



Community knowledge. Shared history. Important places.

SF Cultural Heritage is San Francisco’s historic preservation program. It brings together community knowledge, cultural history, and preservation tools to recognize and care for the places and traditions that matter to San Francisco’s diverse communities.

Cultural heritage includes **tangible places**, such as buildings, sites, and districts, as well as **intangible heritage**, including traditions, creative expression, cultural practices, and community knowledge.

SF Cultural Heritage is a shared effort led by the San Francisco Planning Department in partnership

with community members, historians, cultural practitioners, and other City agencies.

The programs below make up the SF Cultural Heritage program and provide a framework to help us understand, identify, and care for cultural and historic resources across the city.

Cultural heritage helps strengthen connections between people and place, supports belonging, and ensures that diverse histories are recognized and considered in future decisions.

SF Histories



SF Histories are captured through Historic Context Statements (HCS), **written research documents** that provide a shared understanding of our city’s history.

Learn more about SF Histories:

sfplanning.org/project/citywide-historic-context-statement



SF Survey



The Citywide Cultural Resources Survey (SF Survey) identifies places connected to San Francisco’s cultural life, architecture, and history. Using research, fieldwork, and community input, SF Survey identifies buildings, sites, and districts across the city to assess their historical, architectural, and/or cultural importance.

Learn more about SF Survey: sfplanning.org/sfsurvey



SF Places



SF Places (Landmark Designation) focuses on formal recognition and stewardship. Landmark designation is the City’s primary tool for officially designating places of cultural, architectural, or historical importance.

Learn more about SF Places: sfplanning.org/landmark-designation-program



Community knowledge is the foundation. Community knowledge connects and strengthens every part of SF Cultural Heritage.



Community Knowledge

**Stories,
Lived Experiences,
Advocacy**



SF Histories

Historic Context Statements help us understand our shared history. Community stories, lived experience, and public feedback expand which histories and perspectives are included.



SF Survey

SF Survey identifies and evaluates cultural and historic resources. Communities share stories, memories, and local knowledge to inform SF Survey Findings.



SF Places

Landmark designation and other preservation tools help recognize important places. Community advocacy and public participation help guide recognition, protection, and the application of preservation tools.

Community knowledge helps identify what matters, deepens our shared understanding of place, and guides how places and traditions are cared for as the city evolves. Lived experience and local knowledge are essential to this work, connecting stories, research, and decision-making across SF Cultural Heritage.

What Recognition Can Look Like

Recognition means understanding that a place is important to a community and helping take care of it. It can take different forms depending on what a community needs. This might include officially recognizing a place through landmark designation, supporting how it is used and cared for, or guiding how it can change over time.

Get Involved!


SF Cultural Heritage is for anyone who cares about the stories and places that shape San Francisco. This important work is ongoing and collaborative with many ways to get involved. You can:

- Share stories about places that matter
- Participate in surveys, interviews, and research
- Attend community events and public hearings
- Help identify cultural spaces, traditions, and sites
- Stay connected as this work continues

Are you interested in partnering with us?

We are looking to collaborate with community-based organizations, cultural advocacy groups, historic preservation peers, and community knowledge bearers to advance shared goals.

Contact us at:

 CPC.Survey@sfgov.org
 (628) 652-7573

Learn more about our efforts:



[sfplanning.org/
preservation](https://sfplanning.org/preservation)

Share your stories:



[sfculturalheritage.org/
plugins/community-
stories-form](https://sfculturalheritage.org/plugins/community-stories-form)

Subscribe for updates:



[signup.e2ma.net/
ignup/2000646/
1960242](https://signup.e2ma.net/ignup/2000646/1960242)