



UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER *of* SAN FRANCISCO

2700 45th Avenue | San Francisco, CA 94116 | www.irishcentersf.org



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Liam Reidy, *President*
415.860.1854 (call/text)
lreidy@irishcentersf.org

Eileen Mize, *Communications Associate*
415.505.5143 (call/text)
emize@irishcentersf.org

Bold Vision for the Irish, Realized; Mayoral Signing Ceremony Announced

SAN FRANCISCO, CA More than two years of visionary hard work and determination has paid off for a dedicated group of volunteers and leaders at the helm of a cultural city treasure. The United Irish Cultural Center (UICC), long known as a place for the Irish in San Francisco, is getting a new home. On Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the San Francisco **Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the Project 2025** building plans for a complete redevelopment of the existing Irish Center on 45th Avenue in the city's Sunset District.

At a planned event at the UICC (2700 45th Ave, SF 94116) **at 12 pm noon on Saturday, December 16, 2023, San Francisco Mayor London Breed will personally sign off on the City's approval**—a display of her ongoing support for and endorsement of this important cultural initiative. All are welcome to join us as we mark this historic milestone. [REGISTER HERE](#)

As the first Irish social center in the United States built entirely by volunteer labor and community contributions, the UICC has continued the work of its predecessors (such as the Knights of the Red Branch) in promoting and preserving Irish culture in the City by the Bay. Since the UICC opened its doors in the early 70s, it has been a welcoming space for Irish visitors and immigrants as well as community groups and a variety of organizations.

Members and leadership of the UICC today are just as committed as their ancestors were to create a vibrant and welcoming space for everyone interested in Irish and Irish American history and culture, as well as a place to foster community by nurturing, engaging, and inspiring all who cross our threshold.

“It has been nearly two years since we submitted our initial documents, and we are proud to announce that we are now on track to bring this dream to life with an actual building, not just a concept. Over the past year, we encountered several challenges, but thanks to the unwavering support of our community, we are moving forward and paving the way for construction. With the ongoing support of our membership and our Project 2025 supporters; San Francisco Mayor London Breed and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, especially Supervisors Joel Engardio and Myrna Melgar, who brought

the project forward; Irish Consulate Micheál Smith and his team, as well as the Irish Government, we are on course and building momentum,” says Liam Reidy, UICC Board President and member of the Building Committee.

Six stories above ground with two subterranean levels for parking and an aquatics center, our reimagined Irish Center boasts a spacious lobby that welcomes visitors to experience a host of activities. The heartbeat of the Center will be its extensive library, museum, and digital gallery with educational resources, interactive exhibits, and scholarly research available to everyone. The Center will feature multi-use event space, pubs and fine food offerings, a gym, theater, and office and meeting spaces. “We want to exemplify the best of both the future and the past,” says Reidy, “sharing our history and traditions and continuing to build relationships with all of the cultures in San Francisco with whom the Irish have been partnering since the 1800s.”

“Let us join hands and hearts in this remarkable journey to keep our culture alive and thriving. Together, we can create a lasting legacy that will inspire and unite our community for years to come,” says Liam Reidy, UICC Board President. “It’s a great day for the Irish of the Bay Area to celebrate our history and our future.”

VIEW PROJECT PLANS and RENDERINGS:

<https://irishcenter2025.org/>

ABOUT the UICC

With origins in San Francisco dating back to the late 1800s and officially founded in 1971 as a member organization, the United Irish Cultural Center thrives today as a vibrant California 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to celebrating, promoting, and preserving the rich culture and heritage of the collective local, regional, and national culture of Ireland. We foster cultural awareness through education, arts, and social events, and we honor our legacy by chronicling the valued historical contributions of dedicated Irish in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to hosting a wide array of cultural and community programs and events, we offer ample event space in the west side if the city. Just three short blocks from the magnificent Golden Gate Recreational Area at Ocean Beach, the Irish Center celebrates half a century of service to the community in San Francisco. Nearby attractions include the San Francisco Zoo, Harding Park Public Golf Course, Lake Merced Recreational Facility, and Golden Gate Park.

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