

Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2013
Adopted September 17, 2013

DESIGNATING THE CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY MUSEUM CAROUSEL
IN HONOR OF MR. LEROY KING WHO FAITHFULLY SERVED ON THE
FORMER SAN FRANCISCO REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY COMMISSION
FOR NEARLY 32 YEARS

- WHEREAS, Mr. LeRoy King is being honored for decades of service to the City and County of San Francisco. He faithfully served as a Commissioner on the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Commission ("Former Agency Commission") for nearly 32 years advocating for the advancement of social and economic justice for all people and for his inclusive leadership and nonviolent philosophy; and,
- WHEREAS, In 1994, during Mr. King's service on the Former Agency Commission, the Former Agency Commission approved the purchase of the historic 1906 Charles Loeffl Carousel for the Children's Rooftop Gardens at Fourth and Howard Streets. From 1913 to 1972, this carousel was a fixture at San Francisco's Playland at the Beach and held an enduring place in the hearts of generations of San Franciscans. Because of the Former Agency Commission's action, this treasured part of San Francisco's heritage is available for future generations of San Franciscans to enjoy for years to come; and,
- WHEREAS, Mr. King became a member of the Local 6 of the International Longshoremens and Warehouse Union in 1946. In the 1950s, he worked with the coalition of white and black members to overturn a system that guaranteed the election of only whites to the union office; and,
- WHEREAS, Mr. King is a longtime civic rights and public affairs leader in the City and County of San Francisco, a member of the NAACP, Western Addition Co-op Council, the San Francisco Labor Assembly for Community Action, the Black Trades Union and has been a member of the State Democratic Party for over 30 years; and,
- WHEREAS, Mr. King was instrumental in the union's creation of the St. Francis Square Cooperative Housing development, which opened in 1963 in the Fillmore District and was a national model for creating racially integrated housing for working families. He is also one of the founders and past presidents of the St. Francis Square where he and his family moved into the project when it opened, and he continues to live there today; and,
- WHEREAS, Mr. King has been credited for bringing Martin Luther King Jr. to the Bay Area for a civil rights rally in 1967 and fittingly, in 2009, Mr. King received the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award by the National Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Awards. Later in the same year, he was the recipient of the prestigious San Francisco Planning + Urban Research Association's 2009 Silver Award for lifetime civic achievement in San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. King's leadership was responsible for the approval of the former Yerba Buena Center Redevelopment Project Area. Yerba Buena is now a thriving neighborhood of public open space, diverse cultural uses, children's and family uses, affordable and market-rate residential towers, hotels, a convention center, and commercial development. Mr. King was also instrumental in making Yerba Buena home to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of the African Diaspora, the Contemporary Jewish Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Children's Creativity Museum, and the future Mexican Museum; and,

WHEREAS, These cultural uses, together with world-class hotels, are clustered around the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure's (as successor to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's) award-winning Yerba Buena Gardens, which hosts over 100 public performances, arts events and festivals each year through contracts approved by Mr. King. Since 1993, Mr. King participated in the Former Agency Commission's actions to build Yerba Buena Gardens – a civic investment of approximately \$175 million. Yerba Buena Gardens also includes commercial and retail properties (such as the Metreon, Samovar Tea Lounge, and B Restaurant), cultural facilities, performance venues, recreational venues (such as the Ice Skating and Bowling Center), a child development center, and vast amounts of public open space that includes garden areas, plazas, children's play areas, artwork, the historic carousel, and fountains - including the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Fountain. Over a million visitors a year enjoy Yerba Buena Gardens; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. King was instrumental in the adoption the Bayview Hunters Point, Rincon Point – South Beach and South of Market Project Areas as well as the India Basin, Mid-Market and Visitation Valley Survey Areas. He led the charge to ensure that all of these new developments provide job opportunities for local businesses and residents throughout all phases of development especially for lower income residents that do not traditionally have access to living wage jobs; and,

WHEREAS, For over three decades, Commissioner King has served the City and County of San Francisco, and his commitment to serve people on the margins has helped to transform the lives of so many residents with providing much needed housing such as the Plaza Hotel, Mary Helen Rogers Senior Community, Marcus Garvey/Martin Luther King Collaborative and Octavia Court just to name a few. During his tenure, the Former Agency Commission provided funding and other approvals that assisted in the creation of over 10,000 affordable housing units for low and moderate income households; and,

WHEREAS, During his service on the Former Agency Commission, Mr. King was instrumental in the adoption of San Francisco's three newest neighborhoods, Mission Bay, Transbay and the Hunters Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point Project Areas, which are helping to transform these neighborhoods into vibrant, sustainable and transit-oriented communities while generating unprecedented social and economic community benefits for residents in San Francisco, including the creation of over 29,000 new housing units, of which 9,300 units will be affordable to low and moderate income households; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. LeRoy King is being honored for his tireless work over several decades to achieve social justice and a better life for working families in San Francisco. His passion for action has never dimmed and was most notably honored as a "Community ICON" by the African American Democratic Club in 2011; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure as Successor to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco that The Children's Creativity Museum Carousel at Yerba Buena Gardens located in the former Yerba Buena Center Redevelopment Project Area is designated as The LeRoy King Children's Creativity Museum Carousel.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting of September 17, 2013.

Natasha Jones
Commission Secretary