

## SF Economic Recovery Task Force Recommendation - (arts-focused areas)

*General Context: Other sectors such as arts, entertainment, and recreation have also suffered significant losses in employment, especially as compared to higher wage industries like financial sector and business and professional services - In tandem with these trends, San Francisco faces an urgent call to deliver an equitable and resilient economic recovery for all.*

### 1. Local Economic Stimulus

#### **1.5 Promote reactivation and consider adaptive reuse of buildings for a vibrant San Francisco**

If there is a permanent decrease in office, retail, or hotel demand in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City should consider and, if advisable for the overall health of the local economy, incentivize re-purposing of existing buildings to uses needed for equitable economic recovery. Repurposing could pave the way for housing, production, distribution, and repair space, cultural and community development programs, or other uses. Any spaces adapted for housing have the potential to serve specific populations that may have different housing needs, such as artists.

#### **1.6 Advocate for State and Federal Funding**

Grants for businesses: State and federal grants for businesses most impacted by the shelter-in-place like arts/nightlife/entertainment

### 2. Job Connections

#### **2.2 Provide culturally competent, accessible job training with career connections for marginalized and laid-off workers, particularly ACHE sector workers**

Create arts-focused employment and retraining programs that could include an "Arts Hub" online to connect ACHE sector works and organizations with job and training opportunities.

#### **2.4 Expand subsidized employment and hiring program – JobsNOW! and arts-specific**

In addition to this JobsNOW! effort, OEWD, the Arts Commission, and the Office of the City Administrator (Grants for the Arts), should consider the needs of ACHE sector workers and work together to build a tailored employment program that stabilizes the creative economy, akin to the Creative Corps proposal submitted to the California Recovery Task Force.

### 3. Promote Safe Reopening

#### **3.1 Provide clear, concise communication in multiple languages to diverse business sectors on reopening and recovery from COVID-19**

#### **3.2 Remove barriers to obtaining PPE, testing, and tracing in low income and communities of color**

#### **3.4 Support cleanliness, health, and safety in public spaces**

Develop a campaign in partnership with tourism, business, and arts organizations to highlight San Francisco's clean and safe streets throughout its diverse neighborhoods in order to restore feelings of safety with the goal of increasing foot traffic.

### 4. Preserve Operations and Lessen Regulatory Burdens

#### **4.1 Extend, improve, and support the Shared Spaces Program**

The Shared Spaces team should continue to seek ways to help businesses defray costs, and to support for artists and musicians to allow for more adaptive arts and entertainment uses. Further, the Shared Spaces program should be extended three years until December 31, 2023 so as to give businesses an incentive to make their spaces attractive, and give them certainty that the program will be a worthwhile investment

Shared Spaces also represents an opportunity to engage artists with communications, public art, design and construction of outdoor dining spaces, and/or temporary activation projects.

#### **4.2 Repurpose public outdoor space**

These outdoor spaces can be venues for diverse uses including arts and culture, recreation, business.

Recommendation: City agencies including Planning, RPD, the Arts Commission and other asset-holding departments should reexamine the use of public outdoor space in San Francisco and facilitate any needed use changes to better support the City's goals of equity, resilience, environmental sustainability, and economic recovery.

#### **4.3 Allow more flexible use of ground floor retail spaces**

Recommendation: Planning should develop and propose a suite of changes to create flexibility for filling vacant ground floor retail spaces by allowing the broadest possible range of active uses, such as maker spaces, arts, culture, and community development programs and uses.

#### **4.4 Rethink rules that restrict flexible/temporary arts, culture, hospitality and entertainment uses**

Issue: San Francisco has a longstanding need for greater flexibility to support temporary activities inside storefronts and in public spaces. Challenges around permitting requirements, liquor licensing, and City-mandated costs imposed on temporary events can prevent existing business owners from adding pop-up events, food and drink, and arts performances to meet evolving consumer demands, and also obstruct entrepreneurs interested in activating underutilized or vacant space. **In the context of the COVID-19 recovery, temporary activations will be an important means of boosting foot traffic, diversifying revenue streams, preventing displacement, and enabling community entrepreneurs, neighborhoods, and artists to showcase their creative enterprises.**

Current permitting and regulatory barriers make such activations challenging, especially the lengthy wait times for Conditional Use authorizations.

Recommendation: OEWD, the Arts Commission, and the Office of the City Administrator (Entertainment Commission), should conduct a comprehensive review of existing permitting and regulatory barriers that impact temporary arts and culture activations in public and private space.

This review should include temporary use authorizations, amplified sound regulations, Police Code provisions, health permitting, zoning restrictions, liability insurance, liquor licensing rules, and other requirements that make temporarily activating space difficult and expensive. This effort should result in recommendations for legislative action and administrative change.

#### ***4.5 Provide advisory services for commercial landlords and tenants and explore other strategies to avoid foreclosures and evictions, particularly for ACHE sector assets***

Recommendation: OEWD in collaboration with the Office of Small Business should provide landlords and tenants with supports such as advisory services from brokers or attorneys to help negotiate solutions that avoid foreclosures, evictions, and/or permanent closures. OEWD should pay attention particularly to struggling ACHE businesses

### **5. Pursue Economic Justice**

#### ***5.1 Invest in BIPOC and immigrant communities***

Recommendation: HRC should coordinate and lead a program of reparative community investment that builds on current plans to redirect funds from the Police Department budget to address disparities in San Francisco's Black/African American communities. Understanding there is an existing HRC-led community process in place to program the \$120 million reallocated from the Police Department in the current budget, the Task Force recommends investments targeted to Black/African American and immigrant communities in the following areas:

- Subsidized employment and other income support, including arts and culture work
- Addressing the digital divide
- Child care and early childhood education

#### ***5.2 Ensure low-income school children have access to educational programming***

Recommendation: With support from partners like RPD, Public Library, SFUSD, and CBOs, DCYF should make every effort to leverage Community Hubs to provide not just academic enrichment and technical support for up to 6,000 high-risk Learning Hub participants, but also services and supports to help bridge learning disparities. The City should seek resources to ensure the Hubs can mitigate learning loss for low-income students, students of color, and students with other challenges for distance learning at the desired level of service.

#### ***5.6 Build technology capacity of new users, small businesses, and nonprofits***

Recommendation: MOHCD (Office of Digital Equity) should partner with digital literacy nonprofits to provide phone-based technology assistance for new technology users, small businesses, and nonprofits citywide.

### **8. Imagine and Build Stronger Neighborhoods**

#### ***8.2 Catalyze neighborhood recovery through the arts***

Issue: Throughout the City, restaurants, museums, hotels, night clubs and retail stores are shuttered. Neighborhood commercial corridors are quiet. People who worked at these establishments are out of work. The arts sector can play a powerful role in centering communities of color and those who have been marginalized and excluded to create a more equitable future in our city.

Recommendation: For our commercial districts to re-open and become active destinations for residents and tourists, OEWD, the Arts Commission, Office of the City Administrator (Grants for the Arts), and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) should work in partnership with the community to develop thoughtful and inclusive economic and activation plans that draw upon neighborhood assets. ACHE businesses and organizations can be invited to develop neighborhood-specific (culturally-specific, language-inclusive) campaigns and event production (when safe) to reinvigorate community spaces and community cohesion.

Resources and assistance should be prioritized towards historically marginalized neighborhoods and people who have not benefitted from past economic growth.

#### ***8.3 Identify new revenue sources and support grant applications for arts, culture, hospitality, and entertainment funding***

Issue: San Francisco's entertainment venues, arts nonprofit organizations, galleries, studios, restaurants, and hospitality establishments are in danger of long-term or permanent closure. Workers, organizations, and businesses in the ACHE sectors need financial support now and potentially through next year to prevent permanent closure and displacement.

Recommendation: To protect existing arts, culture, hospitality and entertainment assets the Arts Commission, the Office of the City Administrator (Grants for the Arts), OEWD, and MOHCD should actively engage philanthropy and the private sector to support the ACHE sector and leverage projects to bring together multiple funding streams where match is needed. In addition, these departments should increase access to City ACHE funding by reducing barriers in existing application processes and provide technical support for the ACHE sector to apply for relevant state and federal grants.

#### ***8.4 Appoint more arts, culture, hospitality, and entertainment sector representatives to advisory groups, and policy bodies***

Issue: Artists and arts businesses and organizations have been among the hardest hit as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the arts are essential to the economic, social, political, and cultural life of San Francisco. Artists and arts organizations are uniquely positioned to help create the conditions – public trust, social cohesion and connection, access to learning and engagement in new ways – that will be needed for economic recovery.

Recommendation: In order to rebuild a more equitable San Francisco, the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City Administrator, and City departments (particularly the SFAC, Planning, OEWD, and MOHCD) should appoint more ACHE representatives to commissions, advisory committees, and other decision-making and policy bodies. In addition, embed ACHE experts into City departments and policy-development teams as either staff members or consultants.