2025 | 2026 EDITION

CASTRO

GUIDE





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The neighborhood beckons at the convergence of Castro, 17th, and Market Streets





WELGOME TO THE CASTRO

Whether it's your first time here or your fiftieth, we're thrilled to welcome you to one of the most iconic and beloved LGBTQ+ neighborhoods in the world.

The Castro is more than just a destination—it's a living, breathing neighborhood with a rich history of pride, activism, and togetherness. As you explore, we invite you to support our incredible local businesses—each one a reflection of the creativity, courage, and diversity that make The Castro so special. Grab a bite, shop around, catch a drag show, or just take a stroll and soak in the stories told through our murals, landmarks, and people.

This is a place where authenticity is celebrated. The Castro has long been a safe haven for self-expression and queer joy, and we're proud to keep that spirit alive.

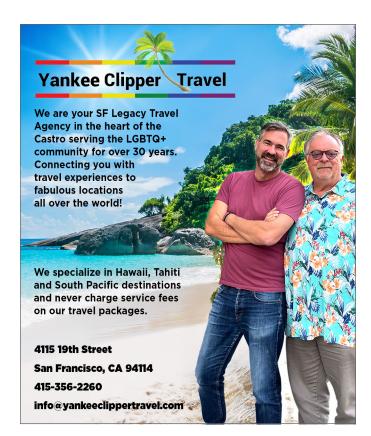
Here, you're not just accepted—you're embraced exactly as you are.



Thank you for being here. Your presence supports not only our merchants, but the continued vitality of a neighborhood that has helped shape LGBTQ+ history—and still leads with love and liberation. With gratitude,

Nate Bourg, President, Castro Merchants Association







VELCOME

Welcome to the Castro!

It is my great honor to represent the Castro, its residents and small businesses on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. This is the neighborhood that gave the world Harvey Milk. Some of the most important moments in San Francisco and LGBTQ history happened right here, and that legacy of inclusion and uniqueness lives on in the neighborhood today.

While you're here I encourage you to stop by one of our unique local shops, grab a drink at one of our famous bars, and indulge yourself at one of our delicious neighborhood restaurants.

Enjoy your time in the Castro.



Rafael Mandelman

President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors - District 8





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CASTRO EVENTS

The Castro stands out among San Francisco's iconic neighborhoods, offering a vibrant mix of year-round activities for all. At its center is the

historic Castro Theatre, now undergoing a \$40M+ renovation, set to reopen in 2026 with a dynamic lineup of events.

Spring brings an Easter block party hosted by Castro Merchants, a lively event programmed especially for families, as well as an annual and irreverent Easter observance produced by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a San Francisco institution. Held in Dolores Park, the Sisters host an eye-popping Easter bonnet competition and an outrageous Hunky Jesus contest. [thesisters.org]

Also in spring is the San Francisco International Film Festival. This grand-daddy of American film festivals is a fifteen-day celebration of cinema featuring more than 175 films and live events, presenting twenty prestigious awards and attracting up to 80,000 attendees. The Castro Theatre has historically served as one of its main venues for festival screenings and events. [sffilm.org]

The Castro Night Market lights up the neighborhood on select Third Fridays from 5–10 PM at 18th & Castro. Expect an open-air evening of queer joy, local vendors, delicious eats, and live entertainment—all in the heart of the Castro. Come for the vibes, stay for the community. [castronightmarket.com]

May is also a time of commemoration, with the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Begun in the Castro in 1983, the historic Candlelight Memorial has become an international event that takes place every third Sunday in May. The event was organized by a few San Francisco gay men who wanted to draw attention to the mysterious disease that was killing their friends and lovers. The San Francisco march, traditionally one of the largest in the U.S., starts at Harvey Milk Plaza at sundown.

Harvey Milk Day is celebrated May 22nd, the birthday of the renowned gay activist, and is observed in the Castro with speeches, a rally at Milk's former store and other commemorative events, including Castro Merchants' initiative Windows For Harvey in which local artists display work commemorating Harvey in storefront windows. Officially inaugurated in 2009 by the State of California, Harvey Milk Day is the first official day of recognition for any openly gay person in the U.S.

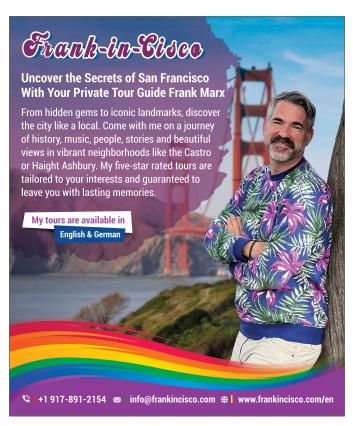
Also in May, CAAMFest (formerly the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival) offers a significant feature film at the Castro Theatre. Founded in 1982, the festival is North America's largest showcase for new Asian and Asian American media, attracting up to 25,000 attendees. [caamfest.com]

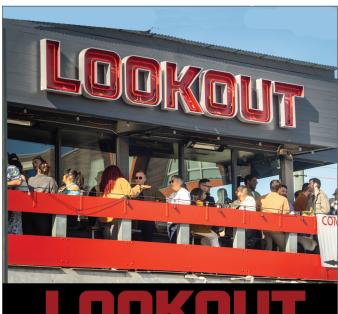
Every May during the Small Business Week celebration, Castro Merchants, the Golden Gate Business Association and other organizations host MEGA Make Contact, a major regional networking event for the LGBTQ business community and allies. [ggba.com]

Castro Night Market • Castro Spring Block Party









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The annual Pulse Memorial takes place on June 12. Sponsored by the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District and Castro Community Benefit District, the memorial honors the night 49 LGBTQ individuals were murdered in the shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida. [castrolgbtq.org]

Castro Merchants Presents: Pride! is a Pride-themed event in June celebrating the LGBTQ+ community in the Castro, bringing folks together in support of the neighborhood. In collaboration with local merchants, the all-ages event features drag & musical performances, panel discussions, artists & makers selling their wares, and more! [castromerchants.com]

The Castro Theatre has historically served as the main venue for the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival (Frameline) featuring LGBT films from around the world. Founded in 1977, it is the oldest and largest queer film festival in the world, attracting over 60,000 attendees. [frameline.org]

San Francisco hosts the Fresh Meat Festival the third weekend in June. The threeday, multidisciplinary performance festival is the only event of its kind in North America and features transgender, gender-nonconforming and queer artists of color. The Castro is a nearby destination for artists and patrons to eat, drink and shop. [freshmeatproductions.org]

The last full weekend in June is the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration, the largest in the U.S. The week before the Castro is filled with celebrants from around the world, inspiring community events, and lively bars and restaurants. The official Pride Celebration and Rally, featuring world-class performances, speakers, dancing, vendors, food, and more, is held in San Francisco's Civic Center. The unparalleled Pride Parade takes place Sunday morning, as tens of thousands of spectators cheer on the marchers and floats on Market Street from Embarcadero to Civic Center. [sfpride.org]

The Trans March is held on the Friday evening of Pride weekend, inspiring trans and gender non-conforming people to realize a world where all are safe, loved and empowered. The march starts and ends in Dolores Park, following a circular route up Market and through the Castro. Before marching, a rally is held at the park featuring trans entertainers and speakers. [transmarch.org]

Since 1996, a huge pink triangle made of canvas has been installed on a Twin Peaks hillside on a Saturday morning in June by a volunteer group, Friends of the Pink Triangle. Almost 200 feet across in size, the hot pink triangle overlooks the Castro district and can be seen up to 20 miles away. It serves as a reminder of the 15,000 gay and lesbian victims of the Nazi death-camps. [thepinktriangle.com]

Held on the eve of the Pride Parade, the Dyke March brings thousands of lesbians raucously taking to the streets of the Castro, whooping and cheering. Since the first march in 1992, this has been a grassroots, grrrls-in-the-streets event, with no corporate sponsors, no politicians on floats, and no men, who are asked to stay on the sidelines, cheering the dykes on. [thedykemarch.org]

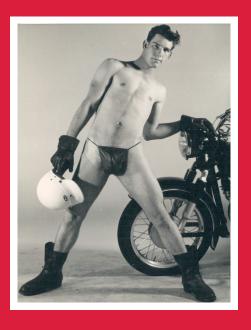


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CASTRO EVENTS

Founded in 1980, the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival is the largest and longest-running festival of its kind and a leader in the curation and presentation of new film and media exploring the complexities of Jewish life around the world. Presenting scores of films and well over 100 screenings, performances and events over 18 days, SFJFF's highly anticipated program attracts over 40,000 filmgoers and industry professionals to venues around the Bay Area, including the Castro Theatre (once the renovation project is completed). [sfjff.org]

August brings the flair to the Castro with Castro Merchants' vibrant Castro Carnival block party—complete with festive music, colorful decor, local vendors, and family-friendly games spilling into the streets. Join neighbors and revelers for a lively summer celebration under the sun, turning Market & Noe into a one-block carnival of community spirit. Poster-perfect for photos, fun, and local joy! [castromerchants.com]

The leather community celebrates Leather Week in the South of Market (SOMA) neighborhood, on Polk Street, and throughout the Castro during the week leading up to the Folsom Street Fair, usually held annually on the last Sunday in September. Parties, dances, fetish shows and workshops are held in venues throughout the city, climaxing with the Folsom Street Fair, an adults-only event which attracts up to 400,000 leather-clad (and unclad) celebrants and gawkers. [folsomstreet.org]

The first Sunday of October brings the Castro Street Fair. Founded by Harvey Milk in 1974, it has the reputation of being one of the most enjoyable of San Francisco's many annual pavement parties, where tens of thousands mingle to enjoy food and drink, arts and crafts, and the usually excellent weather. [castrostreetfair.org]

Litquake, San Francisco's annual nine-day literary festival features events such as cultural strolls, breakfasts with authors, lectures and readings, book signings and pub crawls at interesting venues throughout the city, including the Castro. [litquake.org]

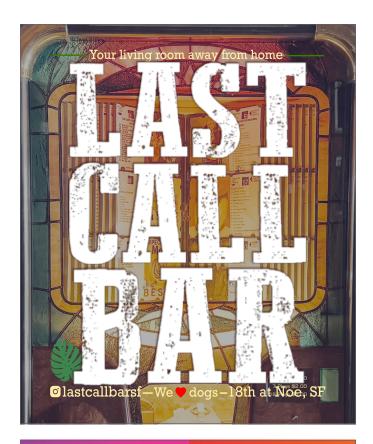
Founded in 1996, the Arab Film Festival is the largest and oldest film festival showcasing cutting-edge work from and about the Arab world in North America. [arabfilmfestival.org]



Spring Block Party
Castro Night Market • Castro Street Fair







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Winter commemorations include the Harvey Milk and George Moscone Memorial Candlelight March and Vigil on November 27, the anniversary of the 1978 assassinations of SF Supervisor and activist Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. The gathering starts around sunset at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro and Market Streets) and includes speeches and remembrances, followed by a candlelight march through the Castro neighborhood. The event is sponsored by a diverse group of San Francisco community organizations.

The annual international World AIDS Day is observed December 1 and is commemorated in the Castro in several meaningful ways. INSCRIBE, a project by George Kelly, includes students from Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy and a group of long-term HIV/AIDS survivors called "Honoring Our Experience," features the names of people lost to AIDS inscribed in chalk on the sidewalks along Castro Street. There is also a sunset candlelight vigil in Harvey Milk Plaza.

On the first Monday after Thanksgiving, Castro Merchants kicks off the holiday season with the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony that includes Santa, elves, live music, and other holiday fun. The 25-foot tall tree is erected in the plaza in front of the Bank of America at Castro and 18th Streets.

The Santa Skivvies Run is a festive romp through the Castro in early December benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Starting and ending at Lookout at Noe and Market Streets, the Santa Skivvies Run has become one of the city's beloved holiday events. [santaskivviesrun.org]

Sha'ar Zahav and Castro Merchants host a Hanukkah Menorah Lighting at Jane Warner Plaza (Castro at Market Streets). It features traditional intention settings, music, dancing, dreidel games with gelt for the winners and sufganiyot (jelly donuts), all capped by the traditional lighting of the evening's Menorah candle. Participants are urged to bring their own Menorah from home to light with others. [shaarzahav.org]

Closing out the season, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) has performed their popular Christmas Eve holiday concert, "Home for the Holidays," to sell-out crowds since 1989. The 250+ member chorus and their special guests typically give three evening performances on December 24th at the Castro Theatre (venue depends upon completion of the theatre renovation project). They also appear in support of events and charitable causes throughout the year, as well as performing major concerts in the winter, spring and during Pride season. The documentary film *Gay Chorus Deep South* followed the Chorus on their remarkable tour of the American South, winning the Audience Award at the Tribeca Film Festival and many others since its release in 2019. [sfamc.org]

All events and schedules are subject to change by their respective producing organizations.

Events traditionally held at the Castro Theatre may be relocated during the extensive renovations underway at press time. [See article on Page 27]

Castro Merchants' Annual Holiday Tree • The Rainbow Flag













EUREKA VALLEY I HARVEY MILK BRANC SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRA





Harvey Milk, a Jewish investment analyst from New York, arrived in the Castro in 1972 and

opened a camera shop at 575 Castro Street. His great charm and deep and sincere interest in people helped dub him "The Mayor of Castro Street." After two unsuccessful campaigns, Milk became a San Francisco Supervisor in 1978, one of the first openly gay elected officials in California. Eleven months later, on November 27, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by Dan White, a former City firefighter and supervisor, who had resigned his position.

When White was only convicted of voluntary manslaughter on grounds of diminished capacity, an outraged gay community reacted in what are now called the "White Night" riots, setting police cars on fire and breaking doors and windows at City Hall. Later that night police retaliated, raiding bars like Elephant Walk, at Castro and 18th Streets, later renamed Harvey's, which operated until 2023 and is listed as a historical monument.

In his brief time, Milk created an enduring legacy of both accomplishments and what he inspired others to achieve. His life has been chronicled in books, an opera, an Academy Award-winning documentary, and the 2008 Oscar-winning film *Milk*, starring Sean Penn and directed by Gus Van Sant.

He is memorialized in his former district by murals, plaques at the site of his camera shop, a plaza at Castro and Market Streets, celebrations around his birthday, and by the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy. In 2009, President Obama posthumously awarded Milk the Presidential Medal of Freedom. On May 22, 2010, his 80th birthday, California celebrated the inauguration of Harvey Milk Day, the firstever statewide annual holiday to honor an LGBTQ+ person. In 2014, Milk became the first publicly LGBTQ+ person commemorated on a U.S. postage stamp. In 2019, San Francisco International Airport opened Harvey Milk Terminal 1, the first airport terminal in the world named for an LGBTQ+ leader. In 2021, the U.S. Navy launched the USNS Harvey Milk, the first of its vessels named for an openly LGBTQ+ person [the vessel was renamed in June 2025 as part of the Federal government's attempt to disappear queer people from American history and culture]. Even as the awareness of his legacy grows, Harvey will forever belong to his beloved Castro. [milkfoundation.org]





a queer art gallery

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CASTRO NARAWALK

A monthly celebration of art, community, and culture, the Castro Art Walk occurs the first Friday of every month from 5:00 to

8:00 p.m. Sponsored by Castro Merchants and San Francisco Office of Economic & Workforce Development, visitors and residents alike take part in a self-guided experience encompassing many vibrant art forms, ranging from drag performances, crafts, and music to rotating gallery exhibitions. Castro Art Walk supports local artists and small businesses of all types and welcomes art lovers of all ages to join in an evening of diversity, including hands-on art making that brings people together. [castroartwalk.com]

































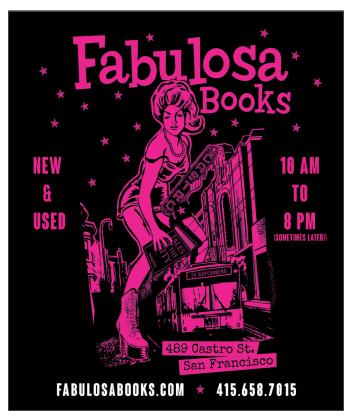






Landyn Endo and Brendan Looney in "Cabaret." Music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, book by Joe Masteroff. Photo by Scott Sidorsky.





IN OUR CULTURE

Any place with as long, diverse, and significant a history as the Castro is bound to be referenced across popular culture from books and music to

works for the large and small screen. This presence has become even more notable as representation of the LGBTQ+ community and its history has become a frequently addressed topic. Whole books exist on the subject of the Castro and its influence. The following are just a few examples to whet your appetite.

From documentaries and television series to commercials and the proverbial "major motion picture," the Castro is always ready for its close-up. As a documentary subject, the Castro took the spotlight in **Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco - The**

Castro (1997), and was a prominent part of the Oscar-winning The Times of Harvey Milk (1984) by Robert Epstein, as well as The Cockettes (2002) and We Were Here (2011) by David Weissman and Bill Weber.

A number of television series have filmed in the Castro including the globe- and time-trotting sci-fi adventure **Sense8** (Netflix, 2015) and comedy-drama **Looking** (HBO, 2014) which starred Jonathan Groff, Scott Bakula, and Murray Bartlett.

Some movies with sequences filmed in Castro locations include *Foul Play* (1978), *The Dead Pool* (1988), *EdTV* (1999), *Under the Tuscan Sun* (2003), *Steve Jobs* (2015), *GirlBoss* (2017), and, of course, the Oscar-winning *Milk* (2008).

For more about films and series made in the Castro (and greater of San Francisco),

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KATHRYN FORBES

find a copy of *Celluloid San Francisco: The Film Lover's Guide to Bay Area Movie Locations* by Jim Van Buskirk, *World Film Locations: San Francisco* by Scott Gordon Harris, or *Reel San Francisco Stories: An Annotated Filmography of the Bay Area* by Christopher Pollock. Online you can visit reelsf.com to compare production photos from classic films with the actual locations today. To learn more about LGBTQ+ representation on the screen read *The Celluloid Closet* by film historian Vito Russo or watch its Emmy-nominated screen adaptation narrated by Lily Tomlin.

The musical heart of the Castro can be summed up in one name: Sylvester. A contemporary of the legendary theatrical group The Cockettes, Sylvester regularly performed at the Elephant Walk at the corner of Castro and 18th Streets, and his 1978 disco hit "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" became an anthem for the LGBTQ+ movement.

In a nod to the Castro's Scandinavian heritage, Kathryn Forbes set her 1943 novel *Mama's Bank Account* in the 1910s in a "small cottage on Castro Street" and it became the basis for the play, film, and two musical adaptations titled *I Remember Mama*, as well as the log-running series *Mama* (1949). Nowhere in fiction is the heart of the emerging LGBTQ+ community and its allies more famously explored than the mix of comedy, mystery, and soap-operatic plots of the *Tales of the City* series by Armistead Maupin, which have been adapted into two television series (1993 and 2019), a classical song cycle by Jake Heggie, and a stage musical by Jake Shears and John "JJ" Garden.

For the visually inspired, the photo book <code>San Francisco's Castro</code>, curated by longtime neighborhood personality Strange de Jim for the "Images of America" series, can serve as the basis of a "Where was this taken?" treasure hunt to match 19th-century and beyond imagery, like Knobby Clarke's famous folly, to 21st century settings.



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The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District is committed to preserving, sustaining, and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Castro and its significance to San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community and beyond. The Cultural District is proud of having completed their *Living Lesbian Legends* mural in April 2025, which you may visit it in front of the parking lot entrance behind Walgreens (4116 18th Street between Castro & Collingwood streets). The District distributed a \$10,000 small business grant to Lobby Bar and another \$10,000 to Rikki's; both are new lesbian-owned bars in the Castro. They also donated \$6,000 to the 2025 Dyke March. In the coming year they hope to commission another art exhibition and a mural, this time featuring transgender men and trans masc individuals who have greatly contributed to LGBTQIA+ culture in the Bay Area. [castrolgbtq.org]







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CASTRO THEATRE

The blade sign of the Castro Theatre is an iconic marker for this internationally renowned, historic neighborhood, and a

beacon for the global LGBTQ+ community. Added to the building in the late 1930s, the lighted sign was restored and repainted in 2008 to appear as it had in the 1970s for its role in the film Milk. In mid-April 2024, historical renovation began on the neon blade and marquee as part of a \$40 million restoration project for the theatre.



The original theatre opened in 1910 at 479 Castro Street, now the site of Cliff's Variety. The new Castro Theatre opened at 429 Castro on June 22, 1922, with an invitation-only screening of Across the Continent starring Wallace Reid. Built for \$300,000, the Castro Theatre was designed by Timothy L. Pflueger, later a renowned local architect. It is one of the few remaining 1920s movie palaces still in operation. Janet Gaynor, the first Oscar-winning actress, once worked as a Castro usher.

Seating 1,400 patrons, the Castro ran general releases until 1976, when its programming changed to repertory cinema, foreign films, and special engagements. In the 1970s

the theatre became something of an unofficial community center, hosting a variety of fundraisers, and is home to the annual Christmas concerts of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Celebrity retrospectives, musical sing-alongs, and many other unique events are a regular part of the theatre's programming.

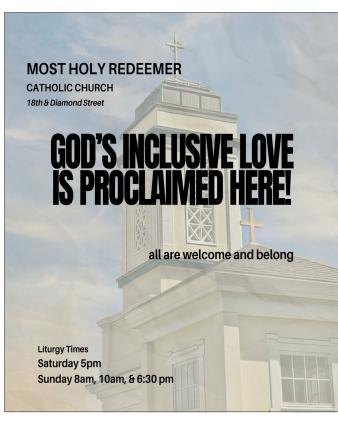
The theatre has historically hosted a remarkably diverse collection of film festivals, chief among them Frameline, the world's first and largest LGBTQ+ film fest. Other festivals drawing audiences from far and wide include Noir City, CAAMFest (formerly the Asian American Film Festival), the San Francisco International Film Festival (SFFILM), the San Francisco Green Film Festival, the San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival, the Arab Film Festival, and the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

On February 4, 2024, the theatre temporarily closed for renovations by Another Planet Entertainment, the stewards of the facility charged with this critically-needed work and the theatre's ongoing programming. Restoration of its historic features include cleaning and repairs to the decorative ceiling, wall murals, proscenium, plaster, and light fixtures, including restoration of the famous orchestra level chandelier to its original glow. Reconstruction will include a new cinema screen, a flexible seating configuration, a brand new custom designed organ (thanks to the Castro Organ Devotees Association), enlarged

lobby and concessions, a new heating and air conditioning system, and alterations to bring the theatre into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Work is expected to be completed in 2026.

[castrotheatre.com]









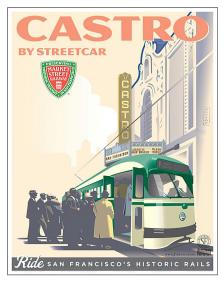
San Francisco is where the old and the new are equally celebrated. Victorian and Edwardian buildings are painstakingly preserved

just as the City has changed to embrace the emergence of social media, AI, and robotaxis as a part of daily life. A perfect embodiment of this uniquely San Francisco ability to hold both the past and the future in harmonic synergy is the F-Market and Wharves Streetcar Line that serves more than 20,000 riders per day. You can board the beautifully renovated F-Line streetcars at Jane Warner Plaza, where Market Street,

Castro Street, and 17th Street meet.

According to Market Street Railway, the nonprofit organization that provides both the civic leadership and the advocacy to ensure that rail service on Market Street does not become an historical artifact, the F-Line is "the most successful vintage rail line ever opened."

Market Street, the City's main thoroughfare, has featured rail transit service, with only occasional interruptions, since 1860. However, it was not until 1912 that service was provided by an agency of the City, a notable



innovation since municipal public transit was quite rare at that time. For decades San Francisco Municipal Railway (Muni) coexisted with the private firm Market Street Railway Co., both of which serviced tracks running down Market Street from the Ferry Building to the Castro. Muni, however, was able to carry passengers beyond the Castro, through the City-built Twin Peaks Tunnel, which opened in 1918 to serve new western neighborhoods via the K, L, and M Lines, which still run to this day.

By 1958 the City replaced its original streetcar fleet with 105 art deco inspired Presidents' Conference Committee (PCC) type cars, a tram design that was hugely successful throughout North America and Europe. These streamlined PCC streetcars seemed doomed, though, along with streetcar service on the surface of Market Street, when the Muni Metro Subway opened under Market Street in 1982, using modern light rail vehicles.

But transit advocates and Castro residents, some of whom would go on to lead the nonprofit Market Street Railway, fought to keep the old streetcars running on Market Street and succeeded. Their civic activism led to the permanent F-Line, which opened in 1995. The vintage F-Line streetcars operate every day of the year, running six miles each way between Fisherman's Wharf and the Castro.

The F-line is owned and operated by the city's transit agency, Muni. Market Street Railway supports Muni's operation of the historic streetcars (and cable cars too) and continually advocates for better service. The nonprofit receives no government funding and depends on memberships and donations from those who love these "museums in motion." To join, donate, or learn more, visit the Market Street Railway Museum at 77 Steuart Street, across from the Ferry Building at the eastern foot of Market Street. [streetcar.org]



CASTRO BY FOOT

"Where is Harvey Milk's camera shop?" "What's the history of the rainbow flag?" "Which movies or shows have been filmed here?" If you

are a first-time visitor to the neighborhood, or even if you live or work here, you might be asking these and other questions. Fortunately, there are plenty of opportunities to explore on your own, or check the **TRAVEL** section of our business listings to dive deeper into our rich and diverse neighborhood by booking a walking tour.

If you'd like to stroll through the Castro on your own, here's a pleasant itinerary that brings you face to face with many of our beloved neighborhood locales.

Start at the north-west intersection of Castro, Market and 17th Streets, across Market Street from Harvey Milk Plaza.

PINK TRIANGLE PARK AND MEMORIAL

This triangular shaped mini park is the first permanent, free-standing memorial in America to the thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people sent to Nazi death camps in World War II.

The park's centerpiece is an arrangement of fifteen white granite pylons, each inlaid at the top with a pink triangle. Together, they form a larger triangle set in pink gravel, with flowers and shrubbery surrounding it. During Germany's Nazi era (1933-1945), an estimated 15,000 gay men and women were sent to concentration camps, where many of them suffered torture and death. Each pylon in the park represents 1,000 lives.

The triangle theme recalls the Nazis forcing gay men to wear pink triangles sewn to their clothes as an identifier and badge of shame. Lesbians, as well as prostitutes and women who refused to bear children, were forced to wear black triangles. Pink Triangle Park was created in 2003 by the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, a neighborhood group that says the park serves as "a physical reminder of how the persecution of any individual or single group of people damages all humanity." [pinktrianglepark.org]

Cross Market Street to:

HARVEY MILK PLAZA

Memorializing San Francisco Supervisor and gay rights activist Harvey Milk, this small plaza is a gathering point for marches, demonstrations and voter drives. It also is the location of the giant rainbow flag (twenty feet by thirty feet) designed by the late Gilbert Baker that waves proudly over the Castro.

The Pink Triangle Park and Memorial • Castro Street at Market Street







BOOZE.
CRUISE.
MUSIC.
FROLIC.



On November 27, 1978, the evening of Harvey's and Mayor George Moscone's assassinations, thousands of Castro residents and other grieving San Franciscans gathered at the plaza. With tears, candles, and flowers, they somberly marched down Market Street to City Hall in memory of the slain leaders. The plaza, renamed for Harvey in 1985, serves as the starting point for his memorial candlelight march every year on November 27th. The lower level of the plaza, which also provides access to the southern entrance of Muni Metro's Castro Street station, has a small display of photos from Harvey's life and a plaque giving a brief history of his accomplishments. A major redesign of the Plaza, *The Memorial at Harvey Milk Plaza*, is under way that will acknowledge the plaza as sacred ground for LGBT civil rights history and create a fitting tribute to that history and to Harvey Milk. Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza, a community-based organization, is spearheading this ambitious civic project in conjunction with many City officials and departments. [harveymilkplaza.org]

THE GILBERT BAKER MEMORIAL RAINBOW FLAG

On the upper level of Harvey Milk Plaza, a 70-foot flagpole flies the huge rainbow flag, visible for miles around. At its base, a plaque commemorates San Francisco's lesbian and gay state and local elected officials. The flag has flown over the plaza since 1998 and was formally recognized by the City as a landmark in September 2024. The flag design was created by the late Gilbert Baker, who called himself "the Gay Betsy Ross." The flag is a universal symbol for LGBTQ rights and the community's hopes and aspirations. It has been waved by gay rights supporters in China and around the world fighting for equality and it has been displayed in innumerable ways as a sign of solidarity.

Cross Castro Street to:

JANE WARNER PLAZA

Located at the south-east intersection of Castro, 17th and Market streets is a petite oasis that since its launch in the Spring of 2009 has become a popular meeting place in the Castro. Surrounded by plantings and "The Seed," a lighted public sculpture by Aphidoidea, the plaza is a perfect place to sip a cup of coffee, chat with a friend and watch the F-Market and Wharves historic streetcars begin their trip downtown. [Read more about the historic streetcars on Page 29.]

The plaza was named after a much-loved San Francisco Patrol Special Police Officer, Jane Warner. Affectionately known as "Officer Jane," she walked a beat encompassing the Castro and two adjacent neighborhoods for 20 years. The Castro Community Benefit District oversees and pays for maintenance and improvements of the space and provides the plaza's tables and chairs, and their volunteers water the plants and lend a hand as needed. [castrocbd.org]

Glbert Baker with his creation flying high above • The Rainbow Flag at Harvey Milk Plaza





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Magnet clinic at San Francisco AIDS Foundation offers PrEP, PEP, Doxy PEP, gender-affirming care, anal health care, STI testing & treatment, and HIV services.

All services are free. No insurance needed!

Appointments available!
Stop in to the clinic at
470 Castro or visit us online
at sfaf.org/magnet



Just off Jane Warner Plaza at Castro Street and 17th Street:

TWIN PEAKS TAVERN

In 1973, Twin Peaks Tavern at 401 Castro Street took the bold step of uncovering its large, wrap-around plate glass windows, becoming the first openly gay bar in San Francisco whose customers could be seen by, and see, passersby on the street. For San Francisco's gays, the decades of hiding in dark bars and enduring humiliating police raids for "disorderly conduct" were over.

Proceed down Castro Street:

CASTRO THEATRE

Architect Timothy L. Pflueger's masterpiece opened in 1922 and is one of the few remaining original movie palaces in San Francisco. 429 Castro Street. [Read more about the Castro Theatre on Page 27.]

CLIFF'S VARIETY

One of the oldest and most beloved stores in the neighborhood, Cliff's Variety at 479 Castro Street has built a devoted customer base by providing great service, stocking over 65,000 items, and giving back to the community. The DeBaca family, whose descendants the Astens and the Bennetts, still run Cliff's, opened their first small store on Castro Street in 1936, selling magazines, cigars, notions and candy. They moved twice to bigger Castro Street stores as the business flourished and their stock of merchandise expanded to include hardware, home improvement materials, housewares, arts and crafts supplies, toys, Halloween costumes and more.

In 1971 they moved to their current building, which was erected in 1910 as the Castro Theatre. As the 1970s gay transformation of the Castro occurred, they added products their new customers wanted, from supplies for restoring Victorian houses to feathered boas for drag costumes. Cliff's Annex, next to the main store, opened in the late '80s, offering fabric, linens, bedding and bath accessories. Cliff's has a long tradition of elaborate and eye-catching window displays, especially at Halloween and Christmas. [cliffsvariety.com]

From the sidewalk outside of Cliff's, look across the street for San Francisco AIDS Foundation's modern health and wellness center, Strut:

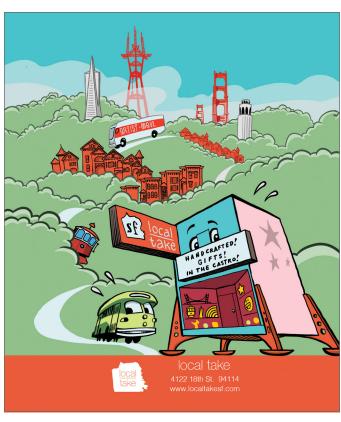
STRUT

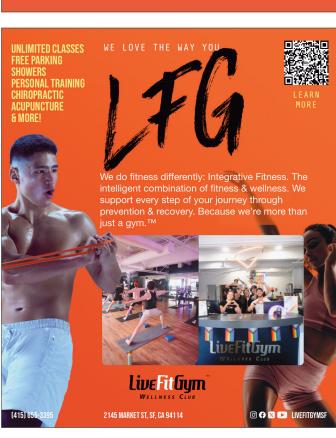
Home to the Castro's pioneering sexual health clinic, Magnet, Strut is a multidisciplinary wellness center specializing in sexual health services and substance use counseling. They are also a venue for the celebration of queer artists, having hosted a monthly showcase of new work for over two decades. Stop in to check out their latest artwork on display, and chat with their friendly reception folk if you are interested in their services. [sfaf.org]

Castro Theatre Marquee at night • Out on the town









At the intersection of Castro Street and 18th Street:

RAINBOW CROSSWALKS

This iconic street art was installed in 2014 as part of a massive sidewalk widening and streetscaping project, and quickly became a favorite location for social media selfies.

Facing back toward Market Street, looking right on 18th Street you can find:

LEONARD MATLOVICH'S HOME

Technical Sergeant Leonard P. Matlovich made history as the first gay member of the US Armed Forces to come out while serving his country. His legal struggle to remain in the Air Force after coming out landed him on the cover of Time Magazine in 1975, making him the first out LGBT person to appear on the cover of an American newsmagazine. He continued to be an influential activist for LGBT rights for the rest of his life.

He moved to San Francisco, from Washington, DC, in 1978, and lived in an apartment at 4096 18th Street, just off Castro Street. A plaque next door to today's Starbucks reiterates the sublime engraving on his tombstone at the Congressional Cemetery in our nation's Capital: "When I was in the military, they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one."

Returning to the intersection and walking up 18th Street, notice the murals "Circle of Change" and "Living Lesbian Legends" (see (1) on fold-out map) in the parking lot on the side of the Local Take, a not-to-be-missed gift shop of wares by local makers. They were created by artists Serge Gay, Jr., and Tanya Wischerath for commissions from the Castro LGBTQ Cultural District [see page 25]. Across 18th Street you will find:

GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The first stand-alone museum of LGBTQ history and culture in the United States, it celebrates San Francisco's vast queer past through dynamic and surprising exhibitions and programming. 4127 18th Street. [Read more about the Museum on Page 47]

Continue up 18th Street to Douglass Street, turn left on Douglass and walk one block:

"NOBBY" CLARKE'S FOLLY

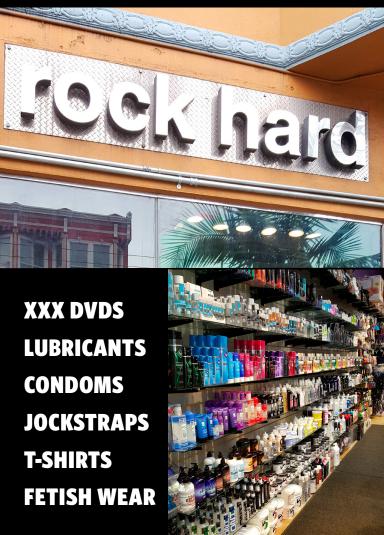
There are many ornate Victorian houses in the Castro, but the hands-down winner of the "Most Baroque" title is the huge, eccentric mansion at the corner of 250 Douglass Street where it meets Caselli Avenue, known in its day as Nobby Clarke's Folly. Built in 1892, the four-story, multi-towered house has an eclectic architectural style that has been described as "Baroque-Queen Anne." The mansion was built by Alfred "Nobby" Clarke who purchased seventeen acres in rural Eureka Valley (now known as the Castro) and used \$100,000 to construct his ornate mansion. Alas, Mrs. Clarke refused to live there. It became the elegant California General Hospital, then a rooming house for Standard Oil employees, and finally what it is today: the most unique apartment house in the Castro.

A unique application of the rainbow theme at the intersection of Castro & 18th Streets.





rock hard 415.437.2430 • 518 castro street



From the mansion, walk uphill on Douglass Street to 19th Street and turn left, or, if you just can't get enough of our hills...

KITE HILL

OPTIONAL SIDE-TREK FOR THE DEVOUT HIKER

From the mansion, walk up Caselli Avenue to Yukon Street and turn left on Yukon. From the corner of Yukon and 19th Streets you'll be staring up at a steep, grassy hillside crisscrossed with trails. Continue up Yukon Street until you see a trail with some steps leading up the hill. Once you reach the upper part of the open space you'll be rewarded with a stunning view of Twin Peaks behind you and, as you turn, the Castro, Market Street, downtown's impressive skyline and the East Bay beyond.

To return to the walk, exit the park at Corbin Street and walk to the end of Corbin where it meets Douglass Street. Turn left and descend the Douglass Street steps, which feature a community garden alongside. Continue down Douglass Street one block to 19th Street. Turn right and walk down 19th Street to find:

HARVEY MILK CIVIL RIGHTS ACADEMY

A small but mighty K-5 public school renamed after the neighborhood's most famous figure in 1996. Be sure to check out the murals (see 3 on fold-out map) running along the front wall of the school located at 4235 19th Street. [harveymilkpfc.org]

Continue down 19th Street and before reaching Collingwood Street turn right and look beyond the ball field and the dog park to see the "Time After Time" mural (see ③ on fold-out map) by Betsie Miller-Kusz on the side of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center. After crossing Collingwood, look in the windows of Spunk Salon and notice the inspirational murals by Tanya Wischerath (see ① on fold-out map). Continue down 19th Street to Castro Street and notice the comical "Hahah" mural (see ③ on fold-out map) on the side of Buffalo Whole Foods on your left. Cross Castro and turn left to find:

HARVEY MILK'S "CASTRO CAMERA" STORE

Now the home of gallery Queer A.F. (Queer Arts Featured), 575 Castro Street was the location of Harvey Milk's camera store. Milk, the first openly gay elected official of any major U.S. city, was instrumental in the rise of the LGBTQ+ community as a political force. The store was temporarily recreated as a set for the 2008 Academy Award-winning film *Milk*, starring Sean Penn. Stop to look at the mural of Harvey Milk (see on fold-out map) on one of the gallery's walls. [Read more about Harvey Milk on Page 17.]

The views from Kite Hill provide sweeping vistas from the Castro to downtown City landmarks.





WELCOME CASTRO

Created by SF Merchantile's Robert Emmons, this is a creative mash-up between a visitor center and a gift shop specializing in locally-sourced mementos of the Castro. Folks here are happy to help orient you to the neighborhood and point you in the direction of places that fit your interests. [shopsfmercantile.com]

HIBERNIA BEACH

At the southeast corner of Castro and 18th Streets, under the high-arching windows of Bank of America (Hibernia Bank of yore) you'll often find a lovingly homemade memorial to a Castro local or LGBTQ+ icon who died recently. It's a tradition that dates to the depths of the AIDS crisis in the '80s and continues today to honor those who impacted the lives of people in the community. The corner is also host to a myriad other pop-up community "events" like pet rescue adoption meet-and-greets, petition drives, political campaigning, and Girl Scout cookie sales.

More places worth a visit in the Castro:

CASTRO FARMER'S MARKET

Every Wednesday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., April through November, the 200 block of Noe Street just off Market Street transforms into one of the most popular farmers' markets in San Francisco. It's a great spot for sampling locally grown fruits and veggies, locally baked breads and pastries, eggs, honey, fish, meat and more, all while enjoying great people-watching. [pcfma.org]

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

EUREKA VALLEY / HARVEY MILK MEMORIAL BRANCH, 1 JOSÉ SARRIA COURT

In 1981, the San Francisco Library Commission officially changed the name of the Castro neighborhood's branch library to the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library to honor the slain Supervisor and gay activist. The library houses a special LGBT Interest collection which includes materials on the culture, history and life experience of the LGBT community: lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex people and other sexual minorities. 16th Street between Noe and Sanchez Streets. [sfpl.org]

In 2006, the plaza in front of the library and the adjacent block of 16th St. were named José Sarria Court in honor the San Francisco drag performer and gay activist who vigorously fought police harassment of homosexuals beginning in the late 1940s. Dressed in full drag during a period when female impersonation was a crime, José sang, performed and hosted shows at the Black Cat, a popular San Francisco gay bar. In 1961, José ran for the city's Board of Supervisors, losing the election but collecting an amazing 5,600 votes. He created a flamboyant drag character he called "The Widow Norton, Empress of San Francisco" and helped establish the Imperial Council of San Francisco, which now has chapters throughout North America. [imperialcouncilsf.org]

Memorial tributes at "Hibernia Beach"



Bottles in blue and glass jars too



MISSION DOLORES PARK

Situated on nearly 16 sloping acres where the Castro meets the Mission District, this lovely and popular park is home to numerous community events. The southwest corner, the highest point in the park, is affectionately known as "Dolores Beach" whenever the sun shines, as folks drop in to enjoy the rays and the outstanding views of the downtown skyline and Mission High School's striking tower and facade. The Muni Metro J-Church Line stops at the northwest corner of the park at 18th and Church Streets. [sfrecpark.org]

SF LGBT CENTER

The Center, located at 1800 Market Street, serves the full spectrum of San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community. The 35,000 square foot Center is a central place for the community and allies to gather, organize, celebrate, and access services. They offer free services such as career counseling, job fairs, a computer lab, social activities, mentorships, and various workshops. The Center is truly the heart, home and hands of the San Francisco LGBT community. While you're there, take a moment to visit the east wall of the Edwardian side of the campus to view their latest commissioned mural (see on fold-out map). [sfcenter.org]

CASTRO LGBTQ CULTURAL DISTRICT (CQCD)

A relative newcomer among Castro nonprofits, The Castro LGBTQ Cultural District (CQCD) is one of several unique cultural districts recognized by the City. Formed in 2020, they are "committed to preserving, sustaining, and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the Castro and its significance to San Francisco's LGBTQ+ community and beyond." Besides commissioning art, like the murals at Local Take, they sponsor events, facilitate dialogue, engage in advocacy, and more on behalf of the queer community. [castrolgbtq.org]



Castro Street from 19th Street looking north



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- Trans Gear
- Costumes

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OTHER NOTABLE MURALS

Part of "Castro color" includes the many creative murals that grace neighborhood homes, businesses, and public spaces. indicates location on the fold-out map. Highlights include:

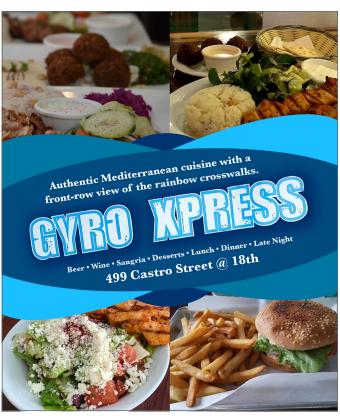
- **(i**) **"Celebration of Love"** Located on the southeast corner of Noe and 19th Streets.
- "Gear Up" On the wall outside Moby Dick bar at Hartford and 18th Streets, more art by Serge Gay, Jr. depicts a classic leather jacket festooned with pins illustrating LGBTQ+ icons.
- "Marry Me" was installed by street artist "Deb" in 2016 on behalf of her friend Camiel, who used it to propose to his future husband George on Valentine's Day that year. Find this celebration of love at the southwest corner of Noe and 18th Streets, on the side of Kasa Indian Eatery. [instagram.com/deb]
- "Juanita More!" A dramatic portrait by J. Manuel Carmona profiles the larger-than-life drag personality to the right of the entrance to Bright Star Pilates on 18th Street below Sanchez Street. [juanmanuelcarmona.com]
- (*) "Hope for the World" Located at 16th Street south of Market Street, this large mural was originally painted in 1998 to honor the neighborhood's heroic response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and was restored and augmented in recent years.
- (Line of public space in our cities, and it contains lots of detailed references to local street art, activism, and various SF subcultures. Created by visual artist Mona Caron in 2004 and restored in 2017. [monacaron.com]
- (i) "Bikeway" This large mural by Mona Caron celebrates the Duboce Bikeway, the first car-free portion of a street in San Francisco, located behind the Safeway store on Duboce and Church Streets. NOTE: Be alert to Muni Metro trains and bicycle traffic.
- ☼ Just across the street on Duboce, another Serge Gay, Jr. mural adorns the wall of the hospice Maitri Compassionate Care. This inspiring multi-cultural work reflects Maitri's noble care from the very start of the HIV/AIDS pandemic for people approaching the end of their lives. [sergegayjr.com]

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that the Castro is located on the traditional territory of the Yelamu, a local tribe of Ramaytush Ohlone peoples of the San Francisco Peninsula. Yelamu families lived in the area now known as San Francisco long before California was part of Spain, Mexico, or the United States. We recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects to the Ancestors, Elders and Relatives of the Ramaytush Community and to affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

Fresh produce adorns a Queen Kong on the side of Buffalo Whole Foods at 19th and Castro.







GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM

The GLBT Historical Society Museum, in the heart of the Castro at 4127 18th Street, is the first stand-alone museum of LGBTQ+ history and culture in the United

States. At 1,600 square feet (150 square meters), the museum, while small, packs a powerful punch, celebrating the city's vast queer past through dynamic and surprising exhibitions and programming.

Open since January 2011, the museum showcases the sheer depth and breadth of the GLBT Historical Society archives, demonstrates the importance of queer history to the public, and mounts wide-ranging exhibitions with an emphasis on diversity and social justice.

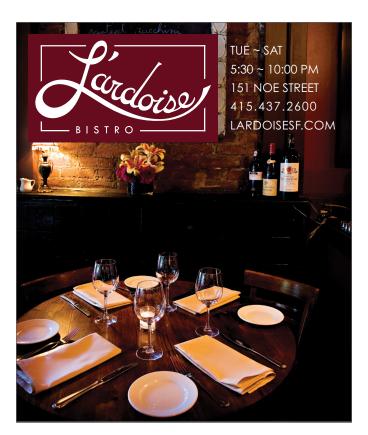
The museum contains two gallery spaces for exhibitions. The Main Gallery houses permanent collections while the Front Gallery is dedicated to rotating exhibitions on a range of themes. In addition, the GLBT Historical Society has curated over a dozen online exhibitions since 2019.



This famous photo by Crawford Barton is one of many in the museum archives.

The powerful Main Gallery exhibition, "Queer Past Becomes Present," showcases how queer history informs the present and inspires us to build a community that embraces differences. and features rich multimedia drawn from archival collections. The Main Gallery also houses "The Original Rainbow Flag," a permanent display of a fragment of one of the two monumental rainbow flags first raised at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 24, 1978. Among other objects on display are personal belongings of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California; publications related to lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon; a costume worn by activist and entertaining legend José Sarria, the first openly gay man to run for public office in the United States; and photos, documents and artifacts telling the amazing stories of over a century of everyday queer life among the diverse populations of San Francisco. The GLBT Historical Society also mounts several temporary exhibitions at the museum every year, and they have curated over a dozen online exhibitions since 2019.

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archive that collects, preserves, exhibits, and makes materials and knowledge accessible to the public to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ+ history, culture, and arts in all their diversity. Founded in 1985, the Society maintains one of the largest collections of LGBTQ+ historical materials in the world. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 11:00 to 1:00 and 1:30 to 5:00, and is free to visitors on the first Wednesday of each month. [glbthistory.org]





RAINBOW

In September 2014, twenty bronze portrait plaques of LGBTQ+ icons were unveiled on Castro Street and 19th

Street in the heart of the Castro. After years of efforts behind the scenes, this was the debut of the Rainbow Honor Walk, a privately funded, all volunteer, nonprofit civic project. The first three-by-three-foot plaques honored Jane Addams, James Baldwin, George Choy, Federico Garcia Lorca, Allen Ginsburg, Keith Haring, Harry Hay, Sylvester James, Christine Jorgensen, Frida Kahlo, Del Martin, Yukio Mishima, Bayard Rustin, Randy Shilts, Gertrude Stein, Alan Turing, Tom Waddell, Oscar Wilde, Tennessee Williams, and Virginia Woolf.

Twenty-four more honorees have been memorialized with plaques: Alvin Ailey, W.H. Auden, Josephine Baker, Gladys Bentley, Glenn Burke, Quentin Crisp, Divine, Marie Equi, Fereydoun Farrokhzad, Barbara Jordan, Kiyoshi Kuromiya, Audre Lorde, Leonard Matlovich, Freddie Mercury, Sally Ride, Sylvia Rivera, Vito Russo, José Sarria, Maurice Sendak, Rikki Streicher, Gerry Studds, Lou Sullivan, Chavela Vargas and We'wha,

Plaques for another twenty-four honorees from a wide range of careers highlighting contributions "that have truly changed the world." are slated for future installation and include Peter Adair, Gloria Anzaldúa, Gilbert Baker, Tallulah Bankhead, Bernice Bing, Bobbi Campbell, Ester Eng, Leslie Feinberg, Lorraine Hansberry, Magnus Hirschfeld, Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, Carlos Jáuregui, Marsha P. Johnson, Larry Kramer, Phyllis Lyon, Xulhaz Mannan, Charley Parkhurst, Marlon Riggs, Bob Ross, Oliver Sacks, John Reed Sims, Edith Windsor, and Sophie Xeon. [rainbowhonorwalk.org]



Installation of the plaque of We'wha (1849-1896), a Zuni Native American from New Mexico.

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4127 18th Street, San Francisco glbthistory.org



Photo by Crawford Rarton

CASTRO HISTORY

Nestled in the center of San Francisco, the area around the Castro called Eureka Valley has evolved dramatically over the last century. The architecturally

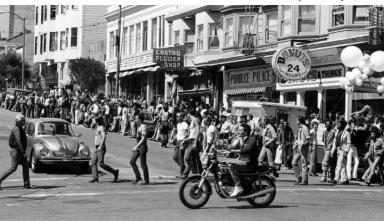
intriguing Swedish American Hall at 2174 Market Street reminds us that the neighborhood was once a Scandinavian enclave in the early 1900s. In the 1930s and continuing well after World War II, the area became a primarily working-class neighborhood of Irish Catholic residents. By the 1960s, the once-fashionable Victorian houses in the area were in desperate need of care. During that decade San Francisco - long a magnet for counter-cultural movements like the Beat Generation and the Summer of Love - had become a refuge to gays and lesbians, many of whom, discharged from Pacific theatre military service, chose to stay in this liberal, welcoming city.

As the City's economy shifted to tourism and the American Dream became owning a house in the suburbs, the gay and lesbian newcomers took advantage of the depressed urban real estate market in neighborhoods like the Castro. While this initially served to drive prices even lower, the attention these new property owners lavished on restoring their homes transformed the Castro into one of the most desirable parts of the City. By the early 1970s, the gay village of the Castro was firmly established, and a community of LGBTQ+ residents and businesses (including Harvey Milk and his camera store on Castro Street) blossomed, putting a gay spin on everything.

A decade later, the global HIV/AIDS pandemic made an indelible mark on the City. The LGBTQ+community in the Castro - the most deeply affected population - rallied to respond. Out of heartbreak, loss, and anger emerged an extraordinary community effort to meet the needs of those who were struggling to survive, those who were dying, and those who were left behind. Castro residents and activists were part of the team that advocated for the City to fund the world's first AIDS outpatient clinic at San Francisco General Hospital. Organizations like the AIDS Emergency Fund, Project Open Hand, Shanti Project, and scores of others became models for other communities around the world in their responses to the AIDS epidemic. The breathtaking Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, the largest art project in the world, was created by Cleve Jones and other activists in 1987 at 2362 Market Street near Castro Street. By 1995, when innovative medical treatments finally arrived on the scene, 16,000 San Francisco residents, many from the Castro, had died.

The Castro remains the heart of the LGBTQ+ community in San Francisco, even as skyrocketing real estate prices make it less accessible to new LGBTQ+ residents and those affected by the loss of housing, the effects of the global pandemic continue to ripple through the community, and the Federal government attempts to write us out of American history. Still, the SF LGBTQ+ Community Center stands sentinel at the entrance to the neighborhood at Market and Octavia Streets, the rainbow flag flies proudly above Harvey Milk Plaza, the GLBT Historical Society Museum on 18th Street reminds us whence we came, and Harvey Milk's camera store is now occupied by Queer Arts Featured gallery and boutique. As you stroll the rainbow crosswalks at 18th and Castro Streets, remember that you walk in the footsteps of heroes, gay and straight alike.

The main block of Castro Street between Market and 18th Streets has always been busy.





Castro Merchants, formerly Merchants of Upper Market & Castro (MUMC), is one of San Francisco's largest and most effective neighborhood merchant organizations. Our roots reach back to the 1970s when we grew from a merger of the longtime, traditional neighborhood merchant group, with owners and managers of newly established gayowned businesses, including Harvey Milk's well-known camera store.

Today, the Castro is an internationally recognized center of gay life and culture, proud of its diversity. It is a mix of businesses that have served the neighborhood for many decades, entrepreneurial business owners, and some of San Francisco's best fashion, dining, and entertainment.

Castro Merchants members include hundreds of businesses, generally along upper Market Street from Castro Street to Octavia Boulevard, north through the Duboce Triangle, south to 21st Street, east to Octavia Boulevard, west and up the hill toward Twin Peaks, and commercially-zoned portions of cross streets throughout that area.

Castro Merchants are proud to host a website at **castromerchants.com** and this annual **Castro Guide**, distributed at businesses throughout the neighborhood as well as through visitor-centric locations. Castro Merchants with the support of The Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and The Civic Joy Fund sponsor and produce events throughout the year. We also join with our neighborhood partners to celebrate the life and legacy of Harvey Milk the weekend of his birthday (May 22). The Monday after Thanksgiving Castro Merchants hosts the grand holiday tree lighting ceremony to kick off the holiday shopping season.

We are actively engaged with San Francisco's political leaders to advocate for and support laws that are fair to all and supportive of our neighborhood-serving businesses.

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All businesses are members of Castro Merchants as of press time. Numbers correspond to locations on the centerfold map. Entries with no number do not have a public location within the map boundaries. A 🔵 designates a San Francisco Legacy Business, one which has operated in the City and County of San Francisco

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The Castro Theatre	Par40
Historic cinema undergoing meticulous renovation	Bar49
429 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	2295 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
650.888.6453 • castrotheatre.com	bar49sf.com
See advertisement on Page 26	
Ÿ	Blush! Wine Bar 🔞
Loom + Ten Gallery 120	Cozy spot with long wine list & small plates
Showcasing queer artists from around the globe	476 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114
2323 Market Street, SF, CA 94114	blushwinebar.com
809.925.2784 • loom-ten.com	See advertisement on Page 48
See advertisement on Page 18	The Cofé
	The Café
MAG Galleries 66	2369 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Bay Area artists exhibited in comfortable venue	415.779.3171 • cafesf.com
3931 18th Street, SF, CA 94114	
415.815.5616 • mag-galleries.com	Copper Bar & Kitchen @
Dubula Clay Studio and Callery	Brunches, cocktails, bar bites with style
Ruby's Clay Studio and Gallery (25) Creative space for ceramics classes & sales	4092 18th Street, SF, CA 94114
552-A Noe Street, SF, CA 94114	415.757.0855• coppersf.com
415.558.9819 • rubysclaystudio.org	The Edge
413.336.3613 • Tubysclaystudio.org	The Edge 41 Popular neighborhood bar with friendly staff
San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus &	4149 18th Street, SF, CA 94114
•	415.863.4027 • edgesf.com
Chan National Queer Arts Center Choral group & National LGBTQ+ Arts Center	č
170 Valencia Street, SF, CA 94103	Hi Tops108
415.865.3650 • sfgmc.org	Lively sports bar with great food
-13.003.3030 • signic.org	2247 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Theatre Rhinoceros 👩	415.551.2500 • hitopsbar.com
Bold, diverse, inclusive, joyous queer theatre	Last Call Ray
4229 18th Street, SF, CA 94114	Last Call Bar
	g .oca. ba. mai relanca vibe

3988 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.861.1310 • lastcallbarsf.com

See advertisement on Page 14

4229 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.552.4100 • therhino.org

See advertisement on Page 22

Lobby Bar	Skin on Market
4230 18th Street Unit A, SF, CA 94114 650.339.6012 • lobbybarsf.com	2299 Market Street Space C, SF, CA 94114 415.875.7546 • skinonmarket.com
LOOKOUT Fun bar & restaurant with street views 3600 16th Street, SF, CA 94114	Ten Tigers
415.431.0306 • lookoutsf.com See advertisement on Page 10	415.796.2008 • beststudioever.com See advertisement on Fold-out Map
Midnight Sun	CAFES & RESTAURANTS
415.861.4169 • midnightsunsf.com Millay	Canela Bistro Bar Spanish bistro for tapas, paella, diverse wines 2272 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Sake, wine, and tea bottle shop and bar 691 14th Street, SF, CA 94114 millaysf.com	415.552.3000 • canelasf.com See advertisement on Page 2
The Mix	Castro Coffee Company
See advertisement on Page 24 Moby Dick	Castro Indian Restaurant & Bar 6 Indian-American fusion food + in-house brewery 468 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114
4049 18th Street, SF, CA 94114	415.875.9141 • castrorb.com
415.337.7634 • @mobydickbarsanfrancisco	Castro Tarts Bakery with pastries, lunch & coffee
Rikki's Bar	564 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.861.3268 • castrotarts.squarespace.com See advertisement on Page 2
Twin Peaks Tavern	Gyro Express
Valley Tavern/Vibe events	See advertisement on Page 46
Friendly sports bar + events specialists 4054 24th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.285.0674 • vibeevents.us	Heroic Italian 18 Italian food inside Swirl on Castro wine shop 572 Castro street, SF, CA 94114 650.224.5999 • heroicitalian.com
BEAUTY & GROOMING	Hot Cookie
Castro Nail Salon	415.738.3272 • hotcookie.com See advertisement on Page 26
European Wax Center	Hot Johnnie's
Healing Cuts	Kasa Indian Eatery
2350 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.286.2970 • healingcutssf.com	415.621.6940 • kasaindian.com See advertisement on Page 4
Joe's Barbershop. Popular, full-service barber shop 2150 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.255.9096 • joesbarbershop.com	Kitchen Story
Louie's Barbershop	L'Ardoise
·	415.437.2600 • ardoisesf.com

See advertisement on Page 48

2261 Market Street, PMB #301 , SF, CA 94114 510.823.6809 • dtna.org

A la Máditorrangó	Eureka Valley
La Méditerraneé Award-winning Mediterranean restaurant	Neighborhood Association
288 Noe Street , SF, CA 94114	Longest-standing SF neighborhood association
415.431.7210 • lamednoe.com	PO Box 14137, SF, CA 94114 evna.org
See advertisement on Page 8	-
Marcello's Pizza 1	GLBT Historical Society First US stand-alone LGBTQ history & culture museum
Pizza, subs, burgers, calzone, salads, wings 420 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	4127 18th Street, SF, CA 94114
415.863.3900 • marcellospizza420.com	415.777.5455 • glbthistory.org
See advertisement on Page 14	See advertisement on Page 50
Orphan Andy's	LYRIC
American breakfast, lunch, dinner - 24 hours	Support & resources for LGBTQ+ youth
3991-A 17th street, SF, CA 94114	127 Collingwood Street & 4102 19th Street, SF, CA 94114
415.517.6347	415.596.2172 • lyric.org
Poesia	Market Street Railway
Intimate Italian restaurant, custom cuisine 4072 18th street, SF, CA 94114	Preserving SF's unique transit history
415.252.9325 • poesiasf.com	870 Market Street #803, SF, CA 94102 415.956.0472 • streetcar.org
Restaurant Eiji	See advertisement on Page 28
317 Sanchez Street, SF, CA 94114 415.558.8149	Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church Welcoming & inclusive Catholic church
413.336.8149	100 Diamond Street, SF, CA 94114
Starbelly 113	415.863.6259 • mhr.org
Casual café serving California comfort food 3583 16th Street, SF, CA 94114	See advertisement on Page 28
415.252.7500 • starbellysf.com	Openhouse 33
Starbucks Castro	Enabling LGBTQ+ seniors to overcome challenges
Popular chain for drinks, pastries & snacks	65 Laguna Street, SF, CA 94102 415.296.8995 • openhousesf.org
4094 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.626.6263 • starbucks.com	
415.020.0203 • Statibucks.com	SF LGBT Community Center
Super Duper 18	Connecting people to resources & each other 1800 Market Street, SF, CA 94102
Fast food burgers, slow food values 2304 Market Street, SF, CA 94114	415.865.5555 • sfcenter.org
415.558.8123 • superduperburgers.com	Sha'ar Zahav 1
Tanglad	Progressive and inclusive synagogue
Cozy spot for Vietnamese street food	290 Dolores Street, SF, CA 94114
469 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	415.861.6932 • shaarzahav.org
415.624.3238 • tangladsf.webflow.io	FITNESS
COMMUNITY	FITNESS
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS	BODY
ORGANIZATIONS	Fitness tailored to every body experience 2275 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Castro Community Benefit District	720.429.4387 • body-sf.com
Improving area cleanliness, safety & prosperity 549-A Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	Fitness SF Castro118
415.500.1181 • castrocbd.org	Popular local, family-owned health club
Castro Farmers' Market	2301 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Held at Noe at Beaver, Wednesdays 3-7 PM	415.348.6377 • fitnesssf.com See advertisement on Page 6
270 Noe Street, SF, CA 94114 925.825.9090 • pcfma.org/castro	see davertisement on rage o
	Flagship Training, LLC
Castro LGBTQ Cultural District 94 Preserving LGBTQ+ heritage & culture	Boutique gym, personalized training & classes 160 Church Street, SF, CA 94114
1800 Market Street, SF, CA 94102	415.407.0157 • trainflagship.com
925.247.4743 • castrolgbtq.org	Live Fit Gvm
Castro Street Fair	State-of-the-art fitness facility & training
Annual event founded by Harvey Milk in 1974	2145 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
castrostreetfair.org	415.655.3395 • livefitgym.com
Duboce Triangle	See advertisement on Page 36
Neighborhood Association	MX3 Fitness
Representing DT neighborhood concerns 2261 Market Street PMR #301 SE CA 94114	Classes, personal training, wellness coaching 2336 Market Street SE CA 94114

2336 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.236.2556 • mx3fitness.com

GROCERY & LIQUOR	Accessible mental health services nonprofit
Castro Village Wine Co	2275 Market Street #7, SF, CA 94114 415.358.2000 • queerlifespace.org
415.864.4411 • castrowine.com	Rouse Relational Wellness
Mollie Stone's Markets	4124 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.200.2119 • rousetherapy.com
415.255.8959 • molliestones.com	San Francisco AIDS Foundation-Strut Magnet sexual health & wellness center
Rossi's Deli	470 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.581.1600 • sfaf.org See advertisement on Page 34
415.863.4533	San Francisco Counseling Collective @
Safeway	Psychotherapy & clinical mental health counseling 4200 18th Street #104, SF, CA 94114 415.569.6304 - sfcounselors.com
	SF Therapy Collective
HEALTH & WELLNESS	2275 Market Street Suite E, SF, CA 94114 415.659.8282 • sftherapycollective.org
Castro Country Club	SkinSpirit
4058 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.552.6102 • castrocountryclub.org	Face, skin and body medical spa 3939 24th Street, SF, CA 94114
Castro Direct Primary Care	415.685.0510 • skinspirit.com
Direct patient access to their primary doctor 2191 Market Street, Suite D, 2nd Floor, SF, CA 94114	StretchLab Castro
415.943.4806 • castrodpc.com	2258 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.854.1880 • stretchlab.com/location/castro
The Church of Cosmic Consciousness 53 Like-minded individuals transcending limitations	Robert Tyminski, D.M.H.
4530 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 530.255.4429	Jungian & psychodynamic psychotherapist 2191 Market Street Suite E, SF, CA 94114 415.552.1747 • roberttyminski.com
Erik Karff Psychotherapy53 Psychotherapy and wellness for blacksheep	UCSF Alliance Health Project
4053 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 650.762.5164 • erikkarffpsychotherapy.com	LGBTQ & HIV-affected mental health services 1930 Market Street, SF, CA 94102 415.476.3902 • alliancehealthproject.ucsf.edu
For Your Eyes Only Optometry Eyecare services & wide selection of eyewear	
552 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	Phillip Whitely
415.626.0858 • castrovision.com See advertisement on Page 24	540 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.891.9665 • phillipwhitely.com
Jae Greenman Massage Integrated therapeutic and clinical massage	Zoranovich ChiropracticFeel at home in your body, heal from the past
550-A Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.361.9044 • jaegreenman.massagetherapy.com	550A Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.735.1778 • doctorsamz.com
M SPA	LODGING
2187 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.556.9100 • mspasf.com	Beck's Motor Lodge
Max Muscle	415.621.8212 • becksmotorlodge.com
3600 16th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.286.0140 • @maxmuscle_sf	The Hotel Castro
Midpoint Sports Chiropractic64 Top-rated Chiropractic health and wellness clinic	4230 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.854.9029 • thehotelcastro.com
4044 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.621.5772 • mpsportschiro.com	Parker Guest House
mistr	520 Church Street, SF, CA 94114 415.621.3222 • parkerguesthouse.com
PrEP prescribed online and delivered to your door	

L.A., N.Y, Dallas, FLL, Chicago 747.999.6249 • heymistr.com

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MEMBER DIRECTORY

MEDIA

Bay Area Reporter

Long-standing LGBTQ+ news publication 44 Gough Street #302, SF, CA 94103 ebar.com

See advertisement on Page 5

Bay Times

LGBTO+ news, arts, entertainment & lifestyle 2261 Market Street #309, SF, CA 94114 415.601.2113 • sfbaytimes.com

Hoodline

Online platform for neighborhood news 707.484.0241 • hoodline.com

PET SERVICES

4406 18th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.529.1819 • kittychateau.com

Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub 11

Pet salon for bathing, grooming & pet care 536 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 888.505.2998 • mudpuppys.com

Sniff and Go

Dog-walking, training & daycare since 2009 2338 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.300.2445 • sniffandgo.com

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Alexander Nurseries & Garden Design Inc.

Propagation, landscape design, maintenance 2123 12th Avenue, SF, CA 94116 415.412.3371 • alexandernurseries.com

Apella Wealth

Employee-owned firm of financial advisors 2001 Union Street #540, SF, CA 94123 415.563.3000 • apellawealth.com

Bank of America....

Local branch of large commercial bank 501 Castro Street , SF, CA 94114 415.622.6006 • bankofamerica.com

Bean CounterBookkeeping & payroll for small businesses

2358 Market Street 2nd Floor, SF, CA 94114 415.637.6660 • facebook.com/beancountersf/

Castro Financial Advisor

Your Castro financial advisor
2358 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
415.519.1319 • facebook.com/financialadvisordoug

Consult Jenny

415.814.0950 • bmo.com

Consulting or nonprofits, small biz, startups 415.644.5094 • consultjenny.com

Coopers LLP.....

Justice for the injured, bereaved and others 2134 15th Street, SF, CA 94114 415.434.2111 • coopers.law

David Perry & Associates

Public relations & social marketing solutions 584 Castro Street #529, SF, CA 94114 415.767.1067 • davidperry.com

Eigenstate Consulting

Technology consulting firm

Fitz Consulting

PR, partnerships, campaigns, & branding 415.200.7750 • fitzconsulting.co

4111 18th Street, Suite 5, SF, CA 94114 415.921.9300 • alexisblevy.com

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MATAX

Accounting, bookkeeping, admin solutions 584 Castro Street #612, SF, CA 94114 415.787.2750 • mataxhq.com

Michael J. Miller, An Accountancy
Corporation111

Accounting firm with low-pressure approach 315 Noe Street, SF, CA 94114 415.635.4555 • michaeljmillercpa.com

Nicholas Goldman Law

Expert legal advice and representation 2261 Market Street #14, SF, CA 94114 415.604.2776 • nicholasgoldmanlaw.com

Recology

Recycling, composting, & garbage collection 250 Executive Park #2100, SF, CA 94134 415.205.4776 • recology.com

See advertisement on Page 42

Smack Happy Design

Websites, content marketing, branding & design 219 Hartford Street, SF, CA 94114 415.814.5885 • smackhappy.com

Third Act Services

Graphics, content & publishing to tell your story 415.552.8040 • thirdact.services

See advertisement on Fold-out Map

Traci Hollander State Farm Insurance Agency (5)

Insurance products & services
556 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114
415 575 3775 • tracipollander com

REAL ESTATE

Mark D McHale and Associates, Inc. 🙉

Agent for residential buyers, sellers, & investors 555 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.735.8037 • markdmchale.com

See advertisement on Page 7

Vanguard Properties

Property sales, leasing & management 555 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.655.5600 • vanguardproperties.com



RETAIL	Giddy Candy115 One-stop shop for your sweet tooth
The Apothecarium	2299 Market Street Store B, SF, CA 94114 415.857.4198 • giddycandy.com
2029 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.500.2620 • apothecarium.com	Local Take
See advertisement on Back Cover	Locally made clothing, accessories, home goods 4122 18th Street, SF, CA 94114
AutoErotica	415.556.5300 • localtakesf.com See advertisement on Page 36
Curated LGBTQ-themed memorabilia 4077-A 18th Street, SF, CA 94114	
415.861.5787 • @autoerot.ca See advertisement on Page 12	One-stop shipping, printing & business services
•	584 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.864.5888 • poplus.com
Well-curated collection of jewelry & antiques	Rock Hard 10
570 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.626.8908	Neighborhood, friendly adult novelty emporium
See advertisement on Page 24	518 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.437.2430
Castro Street Chevron	See advertisement on Page 38
2399 Market Street, SF, CA 94114	Stag & Manor
415.567.1136	2327 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Chartreuse by Roje	415.997.8241 • stagandmanor.com
2095 Market Street, SF, CA 94114 415.374.7812 • chartreusebyroje.com	Sui Generis Designer Consignment (III) Consignment designer clothing, accessories, shoes 2231 Market Street, SF, CA 94114
Cliff's Variety	415.437.2231 • suigenerisconsignment.com
Hardware, home goods & unique novelty items 471 & 479 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.431.5365 • cliffsvariety.com	See advertisement on Page Inside Back Cover
See advertisement on Page 30	The UPS Store Castro
Crossroads Trading Co	2370 Market Street #103, SF, CA 94114 415.431.0121 • theupsstore.com/4546/
2123 Market Street, SF, CA 94114	Walgreens
415.552.8743 • crossroadstrading.com	National pharmacy and convenience store 498 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114
Does Your Mother Know	415.861.3136 • walgreens.com
450 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.864.3160	Welcome Castro by SFM
See advertisement on Page 44	Locally made clothing, accessories, home goods 525 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114
Entour	415.606.9097 • welcomecastro.com See advertisement on Page Inside Front Cover
Curated men's & women's apparel 2319 Market Street, SF, CA 94114	
415.863.9888 • entoursf.com	ZGO
Eureka Sky	600 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114 415.692.6511 • zgoperfumery.com
3989 17th Street, SF, CA 94114	
415.706.7759 • eurekasky.com See advertisement on Page 1	TRAVEL
Fabulosa Books	Frank-in-Cisco
LGBTQ+ literature & related materials 489 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	Personalized, quality tours in English & German 4115 19th Street, SF, CA 94114
415.658.7015 • fabulosabooks.com	917.891.2154 • frankincisco.com
See advertisement on Page 22	See advertisement on Page 10
Flore Dispensary 82 Caring, Earth-friendly cannabis dispensary	Waymo Innovative autonomous vehicles & technology
258 Noe Street, SF, CA 94114 415.236.2663 • floredispensary.com	waymo.com
See advertisement on Page 46	Yankee Clipper Travel
Freeborn Designs	Quality leisure travel planning for three+ decades 4115 19th Street, SF, CA 94114
Unique & stylish apparel & accessories 463 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114	415.356.2260 • yankeeclippertravel.com See advertisement on Page 6
484.354.4890 • wearefreeborn.com	See waverusement on ruge o

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Detail from the "Market Street Railway" mural by Mona Caron.

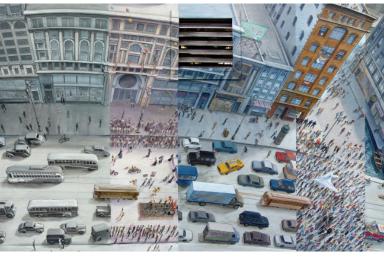


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