

PAR Urges Planning Commission Approval

This letter was sent to the San Francisco Planning Commission from the PAR Board of Directors.

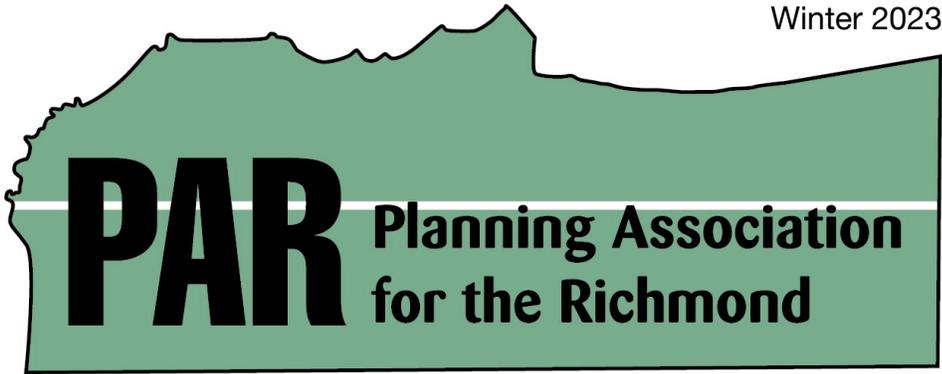
Dear Planning Commissioners,

Established in 1971, the Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) is San Francisco’s largest membership-based neighborhood organization. Our mission is to maintain and improve the quality of life in San Francisco’s Richmond District. On behalf of the Board of Directors of PAR, I strongly urge you to approve the efforts of Congregation Emanu-El to modernize their home at 2 Lake Street with a modest expansion so that they can better serve both the congregation and surrounding community for the next century and beyond.

Driven by the core Jewish belief of tikkun olam, to make the world a better place, Congregation Emanu-El has been integral to the fabric of the City of San Francisco for more than 170 years, and nearly 100 at its current Lake Street home. The improvements they have proposed are critical to Emanu-El’s future.

The seismic and security upgrades that constitute the foundation of this project, coupled with interior upgrades designed to expand the congregation’s programming and operations, will enable Emanu-El to continue serving San Franciscans for generations to come. The safety improvements are not just internal to the project, either: the curb bulb out at Lake and Arguello will not only shelter the

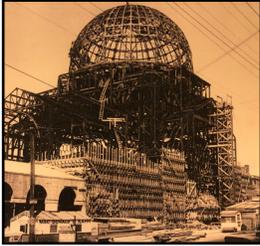
continued on page 4



Emanu-El Update Nears Finish Line

With a planning commission hearing on the horizon, Congregation Emanu-El is nearing the end of a years-long effort to build a safe, secure, and celebratory space for its congregation now and long into the future. Known as Emanu-El Next, the project will allow the 170-year-old institution — which has called 2 Lake Street its home for nearly 100 years — to continue its storied legacy within the community for the next century and beyond.

Today, that home is in great need of repair and renovation. Not designed to meet today’s seismic or security standards,



it also no longer enables the congregation to safely welcome intimate gatherings or allow them to provide the kind of quality education

its congregation deserves. Emanu-El Next will change that by transforming Emanu-El’s physical infrastructure and

greatly increasing its programming and operating capacity.

The vision for Emanu-El Next has long been guided by six key initiatives, with the goal to evolve Emanu-El into a space that:

- prioritizes safety, security, and sustainability
- is warm and welcoming
- plays host to small gatherings and intimate spaces
- becomes the heart of joyous celebrations
- provides state-of-the-art education
- ensures financial accessibility

The foundation of the project is the construction of a new courtyard wing within the existing Lake Street and Arguello Boulevard façades, which provides an opportunity to address the facility’s considerable seismic and safety challenges. Its proposed redesign also returns the main entrance to the historic archway on Emanu-El’s Lake Street frontage, which has long been closed due to safety and accessibility concerns. Additional

continued on page 2

Winter ‘23 PAR Meeting

**Wednesday
January 18**

Guest:
Jeff Tumlin of the MTA

Richmond Recreation Center
251 18th Avenue
(between Clement and California)

Limited parking is available.
Muni: 1 California and 38 Geary





Meet Captain Chris Canning

Captain Chris Canning was born in San Francisco, raised in the North Bay Area, and is a second-generation San Francisco police officer. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Brigham Young University and, prior to joining the San Francisco Police Department, was a police officer in the Salt Lake City Police Department for three years.

After graduating from the San Francisco Police Academy in 2007, Captain Canning worked as a patrol officer serving the Tenderloin, Mission, and Southern

police districts. In his role as a sergeant, he worked in the Mission police district, the criminal investigations unit, and the homicide detail.

In 2017 he was promoted to lieutenant and returned to the Mission police district before being transferred to the crime strategies division.

In 2021 he was promoted to captain and became the commanding officer of the Tenderloin police station until October 2022 when he became commanding officer of Richmond Station.

Temple Emanu-El Remodel Nears Completion

continued from page 1

improvements around the courtyard and in the neighboring Temple House include new areas for both large gatherings and intimate interactions, from learning classrooms to a new outdoor play area on the top floor for preschool students.

The project's benefits are not just internal to Emanu-El, however. A new curb

“bulb-out” will also be installed at the corner of Lake Street and Arguello Boulevard, sheltering the main entrance to the courtyard and improving neighborhood safety by further slowing traffic and creating safe passage for pedestrians as they cross the street.

With benefits for both congregation and community, Emanu-El Next is a critical opportunity for Emanu-El to create a home that is safe, sustaining, and secure, a home that is central to both celebration and wor-

ship, and a home that can continue serving San Franciscans for generations to come.

Emanu-El Next is expected to be presented before the planning commission on January 12. The congregation thanks the Planning Association for the Richmond for its endorsement and ongoing support. Want to help support this important project? Please email noah@lh-pa.com. For more information, please visit next.emanuelsf.org or email next@emanuelsf.org.

Officers & Directors

Officers

Nicholas Belloni, President
Dan Baroni, Vice President
Anna Cressman, Secretary
Chris Wright, Treasurer

Directors

Jean Barish Jason Jungreis
Richard Correia Natalia Kresich
Paul Epstein Brian Larkin
Robert Fries Zachary Nathan
Sharon Gadberry Marjan Philhour
Margie Hom-Brown Gene Schnair

Emeritus Directors

Margie Hom-Brown
Fred Altshuler • Lynn Altshuler
Raymond Holland • Jim Lazarus
Michele Stratton • Peter Winkelstein

PAR Representatives in Other Organizations

Housing Action Committee: Dan Baroni
Kaiser Permanente Citizens Task Force:
Peter Winkelstein
Neighborhood Associations for Presidio
Planning: Paul Epstein, Sharon Gadsberry
Richmond Community Coalition: Jean Barish,
Nick Belloni



Architectural drawing of Emanu-El Temple courtyard improvements.

Neighbors Welcome Reopened 4-Star Theater

Back in the spring of 2021, the current owner of the 4 Star Theater (who wishes to remain anonymous) reached out to Adam Bergeron of CinemaSF about reviving the shuttered 4 Star Theater. At the time the theater had been on the market for a while, and COVID had made the outlook for independent entertainment and arts businesses a bit bleak. But both saw the potential to have an updated community gathering spot in the Outer Richmond.

The theater first opened in 1913 as a second run silent movie theater called the La Bonita and had many incarnations before becoming the 4 Star in the 1960s. The current owner's vision was to provide a space for film, fine arts, performance, and community. He also retained the name, the marquee, and the distinctive orange/red color of the theater to keep with the historical spirit of the 4 Star. The landmark neon sign has also been restored.

Visitors may notice more design detail when they enter the theater, inspired by the discovery of the original 1913 coffered sidewalk entry lighting. Now a notable interior feature of the lobby, the lighting that had been covered by a drop ceiling for decades, has been beautifully brought back to life with help from local Lorna Kollmeyer. It's this particular Victorian detail that inspired several other craft details in the theater.

The handcrafted woodwork, by Eric Hollenbeck of Blue Ox Mill in Eureka, CA, includes the new entry doors, with matching wainscot and masterful recreations of the original arch top side doors. The terrazzo flooring, by Associated Terrazzo of San Francisco, features handcrafted detail that highlights the hallway leading to the new restrooms. The precision detail of the



vestibule arched doorway casings, by local Byron Hall, are a nod to the original architects design, as they mimic the same dimensions of the original screening room entry doors. If you didn't know these details were new, they could actually be mistaken for original.

The screening room will look quite familiar, with its red velvet walls, pressed tin, and silver and gold proscenium around the screen. However, the viewing experience updates have certainly been enhanced with new seating, digital projector, surround sound system and a larger screen.

The new 4 Star is more than just a place to watch movies. It's also a place to enjoy food, drink and art. The concession area also serves as a café (opening at 8 a.m.) and patrons can enjoy the gallery and all the café/concession services without purchasing a movie ticket. The café serves bagels (Laundromat) and coffee (Andytown), and when the events begin, craft beer, wine, and pizza

by the slice (Laundromat). Popcorn and candy are available at any time the doors are open. Additionally, the former outdated second screen theater has had the 49 seats removed to make way for a spacious art gallery that also serves as an extension of the lobby.

Throughout the process, community support for the project has been overwhelmingly positive. The new owner was at the theater nearly every day performing or overseeing the project, and people in the neighborhood (residents and those who work in local businesses) would stop by and express their delight that the 4 Star would continue to be a theater. Connie Chan and the San Francisco city building representatives/inspectors were also extremely supportive of the process. The theater opened on December 8 to a sold-out audience. Those involved with the 4 Star are very thankful for the ongoing community support and look forward to being a community gathering place for many years to come.

PAR Urges Approval of Emanu-El Temple Improvements

continued from page 1

main entrance to Emanu-El but also have immediate safety impacts on the neighborhood by helping to further slow traffic and create safe passage for pedestrians. And this will all happen without diminishing the building's architectural grandeur, which still elicits awe by neighbors and visitors alike.

PAR also appreciates the congregation's commitment to community engagement throughout the planning process, from communicating with PAR, presenting to our board, and their clear and comprehensive website. In all regards, the Emanu-El team has always received feedback with an open mind and thoughtful

response. The proposed design for Emanu-El mirrors this openness by focusing on opportunities to foster engagement and accessibility both within the congregation and the surrounding community, with the new space enhancing continued collaboration with community partners.

The world has changed significantly since Emanu-El was first erected, and we sadly now live in a time when a right to safety is elusive for many San Franciscans. The congregants of Emanu-El deserve to celebrate and worship in a safe, sustaining, and secure home. The fact that the project will also have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the neighborhood is an ancillary benefit. I urge you to approve this much needed and much deserved project.

Letter from the President

As we start a new year, I feel gratitude for Welcome to 2023 — we made it! 2022 was an interesting year, with many elections, from recalls of the district attorney and school board members to many propositions. A lot of new legislation passed, and bonds failed. It was truly a busy year. The Richmond had a say in all of these elections. We also have a new police captain, a nice guy who wants to focus on community policing, with neighbors working together to keep an eye on the area.

I wish you all a safe, happy, and joyous 2023.

Nick Belloni
sfparpresident@gmail.com

Join PAR now and make your voice heard.

Membership is open to all persons living, working or owning property in the Richmond District of San Francisco. PAR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Yes, I/we want to support the Richmond District

First name(s)

Last name

Address

Name of business (for business members)

City

State

ZIP

Primary phone

Cell/other phone

Email (PAR respects your privacy and will not share your email.)

Membership: Individual Business

- Supporting membership, \$20.00/year and above
- Subscribing membership, \$25.00/year and above
- Sponsor membership, \$50.00/year and above
- Patron membership, \$100.00/year and above

Please complete and cut out this form, then mail it with your check (payable to the Planning Association of the Richmond) to

PAR, 5758 Geary Boulevard, Box 356, San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

You can also join, contribute or pay your dues the easy way at

sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html

THANKS for helping to support the quality of life in San Francisco's Richmond District.

Join, contribute or pay your dues the easy way—online at sfpar.org/site/join-par-via-paypal.html.

SFPAR.ORG
5758 Geary Boulevard, #356
San Francisco, CA 94121-2112

