

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
City and County of San Francisco



London N. Breed
Mayor

Eric D. Shaw
Director

November 13, 2023

***United Playaz – 1044 Howard Street Building Renovation Project in San Francisco –
Consultation Request on Archeological Resources and any Traditional, Cultural, and Religious
Values***

Dear Tribe Representative:

Your contact was shared with us by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). United Playaz (the project sponsor), a San Francisco-based violence prevention and youth development organization, is proposing the rehabilitation of an existing building located at **1044 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103** (APN 3726/019). Funding sources for the proposed project or Undertaking include financial assistance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended; and Title 24 Part 58 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended; San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) as the responsible entity (RE) will be asked to certify an Environmental Assessment (EA) that will, among other things, analyze the effects of the proposed project on historic architectural and archeological resources. The project is being managed by United Playaz.

As shown in **Figure 1**, the proposed Undertaking involves the 1044 Howard Street property which is located at the corner of Russ and Howard Street in the South of Market neighborhood of San Francisco. The Undertaking proposed by United Playaz seeks to renovate, seismically rehabilitate, expand, and change the use of an existing building to develop a community facility for additional program space. With this purpose, United Playaz proposes substantially rehabilitating the one-story building located at 1044 Howard Street, which was constructed in 1964, and convert it into a new two-story, 6,000-square-foot community center. The project would retain most of the existing Howard Street concrete masonry unit (CMU; often referred to as "concrete block") wall while demolishing the existing west, north, and east CMU walls and replacing them with new, reinforced CMU walls that would be constructed around a newly building steel structural frame. Portions of the existing foundation and the slab-on-grade would be retained with an estimated excavation area of 751 square feet and volume of excavation of 167 cubic yards. The existing floors and roof would be replaced with a concrete-over-metal deck system. Further, the project would upgrade and strengthen the existing concrete perimeter foundations, which would be tied to the new steel structural system. All building mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems would also be replaced with a maximum depth of excavation 2.5 to 6 feet (30 to 72 inches).

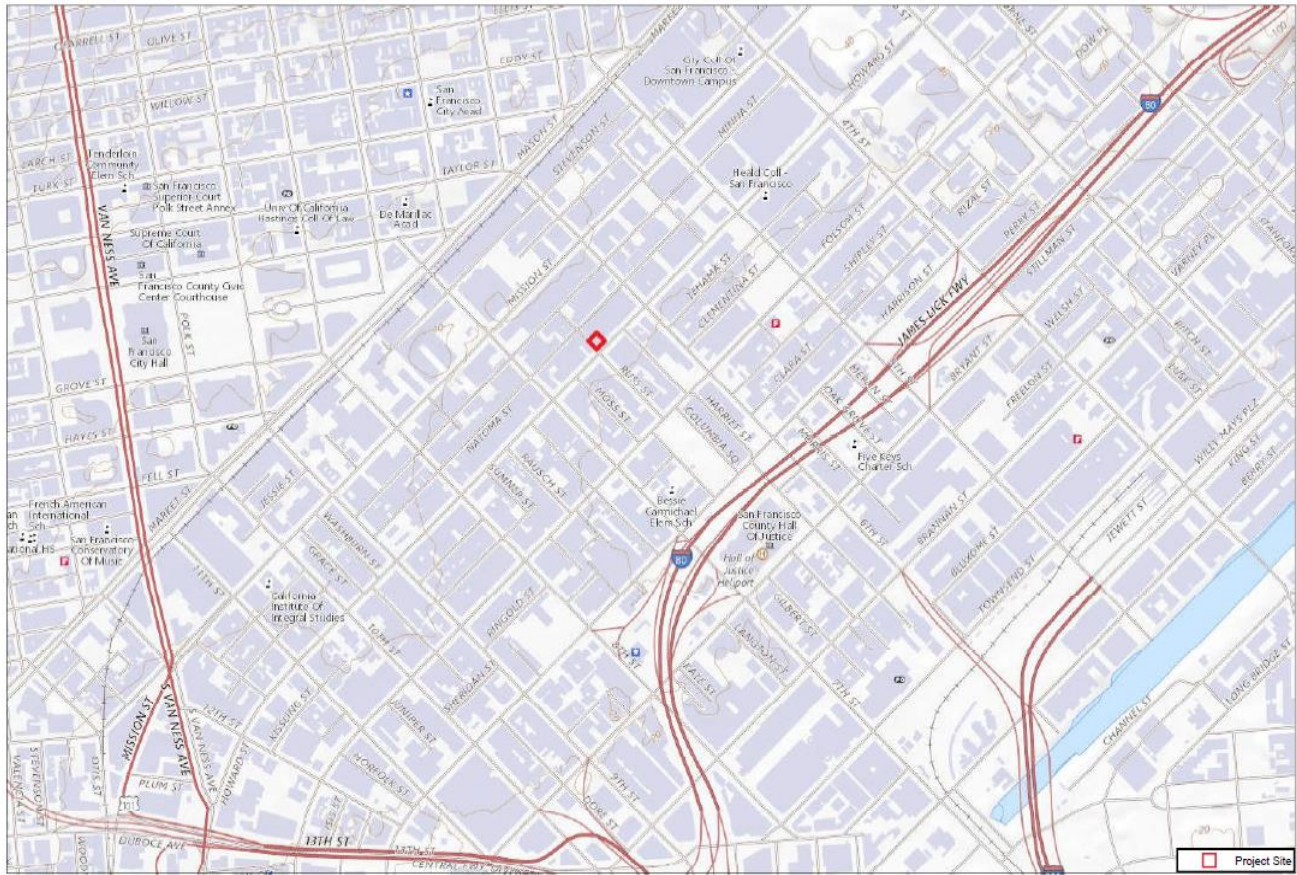


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this Undertaking encompasses four properties, of which 1038 Howard Street (APN 3726/017), 1044 Howard Street (APN 3726/019), 1040-1042 Howard Street (APN 3726/018) and 543-545 Natoma Street (APN 3726/046) which were determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties. The San Francisco Planning Department concluded there are no historic properties within the project site.



The APE is outlined in red. The project site is shaded blue. A portion of the adjacent National Register-eligible Western SoMa Light Industrial and Residential Historic District is shaded yellow.

SOURCE: Google Maps, 2023; edited by ESA, 2023

1044 Howard Street Project Cultural Resources Survey Report

Figure 2
Area of Potential Effects (red outline)

Regarding consideration and treatment of archeological resources, a records search to the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) was requested and conducted for 1044 Howard Street. The records search by CHRIS concluded that there were no recorded resources on file in proposed project area. CHRIS indicated that the proposed project area is in an area of generalized archaeological sensitivity, as per the project description, and that the previous extent of disturbance exceeds the proposed project work. Therefore, there was no further study for archaeological resources recommended at this time. However, CHRIS advised we reach out to local/regional Native American tribes that might have historical resource information not in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) inventory, and for your traditional, cultural, and religious heritage values. **For this reason, we are consulting with you and kindly requesting your optional public comments for this project regarding archeological resources and advise on any traditional, cultural, and religious values.**

All written comments must be submitted and received by **5:00 PM on Thursday, December 14, 2023**, to Lorena.Guadiana@sfgov.org. You may also call me at 628-652-5965 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Guadiana'.

Lorena Guadiana
Acting Compliance Coordinator
SF MOHCD