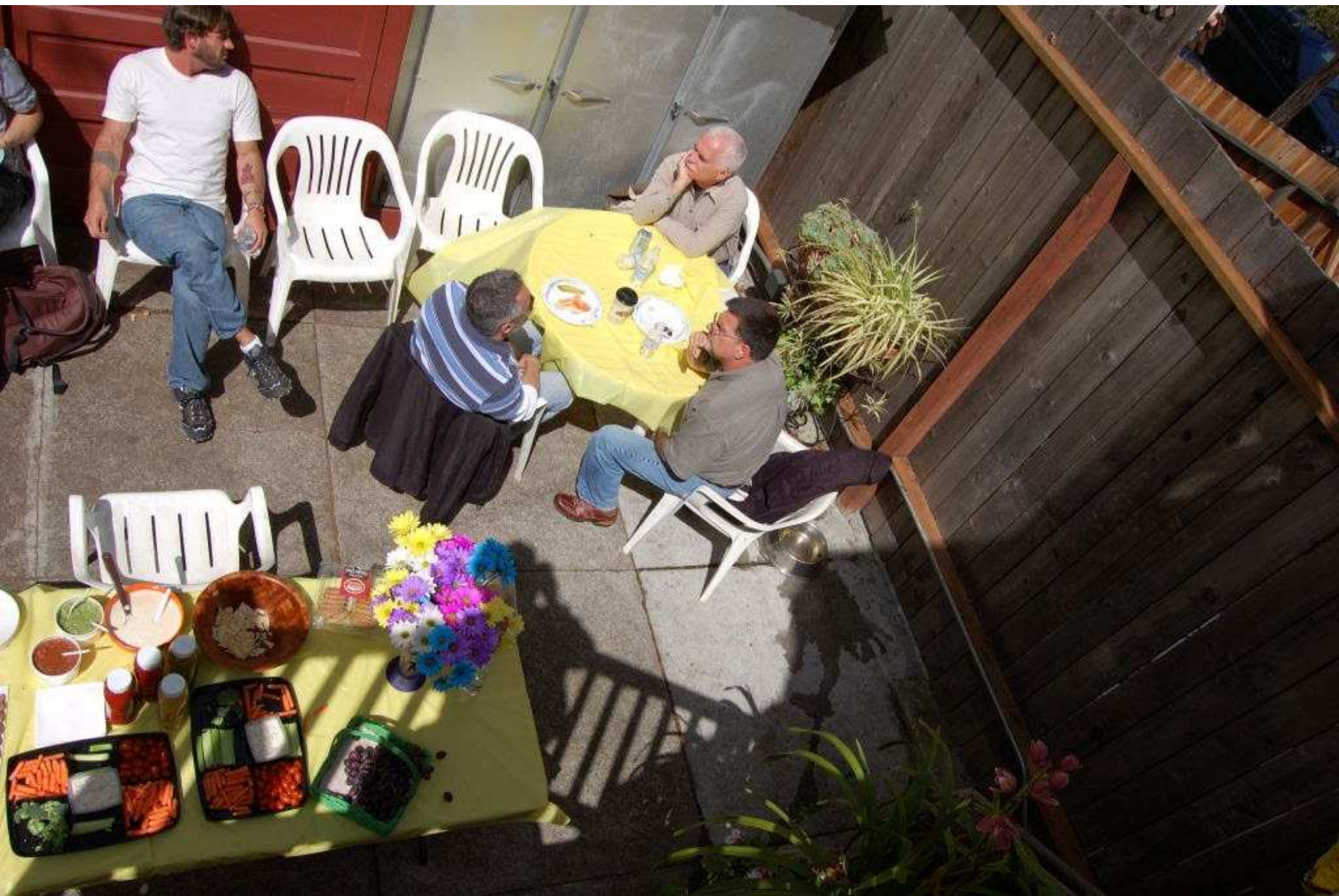
Whole

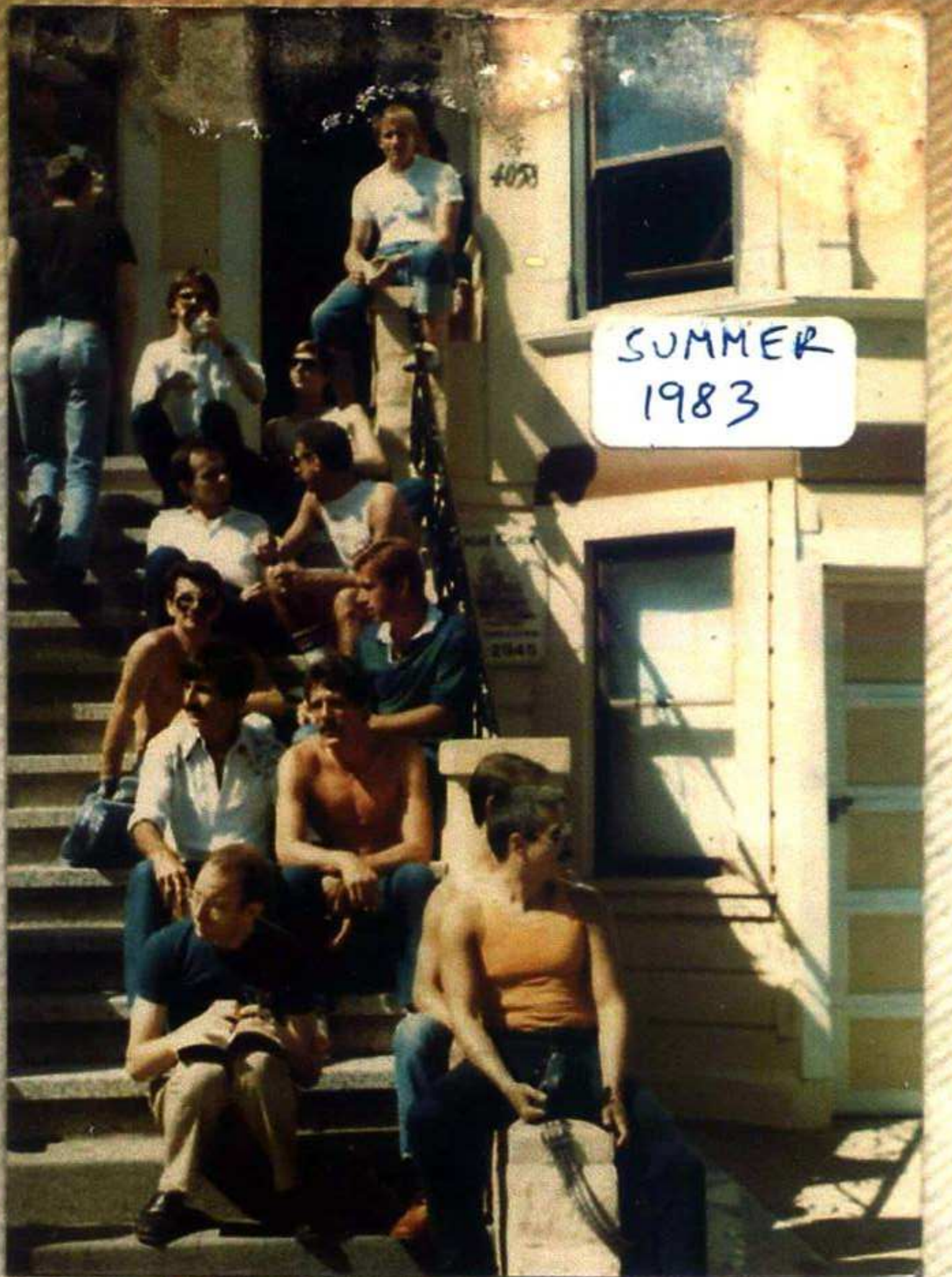
Low-Fat











SUMMER
1983



Castro sober space reopens

by Sean Piverger

On a cool Friday night, the Castro Country Club, a clean and sober house that's located in San Francisco's Castro district, reopened its doors to the public. The event centered on the remodeled house and the 31st anniversary of the nonprofit.

In an e-mail, manager Terry Beswick said that he is happy about the renovation work that was done.

"It feels fantastic. I feel like I am living in a dream every time I walk in the club," Beswick said. "For me personally, it is the culmination of five years of work, and I am very proud of that."

The country club was founded by Steve Harris in 1983. Since then it has been a part of the LGBT community by providing a sanctuary for those who are recovering from drugs and alcohol. Some 35 weekly meetings in 12-step groups are offered to people, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Crystal Meth Anonymous, AI-Anon (a 12-step program for friends and family of alcoholics), Overeaters Anonymous, and Codependents Anonymous.

In addition to unstructured peer counseling the country club also provides job training and skills-building along with social support and fellowship.

"These groups have hundreds of meetings across the city every week," Beswick said. "They are not self-help groups, and they are not treatment professionals. They are about one addict or alcoholic helping another. The only requirement for membership in each of these groups is a desire to stop drinking or using, one day at a time."

The April 25 grand reopening started off with a reception for Don Rizzo's "Shades of Purple" art show followed by an appearance from Cheer San Francisco. Afterwards the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence blessed the house. The blessing took place in the Stuart Morrison Smith Memorial Meeting Room, which was dedicated to the late Stu Smith, a former country club advisory board member and longtime gay community leader who died in February.

In a news release, Beswick said that the place was fully operational and ready for action.

"That includes the cafe, the meeting room, and the new outdoor patio. The grand reopening is our chance to show off the space and the new menu to our community of supporters and to let everyone know that we are open for business," he said.

The country club, which resides in a 1901 Victorian house, had struggled in recent years to remain open. In 2009, the club was in danger of losing its home. During the recession, the house was on the market after the owner died. Although the club raised over \$200,000 in small donations, it was not enough because the house was listed for \$1.7 million. However, help came in the form of a George "Jorge" Maumer, who bought the house for \$1 million and negotiated a 10-year lease with the country club.

It took three months to renovate the house. Space was made because the house wasn't originally built to be a community center. Beswick said that the changes were done "... to better suit the community's needs."

"We spent about \$140,000 on the remodel," Beswick said. "The landlord paid for the retrofit of the building, and our new back deck. We had tens of thousands of dollars of donated materials and labor for the new floors, paint, and fixtures. We raised the money in small individual donations, small and large events, drag shows, garage sales, you name it."

The club still has financial challenges. However, Beswick said that the club will do what it can to keep the place running.

"The operating budget is about \$235,000 in the current fiscal year," Beswick said. "Prior to closing, we were operating at a deficit of about \$4,000 per month, which was draining our reserves. We are expecting that with the remodel and an expanded menu, and growing community support, we will close that gap. The cafe is a central part of the CCC's operations, and I think it is now a beautiful place."

Members of the club's advisory board encouraged people to patronize the cafe.

"Our goal is to have the CCC be fully self-sustaining, but in order for that to become a reality, we need the cafe to be a successful enterprise," advisory board Chair Keith Folger said in a news release. "And for that to happen, we need [the] community to patronize the CCC."

David Diaz and Brandon Stanton said that they are thankful for the steps that they took to get sober.

"[Sobriety] gave me my life back," said Diaz.

"For me it was a matter of life or death. Getting clean has given me my life back," said Stanton.

With proclamations from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), gay state Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), as well as the community to back up the country club, Beswick said that he has high hopes for the future.

"We are survivors," he said. "[W]e've survived AIDS and hepatitis and alcoholism and addiction. We're not too big to fail, but we are too important to fail. The CCC has helped countless people and even if we [lose] the physical space, I have faith that the recovery community is strong and resilient and will continue the work as they do today."

05/01/2014



YEARS
OF
RECOVERY



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Jan Wahl



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THE FOURTH ANNUAL
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Food & Drink • Exhibits • Shows • Music • Dancing • Raffle • Silent Auction • Community Leaders



The Castro Country Club is fiscally sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

All proceeds go to the Castro Country Club.
For more information, visit us at castrocountryclub.org

EVENT SPONSORS



Carlos Perea	1
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Lindsey Tucker	4
Louis Cullen	5

June 20, 2016

To whom it may concern:

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous first introduced me to the Castro Country Club (CCC) in January of 2003. I was new to the San Francisco recovery community and only weeks before had found that my life was out of control and I'd become addicted to crystal methamphetamine. I'd been an addict off and on for over thirty years; I had become HIV positive, unemployed, felt unemployable, friendless, estranged from my family, behind in all my bills, surrounded by drug addicts and drug dealers, and I was in poor health. This all changed when I got sober and was introduced to the CCC.

I wanted my life to be different and I found hope, encouragement, and acceptance at the CCC. The CCC provided a safe space free of drugs and alcohol where I could find like-minded individuals who wanted nothing from me but to help me stay sober and grow spiritually. The CCC was frequented and run by people who had learned to live sober lives and were there to help others like me do the same. I found gay role models for sober living.

Not knowing what to do with my spare time, I spent many hours at the CCC between neighborhood 12-step meetings. The CCC was always open when I needed it, because the CCC was and is open 365 days a year; I needed a place to be safe and not alone daily.

At first I would visit the CCC to have coffee, chat with newly acquired sober friends, read, and play games. Soon I was doing my 12-step work at the club. I knew that the CCC was run by volunteers and I decided to become one. I had found a way to give back to the community, which was giving me so much hope and fellowship. I soon became the volunteer coordinator. At one year, sober, February 5th 2004, the CCC hosted my sobriety celebration. Today I meet there frequently for meetings and to work with others that I sponsor in 12-step programs.

With the help of the CCC and the supportive community I found there, I was able to stabilize my life. A high school dropout at 43 year of age, I returned to school. I earned AA Degrees in Spanish and Arts and Humanities, before graduating with honors from San Francisco State University where I earned my Bachelor of Science in Accounting. In 2014 I earned my Master's Degree in Taxation from Golden Gate University. I spent many hours at the CCC doing my homework and I am forever grateful that the CCC was there for me.

I've seen many lives change for the better at the CCC and I will never forget the role the CCC played in my new sober life. With the help of the CCC I've stayed clean and sober for over 13 years and I've helped others find the same welcoming spirit at the CCC that I found. Over the years, I've watched the CCC change and grow to better serve the LGBT recovery community.

I joined the Castro Country Club Advisory Board in 2013 and today I am the Chair of the Advisory Board. Like those that came before me, I am doing everything I can to make sure that the Castro Country Club remains a safe space for the LGBT recovery community and our allies for many more years to come.

Sincerely,
Carlos Perea
Chair, Castro Country Club Advisory Board

The Castro Country Club

My first visit to the Castro Country Club was during the summer of 1989. I was 27 years old and clean and sober for just over a year. I was in town from Los Angeles to attend my first Living Sober convention. I was struck by the prominent placement of the club in the middle of the gayborhood. In all reality, it was probably the steps full of handsome men that cemented by attraction to the club I had no idea how important the Castro Country Club would be in my life.

Two years later, in the summer of 1991, I rolled into town with all my belongings in a small U-Haul truck. A wave of death from AIDS had swept through my friends and acquaintances in Los Angeles. I needed out, so I came to San Francisco. I was a refugee from Southern California.

After unloading the truck, but before unpacking my boxes, I headed to the club to connect with my fellow clean and sober alcoholics and drug addicts, and to find a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Those steps turned into a life line for me. The Country Club turned into a life boat for me in the turbulent times of the 1990s.

Many of the men I met in my first months and years at the Country Club did not survive the scourge of AIDS as it ravaged the gay community. The Club was ground zero for me, a place I sought recovery from drugs and alcohol, a place I sought solace from the incredible sense of loss, a place I sought soothing for the anger and hopelessness that seemed to crash upon me and my community over and over. Hope. Recovery. Love. Community. I found these things at the Castro Country Club.

I've lived just a couple of blocks down the street from the Country Club for more than 20 years now. I go to at least three meetings a week at the Club. New waves of young (and not so young) gay men, lesbians and transgender people come to the club seeking the same refuge, solace and recovery that I sought 25 years ago.

I went to a meeting at the Country Club tonight. After the meeting, a young man – 31 years-old with 11 days sober, asked if I would be his sponsor. The Club provided a spot for both of us to attend the AA meeting, and a place for us to begin to share our stories, not only of despair and sadness, but of recovery, hope and community. The legacy of the club and of recovery live on.

The Castro Country Club has played a pivotal role in my recovery and my life. It continues to be a lighthouse with a shining beacon for the community, for those seeking the ability to help themselves and for us to help each other. I wish for it to continue to exist so that it may continue to serve people seeking recovery from drugs and alcohol.

Thank You,
James Moore

In July, 1993, I moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles with 2 years and 7 months sobriety. I moved to an apartment on Hartford Street, right around the corner from the Castro Country Club.

What a great sober place to hang-out! It was all men, but it felt safe and cozy. The guys were very friendly, and made me feel welcomed. I was approached by Manager Steve, to work there, for the purpose of bringing women into the Club. I was more than willing, since I felt it was a wonderful way to befriend the SF sober, gay community. I have to say it was an incredible experience. I met so many supportive, friendly, and many long-term sober people.

I worked at CCC for about a year, unfortunately, during the harshest period of the AIDS epidemic. The friends I made, suddenly disappeared from the Club. I would be serving coffee to someone, and they would be gone the next week. I went to many memorials during that period. What impressed me the most, was these friends passed away clean and sober. I was employed as a Clinical Social Worker, in the community, and volunteering at CCC. I became a woman who stepped "up to the plate," to support the gay sober community, talking to those in need. CCC became a "haven" for people to discuss feelings, support each other, and play cards; over a hot/cold beverage.

I have watched the CCC grow in many aspects, throughout the years. Under Manager Terry Beswick, I returned to visiting the CCC. I was present for the money drive, selling the building, and the remodeling. It was wonderful to watch the Club become what it is today. It has become an upscale coffee shop, with an outdoor patio, daily various 12-Step meetings, and drag shows. The meetings are well attended. I, myself, attend many of the AA meetings to support the Club, as well as sustaining my sobriety.

For almost a year now, I have been a volunteer barista for the Club. I work Friday and Saturday, both busy shifts. I am wonderfully supported by the two managers, Billy Lemon, and Louis Cullen. The atmosphere is very friendly, supportive, and willing to help newcomers. I, personally, have helped many people; those who came off the streets, asking about AA, or how to stop drinking. (I now have 25 years and 7 months.) That's my reason for working at the Club: helping others, bring my sponsee's and friends here, and meet with my sponsor.

I felt the environment was safe, back in 1993, and still is safe, in 2016. I'm still working on outreach for the women, to "hang out," or attend a 12 Step meeting. However, women visiting the Club, has drastically improved since 1993. I will continue to support or "be a part of" the CCC, as long as I am living in SF. I truly enjoy helping recovery people, no matter where they are in recovery, and the CCC is a great alternative to drinking in a Castro bar!

Lee Hewitt, LCSW

The Castro Country Club is my home. The first time I ever heard of the club I was newly sober & picking up a fellow who had fought w/his boyfriend & needed a place to crash. I truly couldn't understand why I was providing safe harbor for a guy that belonged to a country club! He quickly schooled me in what kind of a club the CCC was.

The Castro Country Club is part of the foundation on which my recovery is built. I attend about 70% of my weekly meetings at the club. It is the focal point of our celebrations & milestones. I had my one year sobriety watch at the CCC & was surrounded by people that I love. A night I will never forget!

I began my drag career in July 2012 performing at the Mascara Show at the CCC. This was the start of my life as a performer & like many other beginnings, it happened at the club. In 2014 I competed in & won the Miss Castro Country Club Pageant. I then hosted the Mascara Show for a year & raised money for the club every month. That commitment was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It taught me so much & I gained invaluable experience as a performer & in show production. I was extremely proud of the show, the performers & the funds we raised for the CCC. There was a **legacy** of service that the Mascara show created. It was started by my drag mother U-Phoria (Peter Griggs) & I was proud to be part of that legacy & it continues today w/Miss CCC Intensive Claire.

I have also played softball in the SF Gay Softball League for the past 3 years. The CCC sponsors our team & we are the only all sober team in the league. This commitment is an absolute blast. It has helped me grow closer to my fellows/teammates. I have gotten to know them on a completely different level. Just one more gift of sobriety & the Castro Country Club.

I am the sober woman that I am today because the Castro Country Club is such a special place & an integral part of my recovery.

Thank You,

Lindsey Tucker

Louis N Cullen
Volunteer Coordinator
Castro Country Club
415-368-5650
lcullen@castrocountryclub.org

I found the Castro Country Club at a time when I was lost and in search of me, the CCC provided me a safe space to do absolutely nothing in between meetings and meeting with my sponsor. The idea of doing “nothing” was radical to me and I was desperate and willing to take any suggestions that were not my own. Having lived in San Francisco since early 2000, I had a few encounters with the club, but I never understood or appreciated just how important the Castro Country Club is to this community. I received treatment for Alcohol and Crystal Meth addiction at Acceptance Place, and as a requirement for my time there I needed to be of service. Service has always played a key role in my life so it seemed fitting that I began volunteering at the club at 7 months of sobriety. Thursday's 6:30 am to 10:00 was my shift for 2 years, a huge departure for me following years of showing up only on my terms (which sometimes was never) I had an opportunity to reclaim a part of my character that had suffered as a result of my choices. The CCC is special to me because it was a beginning for me, they gave me a chance to show that I could be dependable and trustworthy. It was a key component in me claiming my integrity.

Over the years, the Castro Country Club has served an open laboratory for me to put to practice the principles that working the 12 steps of recovery have provided for me. I've re-learned important social cues, have had many experiences that challenged me to set and live personal boundaries and in turn respect the boundaries of others. I've suffered disappointment and made it to the other side because of the support I've found here. I've celebrated my many victories, my own and others with this amazing community. Here we learn how to have fun without the need for "social lubricants", when I started at the club my self- esteem was fragile at best, it was only through the constant interactions with staff, volunteers and other patrons that I found the room to grow and develop into a fully actualized adult man. Doing estimable acts is what helps one can find and increase self- esteem. Weddings, Sobriety anniversaries, BBQ's, Art Shows, Drag Shows, SF Pride Sober Stage are just a few of the ways that we get to show the new comer who looks to us for guidance how we have fun in sobriety. The last 2+ years, I have had the great fortune to join the staff of the club. It is a true blessing to serve the community daily just as the community has served me.

Filing Date: October 3, 2016
Case No.: 2016-013196LBR
Business Name: Castro Country Club
Business Address: 4058 18th Street
Zoning: NCD (Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial)/
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3582/052
Applicant: Billy Lemon, Operations Manager
4058 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8
Staff Contact: Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

The Castro Country Club (CCC) is a local social organization and club located in the Castro neighborhood that was founded in 1983 as a social alternative to the gay bars and also served as the first social coffee house in the Castro. Located in 18th Street between Castro Street and Hartford Street, CCC is located in 1901 a four-story, mixed-use Queen Anne-style building with ground floor commercial space. As alcoholism and drug addiction has disproportionately affected the LGBTQ community, it was and continues to be a place for gay men and lesbians to gather for fellowship without alcohol or drugs. Upon its founding, the Castro Country Club quickly became a sober destination in the neighborhood which eventually expanded with the onset and spread of the AIDS epidemic when CCC became a second home for men and women living with and impacted by AIDS. The Castro Country Club has become a place for those who are part of, or friends of those in a 12-step recovery program could gather and help to keep each other safe, clean, sober and supported. The organization operates five programs meant to help people on their journeys to recovery and sobriety that include: Meetings, Unstructured Peer Counseling, Job Training/Skills Building, Social Support and Fellowship, and Fine Arts/Performance Art. The CCC also hosts over 40 12-step meetings per week, and continues to work hard to support those seeking sobriety and to offer solace to those seeking a comforting and supportive community. The Castro Country Club's ultimate goal is "not only to continue to serve the LGBTQ recovery community, but the community at large by providing a safe space in the heart of the Castro District; a safe space where all can seek wisdom, serenity, courage and joy for many years to come."

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*
1983
2. *Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?*

Yes, the Castro Country Club qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The Castro Country Club has operated for 33 years.
- ii. The Castro Country Club has contributed to the Castro community's history and identity by continuing to help people achieve sobriety by providing a safe refuge for people in recovery to help each other. CCC continues to be a vital part of the Castro community through its continual work to help others through providing a space of support, positivity, and caring.
- iii. The Castro Country Club is committed to maintaining the physical features that define its tradition of being a social gathering place and offering services for those seeking help and support on their journeys to sobriety.

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

The business is associated with the tradition of supporting and offering services to those seeking sobriety.

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

No. The 1901 property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a "Category B Property" that requires further review per the Planning Department's CEQA review procedures for historical resources.

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

No.

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

Yes. The Castro Country Club is mentioned in the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco.

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

Yes. Bay Area Reporter, 5/1/2014, "Castro sober space reopens," by Sean Piverger.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

- 4058 18th Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Newly renovated meeting room
- Spacious back patio and café space

Additional Recommended by Staff

- Location in the Castro District
- Staff recommends that the business continue its strong tradition of being a supportive, safe and

**Legacy Business Registry
November 2, 2016 Hearing**

2016-013034LBR; 2016-013037LBR; 2016-013038LBR; 2016-013189LBR; 2016-013190LBR; 2016-013192LBR; 2016-013196LBR; 2016-013233LBR; 2016-013257LBR; 2016-013261LBR; 2016-013483LBR; 2016-013277LBR; 2016-013293LBR

positive space for those seeking help with recovery and addiction.



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 813 HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 2, 2016

Case No.: 2016-013196LBR
Business Name: Castro Country Club
Business Address: 4058 18th Street
Zoning: NCD (Castro Street Neighborhood Commercial)/
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3582/052
Applicant: Billy Lemon, Operations Manager
4058 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8
Staff Contact: Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186
stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@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 CASTRO COUNTRY CLUB, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 4058 18TH STREET (BLOCK/LOT 3582/052).

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 Castro 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 2, 2016, 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 Castro Country Club qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for Castro Country Club

Location (if applicable)

- 4058 18th Street

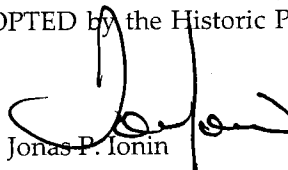
Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Newly renovated meeting room
- Spacious back patio and café space
- Location in the Castro District
- Staff recommends that the business continue its strong tradition of being a supportive, safe and positive space for those seeking help with recovery and addiction.

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 2016-013196LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 2, 2016.


Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Johns, Hasz, Hyland, Johnck, Pearlman, Wolfram

NOES: None

ABSENT: Matsuda

ADOPTED: November 2, 2016