WHY A DISTRICT?

In the summer of 1980, there were 55 Leather & LGBTQ businesses, clubs and nightlife venues in the South of Market area (SOMA). We now count 13. It is our objective to protect existing bars, clubs, businesses, and institutions, and encourage new ones to open here. At the same time, it is essential to increase affordable housing in the neighborhood and make sure our community is heard in the City’s zoning, transit, and land use decisions.

We plan to work with the City, developers, and others to promote features that honor the people, places and institutions which gave SOMA its uniquely sexy, fun culture. This will help cement the character of the area and make it a destination which will attract tourists and locals to shop and recreate here, supporting the existing businesses, bars and clubs. We will also work to connect businesses and at-risk residents with city programs that will help them remain in the area.

In the long term we will work toward establishing a Leather and LGBTQ Cultural Center in a permanent location to ensure that our vital community groups have a place to meet.

WHAT NOW?

We realized the need for unity in our diversity, and found it in the Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District.

Leather culture in SOMA may be threatened, but its heart still beats strong. The Folsom Street Fair brings thousands to the city each year, the remaining bars on Folsom and Harrison pulse with sexual energy, and the kinkiness makes this area a world renowned destination.

Today, the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District focuses on preserving and strengthening this unique hub of thought and action.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Help keep this area’s culture of fun and self expression alive and vital.
- Go to the Leather & LGBTQ bars, clubs, restaurants and businesses in the District, check out the community groups, attend their programs, parties or special events.
- Tell your friends about the fun you had in San Francisco’s Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District!
- Visit the Ringold Alley History Walk for a taste of the area’s notorious past.
- Join one of the Cultural District’s committees and help out.
- Be a part of the neighborhood, be a part of history, and help keep the area vibrant, sexy and kinky!

LEATHER & LGBTQ CULTURAL DISTRICT

On May 9, 2018, San Francisco Supervisors and the Mayor created “Leather and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Cultural District” in the South of Market area. It became the fifth Cultural District in San Francisco, joining Japantown, the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, Compton’s Transgender Cultural District, and the SOMA Pilipinas Cultural District.