

President, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

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Board President Rafael Mandelman’s Legislation to Create Artist Housing Certification Program Passes at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

San Francisco, CA — Today, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved landmark legislation from Board President Rafael Mandelman to establish the City’s first-ever **Artist Housing Certification Program** — a major step toward ensuring artists can afford to live, create and thrive in San Francisco.

“The story of San Francisco cannot be told without its artists. For generations, they have shaped our neighborhoods, inspired social movements, and defined the culture that makes this city unlike anywhere else”, said **Board President Rafael Mandelman**. “If we want San Francisco to remain one of the country’s great arts and cultural capitals, then we must make sure artists can afford to live here. This program is an important step toward honoring that legacy and ensuring artists remain at the heart of our city’s future.”

The new program, to be operated by the San Francisco Arts Commission, will create and maintain a registry of local artists who qualify for affordable housing opportunities. Qualified artists can apply to access affordable units reserved for the creative community. The legislation was inspired by the proposed development project at 1687 Market Street, which will deliver 90+ affordable homes and dedicated creative spaces for artists including rehearsal spaces and a black box theater.

“By approving this artist certification process, the Board of Supervisors has given Artists Hub on Market the tool we need to ensure the 94 affordable homes and arts spaces of 1687 Market truly serve San Francisco’s working artists and their families,” said **Randall Kline, Executive Director of Artists Hub on Market**. “It will help turn a major philanthropic investment into lasting community and cultural impact, and we’re grateful to President Mandelman, the Board, and the Arts Commission for making it possible.”

Artists are central to San Francisco’s economy and culture. A 2023 San Francisco Arts Commission report found the arts and culture sector generates over \$1.3 billion in economic activity annually, supports more than 12,000 jobs, and produces \$222 million in tax revenue. Yet a 2018 Arts Commission study found that 19% of surveyed artists had been displaced from their homes in the previous two years.

The Artist Housing Certification Program builds on national best practices identified by Mercy Housing California, AHoM, and ArtSpace, as well as San Francisco’s own targeted housing efforts like the Affordable and Teacher Housing Now Initiative. It also positions the City to take full advantage of California’s AB 812 (2023), which allows cities and counties to reserve a portion of affordable units within cultural districts for artists, helping preserve San Francisco’s identity as a hub of creativity and cultural diversity.

“Mercy Housing California is proud to develop high-quality affordable homes so our neighbors—including the artists who make San Francisco vibrant—can stay and thrive, said **Tiffany Bohee, President of Mercy Housing California**. “We’re grateful for the City’s Artist Certification Program, which will connect these talented individuals with housing designed just for them, including our arts-focused community at 1687 Market in partnership with Artists Hub on Market. We’re excited to open the doors in 2028 and welcome them home to celebrate and preserve San Francisco’s creative legacy for generations to come.”

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