



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development**
451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410
www.hud.gov
espanol.hud.gov

**Environmental Review for Activity/Project that is
Categorically Excluded Subject to Section 58.5
Pursuant to 24 CFR 58.35(a)**

Project Information

Project Name: Japantown-Peace-Plaza-&-Pagoda---1610-Geary-Bl---CPF-EDI-23

HEROS Number: 900000010343509

State / Local Identifier: California

Project Location: 1610 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, CA 94115

Additional Location Information:

N/A

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The funding will be utilized for purposes of renovating the Japantown Peace Plaza and Pagoda in San Francisco. The scope of work for the project includes a renovation of the plaza and its associated amenities. The proposed project will incorporate fully accessible and meet ADA guidelines for accessible design and remedy the current deficiencies related to waterproofing and water intrusion. The overall proposed project improvements include: 1. Paving, including special paving areas; 2. Increased planting areas; 3. Increased seating opportunities; 4. Accessible seating opportunities; 5. Retained historic-cultural elements; 6. Increased lighting; 7. Increased usability during events; 8. Improved circulation system; 9. Seating Terraces; 10. Improved Geary Boulevard Edge; and 11. Renovating the Peace Pagoda. The Japantown Peace Plaza and Pagoda is in the Japantown community of SF, in Supervisorial District 5, bound by Post Street to the North, Geary Boulevard to the South, and the Japan Center Mall to the East and West. The park's area is approximately 32,000 square feet and sits atop an SFMTA-owned parking garage. The plaza was originally built in the 1960s and for much of its life it has suffered from water leaks into the garage below. Following a 2016 report by McGinnis Chen Architects that assessed the extent of repairs, it was determined that a full renovation of the plaza was needed to re-waterproof the entire structure below. These findings, coupled with overwhelming community activism to reinvigorate this critical public space into a space that they could continue to embrace framed the approach of the redesign. The intent of the project is to renovate and upgrade the plaza so that all existing infrastructure is repaired to remedy current deficiencies and site elements meet the current public needs, as well as all applicable codes and regulations. Unfortunately, a former 2000-2001 renovation did not successfully address water intrusion issues and the Plaza is still leaking water into the garage below. As part of the renovation, the garage structure of the Plaza will be reinforced to support the new features and the Peace Pagoda will be seismically upgraded. The new design seeks to provide the community with more functional access to the plaza, both for everyday and special event use, while harnessing the cultural symbolism that the Japantown Peace Plaza holds within the neighborhood, city, and region. The seismic reinforcement recommendations for the Japantown Peace Pagoda include: A. Four (0.5") steel reinforced tendons/cables that run externally along the long side of each column from the

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foundation (i.e., garage ceiling) to the roof, installed outside the carbon fiber wrapping. B. To reinforce the roof's seismic stability at every level, stainless steel plate reinforcement will be added to the connecting joints between existing adjoining concrete roof panels. Copper standing seam roof (over the existing concrete roof panels) will be removed and replaced to match original material in its entirety. C. Increased massing/depth on the horizontal roof ring beams where they are connected to the columns at each roof level, this includes a new deep circular ring beam at the top roof. D. Carbon fiber wrapping around each column, roughly 1" thick. The carbon fiber wrapping would run to the 3rd story roof. E. Five Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) strips would run along each column until the 3rd story roof. Three FRP strips would run along the interior side of the column, two would run along the outer edge of each column. The strips would be anchored into the existing podium via three 36" deep pockets. The FRP strips would be located under the carbon fiber wrapping.

Level of Environment Review Determination:

Categorically Excluded per 24 CFR 58.35(a), and subject to laws and authorities at §58.5:

58.34(a)(12)

58.35(a)(1)

58.35(a)(3)(iii)

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Program Name
BP-23-CP-CA-0192	Community Planning and Development (CPD)	Community Project Funding (CPF) Grants

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$3,000,000.00

Estimated Total Project Cost [24 CFR 58.2 (a) (5)]: \$34,277,650.00

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [CFR 1505.2(c)]:

Summarized below are all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure or Condition	Comments on Completed Measures	Complete
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Determination:

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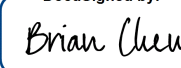
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project converts to EXEMPT per Section 58.34(a)(12), because it does not require any mitigation for compliance with any listed statutes or authorities, nor requires any formal permit or license; Funds may be committed and drawn down after certification of this part for this (now) EXEMPT project; OR
<input type="checkbox"/>	This categorically excluded activity/project cannot convert to Exempt status because one or more statutes or authorities listed at Section 58.5 requires formal consultation or mitigation. Complete consultation/mitigation protocol requirements, publish NOI/RROF and obtain "Authority to Use Grant Funds" (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds; OR
<input type="checkbox"/>	This project is not categorically excluded OR, if originally categorically excluded, is now subject to a full Environmental Assessment according to Part 58 Subpart E due to extraordinary circumstances (Section 58.35(c)).

Preparer Signature: _____ Lorena Guadiana Digitally signed by Lorena Guadiana
DN: cn=Lorena Guadiana, o=San Francisco City and County,
ou=Mayor's Office of Housing and Community
Development, email=Lorena.Guadiana@dpgov.org, c=US
Date: 2023.12.07 18:52:30 -0800 **Date:** 12/07/23

Name / Title/ Organization: Lorena Guadiana / SAN FRANCISCO

Responsible Entity Agency Official Signature: _____  _____ **Date:** 12/7/2023 | 6:37 PM PST

Name/ Title: Brian Cheu, Deputy Director, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environment Review Record (ERR) for the activity / project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).