

Jacob, Melinda

From: Landmarks Preservation Commission
Subject: FW: COB-LMIN Application# LMIN2025-002-1929 MLK Jr WAY
Attachments: Berkeley Proclamation KPFA copy.docx

From: Carol Wolfley <cgwolfley@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:01 AM
To: Mariscal, Cecelia <CMariscal@berkeleyca.gov>; Landmarks Preservation Commission <PlanningLPC@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Candice Schott <cschott9@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: COB-LMIN Application# LMIN2025-002-1929 MLK Jr WAY

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Please share this attached follow up summary with the Commission for the June 5 meeting if possible.
COB-LMIN Application# LMIN2025-002-1929 MLK Jr WAY

Follow Up Summary of Application to Make the KPFA's Building at 1929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way a Historic Landmark

From Carol Wolfley, Chair of the KPFA Station Board and Candice Schott Secretary of the board

KPFA was the first community radio station in the US and the 1929 Martin Luther King building was especially created to fulfill its powerful mission. It is a historic cultural landmark for independent media and with its unique design there is not another radio station building in the country like it.

Summary of Rationale for Application

The KPFA building is a cornerstone of independent listener sponsored media. Since its inception, it has provided a platform for diverse voices and perspectives that are often underrepresented in mainstream media. The building is a living testimony to the evolution of non-commercial radio from its pioneering FM broadcasting to its multi-media platforms for investigative news, diverse music and discussions on social justice, environmental sustainability, economics and global peace. KPFA is the crown jewel of the Pacifica Foundation Inc. which expanded from one Berkeley station to an interconnected network of 5 metropolitan area stations and 213 affiliate stations nationally. In December of 2018, The Nation magazine's Progressive Honor Roll honored KPFA as the Most Valuable Radio Station and KPFA has been recognized by the City of Berkeley for its significant contributions.

Historic Dates for the KPFA Building

- **1946** - Lewis Hill began creating the first listener-supported non-commercial radio station in the United States.
- **1949** - Pacifica first went on the air as KPFA 94.1 FM in Berkeley,
- 1964 KPFA covered the UC Berkeley Free Speech Movement
- providing live broadcasts from Sproul Plaza, rallies and sit ins.
- **1991** - KPFA moved across Berkeley to its ADA compliant multi-media center building at 1929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- **1999** - Up to 15,000 Bay Area residents demonstrated at the KPFA station building, in support of independent community media demanding the reopening of KPFA after a conflicted and disputed shutdown. These events garnered national attention and support from local governments as a focal point for coverage of community action in of Berkeley, Alameda County, and California and embody the social, cultural, and political fabric of the region.
- **KPFA is a longtime FCC emergency alert station** and has been a historic community resource during earthquakes, fires, floods and power outages

- KPFB also at the 1929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way building has historically broadcast for the public independent **media coverage of City of Berkeley meetings**
- **2025** - KPFA celebrated it's 76th birthday

Endangered Status:

Despite its cultural, historical, and educational significance, the KPFA building is endangered due to current challenges to independent media and financial pressures on the Pacifica Foundation Inc., which owns the property.

Please Designate the KPFA building as a historic landmark to help protect this community supported treasure for future generations

Thank you for your Consideration.

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