SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

### Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

#### **HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016**

#### THE SACRED GROUNDS CAFÉ

Application No.: Business Name: Business Address: District: Applicant: Nomination Date: Nominated By: Staff Contact: LBR-2015-16-058 The Sacred Grounds Café 2095 Hayes Street District 5 Teddy Ma, Owner May 18, 2016 Supervisor London Breed Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

#### **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

Founded in 1972 by two lesbian Christian women, The Sacred Grounds Café has served as a neighborhood coffee shop and a creative hub for poets, students, and artists. The business is located on the southeast corner of Cole and Hayes streets in the North Panhandle neighborhood. Its name was inspired by the presence of cemeteries that had historically existed in the area, including one adjacent to nearby St. Ignatius Parish. Its storefront features large plate glass windows and outdoor seating while the interior is made up of a large sofa, armchairs, tables and chairs, bookshelves stocked with books and board games, as well as a unique collection of photographs and odd fixtures such as license plates, rusty oilcans, and garage sales items that decorate a room in the rear of the space. The cafe offers an extensive menu of coffee and espresso drinks, tea, breakfast, and lunch items. Its customer base is diverse, made up largely of artists, neighborhood residents, and students from nearby universities including the San Francisco School of Law and the St. Mary's Medical Center. As one of the earliest venues to offer regular poetry readings in San Francisco, The Sacred Grounds Café has nurtured an active and thriving poet community through its weekly poetry readings, regular open mic events, and book signings. The business also sponsors the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal and Anthology and participates in a number of local and international poetry events including Poetry Under the Dome, the Biannual Poet's 11 Contest, and San Francisco Peace and Hope (which The Sacred Grounds Café hosts). Internationally, the business participates in the 100 Thousand Poets for Change readings and the World Beyond War event, a global movement to end all wars. The business gives back to the community in other ways by holding an annual food drive for the San Francisco Food Bank and serving as a venue for musical debuts and stand-up comedy acts.

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

2095 Hayes Street from 1972-Present (44 years).



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## 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 North Panhandle 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 Sacred Grounds Café is associated with the craft of preparing and serving coffee and tea, and the tradition of supporting the poet community through readings, open mike nights, and other poetry events.
- The Sacred Grounds Cafe has contributed to the identity of the North Panhandle neighborhood by offering a space for residents, students, and artists to socialize over coffee or tea, study or write, and enjoy free cultural performances. The business has contributed to the history of the city's poet community by offering a venue for poetry readings and open mic nights, and for organizing and participating in larger poetry events.
- The 1924 building is associated with significant architecture. The property has been identified as a "Category A" building that is located within a California Register-eligible Panhandle Historic District. Further evaluation is needed to determine if the business or property is associated with significant events or persons.
- The business is mentioned in various poetry blogs and online guides as a recommended destination for poetry events. Such websites as San Francisco's Poetry Guide Tour, Poets & Writers, San Francisco Art and Poetry Event Calendar, and Open Mic Bay Area.
- The business has been cited in the following publications:
  - Golden Gate Xpress, 4/15/2016, "Trans Activist Uses Life Story and Music to Educate Public," by Eva Barragan.

### 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 Sacred Grounds Café is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define its craft of preparing and serving coffee and tea, as well as its tradition of supporting the poet community through readings, open mic nights, and other poetry events.

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that The Sacred Grounds Café 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:

- Hosting poetry readings and open mic events.
- Hosting the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal.
- Organizing and participating in annual poetry events.
- Displaying photos and odd fixtures like license plates, rusty oil cans, and garage sales items that decorate the back room.



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

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#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include The Sacred Grounds Café currently located at 2095 Hayes Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Manager Legacy Business Program



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

## Small Business Commission Draft Resolution

**HEARING DATE DECEMBER 12, 2016** 

#### THE SACRED GROUNDS CAFÉ

#### LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY RESOLUTION NO.

Application No.: Business Name: Business Address: District: Applicant: Nomination Date: Nominated By: Staff Contact: LBR-2015-16-058 The Sacred Grounds Café 2095 Hayes Street District 5 Teddy Ma, Owner May 18, 2016 Supervisor London Breed Richard Kurylo legacybusiness@sfgov.org

## ADOPTING FINDINGS APPROVING THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY APPLICATION FOR THE SACRED GROUNDS CAFÉ, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 2095 HAYES 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, communityserving 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 in 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 December 12, 2016, the San Francisco Small Business Commission reviewed documents and correspondence, and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry application; therefore



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

Mark Dwight, President Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Small Business Commission hereby includes The Sacred Grounds Café 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 The Sacred Grounds Café:

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Hosting poetry readings and open mic events.
- Hosting the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal.
- Organizing and participating in annual poetry events.
- Displaying photos and odd fixtures like license plates, rusty oil cans, and garage sales items that decorate the back room.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on December 12, 2016.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi Director

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes – Nays – Abstained – Absent –



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MARK DWIGHT, PRESIDENT REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

### Legacy Business Registry

# Application Review Sheet

Application No.: Business Name: Business Address: District: Applicant: Nomination Date: Nominated By: LBR-2015-16-058 The Sacred Grounds Café 2095 Hayes Street District 5 Teddy Ma, Owner May 18, 2016 Supervisor London Breed

**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? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u>

2095 Hayes Street from 1972-Present (44 years).

**CRITERION 2:** Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u>

**CRITERION 3:** Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms? <u>X</u> Yes <u>No</u>

NOTES: NA

DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: October 17, 2016

Richard Kurylo Manager, Legacy Business Program



President, Board of Supervisor District 5



City and County of San Francisco

#### LONDON N. BREED

Wednesday, May 18th, 2016

Office of Small Business Small Business Commission City Hall, Suite 110 San Francisco, CA 94102

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to nominate Sacred Grounds Café at 2095 Hayes Street for the Legacy Business Registry Program.

Founded in 1972, Sacred Grounds Café was one of the first cafés established in the Haight Ashbury neighborhood. While many changes have occurred since then, this cafe continues to be a welcoming gathering space for the community.

This establishment has proved to be an asset to the community. With free wifi and close proximity to the University of San Francisco School of Law and St. Mary's Medical Center, Sacred Grounds Café is a hotspot for students and medical professionals to gather for meetings or study sessions. It also supports local artists by hosting open mic nights for poets on Wednesday nights, and for singers on Saturday and Thursday nights. Furthermore, on every third Sunday of the month, aspiring and veteran ukulele players come to the café to play music and learn from each other.

I am proud to nominate Sacred Grounds Café for the Legacy Business Registry Program. The proprietor, Teddy Ma, can be reached at (415) 387-3859. It may be best to have a Chinese speaking staff contact him as English is his second language. Mr. Ma speaks both Cantonese and Mandarin.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at (415) 554-7630 or <u>BreedStaff@sfgov.org</u>. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President London Breed Board of Supervisors City & County of San Francisco

City Hall • 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place • San Francisco, California 94102-4689 • (415) 554-7630 Fax (415) 554 - 7634 • TDD/TTY (415) 554-5227 • E-mail: London.Breed@sfgov.org

## APPLICATION FOR Legacy Business Registry

Legacy Business Registry 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, an advisory recommendation from the Historical Preservation Commission, and approval of the Small Business Commission.

1. Current Owner / Applicant Information	
NAME OF BUSINESS:	in the destriction of the balance of the
Sacred Grounds cafe	
BUSINESS OWNER(S) (identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the	ne business)
Teddy ma	
CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
2095 Hayes St	(415)387-3859 EMAIL:
S.F. 0A 94117	LINAL.
WEBSITE: FACEBOOK PAGE:	YELP PAGE
ы —	
APPLICANT'S NAME	
TEDDY MQ	Same as Business Owner
APPLICANT'S TITLE	
owner	
APPLICANT'S ADDRESS:	TELEPHONE:
2095 HAYES ST. SIF CA 94117	(415) 387 - 3859 EMAIL:
S.F CA 94117	2
SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER:	SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (if applicable):
437966	
NAME OF NOMINATOR: (Completed by OSB Staff)	DATE OF NOMINATION: (Completed by OSB Staff)

#### 2. Business Addresses

ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS:	ZIP CODE:	START DATE OF BUSINESS
2095 HAYES ST. S.F.	CA94113	r 1972
IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS?	DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATON	
No Yes	1972	
OTHER ADDRESSES (if applicable):	ZIP CODE:	DATES OF OPERATION

Legacy Business Registry

### Application

## Section Three:

#### Disclosure Statement.

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 and a business deemed not current in 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 the Business Assistance Grant.

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.
- M 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.

EDDY MA 10-13-16 tt): Date: fondo

Name (Print)

#### The Sacred Grounds Coffee House, a brief history

The legendary Sacred Grounds Coffee House was established by two lesbian Christians (thus "Sacred Grounds") and has been around since 1972. This establishment is more than just a coffee house. In the seventies, the owner sponsored a softball team. Al Avebach, one of the team members, still remembers fondly of his uniform with the image of a big steaming cup of coffee in the front. A poetry reading series started at around the same time is still happening every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9:30pm. It is the first venue for poetry reading in San Francisco.

Sacred Grounds has gone through many owners but managed to retain its original charm — situated in San Francisco's panhandle neighborhood at the corner of Hayes and Cole, the front of the café spans a glass window. Inside, a big old sofa and armchairs dominate one corner. The rest of the room has wood tables of various sizes, and chairs. A photo of Marilyn Monroe with her parted lips gazes out, hung next to a clown painted lying sideways in a long tunic with cross-diamond pattern. Odd fixtures like license plates, rusty oil cans and garage sales items decorate the back room. A small kitchen is set up there, with a green-tiled counter. The floor is dark and the cafe smells of yesterday's grilled cheese sandwich. It is retro-mellow, the real Mc-coy.

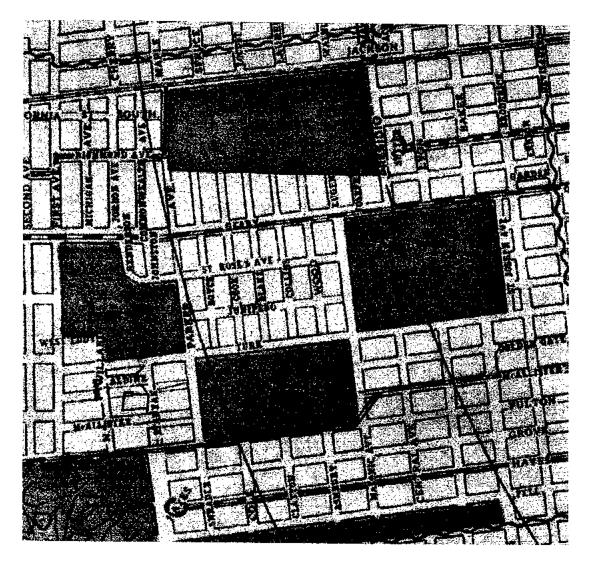
The poetry reading series has gone through many hosts too. Jehanah Wedgwood, the old druidess, hosted the series for over ten years. After her passing, Dan Brady took up the torch and has been leading the open mike and featured readings since 2010. Mr. Natural, the neighborhood music teacher, was for years the host for the Thursday night music open mike. They are currently in search of a new host.

These open mikes are a vital contribution to San Francisco's poetry and music community. They are free and inclusive, giving poets and musicians a place to sound out their work, to socialize, to stimulate each other, to inspire and to be inspired. Their existence speaks to the integrity of the owners and the hosts.

Sacred Grounds Coffee House's current owner, Teddy Ma, would very much like to see this venue registered as a San Francisco Legacy Business. Not only the business deserves the status, but poets and musicians will know that their "home" is safe and that this San Francisco gem will continue to shine for years to come. Criterion 2: The business has contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community. Community does include a business or industry community.

## 1) Describe the business's contribution to the history and/or identity of the neighborhood, community of San Francisco.

This business is located north of the panhandle in San Francisco. It is on Hayes Street at Cole. Hayes St., at this location, is home to a number of small businesses and the population is diverse. Many students from the local universities live in the areas as well as a number of long time residents. The neighborhood of sacred grounds (and Sacred Grounds): <u>http://sfist.com/attachments/SFist\_Jay/cemeteries-geary.jpg</u> As one can see, Masonic Cemetery was just two blocks north of the cafe's location:



That's the primary reason for the double-entendre name of the cafe, as I've been told, along with the proximity of St. Ignatius, which was built at the southwest corner of the cemetery. Here's an old photo of St. Ignatius Church with the cemetery in the foreground: <u>https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-</u> bVp7tL5CDKk/VLhpLiDI20I/AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA?



Essentially, the cemetery was the backyard of the church. This photo was taken during the removal of graves.

## 2) Is the business (or has been) associated with significant events in the neighborhood, the city or the business industry?

Sacred Grounds poetry open mic, Sacred" has participated in many events local, national and international. Locally, we participate in the annual Poetry Under the Dome, the biannual Poet's 11 contest and we host readings for the Haight-Ashbury

Literary Journal as well as the anthology, San Francisco Peace and Hope, both annual events at Sacred. We are a venue listed with the international 100 Thousand Poets for Change readings as well as the World Beyond War events, which are ongoing. We also hold an annual food drive for the SF food bank and have hosted a number of book signing events.

#### 3) Has the business ever been mentioned in a historical context?

Sacred Grounds has been mentioned in Poetry Flash over the decades and has been the subject of many video recordings over time.

#### 4) Is the business associated with a significant or historical character?

Mr. Natural, aka "Natch" has been a mentor to the arts events at Sacred for decades. He is famed as the real person from whom Mr. Crumb created his iconic character.

Jehannah Wedgwood, a well known local poet and an important member of the Druid community of California, hosted the poetry evening for over 20 years and during that time put together a series of poetry anthologies containing works by those who read at Sacred Grounds.

#### 5) How does the business demonstrate its commitment to the community?

Sacred's poetry open mic has been around for 44 years. The poetry open mic has always been on Wednesday nights starting between 7 and 730pm. There has been a Thursday night open mic music venue at Sacred for that long as well. I performed on the small triangular stage several times between the years 1974 and 1977. Thousands have performed at Sacred and many more thousands have been in the audience. There is also a Saturday afternoon poetry gathering as well.

Paintings have been on display for sale during some periods during the café's history.

This has always been a friendly placed, described as a "living room" for poets and others. It has always been friendly, home made, easy going and relaxing.

#### 6) Provide a description of the community the business serves.

- .

The business has supported painters and graphic artists at different times in its past, sponsored a softball team for a local league, has hosted poetry events, book signings, musical debuts and stand up comedy. The owners have always been welcoming to artists and in supporting them provides local talent a showcase and local patrons a place to enjoy the fine arts and to contribute to a business which supports the arts.

The community of participating poets and artists is wide ranging. We've hosted young and old, men, women and children, we are diverse in the races represented, gender identification preferred, the style of poetry from radical, to classic, hip hop to ballads, classical to modern. We love and encourage new writers and performers to join in. Overall we want to keep being representative of San Francisco's community. As to what is presented on stage, members are those who speak out on issues of the day, issues eternal and sublime, the human condition, personal prose, singing, satire, hyperbolic considerations, humor – both biting and silly and the list would go on.

The opt in only mailing list for the poetry open mic has 100 persons on it. The facebook group has about 350 members and the video clips on Ustream and YouTube have been viewed some 12,000 times.

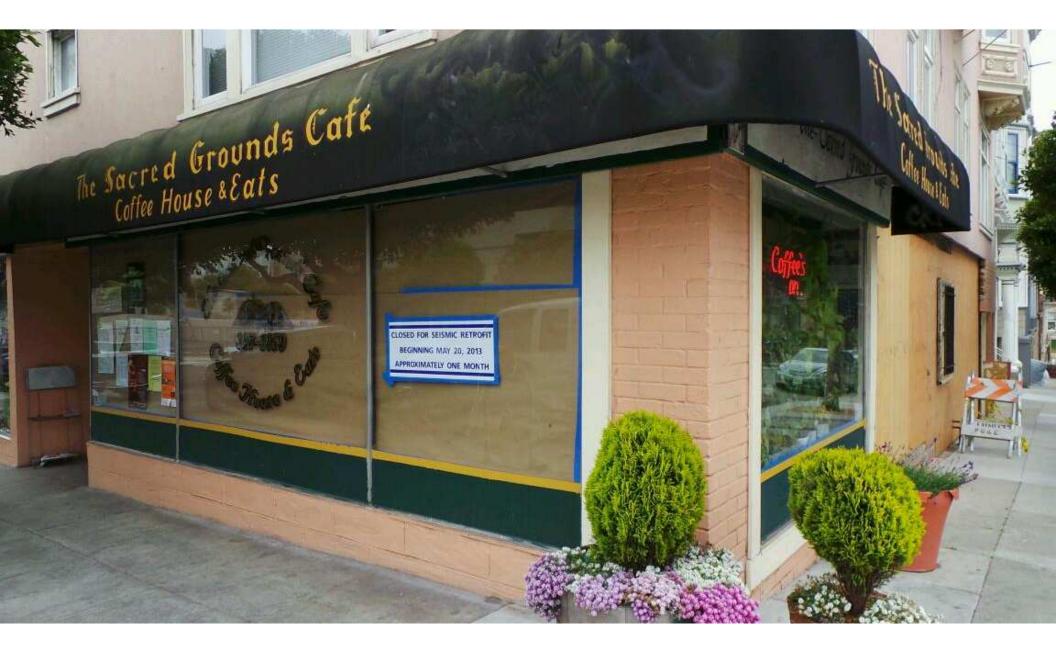
## 7) Is the business associated with a culturally significant building, structure, site, object or interior? I am not sure about this.

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

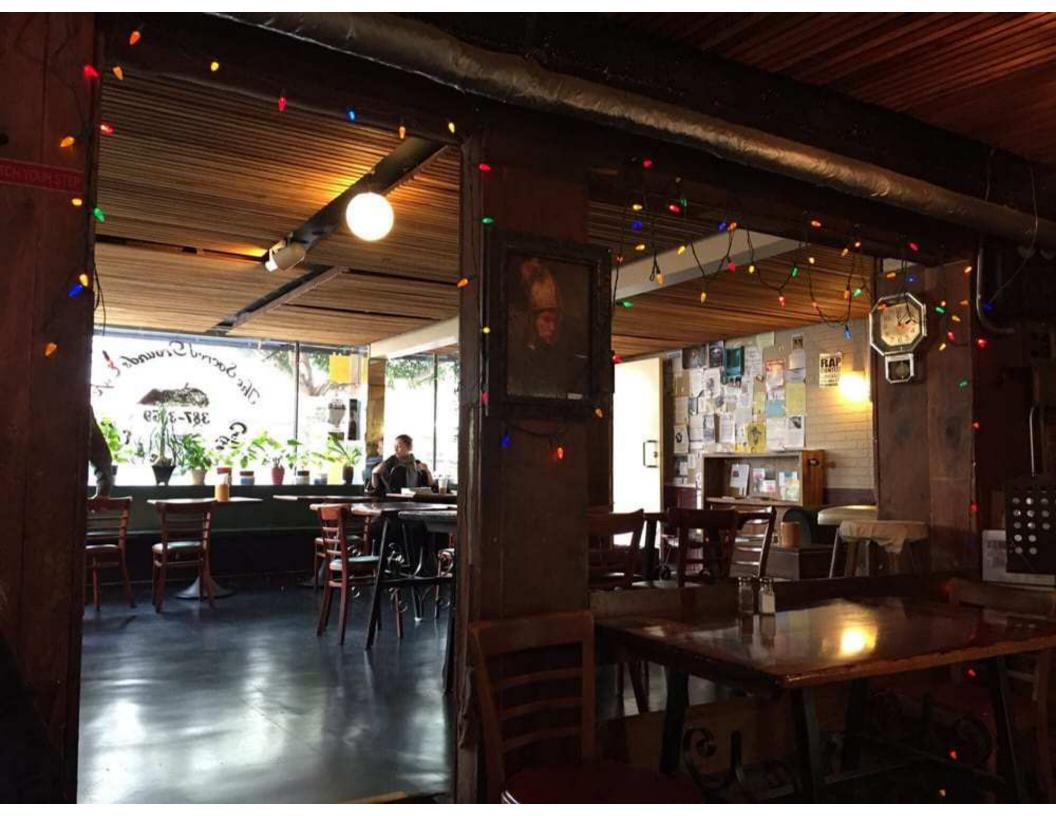
If this venue were to be closed for some reason, well, this rather large community would have to find a new home. It would have to have evening hours, be big enough to hold the crowd we get, ranging from 30 to 50, serve inexpensive food and be willing to cater to the need for the poets to be heard, which means our host keeps the sound down, as do we, and when a poet is reading you can hear the proverbial pin drop. It would have to be in a quiet locale for that reason, be near a few bus lines, which we are, the Hayes, the N-Judah, the 7 Haight-Noriega and the Fulton St. line.

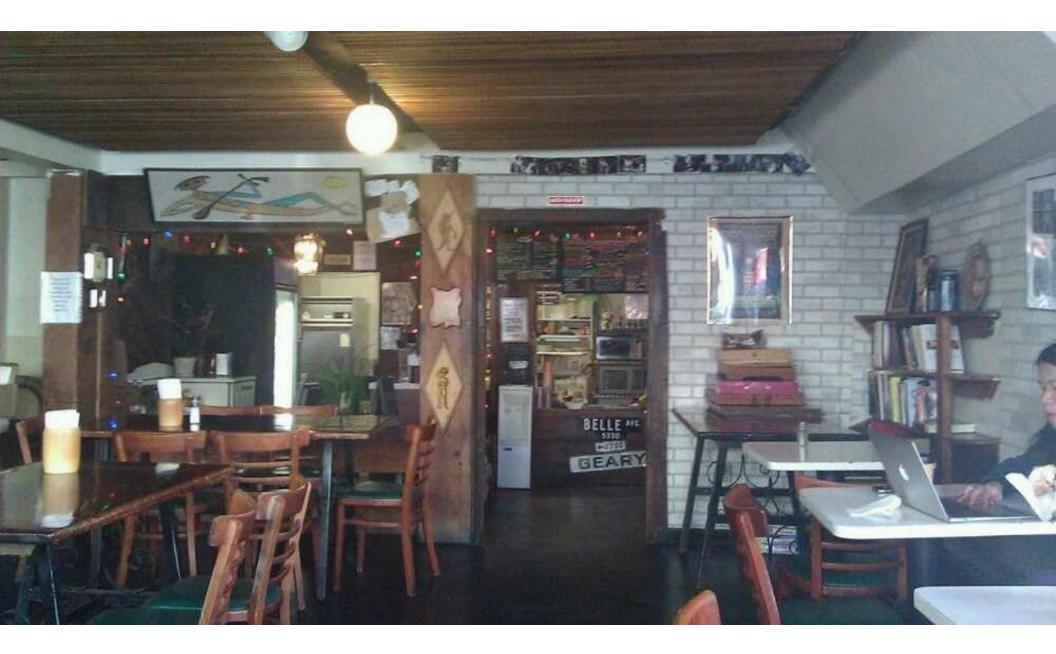


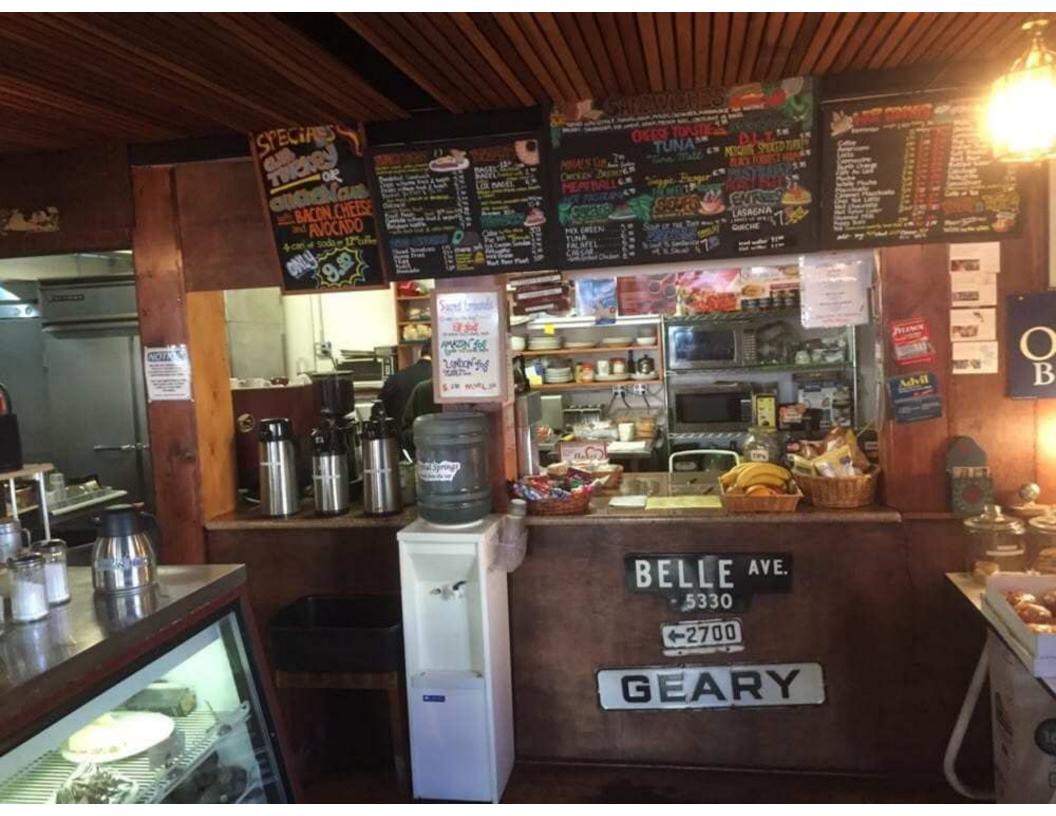
















Breakfast Sandwich Zeggs w/home fries & toast Zeggs w/fresh fruit & toast Peanut Butter & Jam 100001-Oatmeal 350 

SHOR!

Sliced Tomatoes Home Fries 1E44 Teast 1.50 Avocado



LOX BAGEL in chirtle almon contan cleate , or and-termin, example, use 50 cen

150 Add - pecedo Hummer 3,50

Cake by the slice 3715 Pile 315 Manyole 1, 50 Ice Cream Sundae 3, 55 Affogato 4, 25 Milk Shake 4, 25 125 creese 40% Root Beer Float 385

MIHALY SUB From Surten CHICKEN BREAST 6.95 6.95 PASTRAMi695 Sellaps Fouth constables 

FALAFEL 6.95 CAESAR 6.95 -With Griled Chicken 8.95 6.95

C-MAN2 anymade Tireth SOUP OF THE DAY MULY TS DAYL YE SOUP, YE SANDWICH 7

FALAFEL 19

SEAVED WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO, ORION, MOLES, CACUMDER, MANONI, PICE ALD PULLARD, BREADS: SURBOUGH, RSE, WHEAT, GARNY, FRENCH NALL, CROSSINGST OR DAGEL 4,95

TUNA 5.95

6.95

Tuna Melt **ESQUITE SMOKED T** RKFY 58 Veggie Burger 6.95 5,95 25 LASAGNA QUICHE

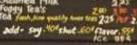
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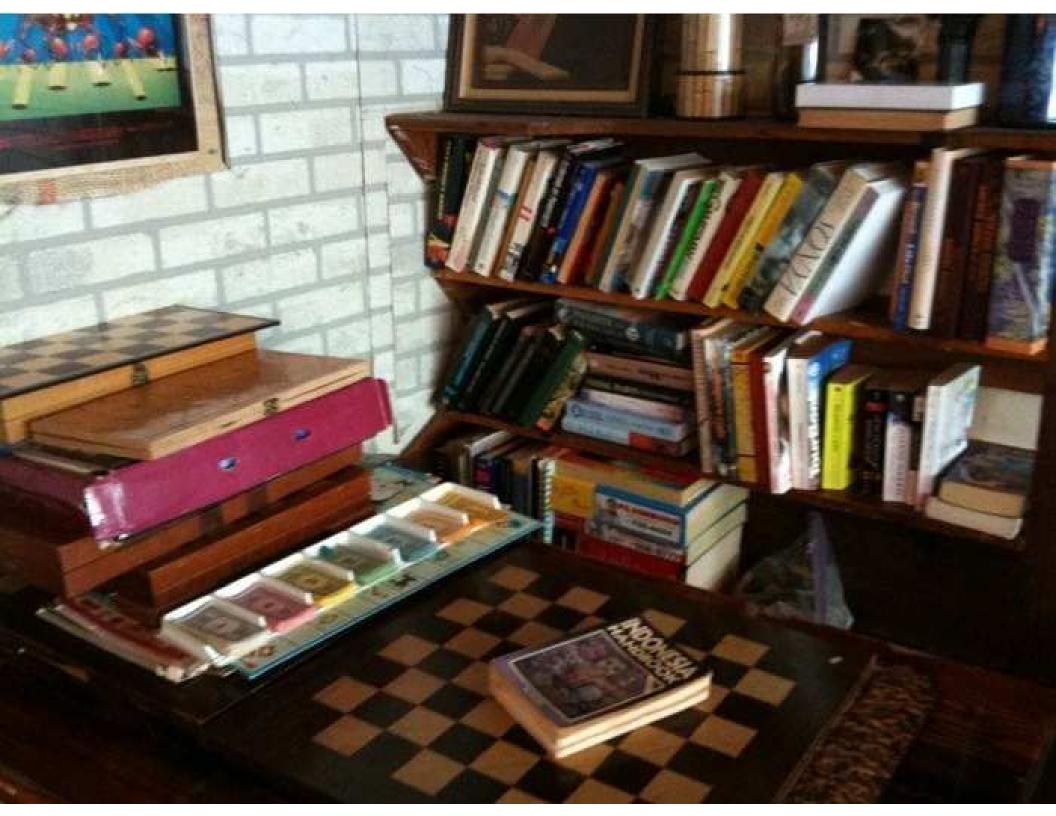
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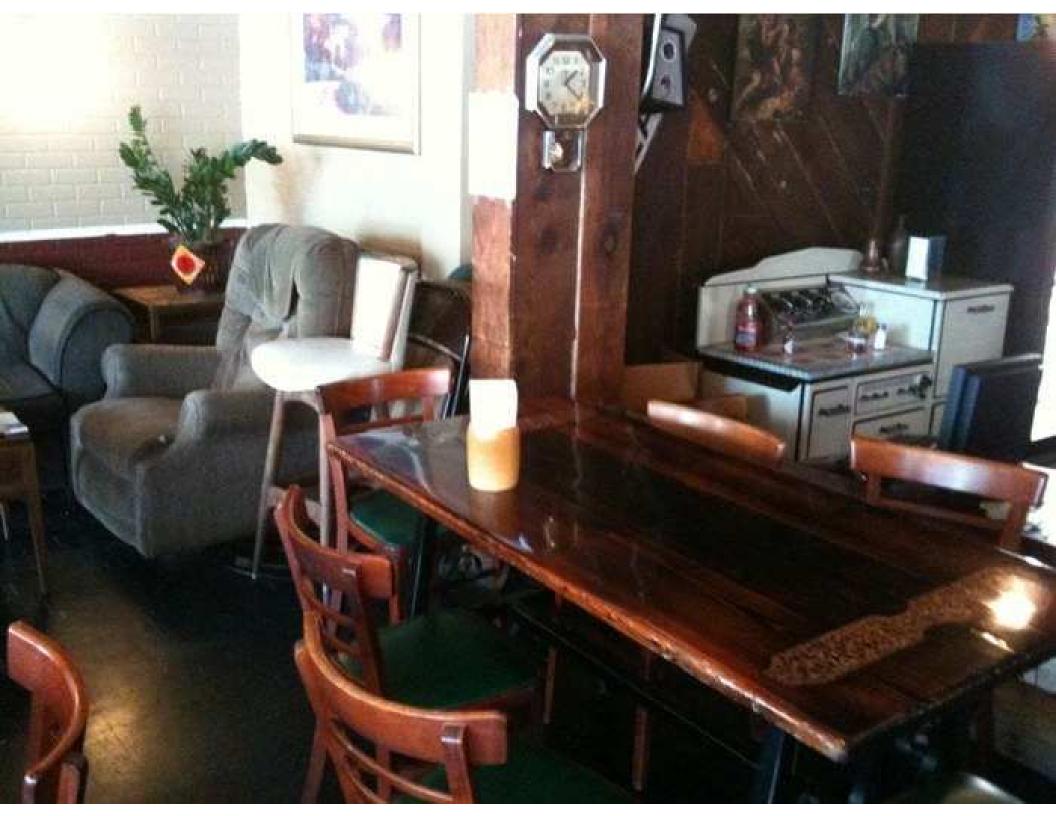
5.95

Espresso SP Coffee Americano Latte Cappuccino Pepth Charge Cafe Au Lait Mocha Nocha White Mocha Macchiato Caramel Macchiato Chai Tua Latte Hot Chocelata Hot Spice Cider Steamed Milk Steamed Milk 15 1.00 Forgy Tea's 200 Tea Just Just 235 Jul 21







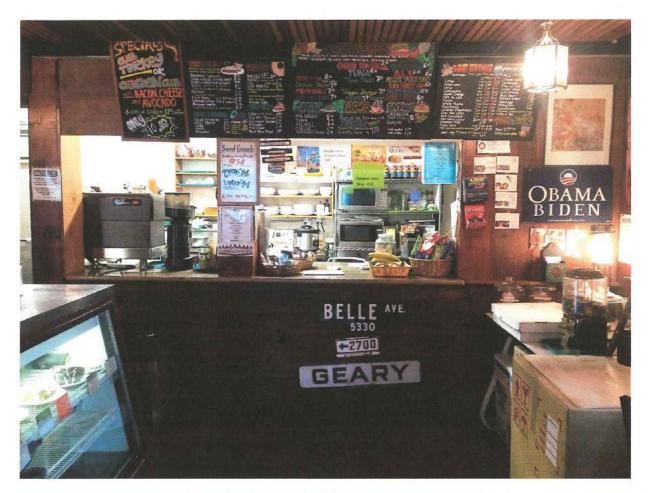


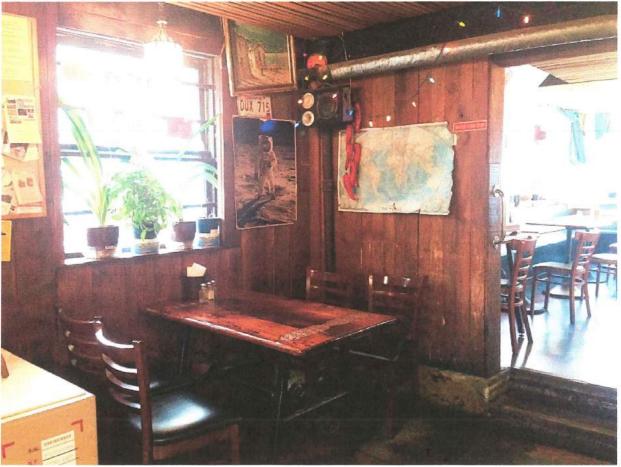




















## THE SACRED GROUNDS CAFÉ



Home Away From Home



# Wednesday Nights! @ Sacred Grounds The longest running open mic on the left coast!

Fine poetry and good food since 1972 (5 minutes per reader) Poets sign up at 7pm; features go on 815 +/-Then the open resumes - until 950pm

The best entertainment value you'll find. And it all happens in your very own mind!

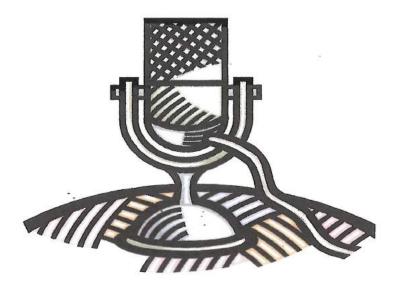
Sacred Grounds Open Mic Poetry Wednesdays: 7 pm sign up, readings until 950 pm Sacred Grounds Café: 2095 Hayes @ Cole: 387-3859

Host: Dan Brady: creative1@creativeideasforyou.com

http://www.facebook.com/groups/203539673028715/ Video footage of Sacred on YouTube - search for: sacredgroundscafesf

> Hear Ye; hear ye! The spirits are about to speak!

## CALLING ALL POETS, SINGERS, MUSICIANS, COMEDIANS & ACTORS



#### TO: THE SAN FRANCISCO POETS' SPEAKEASY

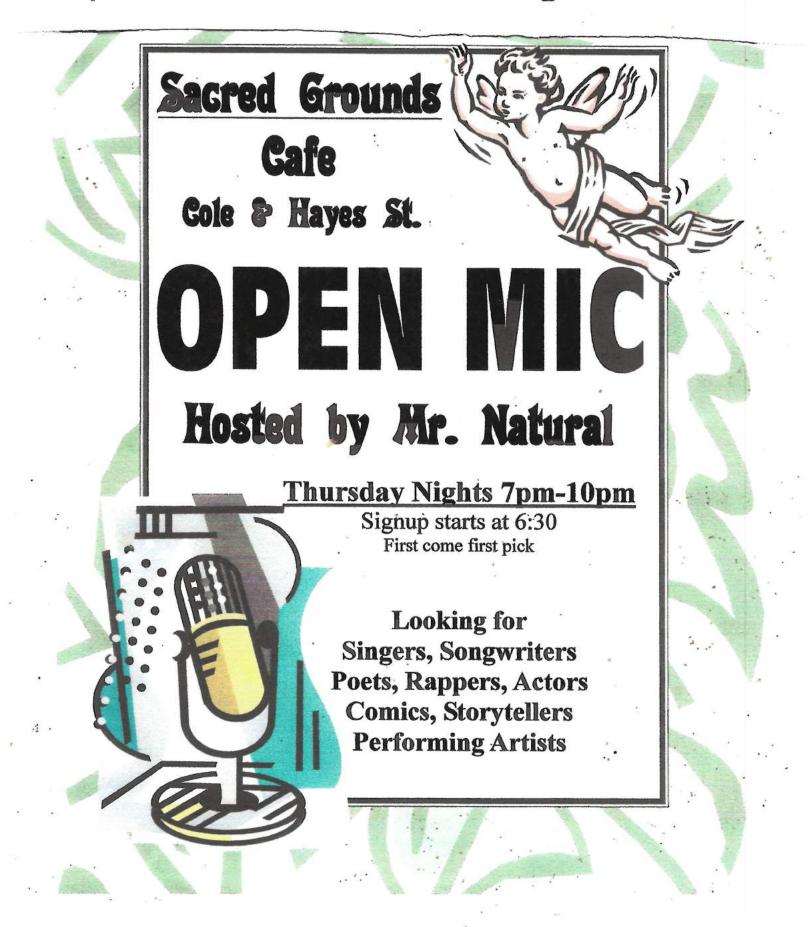
## PLACE: SACRED GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE 2095 HAYES STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA

EVENT: OPEN MIC

### TIME: 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. EVERY SATURDAY

Bara Belle-Diamond The Speakeasy Director bellediamond@comcast.net

## Www.ustream.tv/channel/sacred-grounds-cafe





@ The Sacred Grounds Café
@ Hayes and Cole Street

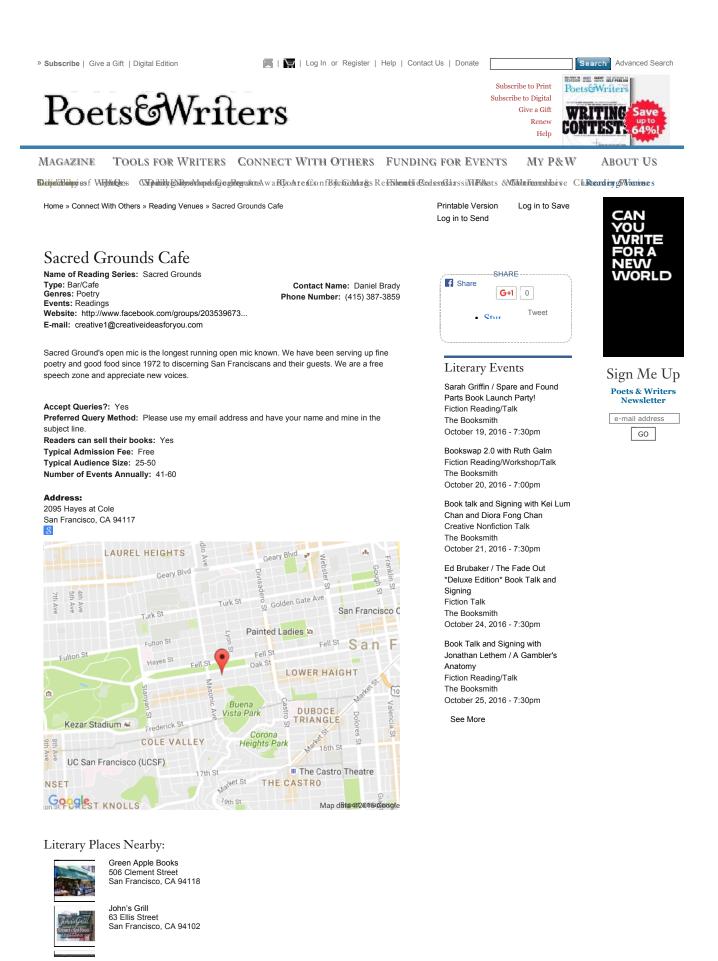
**Every Thursday Night** 

@ 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM Sign-up @ 6:30 PM

# Acoustic set ONLY Broadcast Live On the internet

CD

Ustream.tv/channel/sacred-grounds-cafe Stored @ Youtube.com/user/musicbyinterval





Dashiell Hammett's Home 891 Post Street San Francisco, CA 94109

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Where 2095 Hayes St, San Francisco , CA Call +1 415.387.3859 Tags Cafes Hours Mon-Tue (7am-7pm) Wed-Fri (7am-10pm) Sat (9am-10pm) Sun (9am-7pm)

#### MATRIXFILLMORE



SHARE THIS PAGE

#### ABOUT

Every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., come to Sacred Grounds' Spoken Word Open Mic, which has been running unbroken since 1972. For performers, signups start at 6:30 p.m. The event is hosted by Dan Brady.

Since 1974, The Sacred Grounds Cafe has hosted an acoustic-only open mic every Thursday night from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. featuring music, literary and theatric acts, hosted by Mr. Natural and Frank Garvey. Signups start at 6:30 p.m. and the list is bound to fill quickly, so be early! Feature from 7:00p.m. -7:30p.m. Cover songs are O.K. and the event is broadcast live on the internet.

Every Saturday afternoon, Barbra hosts the SpeakEazy spoken word open mic. Signups are at 1:30pm, and the event runs from 2pm to 4:30pm.

Every third Sunday of the month from 2pm to 4pm, enjoy traditional Hawaiian music performed by the San Francisco Ukulele club, led by Hofer Wong.

There are no cover charges. All the above events are Free and open to the public. Come on down and join us, will you please!







Sign Up to our Weekly Newsletter Send us a Tip Advertise Events Calendar About Us Media Kit Business Directory Your email

http://www.sfstation.com/sacred-grounds-cafe-b2910

5



California / Art

# The Best Open Mic Spots In San Francisco



Nicole Jenkins Updated: 26 September 2016

Are you a writer or a musician? Have you been in search of a place where you can show off your talent, or perhaps a chance to watch other artists perform instead? Well then, you have come to the right place! Listed below are the top ten places for open mic in San Francisco, ranging from folk music and punk rock all the way to spoken word poetry.

#### Bottom of the Hill

Having been selected by the *Rolling Stone Magazine* as 'the best place to hear live music in San Francisco,' Bottom of the Hill features live performances from artists seven nights a week. With artists from all over the world, the music typically ranges the spectrum from alternative, rock-abilly, punk, and hard rock to folk and funk and pop. You can check out the artists that will be performing ahead of time by going to their website's calendar – and you can also book private party events as well!

Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 626 4455



The Loud Family at Bottom of the Hill 1992 / © Robert Toren/WikiCommons

#### Sacred Grounds Cafe

Not only does Sacred Grounds offer their café to musicians, writers and poets, but they are also the longest-standing café in all of San Francisco for spoken word poetry. Indeed, this year will be their 15th year for spoken word poetry events! Talk about commitment to the literary art! And not only that, but the 'wall art' featured in Sacred Grounds was also unique enough to inspire a whole magazine that comes in the form of a treasure map! So if that's not cool, then we don't know what is!

Sacred Grounds Cafe, 2095 Hayes St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 387 3859

#### Bazaar Café

If you have been looking for a café that offers open mic for entertainment rather than for your own personal performance, then you might want to go check out Bazaar Café. Unlike most places in the city for open mic, this café has artists lined up months in advance, which you can check out on their website's calendar. Located in the Outer Richmond on California Street, they are an ideal place for entertaining Friday night – and you can even grab a bite to eat there, too.

Bazaar Café, 5927 California St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 831 5620



Open Mic | © Noel Reinhold/Flickr

#### Brainwash Cafee & Laundromat

Are you in need of a good laugh? Or maybe just a more exciting place to do your laundry? Then Brainwash Cafe is the perfect place for you! Located on Folsom Street in SoMa, this café hosts two stand-up nights a week, and Wednesday night is even called The Ladies Night, which is an all-female open mic night that starts at 8 pm sharp! And even better than that – this café also has a laundromat and an arcade! How fun!

Brianwash Cafe & Laundromat, 1122 Folsom St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 861 3663

#### Cafe International

Located in the Lower Haight area of San Francisco, Cafe International is a place that offers artists the best of both worlds. Not only do they give artists the chance to perform at their open mic events, but they also have gallery shows every Friday night where they display artists' work! So if you have been wanting to grab a warm espresso, relax in an outdoor garden setting and see some incredible art, then Cafe International is the place for you.

Cafe International, 508 Haight St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 552 7390



Miles Ahead / © Max Silverman/YouTube

### The Hotel Utah Salon

Have you been in search of a place that offers live music all the time? Then come by The Hotel Utah Salon around 7 pm, and you will catch a live musical show. Not to mention that this café is also home to the longest-running place for open mic for musicians in all of San Francisco. And what is also cool is that the performance order is chosen by a random drawing to make sure that it is a fair experience for all artists performing.

The Hotel Utah Salon, 500 4th St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 546 6300

#### Portals Tavern

If you have been in search of a place in San Francisco where you can get a drink for a low price that also comes with a guaranteed laugh, then Portals Tavern is where you need to be. Located on West Portal Avenue, this pub offers stand-up comedy every Monday night with drinks that are priced right! And they also offer an arcade with pinball machines and a dartboard – so in other words, it is guaranteed to be an exciting and entertaining time!

Portals Tavern, 179 W Portal Ave, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 731 1208

#### Mojo Bicycle Cafe

Between coffee, bicycles, and wine, Mojo Bicycle Cafe offers a bit of everything! Located right next to the Panhandle in San Francisco, this café seems to almost have it all – featuring a bike shop, a café that serves food and drinks, and even offers open mic nights for artists to perform! So if you have been in search of a café that has a cool, hip atmosphere with so much to offer that you won't know what to do with yourself, then come on over to Mojo Bicycle Cafe on an open mic night to see all that the café has to offer!

Mojo Bicycle Cafe, 639-A Divisadero St, San Francisco, CA, USA, +1 415 440 2370

#### Poets from the Cold, Sacred Grounds in the Light

by Clara Hsu

Wednesday night in the city magic still rules. Ink-soaked papers creased inside shirt pockets, pants pockets coat pockets and pocket books have mouths, mouths that articulate sounds from native soil to distant lands, mouths that ride on bikes and in cars. The #21 Hayes bus driver sees El Duende, white hair and beard, dances his way into the Sacred Grounds, kisses the old Druidess and her flowing hair as the Wounded God hollers, "Hear ye, hear ye!" to the first unfolding of words.

Ghosts now, they still occupy their seats. For over forty years the dark green divans hold the weight of poets coming in from the cold. They warm their bodies next to each other laugh, sing, curse, bicker mull under the wood-paneled ceiling and bright globe-lamps staring at Marilyn Monroe and second-hand arts writing furious versions.

Sentinels of the sacred spacethe lesbians, the Sudanese, the Caucasian, the Chinesesweep away crumbs, mop up spills keep the coffee hot and lights burning. Burning for the Buddha of the Bayou for Matchless Goddess for the Bard of the Lower Haight for Coyote and its two-legged nemesis for Emerson, Shakespeare Edgar and his Nevermore for Emily, H.D., Silvia and Anne they keep the lights burning for the harmonica and saxophone jazz for the out-of-tune guitar and its tremulous songstress they keep the lights burning on this sacred evening in this sacred fog city this Sacred Grounds Cafe at this sacred hour they keep the lights burning

for the beast, the angel and the madman.

At Hayes and Cole, each week the poets meet To read and listen; so the days go by. The coffee-house that hosts them their refuge, Their island, where the time is always theirs.

And looking from inside, out toward the street, Through the familiar windows, you can see Quite often how a walker passing then Sees something going on inside, and, curious,

Slows for a moment before going on, Until the day, perhaps, when at the door The same adventurer will pause, and first Will cross the threshold, and that time will hear

The words decanted there, maybe the start Of other visits, and of listenings, Until the newcomer one day will read To all the others, now familiar friends.

#### Legacy Business Registry November 16, 2016 Hearing

2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR; 2016-014320LBR; 2016-013558LBR; 2016-013561LBR; 2016-013587LBR; 2016-013588LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR; 2016-013785LBR; 2016-013788LBR; 2016-013922LBR

Filing Date:	October 17, 2016
Case No.:	2016-014214LBR
Business Name:	The Sacred Grounds Cafe
Business Address:	2095 Hayes Street
Zoning:	NC-1 (Neighborhood Commercial, Cluster)
	40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot:	1211/029
Applicant:	Teddy Ma, Owner
	2095 Hayes Street
	San Francisco, CA 94117
Nominated By:	Supervisor London Breed, District 5
Staff Contact:	Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093
	desiree.smith@sfgov.org
Reviewed By:	Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
	tim.frye @sfgov.org

#### **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION**

Founded in 1972 by two lesbian Christian women, The Sacred Grounds Café has served as a neighborhood coffee shop and as a creative hub for poets, students, and artists for over four decades. The business is located in a three-story residential over commercial building on the southeast corner of Cole and Hayes Streets in the Panhandle neighborhood. Its name was inspired by the presence of cemeteries that had historically existed in the area, including one adjacent to nearby St. Ignatius Parish. It's storefront features large plate glass windows and outdoor seating while the interior is made up of a large sofa, armchairs, tables and chairs, bookshelves stocked with books and board games, as well as a unique collection of photographs and odd fixtures such as license plates, rusty oilcans, and garage sales items that decorate a room in the rear of the space. The cafe offers an extensive menu of coffee and espresso drinks, tea, breakfast, and lunch items. Its customer base is diverse, made up largely of artists, neighborhood residents, and students from nearby universities including the San Francisco School of Law and the St. Mary's Medical Center. As one of the earliest venues to offer regular poetry readings in San Francisco, The Sacred Grounds Café has nurtured an active and thriving poet community through its weekly poetry readings, regular open mic events, and book signings. The business also sponsors the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal and Anthology and participates in a number of local and international poetry events including Poetry Under the Dome, the Biannual Poet's 11 Contest, and San Francisco Peace and Hope (which The Sacred Grounds Café hosts). Internationally, the business participates in the 100 Thousand Poets for Change readings and the World Beyond War event, a global movement to end all wars. The business gives back to the community in other ways by holding an annual food drive for the San Francisco Food Bank and serving as a venue for musical debuts and stand-up comedy acts.

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

#### Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

1972

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

Yes, The Sacred Grounds Cafe qualifies for listing on the Legacy Business Registry because it meets all of the eligibility Criteria:

- i. The Sacred Grounds Cafe has operated for 44 years.
- ii. The Sacred Grounds Cafe has contributed to the identity of the Panhandle neighborhood by offering a space for residents, students, and artists to socialize over coffee or tea, study or write, and enjoy free cultural performances. The business has contributed to the history of the city's poet community by offering a venue for poetry readings and open mic nights, and for organizing and participating in larger poetry events.
- iii. The Sacred Grounds Cafe is committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define its craft of preparing and serving coffee and tea, as well as its tradition of supporting the poet community through readings, open mic nights, and other poetry events.
- 3. Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?

The business is associated with the craft of preparing and serving coffee and tea, and the tradition of supporting the poet community through readings, open mike nights, and other poetry events.

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

Yes. The 1924 building is associated with significant architecture. The property has been identified as a "Category A" building that is located within a California Register-eligible Panhandle Historic District. Further evaluation is needed to determine if the business or property is associated with significant events or persons.

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

No, however the property has been identified as a "Category A" building that is located within a California Register-eligible Panhandle Historic District.

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

No.

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

Yes. The business has been cited in a number of publications, including but not limited to: Golden Gate Xpress, 4/15/2016, "Trans Activist Uses Life Story and Music to Educate Public," by Eva Barragan.

The business is also mentioned in various poetry blogs and online guides as a recommended

# 2016-014209LBR; 2016-013529LBR; 2016-013530LBR; 2016-013557LBR; 2016-014320LBR; 2016-013558LBR; 2016-013561LBR; 2016-013587LBR; 2016-013588LBR; 2016-013591LBR; 2016-013782LBR; 2016-013785LBR; 2016-013785LBR; 2016-013922LBR

destination for poetry events. Such websites as San Francisco's Poetry Guide Tour, Poets & Writers, San Francisco Art and Poetry Event Calendar, and Open Mic Bay Area.

#### Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

#### Location(s) associated with the business:

• 2095 Hayes Street

#### **Recommended by Applicant**

- Hosting poetry readings and open mic events
- Hosting the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal
- Organizing and participating in annual poetry events
- Displaying photos and odd fixtures like license plates, rusty oil cans, and garage sales items that decorate the back room

#### Additional Recommended by Staff

No additional recommendations



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution

**HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2016** 

Case No.:	2016-014214LBR
Business Name:	The Sacred Grounds Cafe
Business Address:	2095 Hayes Street
Zoning:	NC-1 (Neighborhood Commercial, Cluster)
	40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot:	1211/029
Applicant:	Teddy Ma, Owner
	2095 Hayes Street
	San Francisco, CA 94117
Nominated By:	Supervisor London Breed, District 5
Staff Contact:	Desiree Smith - (415) 575-9093
	desiree.smith@sfgov.org
Reviewed By:	Tim Frye – (415) 575-6822
	tim.frye @sfgov.org

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

Reception: 415.558.6378

Fax: 415.558.6409

Planning Information: 415.558.6377

#### ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR THE SACRED GROUNDS CAFE, CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 2095 HAYES STREET (BLOCK/LOT 1211/029).

**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 Panhandle 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 November 16, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** that The Sacred Grounds Café 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 The Sacred Grounds Café.

#### Location (if applicable)

• 2095 Hayes Street

#### Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

- Hosting poetry readings and open mic events
- Hosting the Haight Ashbury Literary Journal
- Organizing and participating in annual poetry events
- Displaying photos and odd fixtures like license plates, rusty oil cans, and garage sales items that decorate the back room

**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 2016-014214LBR to the Office of Small Business.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 16, 2016.

Jonas P. Ionin Commission Secretary

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: