



OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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**\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\***

**BABYLON BURNING, THE MINDFUL BODY, THE PLOUGH AND STARS,  
SLIM'S AND THE LAB APPROVED BY SF SMALL BUSINESS  
COMMISSION FOR LEGACY BUSINESS REGISTRY**

San Francisco, CA — On Monday, February 26, five businesses – **Babylon Burning, The Lab, The Mindful Body, The Plough and Stars** and **Slim's** – were unanimously approved by the San Francisco Small Business Commission for the Legacy Business Registry. The Registry recognizes longstanding, community-serving businesses as valuable cultural assets to the city. There are currently 128 small businesses on the Legacy Business Registry.

**Babylon Burning: 63 Bluxome St.**  
Nominated by Supervisor Jane Kim

Babylon Burning is a screen printing company that started like many small businesses, with a DIY set-up in a garage. The business was founded in 1980 by Steve Patton and has been owned by Mike Lynch since 2001. Babylon Burning keeps production in-house, a focus appreciated by their loyal clientele of local businesses and nonprofits. The business adapted to ever changing social and economic climates and used their services as a powerful tool to spread messages. In the 1970s and 1980s, they produced anti-war, women's rights and gay rights t-shirts, and they produced tech startup t-shirts during the dot-com boom of the 1990s and early 2000s. Babylon Burning has been environmentally friendly since day one, never throwing away used ink but instead recycling it to make all-purpose black. The business moved twice in its first decade and has been operating at 63 Bluxome Street since 1989.

"Local feeds local," said Mike Lynch, owner of Babylon Burning. "It's my new saying. Through all these years it's the local businesses that have kept our dream alive. Our t-shirt business runs on local creative people thinking of designs that we put on shirts. Inclusion of Babylon Burning on the Legacy Business Registry will help the business remain in ever-changing San Francisco, where we can continue helping our local, creative brothers and sisters that need to be heard."

**The Lab: 2948 16th St.**  
Nominated by Supervisor Hillary Ronen

Located in the historic Redstone Building in the Mission District, The Lab is a nonprofit organization that provides under-resourced artists and audiences with the space, time and resources to experiment with alternative ways of living and working. Founded in 1984 by art students from San Francisco State University, The Lab was one of the first art organizations in the U.S. to make a commitment to supporting interdisciplinary art. It stands among a select few San Francisco-based art institutions that provide local artists with the financial, legal and artistic resources to both survive in the Bay Area and produce extremely high caliber work.



Over 10,000 people visit the space annually to experience their exhibits, events, dance performances, visual art and literary projects. The Lab has been a crucial part of the San Francisco art community for over 30 years.

**The Mindful Body: 2876 California St.**

Nominated by former Supervisor Mark Farrell

In 1994, founder Roy Bergmann opened The Mindful Body inspired by Esalen, the Big Sur healing resort, to create a place of refuge and urban sanctuary in San Francisco. Ahead of its time, the yoga studio was opened during the first wave of yoga centers that blossomed in the city, well before yoga became popular. Today, The Mindful Body provides health and healing services, including yoga, massage and acupuncture to those in the community that seek mindfulness and healing practices. Many newer yoga and massage studios have a sterile, modern design, but The Mindful Body is known for a feeling of coziness and comfortability, the style that it has maintained since it originally opened. Maile Sivert, who started worked as The Mindful Body a yoga instructor, bought the business from Bergmann in 2014. The business has operated at 2876 California Street since its founding.

“The Mindful Body yoga and massage studio is thrilled to be recognized as a long standing member of the San Francisco wellness community and to be a continuing contributor to the eclectic cultural fabric of our wonderful city,” said owner Maile Sivert.

**The Plough and Stars: 116 Clement St.**

Nominated by Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer

The Plough and Stars, an Irish pub, has featured live Irish music and entertainment on Clement Street for over 40 years. Founded in 1975, Bob Heaney ran the businesses until Sean Heaney, a former bar owner from Ireland took over in 1981. The Richmond District became a central location in the 1982 for newly arrived Irish immigrants—and the Plough and Stars was a known gathering place for the Irish community. As the Richmond changed, so did the pub by showcasing musicians from other genres including folk, bluegrass and country. However, Sean maintained the long-running tradition of seisiúns, informal gatherings for musicians to play traditional music, Tuesday and Sunday evenings for over 35 years. The Plough and Stars remains a vibrant part of the San Francisco music scene and an integral part of the Richmond District neighborhood. The business has operated at 116 Clement Street since its founding.

**Slim’s: 333 11th St.**

Nominated by Supervisor Jane Kim

Founded by legendary R&B musician Boz Scaggs in the SoMa district in 1988, Slim’s has hosted some of music’s biggest names over the years, from Prince to Radiohead to David Bowie. As a live music nightclub, Slim’s provides residents and visitors with a lively atmosphere, good food and drinks, and artists performing Blues, R&B, Jazz, Alternative, Hip-Hop, Pop and more. Over the years it gained a reputation as one of the most successful nightclubs in San Francisco. For concert-goers, Slim’s has the ability to create an intimate and authentic setting. It also plays host to local, LGBT and community-oriented events, including 11<sup>th</sup> Street community outreach meetings, Faux Queen Pageant, local battle of the bands, benefits and high school dances. Ownership has fluctuated over the years and currently consists of 17 individuals in a corporate structure. The business has been located at 333 11th Street since its founding.



**About the San Francisco Legacy Business Program**

A Legacy Business is a for-profit or nonprofit business that has operated in San Francisco for 30 or more years. The business must contribute to the neighborhood's history and/or the identity of a particular neighborhood or community, and it must commit to maintaining the physical features or traditions that define the business, including craft, culinary or art forms.

The registration process for the Legacy Business Program includes nomination by the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors, a written application, an advisory recommendation from the Historical Preservation Commission and approval of the Small Business Commission. Inclusion in the Registry provides Legacy Businesses with recognition and support as an incentive for them to stay in the community. The program also provides educational and promotional assistance to encourage their continued viability and success in San Francisco. The program is administered by the San Francisco Office of Small Business.

For more information about the Legacy Business Program, including a list and map of businesses on the Legacy Business Registry, please visit <http://sfosb.org/legacy-business>.

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