



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: February 26, 2024

PROGRESS CLEANERS

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-024
Business Name: Progress Cleaners
Business Address: 1555 Fillmore St.
District: District 5
Applicant: Sammy Yip, Manager/Owner
Nomination Date: January 22, 2024
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Progress Cleaners offers dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services. The business is family owned and operated. David Yip founded the business in 1975 at its present location at 1555 Fillmore Street in the Western Addition. He emigrated from Hong Kong in 1970 with his wife, Susanna Yip, in search of a better life. Prior to opening Progress Cleaners, David Yip trained in the dry-cleaning industry for a few years alongside his brother who had his own dry-cleaning business in San Francisco. In 1992, David Yip passed away from cancer and Susanna Yip took over the business. Her son, Sammy Yip, took over the business at the end of 2001 due to Susanna Yip's retirement.

CRITERION 1

Has the applicant operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes, Progress Cleaners has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

1555 Fillmore St. from 1975 to Present (49 years)

CRITERION 2

Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes, Progress Cleaners has contributed to the history and identity of the Western Addition neighborhood and San Francisco.

The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the applicant as qualifying, noting the following ways the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community:

- The subject property, known as Fillmore Auditorium, is a visual and cultural landmark associated with various significant phases of San Francisco history and culture, including African American history and the counter culture movement of the 1960s. The property is also associated with Charles Sullivan, who was an influential club owner and concert promoter, and Bill Graham, who was influential concert promoter.

The three-story, brick-clad building features a series of double-height arched window openings with keystones, as well as a modillion cornice. All of the storefronts have been

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altered to varying degrees. An entrance on the Geary Boulevard facade is flanked by pilasters and features a bracketed hood. This entry provides access to the interior public assembly hall, located above the first story.

The building was originally used as the Majestic Hall and Majestic Academy of Dancing, and during the 1940s served as a roller rink. In the 1950s, entrepreneur Charles Sullivan began booking nationally-prominent African American performers. During the 1960s, promoter Bill Graham began booking performers associated with the counter culture, such as the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane. It continues in use as one of San Francisco's premier musical venues.

The property is currently on the Article 10 Individual Landmark Work Program and is listed in the draft African American Citywide Historic Context Statement (AAHCS) for its association with African American history. The AAHCS is pending finalization and adoption by the Historic Preservation Commission following further community review.

- With regard to racial and social equity, Progress Cleaners is a minority-owned business. The business has been a part of the Western Addition community for decades, also serving as a meeting place for people to catch up and stay informed about local events.

CRITERION 3

Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes, Progress Cleaners is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Progress Cleaners qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Commitment to providing the community with dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services.
- Awning sign.
- Brick exterior of building.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

Following is the core physical feature or tradition that defines the business that would be required for maintenance of the business on the Legacy Business Registry.

- Laundry services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Progress Cleaners currently located at 1555 Fillmore St. in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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Small Business Commission

Resolution No. _____

February 26, 2024

PROGRESS CLEANERS

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Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for Progress Cleaners, currently located at 1555 Fillmore St.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; or

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for more than 20 years but less than 30 years, has had no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years, has significantly contributed to the history or identity of a particular neighborhood or community and, if not included on the Registry, faces a significant risk of displacement; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on February 26, 2024, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission hereby includes Progress Cleaners in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Progress Cleaners.

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Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Commitment to providing the community with dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services.
- Awning sign.
- Brick exterior of building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Small Business Commission requires maintenance of the below listed core physical feature or tradition to maintain Progress Cleaners on the Legacy Business Registry:

- Laundry services.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on February 26, 2024.

Katy Tang
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –

Legacy Business Program

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Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2023-24-024
Business Name: Progress Cleaners
Business Address: 1555 Fillmore St.
District: District 5
Applicant: Sammy Yip, Manager/Owner
Nomination Date: January 22, 2024
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston

CRITERION 1: Has the applicant has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years?

Yes No

1555 Fillmore St. from 1975 to Present (49 years)

CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community?

Yes No

CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms?

Yes No

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: January 24, 2024

Richard Kurylo and Michelle Reynolds
Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program

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DEAN PRESTON

January 22, 2024

Office of Small Business
Attn: Legacy Business Registration Application
City Hall, Room 110
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: *Letter of Nomination for Progress Cleaners to the Legacy Business Registry*

Dear Mr. Kurylo:

I am writing to nominate Progress Cleaners, an enduring purveyor of laundry services in the Western Addition neighborhood, to the Legacy Business Registry.

Progress Cleaners was founded in 1975 by David Yip in its present location at 1555 Fillmore Street. David Yip and his wife, Susanna Yip, immigrated to the United States in 1970 from Hong Kong. David was concerned about supporting his family because he did not have American education, decided to train in the dry cleaning industry alongside his older brother, who had a dry cleaning business in San Francisco. After a few years, David was confident enough to be self-employed. Since opening in 1975, Progress Cleaners has been a dedicated clothing care business, providing high-quality dry-cleaning and laundry services at competitive and fair prices.

In 1992, David passed away from cancer, and Susanna took over the business. After more than 30 years in the dry clean business, Susanna decided to semi-retire in 2011 and transferred the business to their son, Sammy Yip, a young entrepreneur.

With nearly four decades in operation, Progress Cleaners has a rich history of going beyond to help their community, becoming a staple for quality and reliable services. They offer a wide range of services for all needs, including wash and dry, alterations and stain removal. In addition, their same-day dry cleaning service adds convenience for those with time constraints. Whether it's a first time visitor or a loyal patron, Sammy and his family ensure the same level of exceptional customer service for everyone.

Letter of Nomination for Progress Cleaners to the Legacy Business Registry

January 22, 2024

Page 2

With numerous five-star reviews online and positive word-of-mouth across the neighborhood, Progress Cleaners has earned a reputable title for their honest, timely, and professional work. Sammy and Susanna's extensive experience and expertise for clothing care are shared with customers, reflecting their dedication to customer satisfaction. The establishment's commitment goes beyond merely caring for clothes; it extends to creating positive customer experiences.

Importantly, it should also be noted that Progress Cleaners employs environmentally friendly products and inventive cleaning solutions, highlighting their forward-thinking approach with the latest technology.

This level of dedication to both entrepreneurial spirit and community stewardship is deserving of celebration, which is why I take great pride in nominating Progress Cleaners to the San Francisco Legacy Business Registry.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dean Preston
District 5 Supervisor



Legacy Business Registry Application



Business Information

Business name: Progress Cleaners

Business owner name(s): Sammy Yip

Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business

Current business address: 1555 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Telephone: (415) 567 - 6553 Email:

Mailing address (if different than above):

Website:

Facebook: Twitter:

7-digit San Francisco Business Account Number (BAN): 0 3 5 4 0 3 0

Do any of these describe your business? (select all that apply)

Requires at least 51% of the business be owned, operated, and controlled by the business designation below.

- Immigrant-Owned Business
- LGBTQ+-Owned Business
- Minority-Owned Business*
- Owned by Person with a Disability
- Veteran-Owned Business
- Woman-Owned Business

*Minority is defined as one or more of the following racial or ethnic groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Black or African American; Hispanic or Latino; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Contact Person Information

Contact person name: Sammy Yip

Contact person title: Manager / Owner

Contact telephone: () - Contact email:

Business Location(s)

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business, and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business.

If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address.

Original San Francisco address: **Zip Code:**

Is this location the founding location of the business? (Y/N):

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Other Address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Other address (if applicable): **Zip Code:**

Dates at this location: **From:** **To:**

Legacy Business Registry | Application

San Francisco Taxes, Business Registration, Licenses, Labor Laws and Public Information Release.

This section is verification that all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses are current and complete, and there are no current violations of San Francisco labor laws. This information will be verified. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration, and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

In addition, we are required to inform you that all information provided in the application will become subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Please read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the statement. Then sign below in the space provided.

- I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business.
- I attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations.
- I attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current.
- I attest that the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) has not determined that the business is currently in violation of any of the City's labor laws, and that the business does not owe any outstanding penalties or payments ordered by the OLSE.
- I understand that documents submitted with this application may be made available to the public for inspection and copying pursuant to the California Public Records Act and San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance.
- I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation.
- I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds.

Name: Sammy Yip

Signature: Sammy Yip



Date: 09/17/2003

PROGRESS CLEANERS

Written Historical Narrative

INTRODUCTION

a. Describe the business. What does it sell or provide?

Progress Cleaners provides dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services at a competitive price. The business provides same-day dry cleaning from Monday through Friday – if items are brought in by 11:00 a.m., they can be ready by as early as 5:30 p.m. The business also provides alterations. If you have a pant leg that needs adjustment, a jacket that needs to be tapered (fitted or narrowed), or a broken or missing button that requires replacing, this is the place to go to. Progress Cleaners is proud to be family owned and operated.

b. Describe whom the business serves.

Progress Cleaners has served the Western Addition community since 1975. The people it serves, including two generations of some regular customers, mostly live within a one-square-mile-radius of the shop. Customers are generally a mix of middle to lower income. On average, 50 percent of its customers are African American. The rest of the customer base are of Asian or European descent.

c. In about 2-5 words (15-30 characters), describe what the business is known for.

Quality dry cleaning and laundry at an affordable price.

CRITERION 1: The business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years

a. Provide a short history of the business, including locations and owners.

Progress Cleaners was founded in January 1975 by David Yip in its present location at 1555 Fillmore Street in the Western Addition.

To seek a better life, David Yip and his wife Susanna Yip immigrated to the United States in 1970 from Hong Kong. Because he never had an American education and he was concerned about supporting his family, he went to train in the dry clean industry alongside his older brother who had a dry clean business in San Francisco. After a few years, David was confident enough to be self-employed.

In 1992, David Yip passed away from cancer. His wife Susanna Yip then took over the business.

At the end of 2001, after more than 30 years in the dry clean business, Susanna Yip decided to semi-retire and transfer the business to her son Sammy Yip whom has interest in operating it because of his interest in entrepreneurship.

b. Provide the ownership history of the business in a consolidated year-to-year format.

1975 to 1992:	David Yip
1992 to 2001:	Susanna Yip
2002 to Present:	Sammy Yip

c. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for any significant length of time.

Progress Cleaners has not ceased operation for an extended period of time.

The 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake caused minor damage to the Fillmore Auditorium building that houses the business, and Progress Cleaners shut down for about a week. It was soon opened for business after the City and inspectors deemed it was safe for it to continue operations. Shortly after the quake, the landlord did an earthquake retrofit of the building.

The 2020 COVID pandemic also affected Progress Cleaners. Since it is an essential business, the health restrictions did not require the shop to shut down. Progress Cleaners, however, experienced a dramatic decrease in customers since the pandemic that continues to the present (2024).

CRITERION 2: The business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community

a. Describe the business' contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community, business sector, or San Francisco as a whole.

Since 1975, Progress Cleaners have served the Western Addition community. Many generations of customers from parents to their children have patronized the business. Some customers know the owners by their names for decades, and the owners also know their customers by their names for decades as well. Many customers are hard-working, middle income people whose occupations require them to dry clean their garments, which can be a sizable expense if done often. But Progress Cleaners offers a good value.

Progress Cleaners is often a “meeting ground” for people who have not seen each other in a while. They often catch up and exchange phone numbers. Also, Progress Cleaners accepts posters and flyers to help spread information that benefits the community such as local events and community outreach services.

Local businesses such as restaurants frequent the business to provide quick servicing of their laundry.

Progress Cleaners encourages customers to return hangers for its reuse for recycling efforts.

Lastly, Progress Cleaners creates jobs for employees, past and present. As a business, it also helps create jobs in other areas involving contractors such as leather and finished laundry agents. Jobs are also created indirectly for utility companies from the business' usage of gas, electric, water, and garbage services.

Ultimately, Progress Cleaners pays the rent, which indirectly supports the maintenance of the famous Fillmore Auditorium of which it is a part.

b. Is the business associated with significant people or events, either now or in the past?

The current mayor of San Francisco, London Breed, is a frequent customer.

c. How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

Progress Cleaners demonstrates its commitment to the community by offering services that are affordable since its inception.

d. Has the business ever been referenced in the media, business trade publication, and/or historical documents?

The business has not been referenced in the media or any historical documents or trade publications.

e. Has the business ever received any awards, recognition, or political commendations?

The business has not received any awards, recognition, or political commendations.

f. How would the community be diminished if the business were to be sold, relocated, shut down, etc.?

Due to the casual wear that populated the scene in the past two decades, the dry cleaning business has faced a slow economic downturn with many dry cleaning and laundry businesses having to shut down. Only the well-established and financially healthy establishments continue to survive. For the ones that survive, there were a number of them that were forced to close down completely in the 2020s due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and the popularity of working from home.

Progress Cleaners is fortunate to have survived, but only having a third of the business compared to the heydays of years past. However, it continues to be committed to providing service to the community for years to come because many customers rely on it.

CRITERION 3: The business is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business

a. Is the business associated with a culturally significant building, structure, object, signage, mural, architectural detail, neon sign, or any other special physical feature that defines the business?

Progress Cleaners is located on the ground floor of the Fillmore Auditorium, a historic music venue in the Western Addition. Built in 1912 and originally named the Majestic Hall, it became the Fillmore Auditorium, also known as The Fillmore, in 1954.¹ In San Francisco Planning's draft [African American Citywide Historic Context Statement](#), the building is referred to as "Charles Sullivan's Fillmore Auditorium."

Much of the interior of Progress Cleaners includes old walls and structures that are over 100 years old.

b. In a few words, describe the main business activity you commit to maintaining.

Progress Cleaners is committed to providing the community with dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services.

c. What is the plan to keep the business open in the long term beyond the current ownership?

Sammy Yip's plan is to build up the business for future entrepreneurs to continue its operation. If he can have a family member to take over the business, that would be ideal. However, if the business is sold to a new owner, Sammy would make sure they are well trained in the business before he departs from it. Sammy would also be a consultant for the new operator. He does not know when he will retire from the business. It all depends on his physical and financial situation.

d. What challenges is the business facing today?

The challenges the business is facing today are many. There are rising expenses such as rent, utilities, cost of materials, and rising wages. However, with the rising cost of operating a business, Progress Cleaners is still very affordable by keeping its prices fair. The business

¹ Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fillmore

wanted to increase its prices many times to keep up with inflation and the cost of living for its owners; however, it can only do so periodically in small increments to avoid alienating its loyal customers.

Legacy Business Program staff will add the following details:

a. Features or traditions that define the business and should be maintained for the business to remain on the Legacy Business Registry.

Laundry services.

b. Other special features of the business location, such as if the property associated with the business is listed on a local, state, or federal historic resources registry.

The building at 1539-1567 Fillmore Street has a Planning Department Historic Resource Status of "A - Historic Resource Present." The building appears individually significant and may become eligible for the National Register with restoration work or when it meets other specific conditions.



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DRY CLEAN & ALTERATIONS



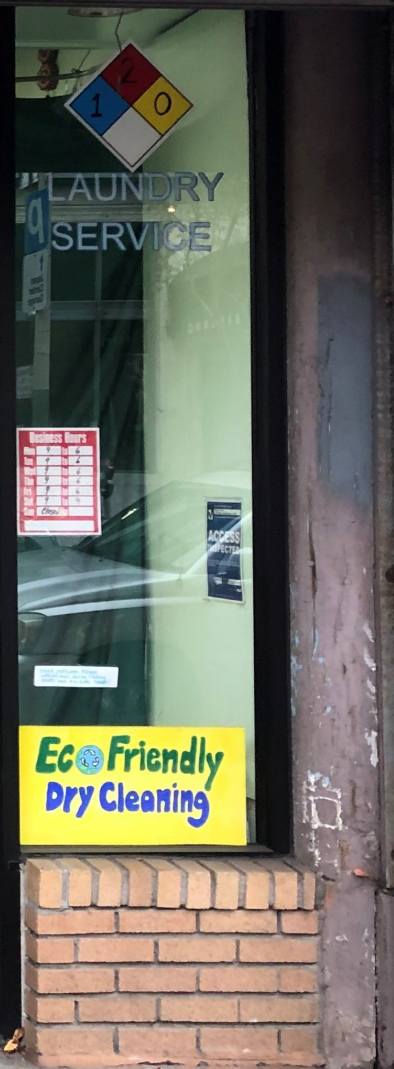
A window display for 'DRY CLEAN & ALTERATIONS'. On the left, a large green potted plant stands next to a round wall clock. In the center, a person is visible behind a counter, working at a computer. The background shows various items on shelves and a framed picture.

1555



Double glass doors leading into the store. The address '1555' is visible in the upper window pane. The interior shows laundry racks with clothes, a sign that says 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS!', and a person standing near the entrance.

LAUNDRY SERVICE



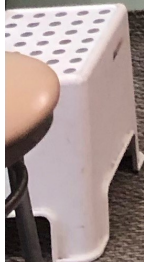
The right window pane features a hazard diamond with the number '1' in the blue section and '0' in the yellow section. Below it is a 'Business Hours' sign with a table of hours. At the bottom is a yellow sign that reads 'Eco-Friendly Dry Cleaning'.

Business Hours	
Mon	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Tue	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Wed	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Thu	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Fri	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sat	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sun	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Eco-Friendly Dry Cleaning



PANTS	SWEATER	SKIRT	7.50 UP
JEAN	SHIRT	BLOUSE	
OVERCOAT			LOW 18.00 UP 32M 13.00 UP
JACKET			11.00 UP
MEN & LADY			2PC 18.00 UP 3PC 23.00 UP
SUIT			
JUMPSUIT			
DRESS			18.00 UP WITH TOP 2PC 15.00 UP
ROBE			13.00 UP
EXTRA FOR HEAVY			





CONDITIONS

We cannot assume responsibility for inherent weaknesses in materials that are not readily apparent prior to processing. This applies particularly, but not exclusively, to suedes, leathers, silks, satins, double-face fabrics, vinyls, linens, polyurethanes, etc. Responsibility is also disclaimed for leather or glued trimmings, buckles, zipper belts, and the breakage or fading of beads, buttons, and sequins.

Progress Cleaners

CASH Preferred











LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Filing Date: January 24, 2024
Case No.: 2024-000783LBR
Business Name: Progress Cleaners
Business Address: 1555 Fillmore Street
Zoning: NCT (FILLMORE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TRANSIT DISTRICT) Zoning District
 130-B Height and Bulk District
Cultural District: Japantown Cultural District
Block/Lot: 0707/001
Applicant: Sammy Yip
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Located In: District 5
Staff Contact: Maggie Dong - 628.652.7426
 Maggie.Dong@sfgov.org

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Recommend Approval

Business Description

Progress Cleaners offers dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services. The business is family-owned and operated. David Yip founded the business in 1975 at its present location at 1555 Fillmore Street in the Western Addition. He immigrated from Hong Kong in 1970 with his wife, Susanna Yip, in search of a better life. Prior to opening Progress Cleaners, David Yip trained in the dry-cleaning industry for a few years alongside his brother who had his own dry-cleaning business in San Francisco. In 1992, David Yip passed away from cancer and Susanna Yip took over the business. Her son, Sammy Yip, took over the business at the end of 2001 due to Susanna Yip's retirement.

The business's location at 1555 Fillmore Street, is in a Category A (Historic Resource Present) structure on the southwest corner of Fillmore Street and Geary Boulevard in the Western Addition neighborhood. It is within the Fillmore Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit Zoning District; 130-B Height and Bulk District; and Priority Equity Geographies Special Use District. 1555 Fillmore was included in two survey areas, including the National

Register survey (1993), where it received a survey rating of “7N1”, and the unadopted Neighborhood Commercial Corridors Survey (2015), where it was identified as “Appears individually significant”.

Staff Analysis

Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

The business was founded in 1975.

2. Does the business qualify for listing on the Legacy Business Registry? If so, how?

Yes. Progress Cleaners qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- a. Progress Cleaners has operated continuously in San Francisco for 49 years.
- b. Progress Cleaners has contributed to the history and identity of the Western Addition neighborhood and San Francisco.
- c. Progress Cleaners is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.

3. Is the business associated with a culturally significant art / craft / cuisine / tradition?

No.

4. Is the business or its building associated with significant events, persons, and / or architecture?

Yes. The subject property, known as Fillmore Auditorium, is a visual and cultural landmark associated with various significant phases of San Francisco history and culture, including African American history and the counter culture movement of the 1960s. The property is also associated with Charles Sullivan, who was an influential club owner and concert promoter, and Bill Graham, who was influential concert promoter.

The three-story, brick-clad building features a series of double-height arched window openings with keystones, as well as a modillion cornice. All of the storefronts have been altered to varying degrees. An entrance on the Geary Boulevard facade is flanked by pilasters and features a bracketed hood. This entry provides access to the interior public assembly hall, located above the first story.

The building was originally used as the Majestic Hall and Majestic Academy of Dancing, and during the 1940s served as a roller rink. In the 1950s entrepreneur Charles Sullivan began booking nationally-prominent African American performers. During the 1960s, promoter Bill Graham began booking performers associated with the counter culture, such as the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane. It continues in use as one of San Francisco’s premier musical venues.

5. Is the property associated with the business listed on a local, state, or federal historic resource registry?

No. However, the property is currently on the Article 10 Individual Landmark Work Program.

6. Is the business mentioned in a local historic context statement?

This property is listed in the draft African American Citywide Historic Context Statement (AAHCS) for its association with African American history. The AAHCS is pending finalization and adoption by the Historic Preservation Commission following further community review.

7. Has the business been cited in published literature, newspapers, journals, etc.?

No.

Racial and Social Equity Analysis

On July 15th, 2020 the San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission adopted [Resolution No. 1127](#) centering Preservation Planning on racial and social equity. Understanding the benefits, burdens, and opportunities to advance racial and social equity that proposed Preservation Planning documents provide is part of the Department's Racial and Social Equity Initiative. This is also consistent with the Mayor's Citywide Strategic Initiatives for equity and accountability and with the Office of Racial Equity, which required all Departments to conduct this analysis.

The Legacy Business Program is deeply intertwined with these goals. One of the primary purposes of the Legacy Business Program is to maintain San Francisco's cultural fabric and to foster civic engagement and pride by assisting long-operating businesses remain in the city. The Legacy Business Registry was established to recognize longstanding, community-serving businesses that are valuable cultural assets of the city. These businesses, ranging from restaurants to art galleries to tire shops to community shelters, are key to sustaining the racial and social diversity in San Francisco and adding to the identity and character of our city and the many communities within it.

Progress Cleaners is a minority-owned business. The business has been a part of the Western Addition community for decades, also serving as a meeting place for people to catch up and stay informed about local events.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

Current Locations:

- 1555 Fillmore Street (1975 – Present)

Recommended by Applicant

- Commitment to providing the community with dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services
- Awning sign
- Brick exterior of building

Additional Recommended by Staff

- None

Basis for Recommendation

The Department recommends the Historic Preservation Commission adopt a resolution recommending the business listed above be adopted by the Small Business Commission to the Legacy Business Registry.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Resolution

Legacy Business Registry Application:

- Application Review Sheet
- Section 1 – Business / Applicant Information
- Section 2 – Business Location(s)
- Section 3 – Disclosure Statement
- Section 4 – Written Historical Narrative
 - Criterion 1 – History and Description of Business
 - Criterion 2 – Contribution to Local History
 - Criterion 3 – Business Characteristics
- Contextual Photographs and Background Documentation



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 1382

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Case No.: 2024-000783LBR
Business Name: Progress Cleaners
Business Address: 1555 Fillmore Street
Zoning: NCT (FILLMORE STREET NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TRANSIT DISTRICT) Zoning District
130-B Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0707/001
Applicant: Sammy Yip
Nominated By: Supervisor Dean Preston
Located In: District 5
Staff Contact: Maggie Dong - 628.652.7426
Maggie.Dong@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR PROGRESS CLEANERS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 1555 FILLMORE ST, BLOCK/LOT 0707/001.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Administrative Code Section 2A.242, the Office of Small Business maintains a registry of Legacy Businesses in San Francisco (the "Registry") to recognize that longstanding, community-serving businesses can be valuable cultural assets of the City and to be a tool for providing educational and promotional assistance to Legacy Businesses to encourage their continued viability and success; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years; and

WHEREAS, the subject business has contributed to the City's history and identity; and

WHEREAS, the subject business is committed to maintaining the traditions that define the business; and

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on February 21, 2024, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends that Progress Cleaners qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) as it has operated for 30 or more years and has continued to contribute to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions for Progress Cleaners.

Location(s):

Current Locations:

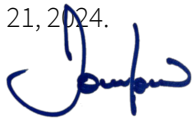
- 1555 Fillmore Street (1975 – Present)

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Commitment to providing the community with dry cleaning, laundry, and alteration services
- Awning sign
- Brick exterior of building

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission's findings and recommendations are made solely for the purpose of evaluating the subject business's eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry, and the Historic Preservation Commission makes no finding that the subject property or any of its features constitutes a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file to the Office of Small Business on February 21, 2024.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Vergara, Wright, Foley, Nageswaran, Matsuda

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldauf, Campbell

ADOPTED: February 21, 2024