

Groundbreaking Legislation Means More Art for San Francisco

FISCAL YEAR 2011-12 ANNUAL REPORT

In 1985, the San Francisco Planning Commission helped pass groundbreaking legislation that requires private developers to spend one percent of construction costs for public artwork on any new development project or addition to an existing building over 25,000 square feet in the downtown C-3 district. The original intent of San Francisco Planning Code Section 429 was to enrich public spaces with artwork, and over the past 27 years San Francisco's downtown has amassed an impressive array of contemporary art.

In April 2012, the Board of Supervisors amended Section 429 of the Planning Code to provide private developers with the option to contribute a portion of their mandated one-percent-for-art requirement to a new Public Artwork Trust Fund. They also expanded the legislation beyond the downtown C-3 district to all non-residential buildings in excess of 25,000 square feet in approximately one dozen new land parcels, including zoning districts located north of Division Street, near Duboce and 13th streets, as well as select parcels in the Sunset District. (See map below). This legislation is the culmination of many years of work by the Mayor's Office, Board President David Chiu, the Arts and Planning Commissions in addition to numerous partners and advisors from the art, architecture and development communities. It reflects the City's belief that the arts are an essential component of civic life and contribute to the economic health and cultural wealth of the City.

Art Ordinance - Map 1

ZONING DISTRICTS
(Downtown and SoMa unless otherwise stated)

Downtown Residential Districts

- RH DTR Rincon Hill Downtown Residential
- SB-DTR South Beach
- TB DTR Transbay

South of Market Mixed Use Districts

- SLR Service/Light Industrial/Residential
- SLI Service/Light Industrial
- SSO Service/Secondary Office

Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts

- MUG Mixed Use General
- MUO Mixed Use Office
- MUR Mixed Use Residential
- UMU Urban Mixed Use *

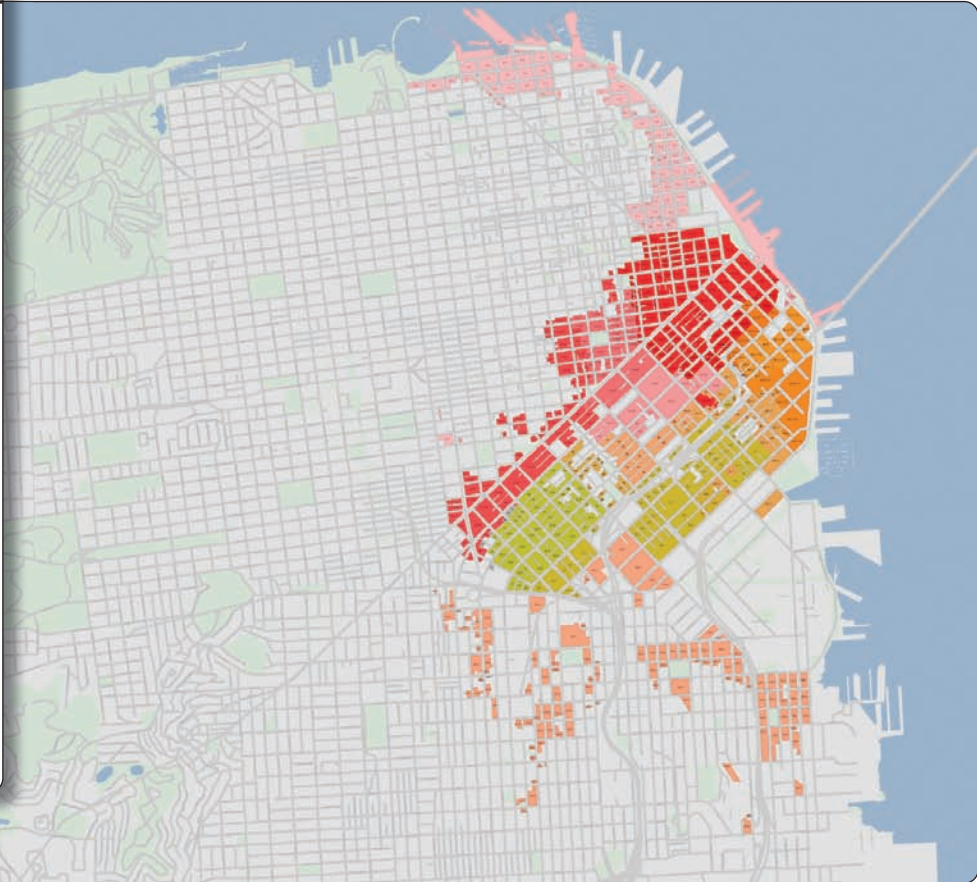
Commercial Districts

- C-2 Community Business **
- C-3-S Downtown Support
- C-3-R Downtown Retail
- C-3-G Downtown General
- C-3-O Downtown Office
- C-3-O(SD) Downtown Office (Special Development)

Industrial Districts

- C-M Heavy Commercial *

* All districts are included
 ** All C-2 districts are included except for those on Blocks 4991 (Executive Park) and 7295 (Stonestown Galleria Mall)



Map indicating areas where art ordinance is in affect courtesy of the San Francisco Planning Department.



Lotta's Fountain, 1875 cast iron monument fabricated at Robert Wood & Co. Foundry, Philadelphia PA. Collection of the City and County of San Francisco, Gift of Lotta Crabtree, 1875.1.

The new Public Artwork Trust Fund will allow for greater flexibility in how mandated art funds are spent to activate and enliven the city. The funds may be expended in the applicable zones and districts where the requirement is applied as well as within a half-mile radius of the C-3 district or, in the case of the other zoning districts, within a half-mile of the project boundary. (See map). The Trust may be used to:

- 1) commission new permanent and temporary public artwork;
- 2) award grants to local artists and nonprofit arts organizations for the presentation of art in public spaces;
- 3) preserve the Civic Art Collection;
- 4) and contribute to capital improvements of cultural facilities. An additional benefit of the legislation allows arts organizations located anywhere in the city to apply to use these funds in the designated districts and within the half-mile radius. For example, an arts organization located in District 1 can apply for a Public Artwork Trust Fund grant to create or present a project within the downtown C-3 district. The Trust will increase public access to excellence and diversity in artistic expression and will support and strengthen the entire arts ecology in San Francisco.

In the following months, the Arts Commission will roll out a comprehensive public planning process to determine priorities and guidelines for the use of the Trust. To stay informed and to participate in this planning process, sign up for our eNewsletter at sfartscommission.org.



Joanna Haigood's Zaccho Dance Theatre presents *Sailing Away*. Funded by the San Francisco Arts Commission's Art on Market Street Temporary Projects Program.