



San Francisco City Hall Tour

City Hall Docent Program



- ◆ Ellen Schumer, the Docent Tour Program Manager, will guide you through this historic landmark.

In 1999 Mayor Brown created the Docent Program to guide members of the public throughout the magnificently restored City Hall.

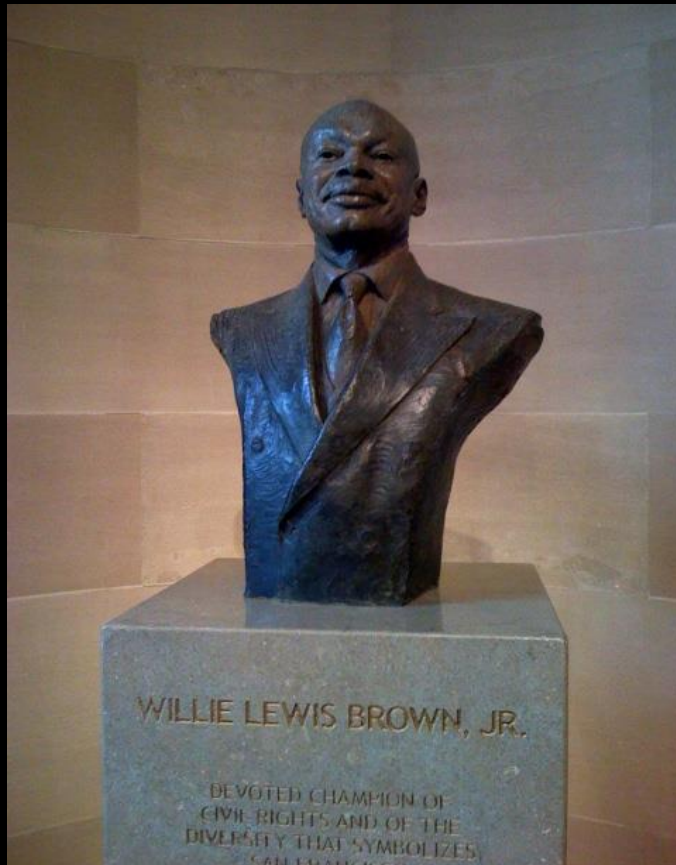
San Francisco City Hall



San Francisco City Hall was originally built in 1915.

◆ Restored and renovated after the 1989 earthquake, City Hall re-opened for business and to the public on January 5, 1999.

Willie L. Brown Jr.



- ◆ In recognition of his restoration of San Francisco City Hall, a bust of Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. has been placed at the Van Ness entrance.
- ◆ Mayor Brown served from 1996-2004

City Hall



- ◆ San Francisco City Hall is a huge structure occupying 2 City blocks.
- ◆ It contains over 550,000 square feet of space.

City Hall Dome



- ◆ The San Francisco City Hall dome is the tallest in the United States.
- ◆ At 307 feet 6 inches, it is 42 feet higher than the dome in the Nation's capital in Washington D.C.

City Hall Dome



- ◆ The intricate 23.5 karat gold leaf finish was restored on the exterior surface of the City Hall Dome.

City Hall Architects



- ◆ Architects Arthur Brown and John Bakewell were trained in Paris at the Ecole de Beaux Arts.
- ◆ City Hall is the finest example of the Beaux Arts style which merges elements of French, Roman and Greek design.

Rotunda



- ◆ The floor of the Rotunda features an intricate design and is made out of Tennessee pink marble.

Rotunda Construction



- ◆ The walls that surround the Rotunda are made of limestone blocks from the state of Colorado.

Rotunda Medallions



- ◆ The interior design of the Rotunda features four Medallions created by the famous sculptor Henri Crenier.

Medallion of Equality



- ◆ The Medallion of Equality has the equilateral triangle in her hand and the mythological father of mathematics in the background.

Medallion of Liberty



- ◆ The Medallion of Liberty is extending an olive branch in a gesture of peace and liberty to all people of the world.

Medallion of Strength



- ◆ The Medallion of Strength faces the legislative chambers and represents the strength of the legislative system of the City and County of San Francisco.

Medallion of Learning



- ◆ The Medallion of Learning depicts a man reading to a group of children. The children represent the future.

Rotunda Embellishments



- ◆ There are many special Embellishments throughout the Rotunda.
- ◆ Greek Mythological faces surround the first level of the Rotunda.

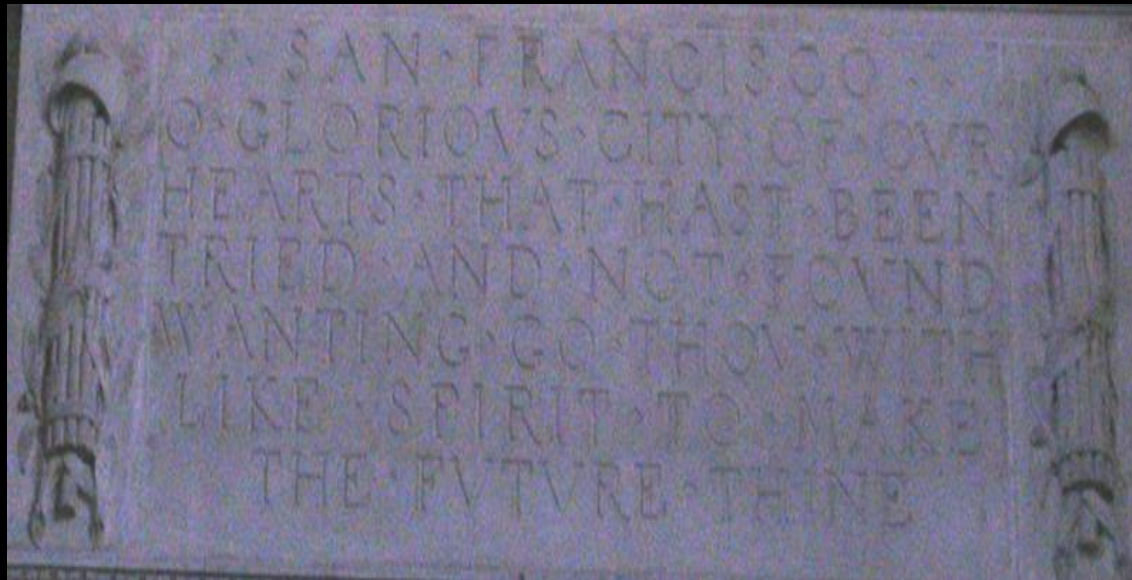
Rotunda – Father Time



- ◆ A depiction of Father Time is seen on the East wall of the Rotunda.
- ◆ An hour glass is in his hand. History is seen on his left and future on his right.

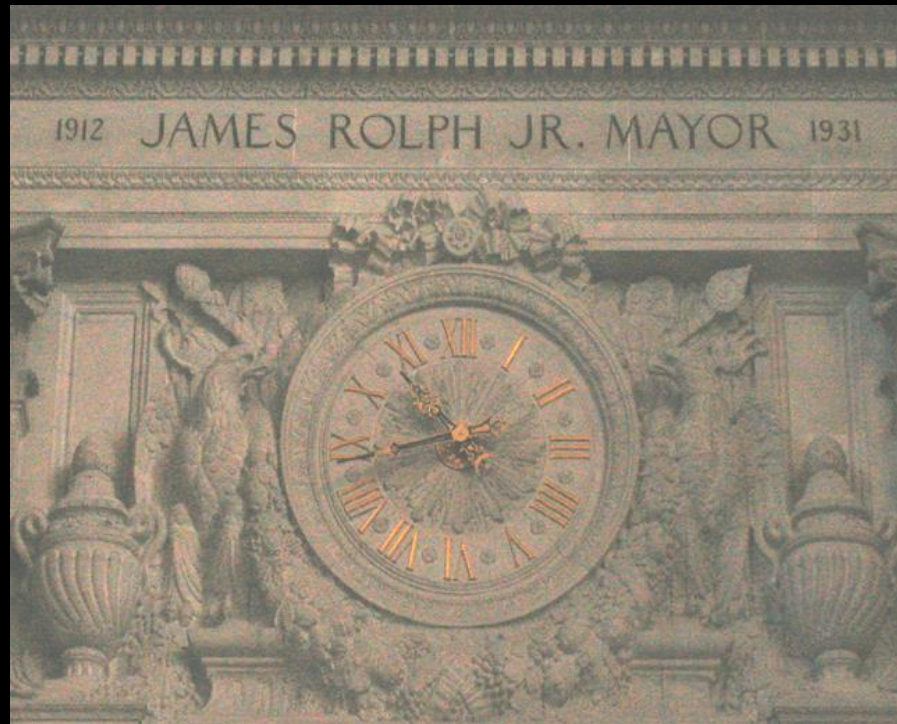
Rotunda

Father Time Inscription



- ◆ The inscription under Father Time reads: “San Francisco, oh glorious City of our hearts that has been tried and found not wanting. Go thou with like spirit to make the future thine.”

James Rolph Inscription



Underneath Father Time, Mayor James Rolph had his name inscribed in the limestone.

◆ Mayor Jim Rolph was the visionary who insisted that the City of San Francisco build this magnificent structure.

Grand Staircase



- ◆ The Grand staircase leads from the Rotunda floor to the Ceremonial Rotunda and the Board of Supervisor's Chamber.
- ◆ The stairs have been named the Charlotte Maillard Shultz stairs in honor of San Francisco's Chief of Protocol.

Ceremonial Rotunda



- ◆ The Ceremonial Rotunda is where many weddings or vows of domestic partnership are performed.
- ◆ Perhaps the most famous City Hall wedding was that of Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe.

Board of Supervisors Chamber



◆ Mayor Rolph
is seated in
the center.

The dedication ceremony of the
Board of Supervisors Chamber in
October 1916.

Board of Supervisor's Chamber



Board of Supervisors



- ◆ The Board meets Tuesdays at 2:00pm.
- ◆ The public is welcome and are encouraged to attend.

The Board of Supervisors consists of eleven representatives elected from districts around the City.

Board of Supervisors



◆ The President of the Board of Supervisors sits at the top dais and presides over the meetings.

◆ The Clerk of the Board sits in front of the President.

Ornate Wood Paneling



- ◆ The wood paneling in the Board Chamber is Manchurian Oak.
- ◆ Manchurian Oak is softer and easier to carve than California Oak.
- ◆ There are no more forests of Manchurian Oak left in the world.
- ◆ These carvings cannot be recreated.

Board Chambers



- ◆ The benches, railings and desks in the Chamber are made of a harder California Oak.

Ceiling Designs



- ◆ The ceiling in the Board Chamber looks like wood but is actually a cast plaster enhanced to show off the magnificent detail.

Ceiling Designs



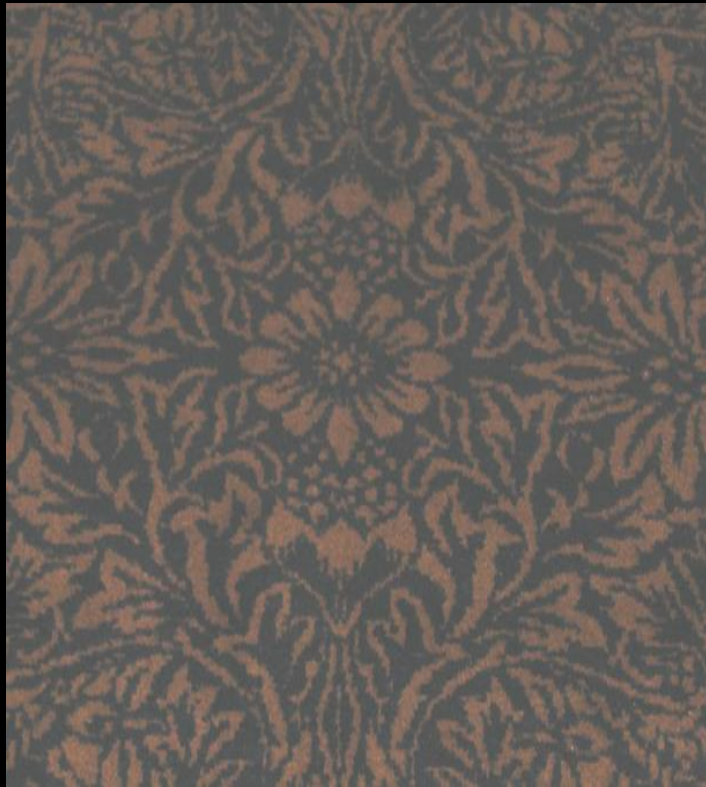
- ◆ In the center of the ceiling a ship is visible.
- ◆ The ship is the San Carlos which belonged to the explorer Ayalah who was the first to chart San Francisco Bay.

Ceiling Designs



- ◆ The plaster work above the public speaking area has four demon heads.
- ◆ Rumor has it that this was done because the public always made trouble for the elected officials.

Floor Covering



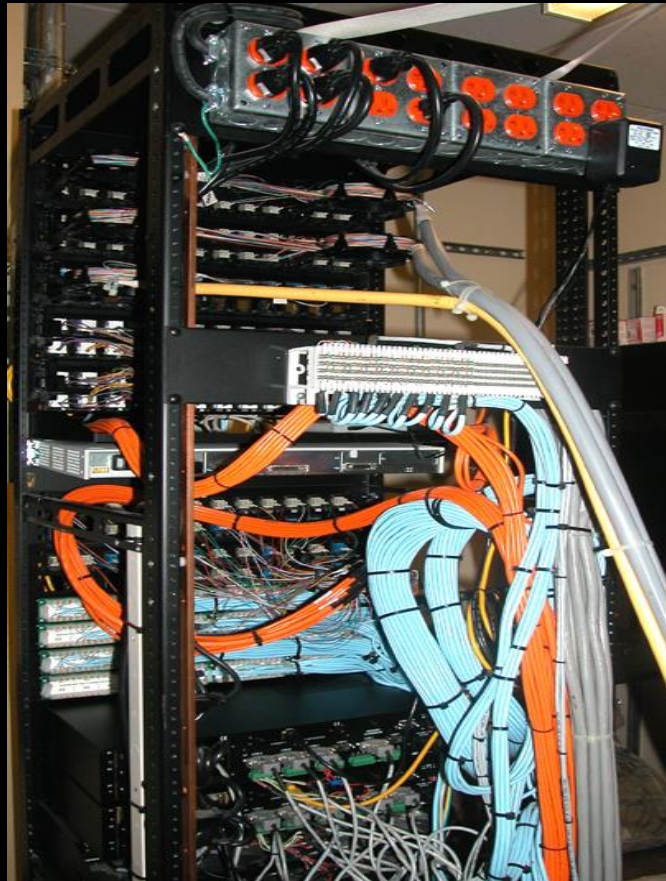
- ◆ The original floor covering in the Board Chamber was Portuguese cork.
- ◆ Present carpeting shows off the Dahlia, the official flower of San Francisco.

Window Coverings



◆ The window coverings in the Board Chamber incorporate unique decorative gold features known as soutache.

Modern Technology



- ◆ State of the Art technology was utilized and installed during the restoration of City Hall.
- ◆ Fiber-optic technology allowed many existing conduits to be used instead of changing the historic building.

John Taylor Committee Room



◆ The Board of Supervisor's Committee Room was re-named after John Taylor to honor his 16 years as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Window Design



- ◆ An image of the ship the San Carlos is incorporated into the design of the leaded glass windows on the fourth floor gallery area.

The Mayor's Office



- ◆ The Mayor's Office is located in room 200.
- ◆ The country and city flags are on either side of the entrance doors.

Mayor's Reception



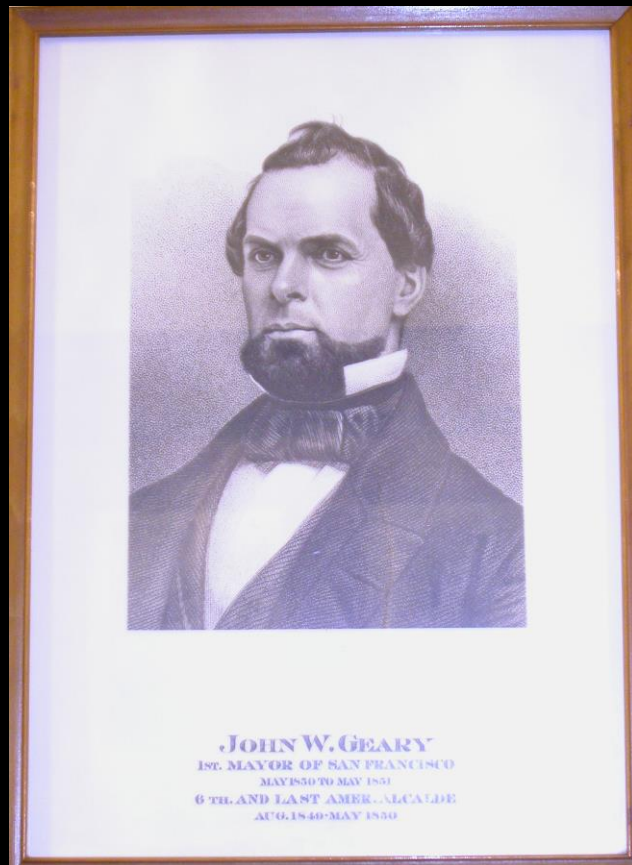
- ◆ Members of the public and official visitors are welcomed in the Mayor's Reception.

International Room



- ◆ The International room is the site of many high level meetings and receptions.

Hallway of Alcaldes



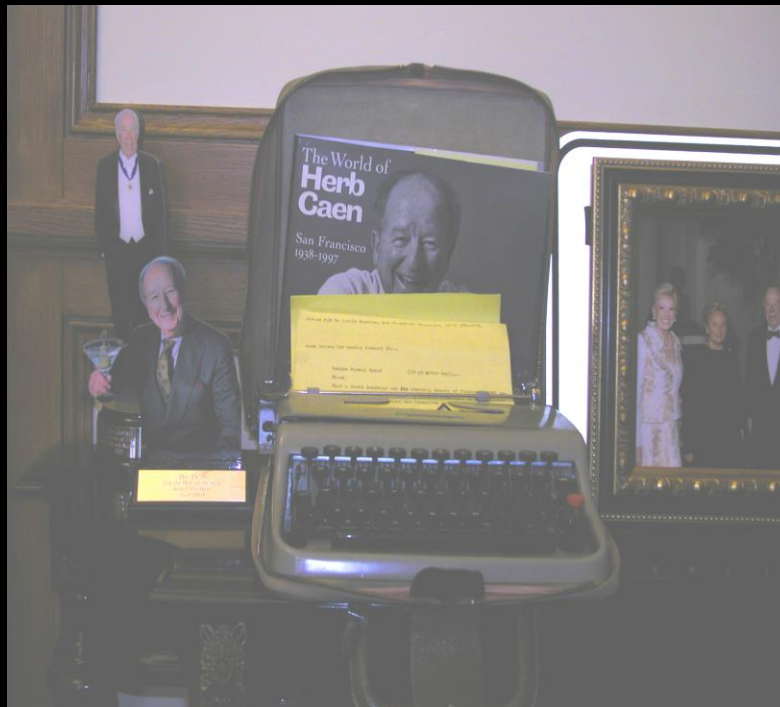
- ◆ Leading to the Mayor's Office is a gallery with pictures of former Alcaldes (Mayors) of San Francisco.
- ◆ The last Alcalde and first Mayor was John W. Geary.

Citywide Communication



- ◆ On the Mayor's desk are phones to contact and direct all City Emergency officials.

City Hall Mementos



- ◆ The Protocol Office recognizes Herb Caen as someone who epitomized the spirit of San Francisco. He is honored with a display in their office.

Mayor's Rotunda Balcony



- ◆ “Oro en Paz Fierro en Guerra” is inscribed in the limestone.
- ◆ It means “Gold in Peace, Iron in War.”

George Moscone



- ◆ A statue of Mayor George Moscone is located in the Mayor's ceremonial rotunda.
- ◆ Mayor Moscone served from 1972-1978.

Dianne Feinstein



- ◆ A statue of Mayor Dianne Feinstein is located in the Mayor's ceremonial rotunda.
- ◆ Mayor Feinstein served from 1978-1988.

Historic Elevators



- ◆ White gloved attendants originally operated the City Hall elevators.
- ◆ Known as the City Hall “Birdcages,” a person could look over and see the passenger in the adjacent elevator.

Elevator Designs



- ◆ The floor of the elevators is wood, inlaid with brass.
- ◆ The floor features the official monogram of San Francisco.
- ◆ The letters S and F are surrounded by Laurel leaves.

Accessibility



- ◆ City Hall is completely ADA accessible.
- ◆ A ramp was built to make access across the Rotunda possible.
- ◆ The railing replicates the same designs surrounding the Rotunda.

South Light Court



The South Light Court houses exhibits which chronicle significant events in San Francisco history.

South Light Court Exhibit



◆ The Ceremonial Shovel used by Mayor Jim Rolph to begin construction on the “New City Hall” is featured in one of the exhibits in the South Light Court.

South Light Court Vault



- ◆ An original vault used for the Treasury of the City and County of San Francisco.

South Light Court Statue



- ◆ The head from the statue of the Goddess of Progress was rescued from the former City Hall.

South Light Court Clock



- ◆ The clocks in the public areas of City Hall were designed by Albert Samuels Jr.
- ◆ The Roman numeral for 4 is spelled IIII. Samuels wanted to create a unique design specifically for City Hall.

South Light Court Flags



- ◆ An exhibit honoring those who served in San Francisco's 363rd infantry, 91st division is located in the South Light Court.

Light Court Skylights



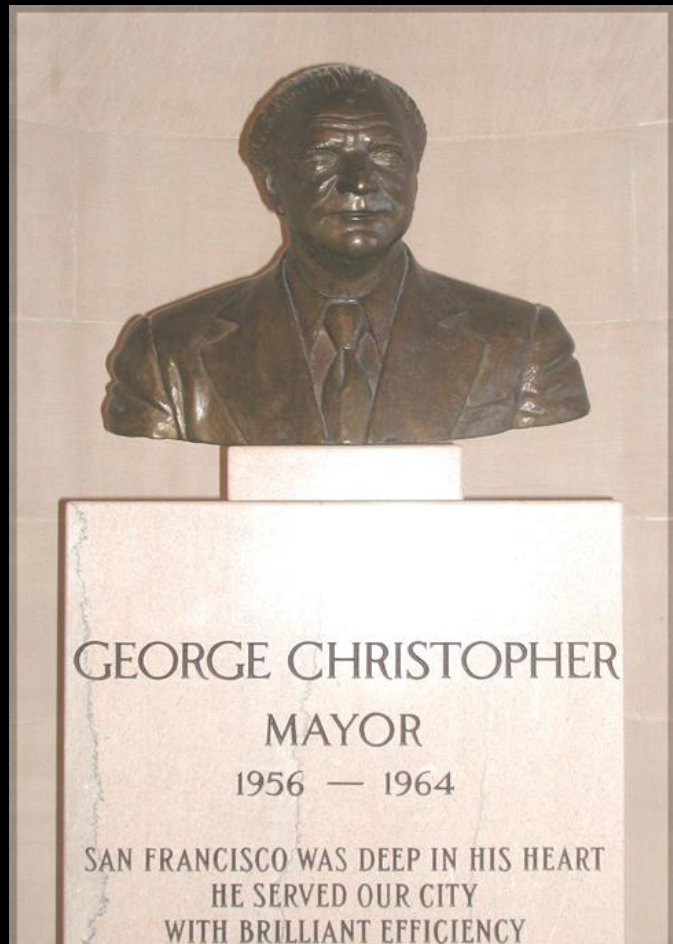
- ◆ During the renovation, covering put on the skylights during an earlier expansion of offices in the building was removed.
- ◆ This allowed natural light to once again properly illuminate the main floor of City Hall.

North Light Court



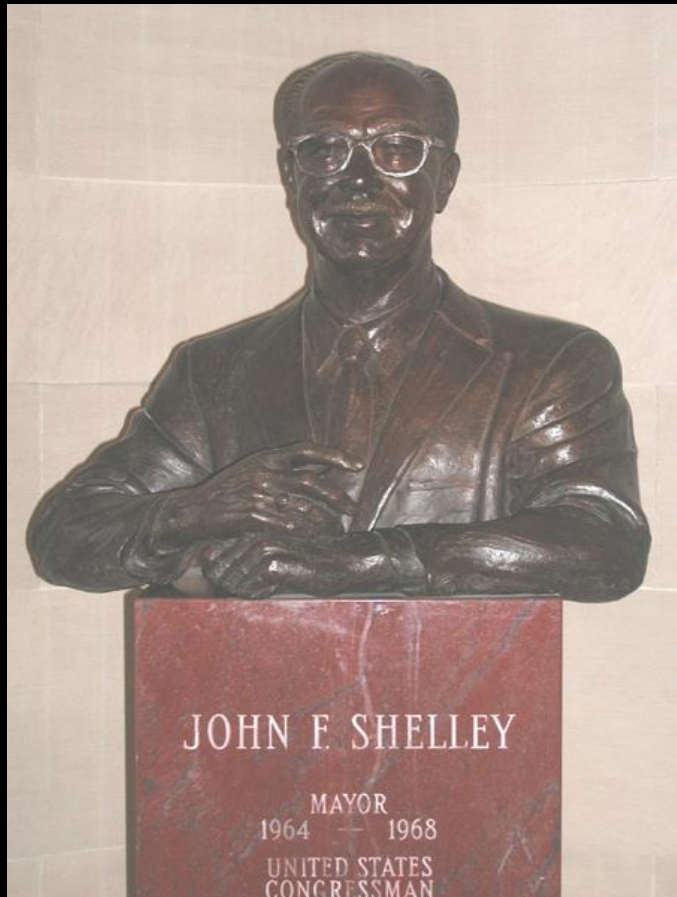
- ◆ The North Light Court hosts a variety of Civic and private functions

George Christopher



- ◆ A statue of Mayor George Christopher is located in the Goodlett Lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Christopher served from 1956-1964.

John Shelley



- ◆ A statue of Mayor John Shelley is located in the Goodlett lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Shelley served from 1954-1958.

Edward Robeson Taylor



- ◆ A statue of Mayor Robeson Taylor is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Robeson Taylor served from 1907 – 1910.

Angelo Rossi



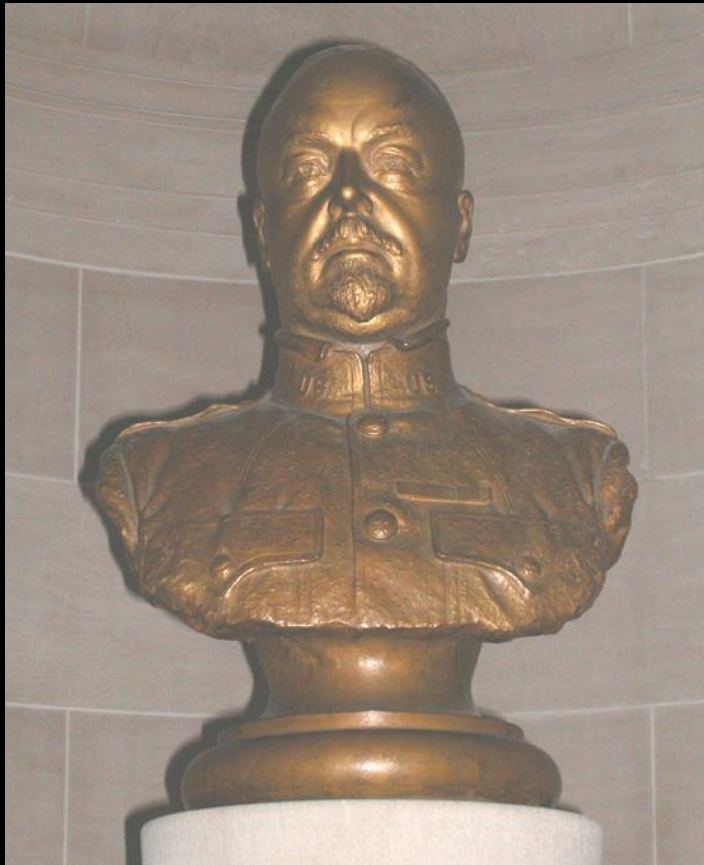
- ◆ A statue of Mayor Angelo Rossi is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Rossi served from 1931 – 1943.

Harvey Milk



- ◆ A statue of Harvey Milk is located in the Ceremonial Rotunda outside the Board of Supervisor's Chamber.
- ◆ Harvey Milk served on the Board of Supervisors in 1978.

Frederick Funston



- ◆ A statue of Frederick Funston is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Funston was a distinguished Major General from San Francisco.

Michael O'Shaughnessy



- ◆ A statue of Engineer Michael O'Shaughnessy is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ O'Shaughnessy oversaw the completion of the Dam at Hetch Hetchy.

City Hall Art



- ◆ City Hall displays artworks in the South Light Court and in a public gallery on the ground floor level.

City Hall Events



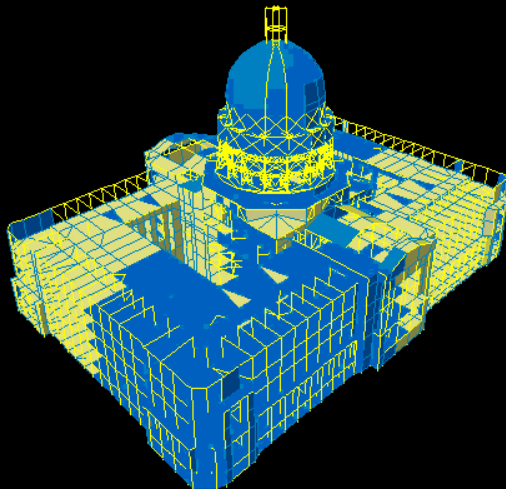
- ◆ City Hall hosts many Civic and private events which often support services and functions for the people and City of San Francisco.

City Hall Renovation

To protect against earthquake damage, a system utilizing base isolators was installed under City Hall.

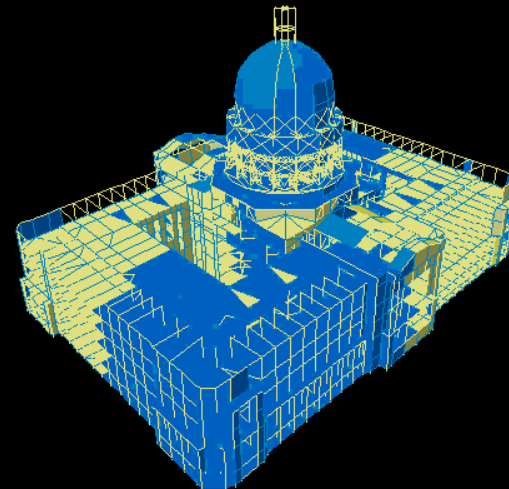
Building Response
prior to restoration.

(Please click on image)



Building Response
after restoration.

(Please click on image)



San Francisco City Hall



- ◆ San Francisco City Hall has been restored to its former glory and at the same time updated in order to meet the needs of San Francisco for years to come.
- ◆ San Francisco City Hall: truly the people's palace and crown jewel of San Francisco.