

Legacy Business Registry Staff Report

Hearing Date: August 10, 2020

CITY NIGHTS

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-057

Business Name: City Nights

Business Address: 715 Harrison Street

District 6 District:

Raymond Bobbitt, Head of Operations Applicant:

Nomination Date: March 28, 2019

Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Hanev

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

City Nights is the Bay Area's only 18 and over nightclub, founded on September 11, 1985, by Brit Hahn, a 25-year old San Francisco native. Ray Bobbitt joined Brit at City Nights in 1989 and is currently the Operating Partner of the business. City Nights is one of the longest running, large capacity nightclubs in the country. It is known for its diversity, and it serves all ages of people from 18 to 100 years old.

Hahn and Bobbitt have cultivated City Nights into a long-running and successful nightclub that has entertained well over 6 million people from all over the world. City Nights is responsible for creating and facilitating multiple reoccurring nightclub "formats" or event nights that have served many sectors of the community. The venue has featured some of the world's largest entertainers including Grace Jones, Lady GaGa, Prince, Justin Bieber and MC Hammer to name a few. The DJ booth started the careers of multiple internationally known and culturally iconic DJs such as Doc Martin, Theo Mitzuhara, Sway, Cameron Paul, Michael Erickson, Billy Vidal, David Garcia, The Latin Prince Sergio Rodriguez, Page Hodel, DJ Blackstone, Jazzy Jim Archer, Magic Matt Lemay and many more. Many of City Nights' resident DJs have previously served, and currently serve, as program directors of the Bay Area's largest radio stations, including KMEL 106.1, KYLD 94.9, KMVQ 99.7, KITS 105.3 and KRBQ 102.1. The close relationship with local radio stations makes City Nights one of the leading vehicles in reaching the Bay Area's younger generation. City Nights has worked very hard with new residential neighbors to help them understand the value of entertainment in the neighborhood, while staying in alignment with each other's needs.

The business is located on the south side of Harrison Street between 3rd and 4th streets in the South of Market neighborhood.

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, City Nights has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years, with no break in San Francisco operations exceeding two years:

715 Harrison Street from 1985 to Present (35 years).

CRITERION 2

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

Legacy Business Program Office of Small Business

City Hall Room 140 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-6680 legacybusiness@sfgov.org www.legacybusiness.org





Yes, City Nights has contributed to the history and identity of the South of Market neighborhood and San Francisco.

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

- The business is associated with the tradition of dance clubs.
- The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "A" (Known Historic Resource) due to its finding of being located in an eligible SoMa LGBTQ historic district, which is a California Register-eligible historic district. SoMa has been identified as one of San Francisco's LGBTQ enclaves and is historic for the numerous LGBTQ properties, businesses, organizations, and individuals associated with the area. The neighborhood encompasses not only the Leather community and their associated bars, bathhouses, and retail shops, but was also the site of numerous LGBTQ publishing houses, homophile organizations, artist enclaves, and street fairs.
- City Nights has received many awards and press mentions. In July 2018, City Nights was unfortunately on a list of landmarks in the San Francisco Bay Area that an ISIS terrorist suspect planned to attack. The attack was thwarted by the FBI:
 https://abc7news.com/amp/sentencingpostponed-for-oakland-man-convicted-of-supportingisis/4918063/.

CRITERION 3

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

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that City Nights 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:

- Community function as a gathering place that provides dancing and entertainment.
- Facilitator for low-cost community events.
- Facilitator for dialogue between residents and the local entertainment businesses.
- The warehouse building.

CORE PHYSICAL FEATURE OR TRADITION THAT DEFINES THE BUSINESS

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

Entertainment venue.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the San Francisco Small Business Commission include City Nights currently located at 715 Harrison Street in the Legacy Business Registry as a Legacy Business under Administrative Code Section 2A.242.

Richard Kurylo, Program Manager Legacy Business Program

Legacy Business Program
Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org





Small Business Commission

Resolution No. ____ **August 10, 2020**

CITY NIGHTS

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-057

Business Name: City Nights

Business Address: 715 Harrison Street

District: District 6

Applicant: Raymond Bobbitt, Head of Operations

Nomination Date: March 28, 2019

Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney

Staff Contact: Richard Kurylo

legacybusiness@sfgov.org

Adopting findings approving the Legacy Business Registry application for City Nights. currently located at 715 Harrison 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; 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 August 10, 2020, 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 City Nights 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 City Nights.

Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business City Hall Room 140 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-6680 legacybusiness@sfgov.org www.legacybusiness.org





Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Community function as a gathering place that provides dancing and entertainment.
- Facilitator for low-cost community events.
- Facilitator for dialogue between residents and the local entertainment businesses.
- The warehouse building.

Entertainment venue.

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

| | |
|------|--|

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Small Business Commission on August 10, 2020.

| Regina Dick-Endrizzi | |
|----------------------|--|
| Director | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| RESOLUTION NO. | |

Ayes – Nays –

Abstained – Absent –

Legacy Business Program

Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org





Legacy Business Registry

Application Review Sheet

Application No.: LBR-2018-19-057

Business Name: City Nights

Business Address: 715 Harrison Street

District: District 6

Applicant: Raymond Bobbitt, Head of Operations

Nomination Date: March 28, 2019

Program Manager, Legacy Business Program

Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney

| 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? X Yes No |
|--|
| 715 Harrison Street from 1985 to Present (35 years). |
| CRITERION 2: Has the applicant contributed to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community? |
| CRITERION 3: Is the applicant committed to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms? |
| NOTES: N/A |
| DELIVERY DATE TO HPC: February 18, 2020 |

Legacy Business Program

Richard Kurylo

Office of Small Business
City Hall Room 140
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6680
legacybusiness@sfgov.org
www.legacybusiness.org



Member, Board of Supervisors District 6



City and County of San Francisco

MATT HANEY

March 28, 2019

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director San Francisco Small Business Commission 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 110

Dear Director Dick-Endrizzi,

I have the privilege of nominating City Nights, located at 715 Harrison Street in SOMA, for San Francisco's Legacy Business Program.

One of our city's longest running nightclubs, City Nights has been catering to a broad audience since 1985. City Nights was the home of San Francisco's only 18+ LGBT parties for 16 years and has been an important incubator for a diverse group of promotion and production companies catering to communities of color, LGBT communities, and their many intersections.

City Nights has hosted some of the world's largest Entertainers including Grace Jones, Lady GaGa, Prince, Justin Bieber, and MC Hammer, as well as internationally known DJ's such as Doc Martin, Theo Mitzuhara, Sway, Cameron Paul, Michael Erickson, Billy Vidal, David Garcia, The Latin Prince Sergio Rodriguez, Page Hodel, DJ Blackstone, Jazzy Jim Archer, Magic Matt Lemay and many more.

At a time when more and more nightlife venues are being pushed out of San Francisco by rising rents and expanding residential and office development, City Nights deserves all the recognition and protections that the Legacy Business Program and City of San Francisco have to offer.

Please contact Ray Bobbit, <u>ray@sfclubs.com</u>, to inform them of their nomination.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Haney

Section One:

Business / Applicant Information.

Please provide the following information:

- The name, mailing address and other contact information of the business;
- The name of the person who owns the business. For businesses with multiple owners, identify the person(s) with the highest ownership stake in the business;
- The name, title and contact information of the applicant;
- The business's San Francisco Business Account Number and entity number with the Secretary of State, if applicable.

| NAME OF BUSINESS: | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| City Nights | |
| BUSINESS OWNER(S) (Identify the person(s) with the highest ownership | stake in the business): |
| City Nights a California Limited Partnership | |
| CURRENT BUSINESS ADDRESS: | TELEPHONE NUMBER: |
| 715 Harrison St. | 415-546-7938 |
| San Francisco Ca 94107 | EMAIL ADDRESS: |
| | info@sfclubs.com |
| MAILING ADDRESS - STREET ADDRESS: | MAILING ADDRESS - CITY AND STATE: |
| Same as Business Address | 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 |
| | MAILING ADDRESS – ZIP CODE: |
| WEBSITE ADDRESS: | |
| www.sfclubs.com | |
| FACEBOOK PAGE: | |
| https://www.facebook.com/City.Nights.SF/ | |
| TWITTER NAME: | |
| https://twitter.com/CityNightsSF | |
| APPLICANT'S NAME: | APPLICANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: |
| Raymond Bobbitt | |
| APPLICANT'S TITLE: | APPLICANT'S EMAIL ADDRESS: |
| Head of Operations | |
| SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS ACCOUNT NUMBER | |
| 0385740 | |
| SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER (If appli | cable): |
| 198635200079 | |

Section Two:

Business Location(s).

List the business address of the original San Francisco location, the start date of business and the dates of operation at the original location. Check the box indicating whether the original location of the business in San Francisco is the founding location of the business. If the business moved from its original location and has had additional addresses in San Francisco, identify all other addresses and the dates of operation at each address. For businesses with more than one location, list the additional locations in section three of the narrative.

| ORIGINAL SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESS | ZIP CODE | START DATE OF BUSINESS |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 715 Harrison St. | 94107 | September 11,1985 |
| IS THIS LOCATION THE FOUNDING LOCATION OF THE BUSINESS? | DATES OF OPERATION AT THIS LOCATION | |
| ☑ Yes □ No | | 1985 to Present |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| (ii sippiissio) | | Start: |
| | | End: |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If annihable) | 7ID 00DE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION Start: |
| | | End: |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZID CODE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION Start: |
| | | End: |
| | | |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | |
| | | Start: |
| | | End: |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION Start: |
| | | End: |
| | | |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| | | Start: |
| | | End: |
| | | |
| OTHER ADDRESSES (If applicable) | ZIP CODE | DATES OF OPERATION |
| | | Start: |
| | | End: |

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. A business deemed not current with all San Francisco taxes, business registration and licenses, or has current violations of San Francisco labor laws, will not be eligible to apply for grants through the Legacy Business Program.

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

| Plea | ise read the following statements and check each to indicate that you agree with the ement. Then sign below in the space provided. |
|------|--|
| V | am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the business. |
| V | attest that the business is current on all of its San Francisco tax obligations. |
| V | l attest that the business's business registration and any applicable regulatory license(s) are current. |
| V | 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. |
| V | I hereby acknowledge and authorize that all photographs and images submitted as part of the application may be used by the City without compensation. |
| | I understand that the Small Business Commission may revoke the placement of the business on the Registry if it finds that the business no longer qualifies, and that placement on the Registry does not entitle the business to a grant of City funds. |

Raymond Bobbitt

1/22/2020

Signature:

Name (Print):

Date:

CITY NIGHTS Section 4: Written Historical Narrative

CRITERION 1

a. Provide a short history of the business from the date the business opened in San Francisco to the present day, including the ownership history. For businesses with multiple locations, include the history of the original location in San Francisco (including whether it was the business's founding and or headquartered location) and the opening dates and locations of all other locations.

City Nights, the Bay Area's only 18 and over nightclub, was founded on September 11, 1985, through the vision of a 25-year-old entrepreneur and San Francisco native named Brit Hahn.

In 1985, Brit took some of his close friends to an appointment to tour the nightclub space/venue at 715 Harrison Street, which was in an area then-designated as a mixed use/warehouse district. Brit looked out into to the underwhelming warehouse style nightclub space/venue and told his friends, "I am going to create a good business in this building." City Nights was issued a business registration certificate from the City and County of San Francisco on September 11, 1985, the founding date of the business. The lease was signed and the buildout began in November of 1985. The business ownership, "CITY NIGHTS a California Partnership," was established with the California Secretary of State on December 15, 1986.

Brit was wrong about creating a good business in the building. He created a GREAT business in the building, and he has helped build an institution of dancing that has entertained millions of people while making history in the process.

Ray Bobbitt joined Brit at City Nights in 1989 and has been at his side ever since. He is currently the Operating Partner of the business, and celebrated his 30th year at City Nights in October 2019.

Brit and Ray have cultivated City Nights into a long-running and successful nightclub that has entertained well over 6 million people from all over the world. City Nights is responsible for creating and facilitating multiple reoccurring nightclub "formats" or event nights that have served many sectors of the community. Numerous couples have met, were married and had families as a result of meeting at City Nights. The business is grateful to have now served generations of some of the same San Francisco families.

Over the years, the neighborhood around City Nights has changed drastically. We must keep entertainment as a part of the fiber of our neighborhoods. Entertainment helps authenticate what we are as a neighborhood and preserves the opportunity for all people to enjoy San Francisco in its full beauty. City Nights has worked very hard with new residential neighbors to help them understand the value of entertainment in the neighborhood, while staying in alignment with each other's needs.

b. Describe any circumstances that required the business to cease operations in San Francisco for more than six months?

City Nights has been in business for 35 years with no change in ownership or stoppage in business.

c. Is the business a family-owned business? If so, give the generational history of the business.

Brit Hahn is the owner of record of the business and Ray Bobbitt is the Operating Partner of the business, Brit since 1985 and Ray since 1989. Technically, both are partners in control of the business. Ray has never formally been added to the ownership documents to technically take ownership, but Ray does function as an owner.

d. Describe the ownership history when the business ownership is not the original owner or a family-owned business.

The ownership history of the business is as follows:

1985 to 1989: Brit Hahn

1989 to Present: Brit Hahn and Ray Bobbitt

e. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years, the applicant will need to provide documentation of the existence of the business prior to current ownership to verify it has been in operation for 30+ years. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

Documentation of the existence of the business verifying it has been in operation for 30+ years is provided in this Legacy Business Registry application.

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

The historic resource status of the building at 715 Harrison Street is classified by the Planning Department as Category A, Historic Resource Present, with regard to the California Environmental Quality Act.

The building is a two-story, reinforced concrete commercial structure designed in the Industrial style. The rectangular-plan building, clad in smooth stucco, is capped by a built-up bow truss roof. The foundation is concrete. The primary façade faces north and includes six structural bays. Entrances include a roll-up metal door with an awning, surmounted by a glazed divided light transom. Ground floor windows have been boarded-up. The upper stories feature industrial steel-sash windows and fixed and casement aluminum-sash windows.

CRITERION 2

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

City Nights has been a San Francisco nightlife institution for 35 years and has served millions of people. The venue has featured some of the world's largest entertainers including Grace Jones, Lady GaGa, Prince, Justin Bieber and MC Hammer to name a few. The DJ booth started the careers of multiple internationally known and culturally iconic DJs such as Doc Martin, Theo Mitzuhara, Sway, Cameron Paul, Michael Erickson, Billy Vidal, David Garcia, The Latin Prince Sergio Rodriguez, Page Hodel, DJ Blackstone, Jazzy Jim Archer, Magic Matt Lemay and many more. City Nights is an iconic venue that is regularly visited by tourist-based bus tours. We have made dancing a part of the San Francisco's fabric.

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

City Nights is responsible for creating and facilitating multiple reoccurring nightclub "formats" or event nights that have served, and continue to serve, many sectors of our community:

- The weekly format "City Nights" is the primary anchor of the City Nights venue and is known to serve a multicultural, urban crowd. The slogan is "The Bay Area's Only 18 and Over Hip Hop Nightclub." "City Nights" is the venue's anchor Saturday night format. It was created in 1985 and still runs every Saturday. For 35 years, "City Nights" has proudly provided young people of color one of the only places to safely dance and socialize.
- The "Club X" format serves a local collegiate crowd from many Bay Area colleges in San Francisco, Marin County, the East Bay, Tri Valley and the Peninsula. It also serves as a top destination for international exchange students. The "Club X" music format is "alternative," spanning from modern rock music in its beginning to electronic dance music (EDM) and pop music today. "Club X" is the venue's anchor Friday night format. It was created in 1989 and still runs every Friday.
- "Dreamland," a successful gay nightclub format, was created at City Nights. "The Box," a
 multicultural gay nightclub format, spent 10 years at City Nights. "Faith" and "The Crib"
 spent 16 years at City Nights (collectively) and represent the first and only 18 and over
 LGBTQ nightclub format in San Francisco. "Faith" and "The Crib" ran every Thursday for
 a combined total of 29 years.
- "Absolute Productions," "Chuckles and Company Productions," "Platinum Productions" and "Synergy Productions" all got their starts here as the first Asian and Filipino nightclub promotions companies to serve the Bay Area. These organizations collectively entertained people here on Wednesdays for a combined 26 years.

- "EPR," "Amplify" and "Voltage" have occupied Wednesdays more recently through its service of the electronic music scene.
- "Roderick's Chamber" and "The Go Go" were San Francisco's original gothic nightclub events serving the city's gothic scene every Tuesday for 16 years. The founders Shanny and X nicknamed their first born son "City Boi" in celebration of City Nights' contribution to the gothic scene.

City Nights was also the production point of the famous musical Rent. While Rent was produced in New York, City Nights was used as a site to produce a commercial for the Golden Gate Theatrical debut.

In recent years, City Nights has been used for the production of special events and corporate events. City Nights have hosted Moscone Convention Center events for companies such as Google, Nvidia, Kiva, CBS and Rally Health. City Nights has also hosted community based events for organizations such the YMCA, the American Lung Association, the San Francisco Film Society and Meals on Wheels.

c. Has the business ever been referenced in an historical context? Such as in a business trade publication, media, or historical documents?

City Nights has received many awards and press mentions.

In July 2018, City Nights was unfortunately on a list of landmarks in the San Francisco Bay Area that an ISIS terrorist suspect planned to attack. The attack was thwarted by the FBI: https://abc7news.com/amp/sentencing-postponed-for-oakland-man-convicted-of-supporting-isis/4918063/.

d. Is the business associated with a significant or historical person?

City Nights has featured some of the world's largest entertainers consisting of a vast number of significant and sometimes historical musical acts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Grace Jones
- Lady GaGa
- Justin Bieber
- MC Hammer
- Usher
- Oukast (Big Boi)
- Afrojack
- Prince
- Nicholas Cage

Honorable Willie Brown spoke at the youth crime prevention summit held at City Nights, and Honorable Gavin Newsom spoke at the Nightlife Safety meeting held at City Nights.

The Famous DJ booth at City Nights was the starting point of the careers of multiple internationally known and culturally iconic DJs, including Doc Martin, Theo Mitzuhara, Sway, Cameron Paul, Michael Erickson, Billy Vidal, David Garcia, The Latin Prince Sergio Rodriguez, Page Hodel, DJ Blackstone, Jazzy Jim Archer, Magic Matt Lemay and many more.

Many of City Nights' resident DJs have previously served, and currently serve, as program directors of the Bay Area's largest radio stations, including KMEL 106.1, KYLD 94.9, KMVQ 99.7, KITS 105.3 and KRBQ 102.1. The close relationship with local radio stations makes City Nights one of the leading vehicles in reaching the Bay Area's younger generation. Radio stations depend on the young customers at City Nights to inform them of what music connects best with the younger demographics. The radio music surveys conducted at City Nights helps confirm what music young people enjoy most, and what ways young people most liked to be entertained.

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

City Nights has led the nightclub industry in developing a cohesive, positive relationship with new residents that have moved into areas zoned for entertainment. In 1985, there were very few residential buildings in the SoMa nightclub district. Initially, there was a tremendous amount of tension between nightclubs and residents. City Nights created the Nightclub Resident Collaboration that included nightclubs, residents and public agencies to work together in completing a plan that allowed nightclubs and residents to coexist positively. This process was eventually incorporated into the SFPD and Entertainment Commissions' best practices.

Ray Bobbitt currently serves as a volunteer on multiple community bodies including:

- The SFPD Chief of Police African American Advisory Council
- The SFPD Southern Station Community Police Advisory Board
- Yerba Buena Community Benefits District Board of Directors
- SOMA Nightclub Coalition
- National Night Out Committee
- Entertainment Commission Safety Summit Panel Participation

City Nights has employed thousands of young people over its 35 years. They've also employed disabled adults through a project called Employment Plus for the last 26 years. City Nights is grateful to report that at least 20 of its security guards have moved on to become police officers, at least 10 of its beverage employees have become beverage company executives and at least five of its employees have gone on to own their own nightclub establishments.

f. Provide a description of the community the business serves.

City Nights is one of the longest running, large capacity nightclubs in the country. It is known for its diversity, and it serves all ages of people from 18 to 100 years old. City Nights embraces urban culture and youth culture. The club is well known for being one of the most diverse nightclubs in San Francisco.

City Nights is considered one of the most experienced nightclub operators in San Francisco. The business is highly regarded by high ranking members of the San Francisco Police Department, Alcoholic Beverage Control, the San Francisco Fire Department and the Entertainment Commission.

City Nights' training methods are used throughout the industry. Brit and Ray have served on multiple boards including the San Francisco Police Department's Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB), the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District and the SFPD Chief's African American Advisory Council. The business founded and still hosts the SoMa Nightclub Collaborative which is attended by most SoMa nightclubs, several SoMa resident neighborhood groups, the SFPD Southern Station Captain and the San Francisco District Attorney's Office.

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

City Nights and its building is affectionately known as "The Harrison Street Dance Box." This name was given to City Nights based on the square shaped warehouse style building, which are becoming rare in the neighborhood. The name was created and perpetuated by the thousands of drivers who use Harrison Street as a connection from Interstate 80 to enter Highway 101. The drivers often view the long line of nightclub attendees waiting to go inside and dance the night away. As the neighborhood has evolved from a warehouse to an entertainment district, and now to an entertainment district with a mix of residential and business, City Nights becomes a reminder of the culture of nightclubs that were located all throughput the South of Market area at one time.

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

People move to the SoMa community based on the attraction of being able to walk out of their homes and into the center of a district that houses their business offices, restaurants, professional sports complexes, convention center and nightclubs. The character of San Francisco is at risk of being impacted if nightclubs are eliminated as a component of this multiuse community. The nightclub industry is being pushed out of several communities. We cannot allow this to occur in SoMa.

CRITERION 3

a. Describe the business and the essential features that define its character.

City Nights is a nightclub and events venue that serves people from all over the world, both locals and tourists. It is one of the only large capacity nightclub venues that can facilitate entertainment events that are connected to conventions. City Nights has hosted events for many conventions from Oracle World to the RSA convention on cyber security. The venue has hosted major companies such as Google and Nvidia Corporation.

b. How does the business demonstrate a commitment to maintaining the historical traditions that define the business, and which of these traditions should not be changed in order to retain the businesses historical character? (e.g., business model, goods and services, craft, culinary, or art forms)

City Nights is a gathering place. In addition to providing dancing and entertainment, the business serves as a community institution that facilitates everything from YMCA holiday events to the anniversary of violence prevention nonprofit United Playaz. City Nights is licensed and permitted to produce and facilitate any kind of event that brings people together to celebrate and be entertained. City Nights is a low cost option for community hosts. San Francisco needs more such gathering places.

c. How has the business demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the special physical features that define the business? Describe any special exterior and interior physical characteristics of the space occupied by the business (e.g. signage, murals, architectural details, neon signs, etc.).

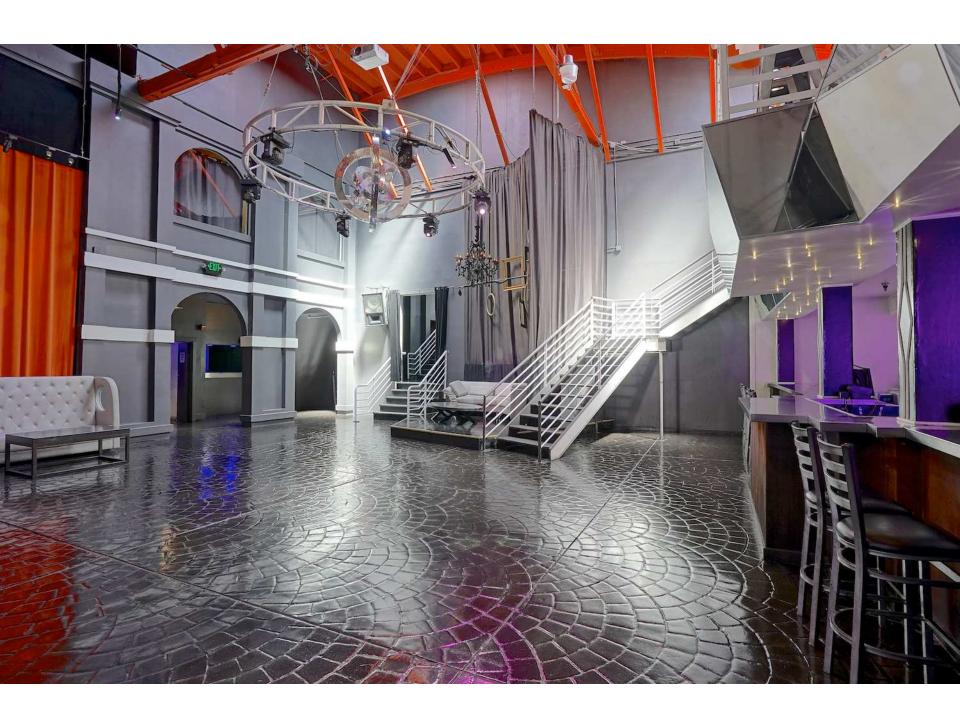
Throughout the years, City Nights has retained its original, square, warehouse-style structure.

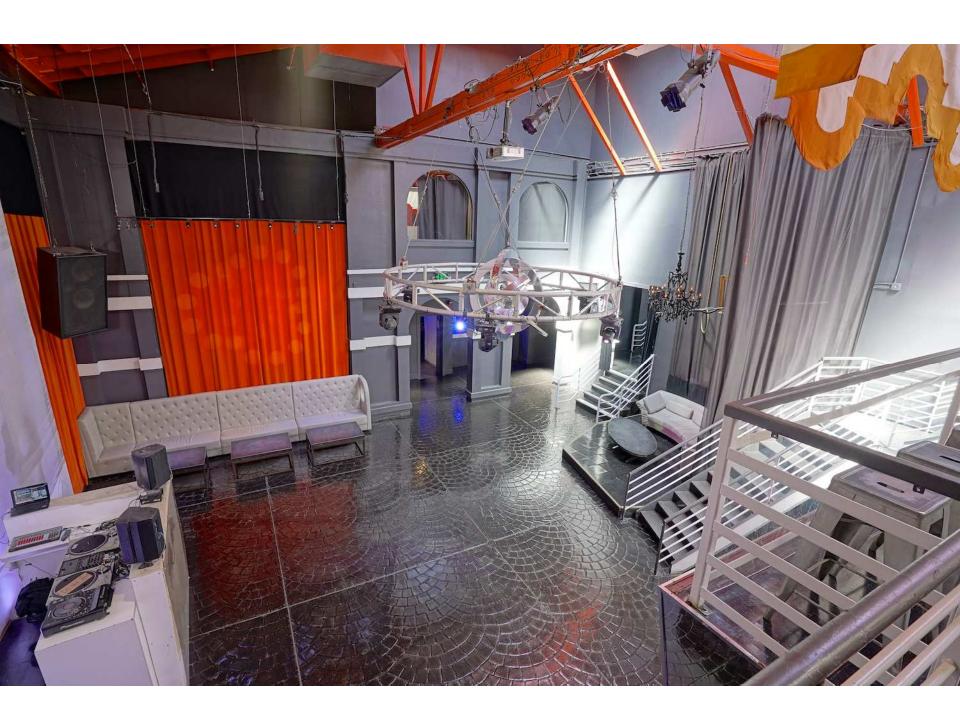
d. When the current ownership is not the original owner and has owned the business for less than 30 years; the applicant will need to provide documentation that demonstrates the current owner has maintained the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary, or art forms. Please use the list of supplemental documents and/or materials as a guide to help demonstrate the existence of the business prior to current ownership.

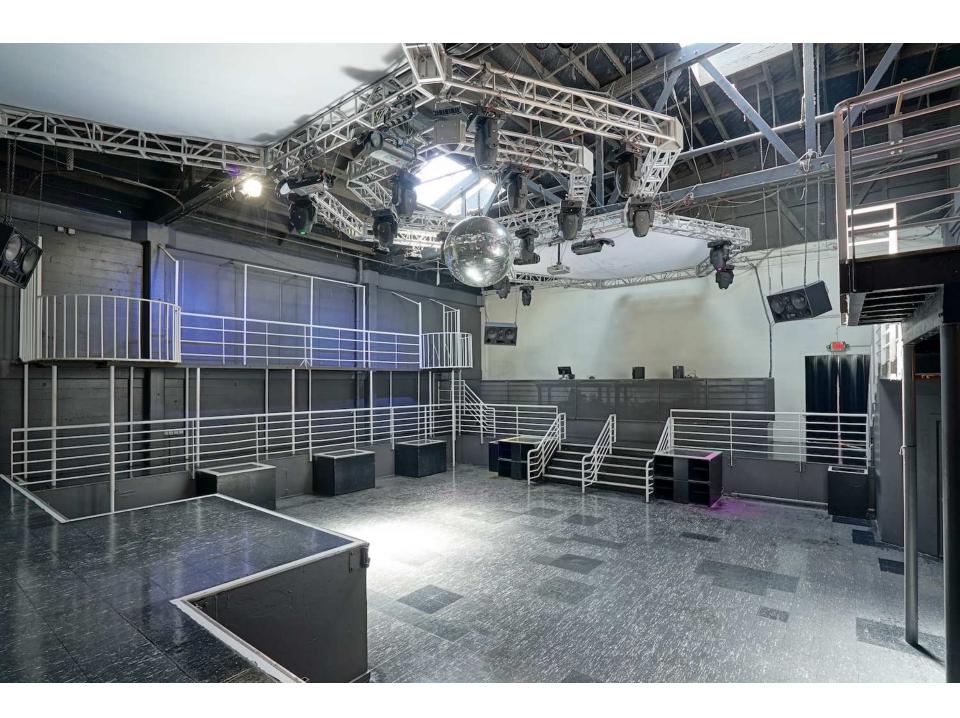
The current owners of City Nights are the original owners of the business and are committed to maintaining the features and use.

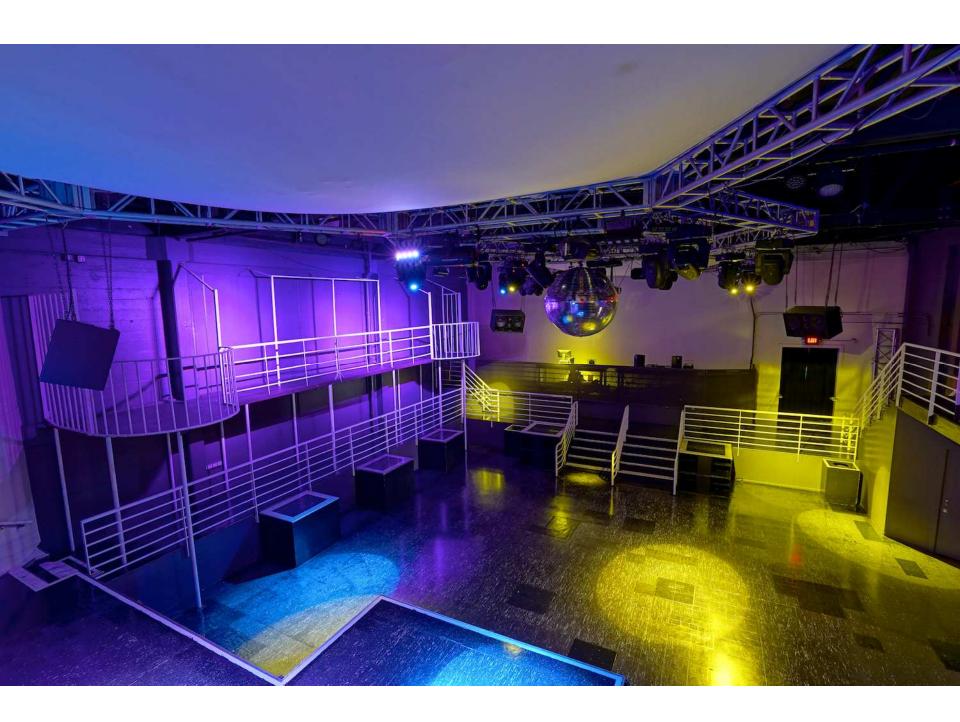
| State of California - The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION | Primary # HRI # | |
|--|--|----|
| PRIMARY RECORD | Trinomial | |
| | CHR Status Code: | _ |
| Other Listings — Review Code — | Reviewer Date | |
| Page 1 of 1 Resource Name o | #: (Assigned by recorder) 715 HARRISON ST | |
| P1. Other Identifier: | | |
| *P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☑ Unrestate. County: San Francisco | tricted | |
| *b. USGS Quad: San Francisco North, CA | Date: 1995 | |
| c. Address: 715 HARRISON ST | City: San Francisco ZIP 94107 | |
| d. UTM Zone: Easting: | Northing: | |
| e. Other Locational Data: Assessor's Parcel Nu | mber 3762 118 | |
| *P3a. Description: (Describe resource and major element | ts. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) | |
| 715 Harrison Street is a 2-story, reinforced concrete or building, clad in smooth stucco, is capped by a built-up north and includes 6 structural bays. Entrances include | lar lot on the south side of Harrison Street, between 3rd and 4th streets. In the Industrial style. The rectangular-plan bow truss roof. The foundation is concrete. The primary façade faces a roll-up metal door with an awning, surmounted by a glazed divided-ed-up. The upper stories feature industrial steel-sash windows and fixed | |
| The building appears to be in good condition. | | |
| *P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attr butes and codes) *P4. Resources Present: ✓ Building ☐ Structure ☐ P5a. Photo | HP6. 1-3 Story Commercial Building Object Site District Element of District Other P5b. Description of Photo: View of north facade on Harrison Street. 12/12/2007 | |
| 90 | *P6. Date Constructed/Age: | |
| | ✓ Historic □ Prehistoric □ Both | h |
| LEGETTE WELL THE LEGET OF THE PROPERTY OF THE | 1951 SF Assessor's Office | |
| City of the city o | *P7. Owner and Address 715 HARRISON LLC PO BOX 192291 | |
| | EMERYVILLE CA 9460 | 38 |
| | *P8. Recorded By: | |
| | Page & Turnbull, Inc. (ER) / CD 724 Pine Street San Francisco, CA 94108 | |
| Control of the Contro | *P9. Date Recorded: 12/12/2007 | |
| | *P10. Survey Type: | |
| *P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other so Eastern Neighborhoods SOMA Survey | rces, or enter "None") Reconnaissance | |
| *Attachments: ✓ NONE □Location Map □Sketch | Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record | |
| ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Line | ar Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record | |
| ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other | list): | |
| DPR 523 A (1/95) | *Required Information | |

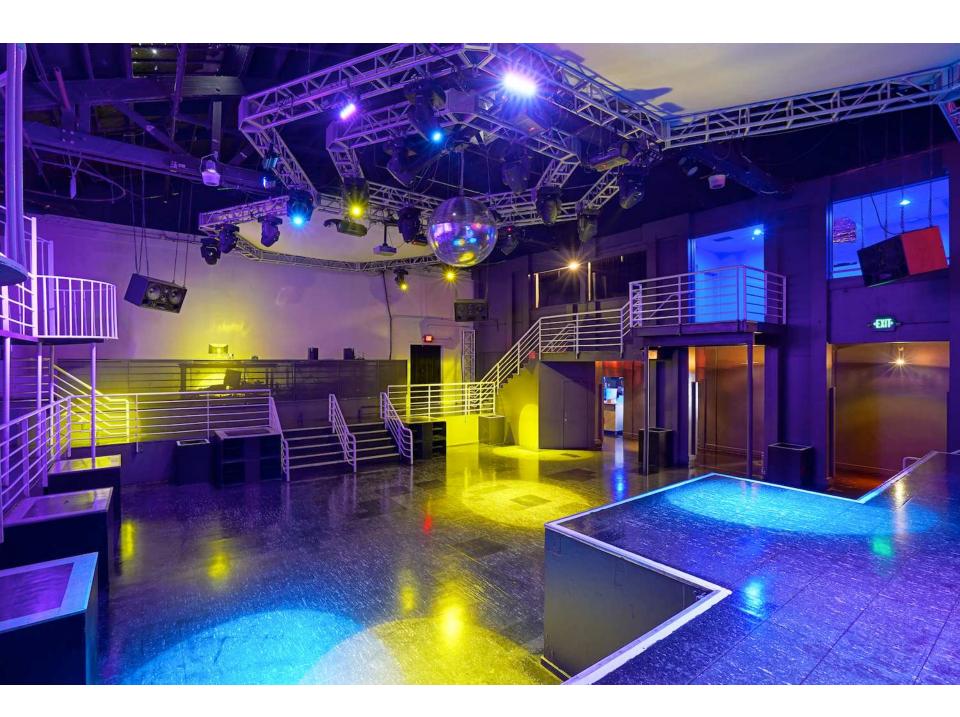


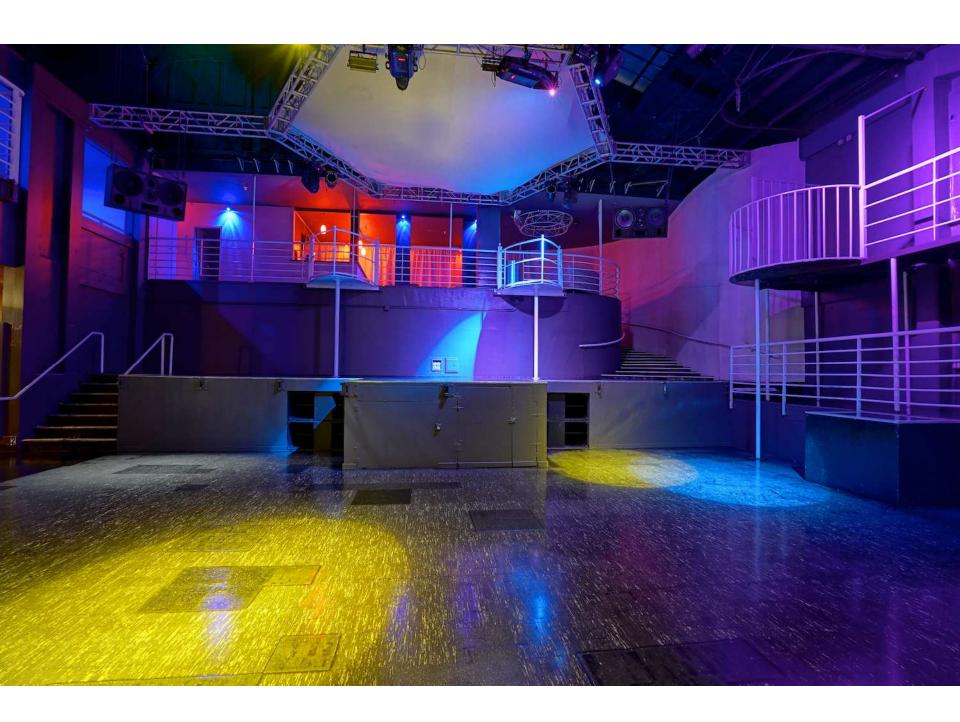


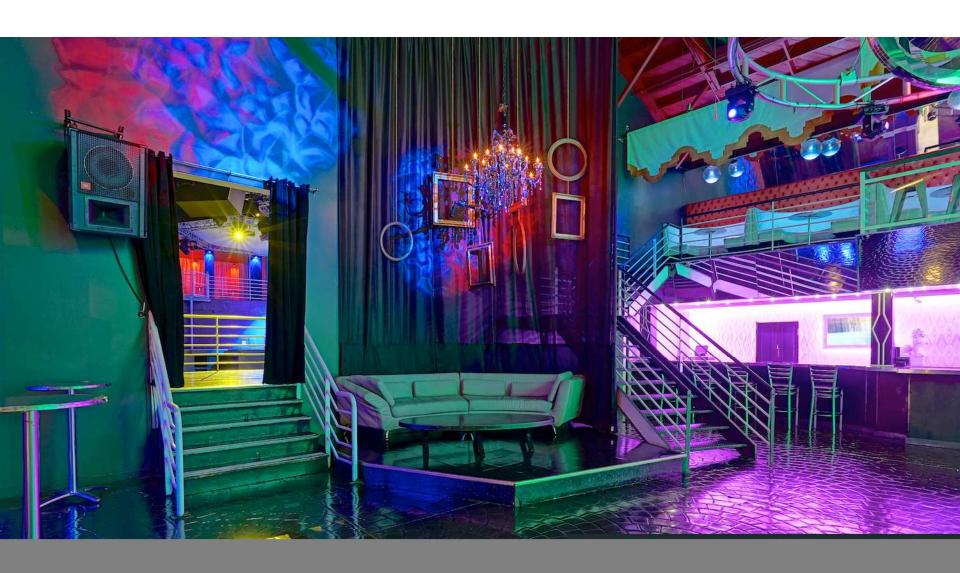


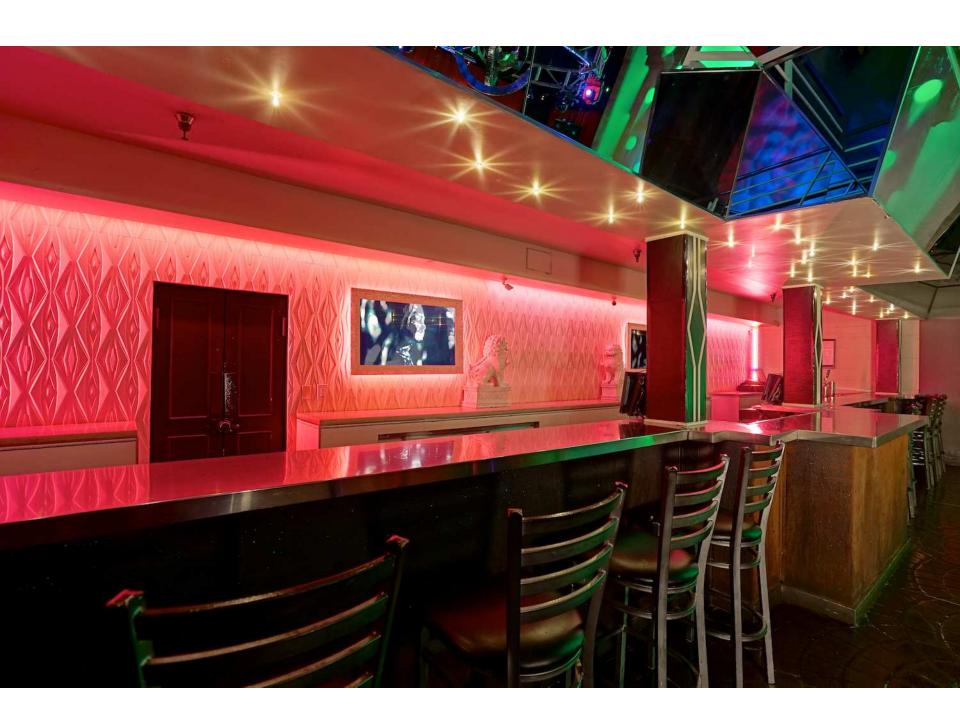


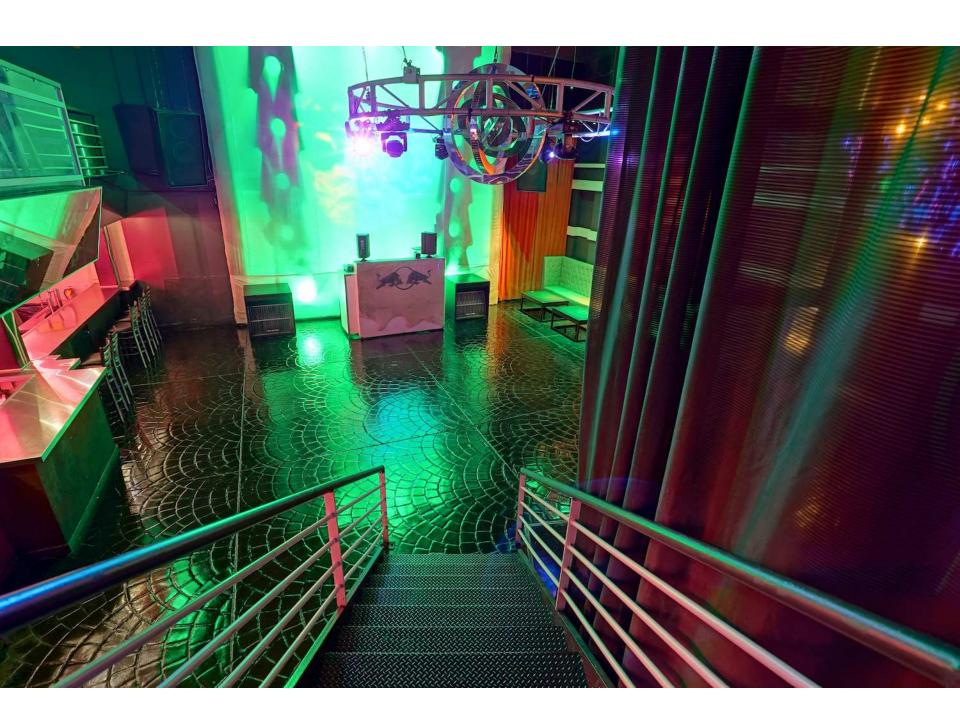


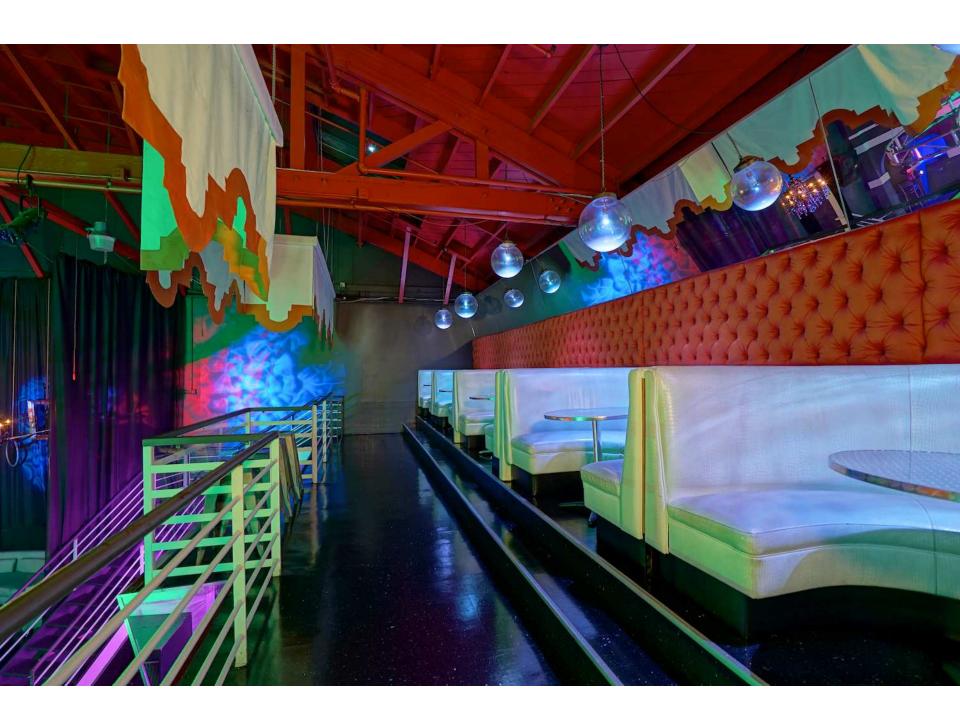


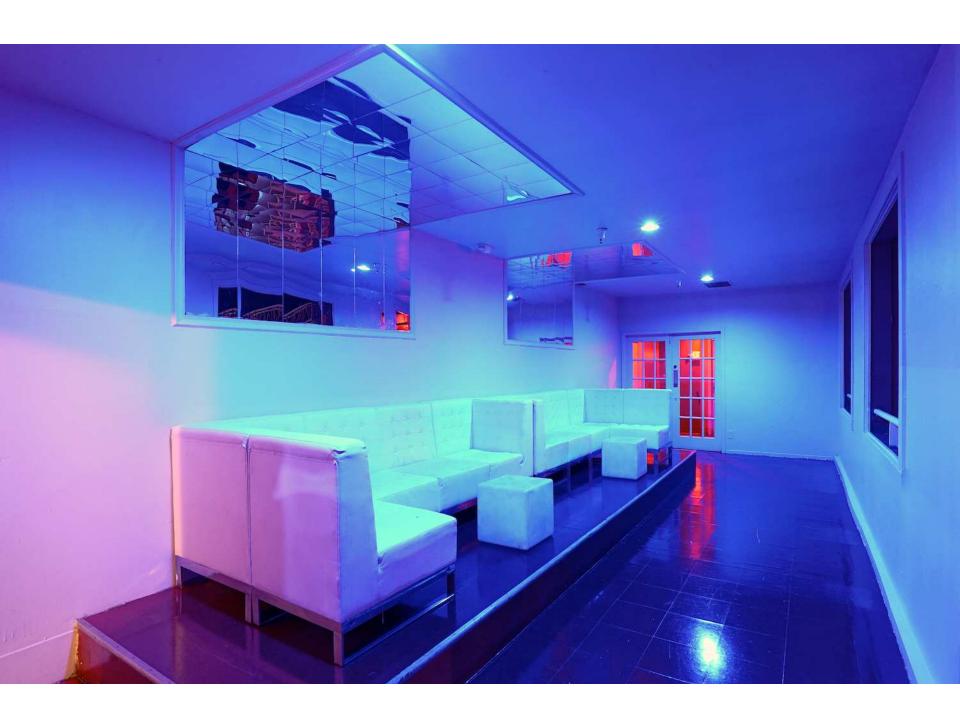


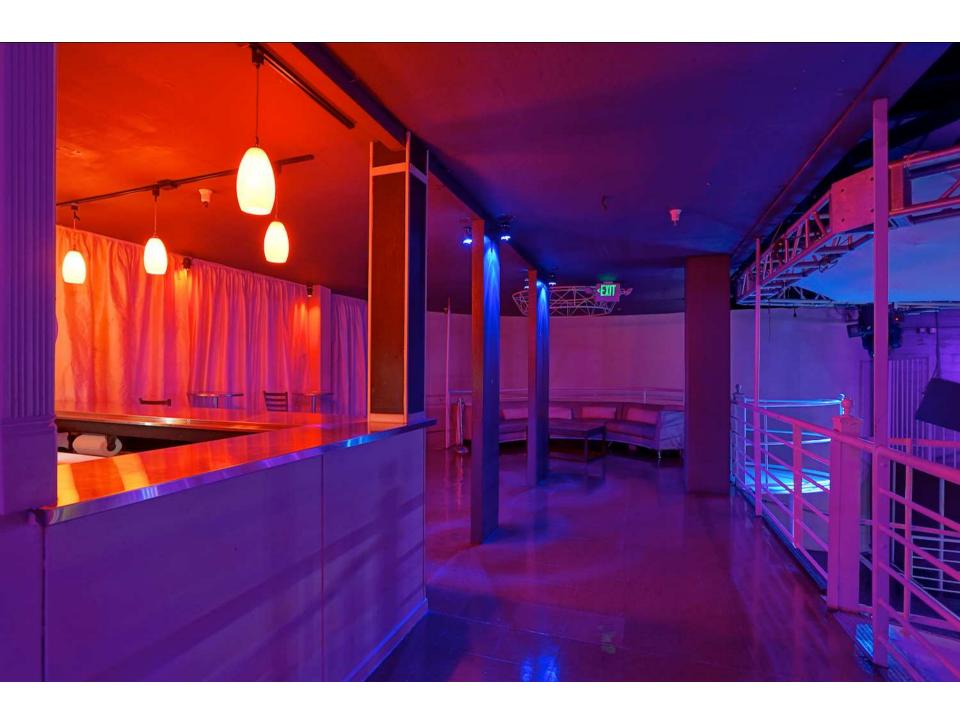


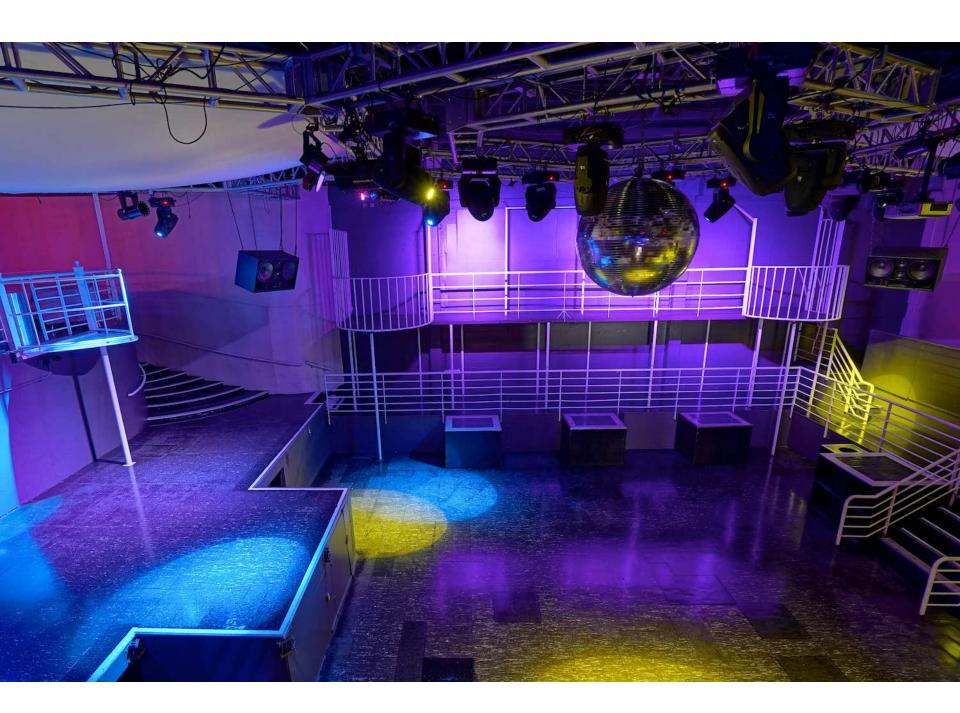














SFGATE

I returned to City Nights, the nightclub people love to hate — it's still thriving after 34 years

By Dianne de Guzman, SFGATE

Updated 11:10 am PST, Wednesday, December 11, 2019



The massive crowds at City Nights can be seen at 715 Harrison Street in San Francisco. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business. Photo: Courtesy City Nights

City Nights is the dance club you forget when you turn 21. I know I did.

But walking up to the front doors of this 18-and-over club in SoMa awakens memories you've long forgotten. Stepping out of a Lyft onto the corner of 3rd and Harrison streets, there's the familiar crunch of street grit and broken glass as you stroll toward the lines of 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds. They're excitedly chatting together in a mishmash of bridge-and-tunnel cities, teenaged hormones colliding together.

I should know. I stood in line with them just 19 years earlier, arriving in a car filled with fellow teenagers making the trek from our East Bay town of Hercules, everyone shouting and being uproariously loud in that way teens are when they're with friends. It's a November night and I'm strolling down memory lane, in the name of this story. Each memory makes me smirk.

There's the corner parking lot, where we sipped my friend's alcohol stash before ditching the evidence and rounding the corner to join the line.

I remember palming my ID nervously despite the fact that I was legally 18 — I was too uncool and cash poor to procure a fake ID, so I was there almost exactly on my 18th birthday.

The girls I see scantily dressed in tight black dresses and high heels remind me of my own poor wardrobe choices that fall, refusing to bring a jacket — I wasn't about to pay to place it in coat check.

Despite the fact that City Nights has welcomed waves of overeager 18-year-old teens every Saturday night, it's an easy target for grown ups willing (and wanting) to forget their teen years, myself included. But despite how post-21 you feels now, City Nights is forever.



Renowned DJ, Afrojack, performs at City Nights at 715 Harrison Street in San Francisco. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business. Photo: Courtesy City Nights

First taste of the night life

Music escapes the club each time the door swings open and in 2019 it is unfamiliar to me, the loud bass thumping in a pleasant way, but at the same time reminding me: This isn't my club anymore. It certainly wasn't the same music (no Montell Jordan, Jagged Edge or Sisqo). Aside from the Gen Zers in the Tight Black Dress Club, most others dress casually in crop tops and pants, a definite sign of how things have changed from the overdressed days of the early 2000s.

Inside, things look very much how I remember it: the row of double doors behind security that let into the club, the smaller room where the crowd gathers, the strobe lights that move and flash to the beat. Nostalgia hits hard when I stroll into the second room, the walls lined with dancing stages for the teens with an exhibitionist streak who loved to put their dance moves in front of the crowds. While I was never the type to show off, I looked to the dance floor where the majority of my dancing took place — mostly within the safe space of a circle of girlfriends — and was surprised to see things very much play out in the same way, but with today's teens.

This 18+ club has outlasted many of the dance clubs in San Francisco's nightclub scene, still drawing long lines of partiers despite the city's high turnover rate of entertainment venues. The club hopes to cement its status as a fixture of San Francisco by applying for Legacy Business status after turning 34 years old, nearly twice the average age of its clientele.

But however you remember City Nights from your own teenage days, many consider it part of one's Bay Area initiation.

Take a look at this 2017 tweet from rapper and singer Kamaiyah: "City Nights before age 21 is a Bay Area right of passage don't skip that step take yo a— to city nights my young tenders (sobbing emoji)."

At the time I read the tweet, my own reaction was a more mixed one, agreeing with the sentiment but taking into account my own negative reactions toward the big nightclub experience: the equivalent of the woozy face emoji, but IRL. The tweet was liked by thousands of locals and the replies turned into a mess of tags as people forced their fellow 18-year-old party partners to join their City Nights reminiscences; each tweet was a mix of silly teenaged adventures from admittances of getting kicked out (or arrested!), those who admitted to meeting their fiances there, and pregaming.

I wasn't exactly sure what I would find when I returned to the roots of my burgeoning clubbing days; I had long since decided that the scene wasn't for me, but I was curious to see if my memories held up, sticky nightclub floors and misbehaving boys included. And so it was that I found myself returning to the hallowed dancing grounds of my teenaged self on a recent night, unsure of what to expect.

"When you go Saturday night, it really hasn't changed that much other than the fact that you're gonna feel really old," warned owner Brit Hahn.

He wasn't wrong.



Sage the Gemini performs at City Nights at 715 Harrison Street in San Francisco. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business.

Photo: Courtesy City Nights

The beginnings

City Nights for the uninitiated is an intimidating practice in nightlife; the only experience that could closely mirror it was the darkened gym dances held at my small private high school. This was easily those dances x 1,000, amplified by the unfamiliar faces and rituals of a night out in "the city" as we called it.

Those dances always seemed an exercise in awkwardness, at least in my eyes, but now was the chance to step away from my shy, straight-edge high school self and embrace my now-worldly views, having finally graduated from high school to the wider world of nightclubs and people (insert eyeroll here). In the aughts when I was there, City Nights was just a decade and a half into its run at the time, and there weren't many other local places welcoming 18-year-olds like myself at a club, at least willingly. (And no scene as exciting as San Francisco to wild out, at least in my teenaged eyes.)

City Nights opened under Hahn's steed in 1985, when Hahn was just 25. Before he leased the building at Harrison and 3rd streets, the club was known as Dreamland, a gay club that dated to the late 70s. Then it became a second club called Echo Beach and eventually converted into the Harrison Street Theater. At the time, Hahn said he was running a few small businesses in the city — namely karate studios — but he also enjoyed the huge nightclub and dancehall scene that was prevalent at the time.

"I remember going to the Oasis and thinking, 'This looks like something I could do.'
There were people lined up around the corner paying the hefty sum of five dollars to get into this place," Hahn recalled. "The entrepreneur in me was saying, 'I can do this."

Along with a group of investors, Hahn opened City Nights in 1985. It began as a typical 21+ club, but transitioned into a mostly 18-and-over venue around '87 or '88.

Recalling hanging out in San Francisco as a teenager in the '70s, "We didn't have a place to go," Hahn said. "We never had an opportunity to go out and be properly supervised and socialize with our peers from all over the Bay Area."

Hahn's partner Ray Bobbitt started as a bouncer at night in 1989 at the age of 19, just barely over the typical age of the club's patrons. For Bobbitt, it was the youth that really kept the club going, he said.

"They want to see what it's like to be in the big nightclub and to interface with a lot of different people from different areas," he says. "It's a really unique thing to watch."



SOB x RBE performs at City Nights at 715 Harrison Street in San Francisco. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business.

Photo: Courtesy City Nights



A dance contest is held on the main stage of City Nights at 715 Harrison Street. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business.

Photo: Courtesy City Nights

What City Nights served for me was two-fold. I found a place where I could dance my heart out, far (enough) away from the glances of my high school classmates. And I was finally able to meet people from outside my hometown enclave, a place I was desperate to get away from, but stuck in for my foreseeable, post-high school future. City Nights, however, didn't really become my place of dancing solace; instead, it was a training ground for how to handle myself when others misbehave, from disarming handsy boys to avoiding exchanging phone numbers (or AIM addresses).

City Nights isn't without its issues, as both Hahn and Bobbitt admit, but mitigating trouble is part of any nightclub business, even those that cater to a younger clientele.

"I really felt strongly about the fact that young people are blamed for being problematic," Hahn said. "But give them something to do, give them a place to go, give them a place where it's safe, where they're supervised and where they can just be free, and they'll take care of themselves."

Despite being known mostly for music played by DJs, City Nights has a surprising history of booking huge bands. The club's opening night featured a performance by Tower of Power, and since then the club has hosted the Ramones, Grace Jones, MC Hammer, Lady Gaga, Jason Derulo and even a young Justin Bieber. (Scroll through the photos above to see some of the artists they've hosted over the years.)

"What it really was about for us more than the music, it was just being able to get together in a place that lets you get away from your day-to-day living and be a star for the night. That was always our motto," Hahn said. "We want these young people to feel like they're all grown up and we want them to feel special. It didn't matter who you were, where you came from or how much money you made or didn't make. In a nightclub, really, everyone was equal. It may sound like a cliche, but it was really true."

The club today — the kids are alright

Despite my efforts to put on a brave face and wait in line for a club amidst a sea of 18-year-olds, Bobbitt spotted me almost immediately. I am dressed in an all-black uniform, this time in motorcycle boots and leather jacket, rather than the too-casual (or, alternately, too-dressy) outfits on display — a step out of line from the obviously young crowd. At the front doors I see him handle everything, from welcoming a friend's newly-18 daughter into the club, greeting those joining the line and monitoring the crowd from the front doors.

Bobbitt's seen generations of teens go through those doors, and he has become a recognizable fixture for many of the club's current customers — including their parents.

"Me being [at City Nights] for over 30 years, I'm seeing generations of people now," Bobbitt said. "People send their kids and they come up and say, 'Oh yeah, my mom told me to tell you hello."

Returning to Harrison Street filled me with a strange sense of nostalgia. There's something eternal about 18-ness that struck me while standing outside the club. Despite being quite removed from that age, I recognized that many of the same large groups of friends looking for a good time were like my own. Those times have since evolved: these days my friends are more preoccupied with their jobs and children, and rightly so, and a night out at the bar these days doesn't quite replicate that same excitement I saw in this line for City Nights.

Still, there were funny bits I noted when I stepped inside the club. I was never one to drink inside — I couldn't, given I was under-21, and was not nearly up for the task of trying to purchase an alcoholic beverage, let alone knowing what to order — but when I walked up to the bar for a drink now, it was one of the easiest experiences ordering a drink that I could remember. There weren't enough 21-year-olds to pack the bar area, making for an easy getaway, drink in hand.

It's not all good nostalgia, however; as I wandered the two rooms of dancing patrons, some handsy teen starts dancing with me without quite asking. I chalk it up to typical rude club behavior, but I now have the wherewithal to know how to deal with it. Outside, a party bus pulled up and a security guard quickly boarded to assess the situation — drunk kids are a bad mix for the club, so the group is told to go elsewhere. A few try to sneak into the club later, but are immediately spotted and kicked out. It's a testament to Bobbitt's commitment to a safe environment.



City Nights patrons pose for a photo on the dancefloor. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business.

Photo: Courtesy City Nights

Bobbitt's seen all manners of teens while working at the club, but he admires this youngest generation most, saying in the past most friend groups and types wouldn't mix, but these teens seem more tolerant than ever before.

"This young generation gets a bad rap, but they really are more tolerant and accepting of each other than I've ever seen," Bobbitt said. "They've grown up together, all different demographics, races, sexual orientation, you name it, they're all friends. It's just like, 'Wow, how cool is this?' You can't tell a skater and a hip-hop kid apart. They dress almost identical [these days]."

Legacy status

It's just this year that Bobbitt and Hahn became convinced to seek out the city's Legacy Business designation, which requires businesses to have operated in the city for 30 years with no significant changes in ownership. They expect it to be approved any day now.

"When you really think about how long we've been doing this for, it's pretty overwhelming," Bobbitt said. "I think the fact that we've been visited, and served virtually every segment of our incredibly diverse society, we feel really good about that and we feel that that's something that is notable."

At the conclusion of my tour, Bobbitt ushers me into the larger dance room before the crowd rushes in. It's the "opening of the room" as Bobbitt calls it, and the DJ and security guards gear up for the rush of teens onto the dance floor. I'm led to a perch on the second story of the club as the burnt-caramel smell of fake smoke fills the room, lasers and lights defusing in the air.

The DJ queues up a song — one I'm unfamiliar with, yet again, another notch added to my feeling of oldness — and the doors open as the first tentative teens flood inside.

I'm watching the scene below, and even thinking about it weeks later, it's incredible how despite the time that's passed, this club is still a familiar scene. Sure, I didn't know the music or the synchronized dance moves, but there's a timelessness in the youthful energy, the boundless excitement of being in line outside, and the limitless possibilities of meeting a stranger — and perhaps having it turn into more.

That magical feeling was wasted on me then; I was more preoccupied with learning how to navigate all the social pitfalls that come with being very 18. Now, rather than feeling the uncertainty of my teenaged self, I had a finer appreciation for those feelings of adultness and freedom, sticky nightclub floor and all.



City Nights patrons pose for a photo on the dancefloor. The long-running club is applying for Legacy Business status after 34 years in business.

Photo: Courtesy City Nights

In a moment of truth outside of the club, I confess to Bobbitt I expected to hate the experience. When he asks how I'm feeling now, I say it's not as bad as I was imagining and that I was ultimately feeling nostalgic.

He nodded, understanding. Bobbitt tells me people like to bash the club after they turn 21 — a graduation to the older echelons of nightlife — but there is a point when the nostalgia of being a teen returns ... and they warm up to that time and place once again. I know I did.

Dianne de Guzman is a Digital Editor at SFGATE. Email: dianne.deguzman@sfgate.com

Filing Date: February 5, 2019
Case No.: 2020-003292LBR
Business Name: City Nights

Business Address: 715 Harrison Street

Zoning: CMUO (Central SoMa Mixed Use Office) Zoning District

130-CS Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 3762/118

Applicant: Raymond Bobbitt, Head of Operations

715 Harrison Street San Francisco, CA 94107

Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney

Located In: District 6

Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625

shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

City Nights is the Bay Area's only 18 and over nightclub, founded on September 11, 1985 by Brit Hahn, a 25-year old San Francisco native. Ray Bobbitt joined Brit at City Nights in 1989 and is currently the Operating Partner of the business. City Nights is one of the longest running, large capacity nightclubs in the country. It is known for its diversity, and it serves all ages of people from 18 to 100 years old.

Hahn and Bobbitt have cultivated City Nights into a long-running and successful nightclub that has entertained well over 6 million people from all over the world. City Nights is responsible for creating and facilitating multiple reoccurring nightclub "formats" or event nights that have served many sectors of the community. The venue has featured some of the world's largest entertainers including Grace Jones, Lady GaGa, Prince, Justin Bieber and MC Hammer to name a few. The DJ booth started the careers of multiple internationally known and culturally iconic DJs such as Doc Martin, Theo Mitzuhara, Sway, Cameron Paul, Michael Erickson, Billy Vidal, David Garcia, The Latin Prince Sergio Rodriguez, Page Hodel, DJ Blackstone, Jazzy Jim Archer, Magic Matt Lemay and many more. Many of City Nights' resident DJs have previously served, and currently serve, as program directors of the Bay Area's largest radio stations, including KMEL 106.1, KYLD 94.9, KMVQ 99.7, KITS 105.3 and KRBQ 102.1. The close relationship with local radio stations makes City Nights one of the leading vehicles in reaching the Bay Area's younger generation. City Nights has worked very hard with new residential neighbors to help them understand the value of entertainment in the neighborhood, while staying in alignment with each other's needs.

The business is located on the south side of Harrison Street between 3rd and 4th streets in the South of Market neighborhood. It is within the CMUO (Central SoMa Mixed Use Office) Zoning District and 130-CS Height and Bulk District.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Review Criteria

1. When was business founded?

The business was founded in 1985.

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

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

- i. City Nights has operated continuously in San Francisco for 35 years, has significantly contributed to the history and identity of the neighborhood.
- ii. City Nights has contributed to the history and identity of the South of Market neighborhood and San Francisco.
- iii. City Nights is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define the organization.
- 3. Is the business associated with a culturally significant art/craft/cuisine/tradition?

Yes. The business is associated with the tradition of dance clubs.

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

Yes. The property is located within an eligible historic district. The South of Market Neighborhood contains the SoMa LGBTQ California Register-eligible historic district which is significant under Criterion 1 and 2. SoMa has been identified as one of San Francisco's LGBTQ enclaves and is historic for the numerous LGBTQ properties, businesses, organizations, and individuals associated with the area. The neighborhood encompasses not only the Leather community and their associated bars, bathhouses, and retail shops, but was also the site of numerous LGBTQ publishing houses, homophile organizations, artist enclaves, and street fairs.

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

No. The property has a Planning Department Historic Resource status codes of "A" (Known Historic Resource) due to its finding of being located in an eligible SoMa LGBTQ 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. City Nights has received many awards and press mentions. In July 2018, City Nights was unfortunately on a list of landmarks in the San Francisco Bay Area that an ISIS terrorist suspect planned to attack. The attack was thwarted by the FBI: https://abc7news.com/amp/sentencing-postponed-for-oakland-man-convicted-of-supportingisis/4918063/.

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business

Location(s) associated with the business:

• 715 Harrison Street

Recommended by Applicant

- Community function as a gathering place that provides dancing and entertainment
- Facilitator for low-cost community events
- Facilitator for dialogue between residents and the local entertainment businesses
- The warehouse building

Additional Recommended by Staff

None

Historic Preservation Commission Draft Resolution No.

HEARING DATE: MARCH 18, 2020

Fax.

Reception:

2020-003292LBR City Nights

Business Address: 715 Harrison Street

CMUO (Central SoMa Mixed Use Office) Zoning District Zoning:

130-CS Height and Bulk District

Block/Lot: 3762/118

Case No.:

Business Name:

Applicant: Raymond Bobbitt, Head of Operations

> 715 Harrison Street San Francisco, CA 94107

Nominated By: Supervisor Matt Haney

District 6 Located In:

Staff Contact: Shelley Caltagirone - (415) 558-6625

shelley.caltagirone@sfgov.org

ADOPTING FINDINGS RECOMMENDING TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY NOMINATION FOR CITY NIGHTS CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 715 HARRISON STREET, BLOCK/LOT 3762/118.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at a duly noticed public hearing held on March 18, 2020, the Historic Preservation Commission reviewed documents, correspondence and heard oral testimony on the Legacy Business Registry nomination.

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

415.558.6378

415.558.6409

Planning Information: 415.558.6377 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby recommends** that City Nights 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 City Nights.

Location(s):

• 715 Harrison Street

Physical Features or Traditions that Define the Business:

- Community function as a gathering place that provides dancing and entertainment
- Facilitator for low-cost community events
- Facilitator for dialogue between residents and the local entertainment businesses
- The warehouse building

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the **Historic Preservation Commission hereby directs** its Commission Secretary to transmit this Resolution and other pertinent materials in the case file 2020-003292LBR to the Office of Small Business March 18, 2020.

| Jonas P. Ionin |
|----------------------|
| Commission Secretary |

| AYES: |
|----------|
| NOES: |
| ABSENT: |
| ADOPTED: |

SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
2