



Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

HEARING DATE AUGUST 22, 2016

RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY

Application No.: LBR-2015-16-012
Business Name: Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery
Business Address: 552A Noe Street
District: District 8
Applicant: Rebecca Sawyer, Proposition J Coordinator
Nomination Date: March 1, 2016
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener
Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo
legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery is an arts center that promotes the appreciation of ceramic arts and encourages self-expression, as well as technical and artistic development through exhibitions, classes and all the resources provided by a shared learning facility. It is a non-profit community-serving business located in the Castro neighborhood on Noe Street between 18th and 19th Streets. Currently, more than 200 people rent storage lockers and workspaces, use drop-in services and are students at the studio.

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

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

552A Noe Street from 1967-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, the applicant has contributed to the Castro neighborhood's history and identity.

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 business is associated with the ceramic arts.
- While the business model is not unique to San Francisco, the studio was founded as a workshop space by Ruby O'Burke (1897-1983), a celebrated Northern California ceramic artist and a Mills College graduate.



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

- The 1900s property at 2981 24th Street has been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a “Category A Property” that is included as part of the identified-eligible South Mission Avenues and Alleys historic district. The 1900s property at 348 Precita Avenue has also been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a “Category A Property” that is included as part of the identified-eligible Bernal Heights North historic district.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
 - SF Chronicle, 12/27/1974, “Glazing the Pottery With Lots of Love”, by David Kleinberg;
 - Hoodline, 11/18/2015, “Inside Ruby’s Clay Studio & Gallery, A Castro Fixture Since 1968 ”, by Win Mixer.

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

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that Ruby’s Clay Studio and Gallery 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:

- Facade appearance from 1967-present, including windows, doors, ironwork, cornice, siding, and trimwork
- Ceramic tiles created by RCS artists and applied to front facade
- Wooden sidewalk bench decorated in ceramic tiles
- 5,000-sf workshop

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include Ruby’s Clay Studio and Gallery currently located at 552A Noe Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager
Legacy Business Program



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481



Small Business Commission Draft Resolution HEARING DATE AUGUST 22, 2016

RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY

LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO. _____

<i>Application No.:</i>	LBR-2015-16-012
<i>Business Name:</i>	Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery
<i>Business Address:</i>	552A Noe Street
<i>District:</i>	District 8
<i>Applicant:</i>	Rebecca Sawyer, Proposition J Coordinator
<i>Nomination Date:</i>	March 1, 2016
<i>Nominated By:</i>	Supervisor Scott Wiener
<i>Staff Contact:</i>	Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 552A NOE STREET.

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 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 August 22, 2016, 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 Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Small Business Commission recommends safeguarding the below listed physical features and traditions at Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Facade appearance from 1967-present, including windows, doors, ironwork, cornice, siding, and trimwork
- Ceramic tiles created by RCS artists and applied to front facade
- Wooden sidewalk bench decorated in ceramic tiles
- 5,000-sf workshop

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 22, 2016.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Ayes –
Nays –
Abstained –
Absent –



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER / SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 110, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102-4681
Small Business Assistance Center (415) 554-6134 / Small Business Commission (415) 554-6481



**Legacy
Business
Registry**

Application Review Sheet

Applicant Name: Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery

Nomination Date: March 1, 2016

Age of Business Confirmed: ☒ Yes

Application Deemed to Meet Minimum Qualifications: June 10, 2016

Application Referred to HPC Date: June 29, 2016

Notes:

As of June 20, 2016, the Small Business Commission has not made a ruling on nonprofits eligibility for the Legacy Business Registry. Absent a ruling, the Office of Small Business is honoring Supervisor Wiener's Nomination.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business, Small Business Commission



Member, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

SCOTT WIENER
威善高

March 1, 2016

Re: Nomination of Ruby's Clay Studio and Galley to the Legacy Business Registry

Dear Director Regina Dick Endrizzi:

I'm writing to nominate Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery for the Legacy Business Registry. Founded in 1967, Ruby's Clay Studio is an arts center that promotes the appreciation of ceramic arts and encourages self-expression, as well as technical and artistic development. Located in the Castro, Ruby's Clay Studio is a community serving non-profit business that benefits members of our community who take classes and use the space for their own artistic pursuits. RCS takes an active role in improving both the building the business occupies, but also the community it serves.

Ruby's Clay Studio has served the Castro for decades, and would benefit greatly from being a part of San Francisco's Legacy Business Registry. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wiener".

Scott Wiener
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

APPLICATION FOR

Legacy Business Registration

Legacy Business registration is authorized by Section 2A.242 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The registration process includes nomination by a member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor, a written application, and approval of the Small Business Commission.

1. Current Owner / Applicant Information

NAME OF BUSINESS:		
RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO + GALLERY (RCS)		
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business)		
Richard Crocker - President of the BOARD of Directors RCS is a 501(c)(3) with dozens of voting members - names available upon request.		
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:		TELEPHONE:
552 A Noe Street		(415) 558-9819
SF CA 94114		EMAIL:
		rubysclaystudio@yahoo.com
WEBSITE:	FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE:
RUBYSCLAYSTUDIO.ORG	Ruby's Clay Studio and gallery	Same as

APPLICANT'S NAME	
REBECCA SAWYER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Business Owner	
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
PROP J coordinator	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
1216 HAMPSHIRE ST	(415) 641-0112
SF CA 94110	EMAIL:
	REBSAW@GMAIL.COM
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
0400115	C118033

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
Founding Location:	552 A NOE ST, SF CA 94114
Current Headquarters Location:	" " "
Operating in San Francisco since:	1967

NAME OF NOMINATOR:	DATE OF NOMINATION:
Sup. Scott Wiener	March 1, 2016

2. Business Addresses

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION:
552 A NOE ST	94114	1967 - PRESENT
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING AND/OR HEADQUARTERED LOCATION? (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Founding Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Headquarters	

OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION
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3. Eligibility Criteria

Attach the business's historical narrative.

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

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.

REBECCA SAWYER 3/1/2016 Rebecca Sawyer
 Name (Print): Date: Signature:

3. Eligibility Criteria

Description of the essential features and history:

Ruby's Clay Studio (RCS) is an arts center with the primary objective of promoting appreciation of ceramic arts and encouraging self-expression as well as technical and artistic development through exhibitions, classes and all the resources provided by a shared learning facility. Ruby's Studio is a member-maintained, 501(C)(3) non-profit business led by a small staff, many volunteers and a Board of Directors elected by members.

Ruby O'Burke was a celebrated Northern California ceramic artist and a Mills College graduate who established the workshop in 1962 and moved to the present location at 552 A Noe Street in 1967. After running the entire workshop single-handedly for many years, Ruby established a manager system in 1977 to distribute the workload. Under that arrangement several workshop members were hired to collect fees, fire kilns, answer questions, deal with the public and keep the place clean. Ruby stayed on until 1980, when she turned over the reins to several part-time managers. Ruby died in October 1983 at age 86, but her vision lives on in a unique and thriving ceramics studio that serves hundreds of budding and serious ceramic artists.

In 1984 the members changed Ruby's Clay Studio from a privately owned ceramic business to a non-profit organization. RCS continues to make ceramics available to an ever growing community of local artists. Currently more than 200 people rent storage lockers and workspaces, use drop-in services, and are students who are always eager to fill the eight-week classes that are offered year round.

Contribution to the history and identity of the neighborhood. How does the building occupied by the business relate to the immediate neighborhood?

RCS is located in a two-story building similar to the typical family houses in the surrounding Castro neighborhood. The top floor originally was Ruby's residence, and today it has two rental units. During the nearly 50 years that RCS has operated at 552A Noe Street, studio members have made significant additions and improvements to the rental premises.

The building's façade features hundreds of individual ceramic tiles created by RCS artists. The tiles decorate the front door, windows and the studio's sign as well as the surface of a wooden sidewalk bench that offers a resting spot to pedestrians half-way up the steep hill between 18th and 19th Streets. There is another bench and numerous large plants in giant ceramic planters near the front entrance.

The studio is open to the public seven days a week. We welcome both visitors interested in seeing how ceramics are made and those who are looking to purchase a handmade gift

by a local artist. Neighborhood engagement includes regular participation in SF Open Studios as well as over 20 other gallery shows open to the public annually. Most shows feature the work of individual ceramic artists. Special group shows include the Holiday Show and Sale, the July Sidewalk Sale (offering thousands of handmade ceramic bargains), and a Spring fundraiser featuring ceramics made on the premises, donated by studio artists. Gallery shows are well attended by neighbors and citywide residents who have been patronizing the Gallery for decades.

Special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business.

Within Ruby's multi-level 5,000 square foot workspace, the studio has undertaken major and minor upgrades and improvements over many years. These include:

- Extensive electrical upgrade studio-wide
- Installation of two large electric kilns and two large gas kilns with appropriate ventilation within a fire-proof room
- The addition of built-in shelving for storage of ceramic materials throughout the studio
- A room dedicated to clay recycling, with a pug extruding machine, clay mixer and plumbing specifically capable of handling clay waste particles
- Managers work station created in the Gallery with extensive closed storage, new baseboards and LED lighting
- Sheet vinyl flooring installed for easy cleaning throughout the public gallery and the community wheel and area

The Community the Business Serves

The membership is a broad mix of San Franciscans. On a typical day, it is possible to hear conversations in Spanish, French, Japanese, Swedish or German about local restaurants, current museum exhibits and neighborhood safety, as well as techniques for working in clay.

A recent survey of people who use RCS reveals the following demographics:

- 42% walk or bike to Ruby's
- 55% are age 51 or older
- 40% have been belonged to Ruby's for 11 years or more
- 67% have full- or part-time employment outside of their ceramics work
- 37% earn \$50,000 or less annually
- 29% spend 11 hours or more each week working in ceramics at Ruby's
- 51% chose Ruby's because the studio is located in the Castro neighborhood
- 92% do not want to join another ceramics studio

Commitment to the Community

RCS offers ongoing outreach services for non-profit organizations and schools that have difficulty funding arts programs. These services include free clay, free firing and curriculum development.

From 2010 – 2012, RCS initiated and operated an innovative mobile ceramic studio – the Mud Bus program – that provided free ceramic art classes to children in low-income neighborhoods. With funding in 2010-2011 from the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, RCS provided Mud Bus sessions for children ages 6 -12 from the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco. In 2012, thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, RCS taught fall and spring sessions with the San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks, which now runs the program using the model created by members of RCS.

Schools that participate in our outreach services include:

- Yick Wu Elementary School
- BuriBuri Elementary School
- Fairmont Elementary School
- Ulloa Elementary School
- Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Ceramic projects using RCS outreach services have been conducted by:

- The Potrero Hill Housing Tile Project
- Homeless Prenatal
- ARC: A Center for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Leap Arts in Education,
- Creativity Explored
- Hospitality House
- Hospice by the Bay

Community Impact without Prop J support for RCS:

We are facing a new 10-year lease that includes a rent increase of 5% annually. Over the life of the lease, our rent will nearly double and create significant hardships for the studio's operating budget as well as for individual members. Due to the extensive improvements the business has installed over the last 48 years, strong member commitment to the Castro area and the difficulty of establishing a new ceramics studio, it is very unlikely that RCS could relocate.

Increases in rent must be passed on to the Studio users, students and members. This yearly increase in rental cost will dramatically alter the essential character of those currently served. It is likely that the extensive outreach services to schools and local not-

for-profit organizations that RCS currently provides will be curtailed or eliminated entirely. Higher costs for ceramic classes will eliminate all but the wealthiest students. The monthly rent increases could make it impossible for many current members, especially seniors on fixed incomes, to continue their ceramic activities.

The Prop J authorized Landlord Grant would be the salvation of this long-standing San Francisco institution. Our landlord has agreed to permit any grant received to offset the increase in the new lease.

Historical Legal Documents:

- IRS letter establishing 501(c)(3) status started in 1987.
- PG&E letter stating that utility service began in 1969.
- San Francisco Business Registration Renewal printout.

Photographs documenting:

Community engagement illustrating our outreach programs:

- KidServe Thank You Letter and project photos.
- Clarendon Elementary School Thank You Letter and project photos
- Fairmont School Thank You Letter and project photos
- Ruby's Clay Studio Mudbus Program brochure

Newspaper Clippings:

Kleinberg, David. "Glazing the Pottery With Lots of Love." The San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco, CA. Dec. 27, 1974

<http://hoodline.com/2015/11/inside-ruby-s-clay-studio-gallery-a-castro-fixture-since-1968>

<http://www.castrocourier.com/rubysclay.html>

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/rubys-clay-studio-and-gallery-san-francisco>

Glazing the Pottery With Lots of Love

By David Kleinberg

Ruby O'Burke sometimes gets a little testy when conditions at her ceramic studio degenerate, and like a mother reproving her children, she will snap at the young potters hunched over their wheels.

"There's a bunch of little pigs around here," she'll say, a not so subtle hint to the engrossed potters to clean up.

Ruby, however, is far more often a saint than a sergeant-at-arms. And, at the age of 74, she enjoys her matriarchal relationship to the more than 100 potters and students who use her Eureka Valley studio, which is 35 feet by 175 feet (bigger than a basketball court) and the largest pottery facility in San Francisco.

Working 14 hours a day to get through the holiday rush, piling up ceramic piece after piece in any one of six around-the-clock firing kilns, Ruby (as she's called by all) hardly had time to retreat to her living quarters above the shop for an interview. It appeared she had not had visitors recently.

"I don't work up here," she said, dusting off an old oak chair. "I live and sleep up here, but I've had very little time for that lately."

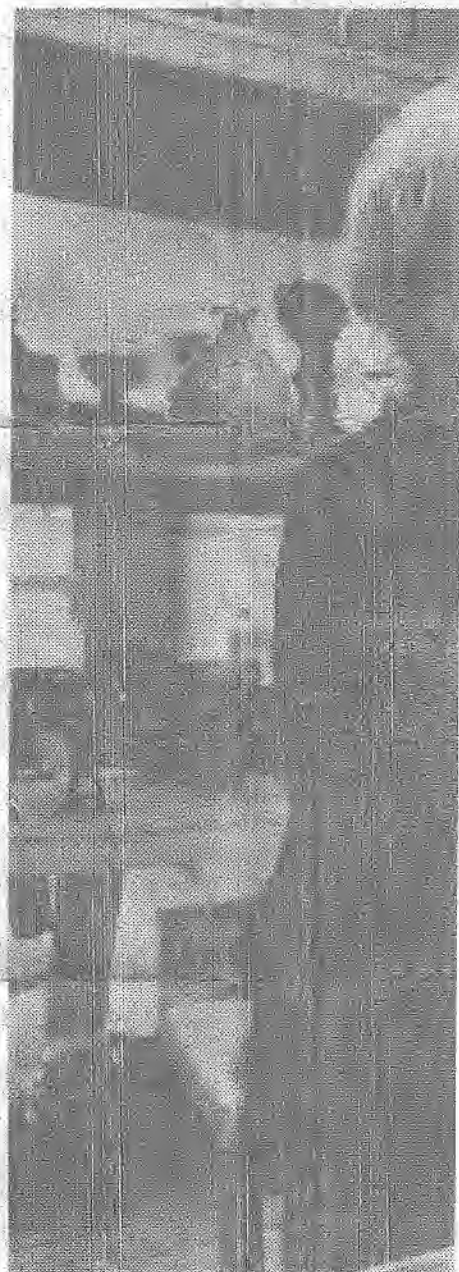
Her rooms were filled with fine ceramic pieces, her collection of years, and Ruby herself wore blue slacks and a loose worn blue cotton shirt which already showed signs of soil from her working early in the morning.

Even as Ruby held back and waited to be questioned before speaking, potters were busy downstairs. I always bawl them out when they don't clean up. They think I'm bossing



Photos by Susan Ehmer

A totem pole (left) of busts that represent different periods in life of Ruby O'Burke (right), who at 74 continues to work at her ceramic studio in Eureka Valley



for and about
people

riods, and had a daughter, Patricia, out of the first marriage.

"I never got married again," she said. "I have no judgment about picking men. I always picked a man who needed me more than I needed him."

Ruby came to her vocation late in life, following a great personal tragedy, the death

function after Patricia's death, but a friend introduced her to a ceramics class. She went every night of the week and for a year worked on clay images of her daughter.

Once during the period, her teacher introduced the class to works by the French artist Georges Rouault. Much of it reflected misery and pain.

metal and was characteristic, asserts that really excellent arts.

She worked clerk and inventory her company until her retirement in 1968, on weeking vacations.

She put in a studio in 1951, then on the moved into her fulltime pottery for use of the no one disput claims she's even.

Ruby suffer in a car accident



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company***

PO Box 997300
Sacramento, CA 95899-7300

January 13, 2016

Ruby Oburke
552 Noe St
San Francisco, CA 94114

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to confirm that the customer of record for the above address commenced service with PG&E on 01-01-1969.

If you have any further questions please call our toll-free number at **1-800-743-5000**. Our customer service is open 24 hours a day.

Sincerely,

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Customer Service Department

RUBY'S SKY CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY - EXTERIOR



Current Exterior

RUBY'S SKY CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY - INTERIOR



RUBY'S SKY CLAY STUDIO AND GALLERY - INTERIOR



Community Clay Art Workshops

If you are interested in hosting Mud Bus but do not fall with in our requirements for free classes we also offer Mud Bus classes as community clay art workshops for a minimal fee.

Fee includes materials, firings, travel allowance and instructor time.



A two-session class, running 1.5 hours costs \$20/person.

A four-session class, 1.5 hours each session costs \$35/person.

A six-session class, 1.5 hours each session costs \$50/person.

Minimum 10 students.

(These are only suggestions, the numbers of classes and class lengths are flexible, and rates are adjusted accordingly.)

Contact a Ruby's manager to get involved at:

rubbyclaystudio@yahoo.com

or visit us on the web at:

www.rubyclaystudio.org



RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO MUD BUS



A CLAY STUDIO ON WHEELS

The Mud Bus is Ruby's community outreach project:

To inspire participants to learn about, appreciate and become proficient in the ceramic arts

Visit us on the web at
www.rubyclaystudio.org

What is the Mud Bus?

The **Mud Bus** is a mobile ceramic studio equipped with all the materials and tools needed to conduct arts education through hands-on classes in clay, to diverse sites and populations throughout San Francisco. Tools and materials are brought to host sites where artist teachers conduct classes with enrolled students. Artworks are transported to and from Ruby's firings and a culminating exhibition.

The host organization provides a suitable workspace, modest storage and a staff person who regularly works with the students to assist Mud Bus artists.

Families and friends are invited to attend an opening reception for the professionally presented display of the students' work at Ruby's gallery at the end of each module of classes.



What the Mud Bus Provides



Mud bus classes teach basic skills in hand building (with coils and slabs of clay), throwing on the potter's wheel, and glazing. Classes are conducted in the after-school setting, and projects are designed so that students can make a clay artwork in one day.

The Mud Bus targets communities that have little or no access to ceramic arts and provide programs that are accessible and affordable. Through active 'hands-on' art activities, participants will have a unique opportunity to develop skills in concentration, communication, observation and focus.

We have witnessed first-hand the success of engaging youth with clay projects through which, they find a voice to tell their stories, contribute constructively to their communities and explore a new approach to directing their lives.

All of the organizations we have worked with see how positively their students responded to the opportunity for a creative experience in the context of the ceramic arts.

Funding permitting, non-profit 501(C) 3 community organizations and public schools enrolled in our programs receive Mud Bus clay classes free of charge. Currently our target audiences are the underserved low-income youth in San Francisco.

How to get involved

The Mud Bus is a new program. There are opportunities to be involved in the following ways:

If you are a non profit 501(C) 3 or public school interested in being considered as a Mud Bus partner send an email to a Rubys' manager who will forward your request to our outreach co-coordinator. Your email should include in the subject: **Request for Mud Bus services.**

State your contact information. Describe your organization and the community you serve.

State why you are interested in Mud Bus and

How your community will benefit from our services.

If you qualify for our free program our outreach coordinator will contact you regarding our contract and partner commitment requirements.



Host a Community Clay Art Workshop.

Please follow the same application instructions for non-profit organizations above.

See overleaf for availability and rates.

Become a Volunteer.

Members of Rubys' are welcome to help with firing kilns, making flyers and exhibition set up and breakdown. Ceramic artists who have teaching experience are invited to contribute to our community outreach project by assisting with classes. For those who have already volunteered it is a rewarding and fun experience.

Financial contributions.

Our services are offered through grants and donations. The Mud Bus appreciates your contributions. Your gift is tax deductible.

Contact a Ruby's manager to get involved at:

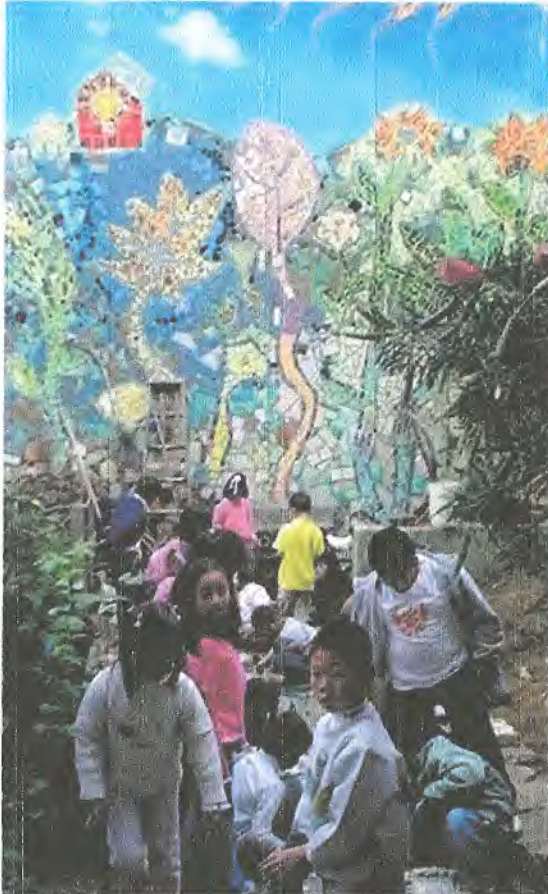
rubysclaystudio@yahoo.com

KIDSERVE PUBLIC ART by Young People

a project of the Every Child Can Learn Foundation

From February to June 2004 children from San Miguel Children's Center and James Denman Middle School created Mosaic Stepping Stones for their outdoor school garden.

Special Thanks to **RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO** for their generous help in firing over 350 ceramic tiles for our youth project.





Dear Ruby's,
 Domo arigato gozaimasu
 Thank you very much!
 From,
 Mr. Kunisaki's third
 grade class
 at Clarendon
 Elementary School





June 10, 2011

Dear Marnie, Richard, Andrew
and everyone at Ruby's,

Thank you so much for firing
the clay pots and animals
created by my students at
Fairmount school. I know it
required extra time and effort
to get such a huge quantity
done. I hope these photos convey,
in a small way, how much the
students appreciated ~~this~~ your
part in this Leap residency -
their only art class for this
year. Without your support we
could not have done it. They
just loved being about to
create in clay and were so
proud of their completed work!

Sincerely,
Leslie

Leslie Fleming, Leap Teaching Artist

Filing Date: July 8, 2016
Case No.: 2016-008572LBR
Business Name: Ruby's Clay Studio
Business Address: 552A Noe Street
Zoning: RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family)/
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3583/011
Applicant: Rebecca Sawyer, Proposition J Coordinator
1216 Hampshire Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8
Staff Contact: Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186
Stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

Ruby's Clay Studio (RCS) is an arts center that promotes the appreciation of ceramic arts and encourages self-expression, as well as technical and artistic development through exhibitions, classes and all the resources provided by a shared learning facility. It is a non-profit community-serving business located in the Castro neighborhood on Noe Street between 18th and 19th Streets. The two-story building is an Italianate-style Victorian-era structure previously used as an ironworks, as noted on the 1915 Sanborn map. The upper story was used as the studio founder's (Ruby O'Burke) residence and is now two separate units. Currently more than 200 people rent storage lockers and workspaces, use drop-in services, and are students at the studio.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. *When was business founded?*

1967

2. *Is the business unique to San Francisco?*

While the business model is not unique to San Francisco, the studio was founded as a workshop space by Ruby O'Burke, a celebrated Northern California ceramic artist and a Mills College graduate.

3. *Is the business associated with culturally significant events?*

No.

4. *Is the business associated with culturally significant persons?*

Yes. Ruby O'Burke (1897-1983) was a celebrated Northern California ceramic artist and a Mills College graduate.

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

Yes. The business is associated with the ceramic arts.

6. *Is the business associated with a culturally significant building/structure/site/object/interior?*

Unknown. The pre-1900 property has not been previously evaluated by the Planning Department for potential historical significance. The property is considered a "Category B Property" that requires further review per the Planning Department's CEQA review procedures for historical resources.

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

No.

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

No.

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

Yes. SF Chronicle, 12/27/1974, "Glazing the Pottery With Lots of Love", by David Kleinberg; Hoodline, 11/18/2015, "Inside Ruby's Clay Studio & Gallery, A Castro Fixture Since 1968", by Win Mixer.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Recommended by Applicant

- Extensive electrical upgrade studio-wide
- Installation of two large electric kilns and two large gas kilns with appropriate ventilation within a fire-proof room
- The addition of built-in shelving for storage of ceramic materials throughout the studio
- A room dedicated to clay recycling, with pug extruding machine, clay mixer and plumbing specifically capable of handling clay waste particles
- Managers' work station created in the Gallery with extensive closed storage, new baseboards and LED lighting
- Sheet vinyl flooring installed for easy cleaning throughout the public gallery and the community wheel and area

Additional Recommended by Staff

- Facade appearance from 1967-present, including windows, doors, ironwork, cornice, siding, and trimwork
- Ceramic tiles created by RCS artists and applied to front facade
- Wooden sidewalk bench decorated in ceramic tiles
- 5,000-sf workshop



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 782

HEARING DATE AUGUST 3, 2016

1650 Mission St.
Suite 400
San Francisco,
CA 94103-2479

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Case No.: 2016-008572LBR
Business Name: Ruby's Clay Studio
Business Address: 552A Noe Street
Zoning: RH-3 (Residential, House, Three-Family)/
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3583/011
Applicant: Rebecca Sawyer, Proposition J Coordinator
1216 Hampshire Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Nominated By: Supervisor Scott Wiener, District 8
Staff Contact: Stephanie Cisneros - (415) 575-9186
Stephanie.cisneros@sfgov.org
Reviewed By: Tim Frye - (415) 575-6822
tim.frye@sfgov.org

**ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR RUBY'S CLAY STUDIO,
CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 552A NOE STREET (BLOCK/LOT 3583/011).**

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 Castro 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 August 3, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

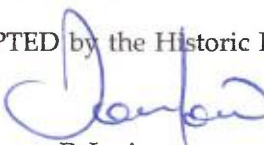
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission** hereby recommends that Ruby's Clay Studio qualifies for the Legacy Business Registry under Administrative Code Section 2A.242(b)(2) and recommends safeguarding of the below listed physical features and traditions.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Extensive electrical upgrade studio-wide
- Installation of two large electric kilns and two large gas kilns with appropriate ventilation within a fire-proof room
- The addition of built-in shelving for storage of ceramic materials throughout the studio
- A room dedicated to clay recycling, with pug extruding machine, clay mixer and plumbing specifically capable of handling clay waste particles
- Managers' work station created in the Gallery with extensive closed storage, new baseboards and LED lighting
- Sheet vinyl flooring installed for easy cleaning throughout the public gallery and the community wheel and area
- Facade appearance from 1967-present, including windows, doors, ironwork, cornice, siding, and trimwork
- Ceramic tiles created by RCS artists and applied to front facade
- Wooden sidewalk bench decorated in ceramic tiles
- 5,000-sf workshop

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 2016-008572LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was **ADOPTED** by the Historic Preservation Commission on August 3, 2016.



Jonas P. Ionin

Commission Secretary

AYES: Hyland, Johnck, Johns, Pearlman, Matsuda, Wolfram

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hasz

ADOPTED: August 3, 2016