



# **San Francisco City Hall Tour**

# Mayor Gavin C. Newsom



- ◆ Welcome to San Francisco City Hall.
- ◆ This building has served the people of San Francisco for more than 80 years, and I am proud that it will be here for generations to come.

# City Hall Docent Program

- ◆ The City Hall Docent Tour Program will guide you through this historic landmark.
- ◆ In 1999 Mayor Brown created the Docent Program to guide members of the public throughout the magnificently restored City Hall.

# San Francisco City Hall



- ◆ Restored and renovated after the 1989 earthquake, City Hall re-opened for business and to the public on January 5, 1999.

San Francisco City Hall was originally built in 1915.

# City Hall



- ◆ San Francisco City Hall is a huge structure occupying two city blocks.
- ◆ It contains over 550,000 square feet of space.

# City Hall Dome



- ◆ The San Francisco City Hall dome is the tallest in the United States.
- ◆ At 307 feet 6 inches, it is 42 feet higher than the dome in the Nation's capital in Washington D.C.

# City Hall Dome



- ◆ The intricate 23.5 karat gold leaf finish was restored on the exterior surface of the City Hall Dome.

# City Hall Architects



- ◆ Architects Arthur Brown and John Bakewell were trained in Paris at the Ecole de Beaux Arts.
- ◆ City Hall is the finest example of the Beaux Arts style which merges elements of French, Roman and Greek design.

# Rotunda



- ◆ The floor of the Rotunda features an intricate design and is made out of Tennessee pink marble.

# Rotunda Construction



- ◆ The walls that surround the Rotunda are made of limestone blocks from the state of Colorado.

# Rotunda Medallions



The interior design of the Rotunda features four Medallions created by the famous sculptor Henri Crenier.

# Medallion of Equality



- ◆ The Medallion of Equality has the equilateral triangle in her hand and the mythological father of mathematics in the background.

# Medallion of Liberty



- ◆ The Medallion of Liberty is extending an olive branch in a gesture of peace and liberty to all people of the world.

# Medallion of Strength



- ◆ The Medallion of Strength faces the legislative chambers and represents the strength of the legislative system of the City and County of San Francisco.

# Medallion of Learning



- ◆ The Medallion of Learning depicts a man reading to a group of children. The children represent the future.

# Rotunda Embellishments



- ◆ There are many special embellishments throughout the Rotunda.
- ◆ Greek Mythological faces surround the first level of the Rotunda.

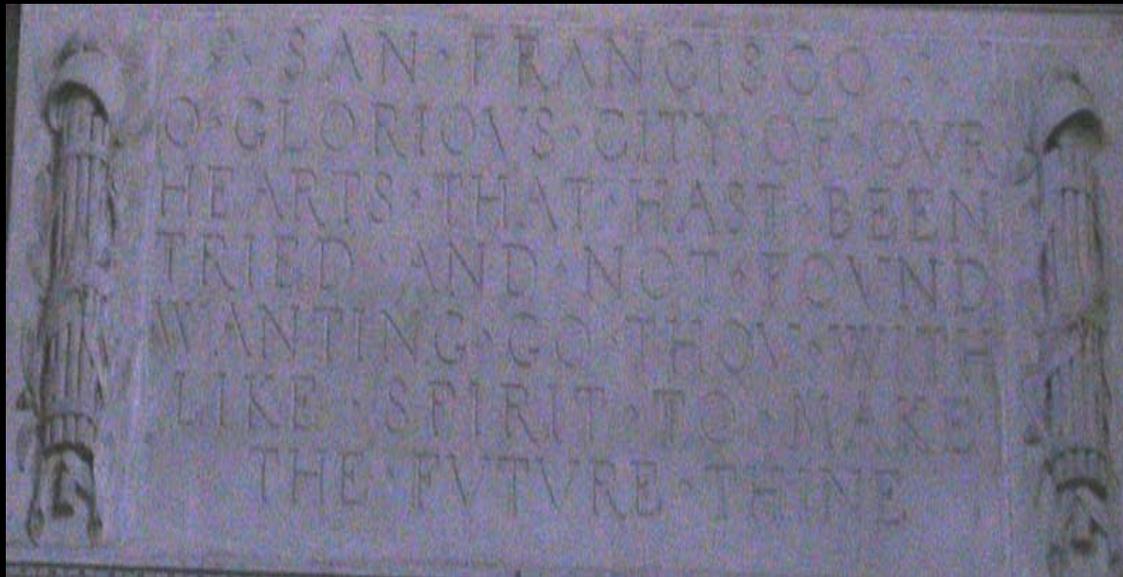
# Rotunda – Father Time



- ◆ A depiction of Father Time is seen on the East wall of the Rotunda.
- ◆ An hour glass is in his hand. History is seen on his left and future on his right.

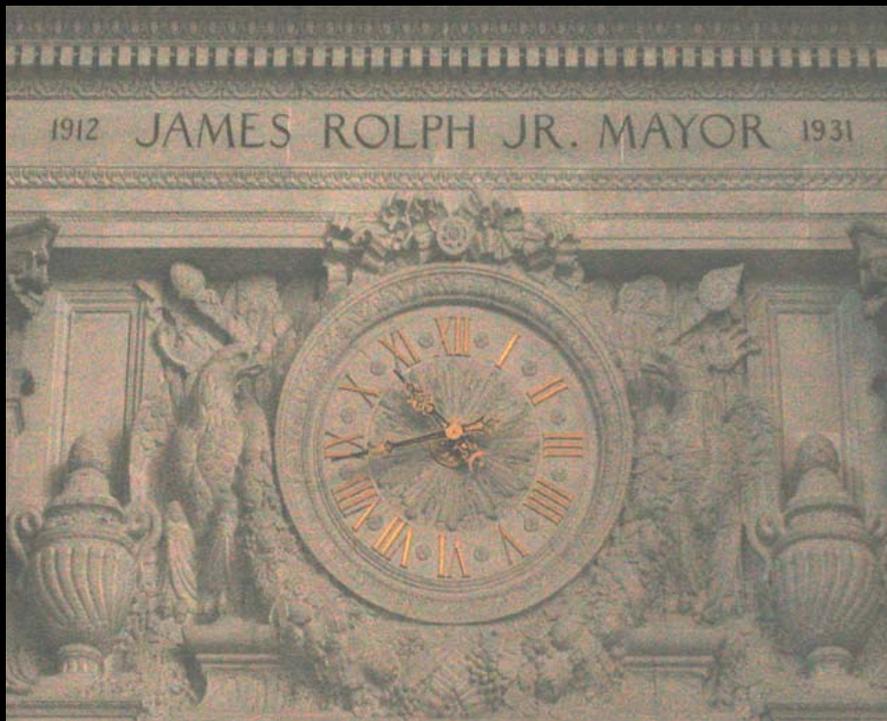
# Rotunda

## Father Time Inscription



The inscription under Father Time reads: “San Francisco, oh glorious City of our hearts that has been tried and found not wanting. Go thou with like spirit to make the future thine.”

# James Rolph Inscription



- ◆ Mayor Jim Rolph was the visionary who insisted that the City of San Francisco build this magnificent structure.
- ◆ Underneath Father Time, Mayor James Rolph had his name inscribed in the limestone.

# Grand Staircase



- ◆ The Grand staircase leads to the Ceremonial Rotunda and the Board of Supervisor's Chamber on the second floor.
- ◆ The stairs have been renamed the Charlotte Maillard Shultz stairs in honor of San Francisco's former Chief of Protocol.

# Ceremonial Rotunda



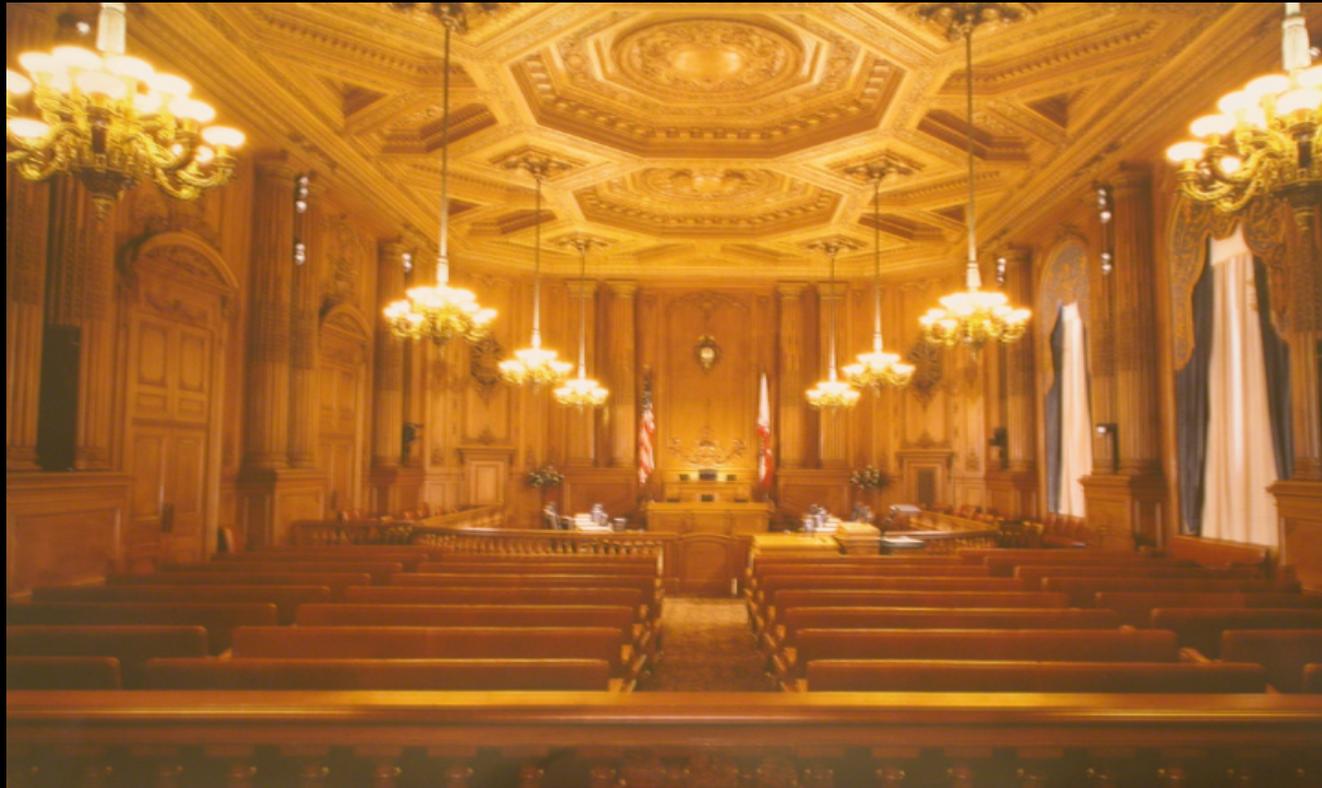
- ◆ The Ceremonial Rotunda is where many weddings or commitments of domestic partnership are performed.
- ◆ One of the most famous City Hall weddings was that of Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe.

# Board of Supervisor's Chamber



- ◆ Mayor Rolph is seated in the center.
- ◆ The opening session of the Board of Supervisors in 1915.

# Board of Supervisor's Chamber



# Board of Supervisors



- ◆ The Board meets every Tuesday at 2:00 pm.
- ◆ The public is welcome and is encouraged to attend.

The Board of Supervisors consists of eleven representatives elected from districts in the City.

# Board of Supervisors



- ◆ The President of the Board of Supervisors sits at the top of the dais and presides over the meetings.
- ◆ The Clerk of the Board sits in the chair below.

# Ornate Wood Paneling



- ◆ The wood paneling in the Board Chamber is Manchurian Oak.
- ◆ Manchurian Oak is softer and easier to carve than California Oak.
- ◆ There are no more forests of Manchurian Oak left in the world.
- ◆ These carvings cannot be recreated.

# Board Chambers



The benches, railings and desks in the Chamber are made of a harder California Oak.

# Ceiling Designs



- ◆ The ceiling in the Board Chamber looks like wood but is actually a cast plaster enhanced to show off the magnificent detail.

# Ceiling Designs



- ◆ In the center of the ceiling a ship is visible.
- ◆ The ship is the San Carlos which belonged to the explorer Ayalah who was the first to chart San Francisco Bay.

# Ceiling Designs



- ◆ The plaster work above the public speaking area has four demon heads.
- ◆ Rumor has it that this was done because the public always made trouble for the elected officials.

# Floor Covering



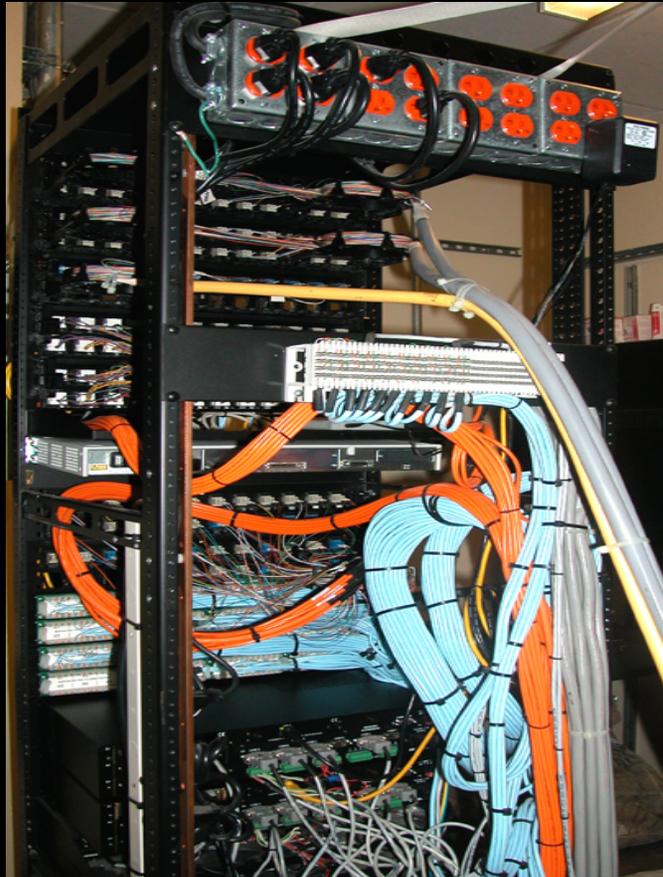
- ◆ The original floor covering in the Board Chamber was Portuguese cork.
- ◆ Present carpeting shows off the Dahlia, the official flower of San Francisco.

# Window Coverings



- ◆ The window coverings in the Board Chamber incorporate unique decorative gold features known as soutache.

# Modern Technology



- ◆ State of the Art technology was utilized and installed during the restoration of City Hall.
- ◆ Fiber-optic technology allowed existing conduits to be used instead of changing the historic building.

# John Taylor Committee Room



- ◆ The Board of Supervisor's Committee Room was re-named after John Taylor to honor his 16 years as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

# Window Design



- ◆ An image of the ship the San Carlos is incorporated into the design of the leaded glass windows on the fourth floor gallery area.

# The Mayor's Office



- ◆ The Mayor's Office is located in Room 200.
- ◆ The country and city flags are on either side of the entrance doors.

# Mayor's Reception



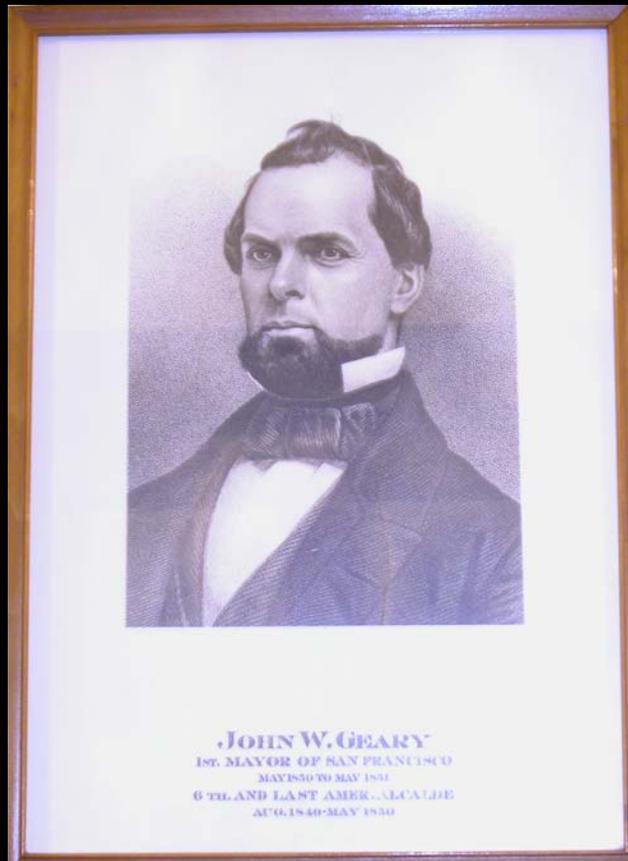
- ◆ Members of the public and official visitors are welcomed in the Mayor's Reception.

# International Room



- ◆ The International room is the site of many high level meetings and receptions.

# Hallway of Alcaldes

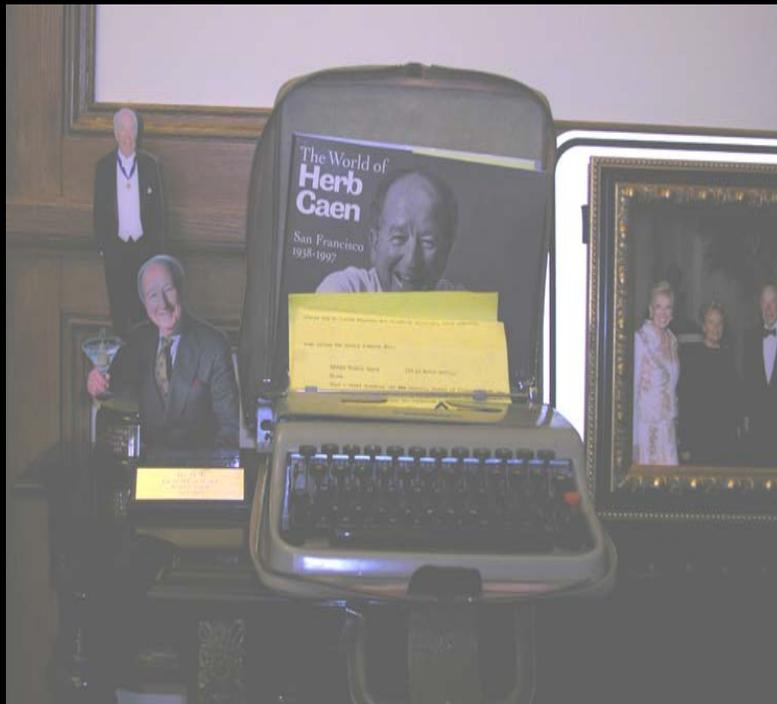


- ◆ Leading to the Mayor's Office is a gallery with pictures of former Alcaldes (Mayors) of San Francisco.
- ◆ The last Alcalde and first Mayor was John W. Geary.

# Mayor Newsom's Mementos

- ◆ On his desk Mayor Newsom has .....

# City Hall Mementos



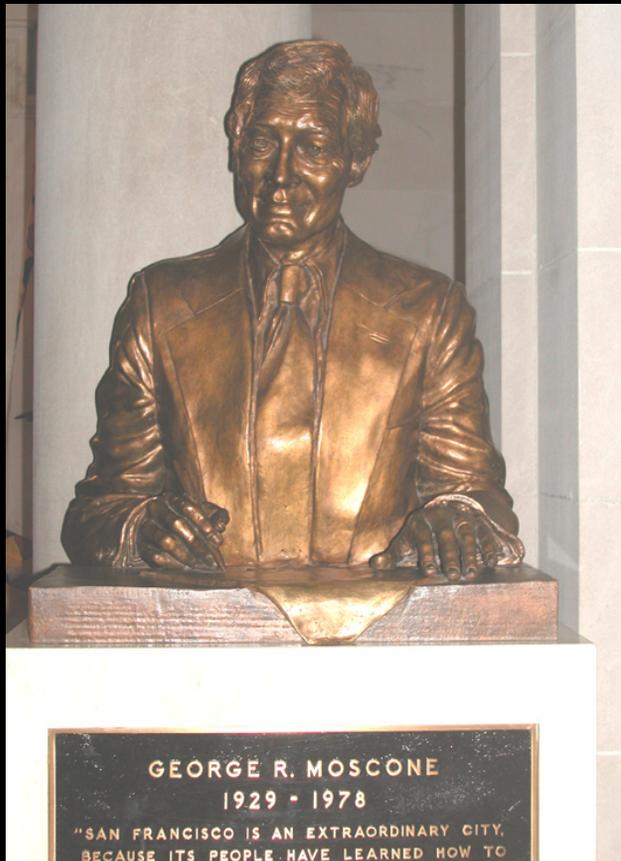
- ◆ The Protocol Office recognizes Herb Caen as someone who epitomized the spirit of San Francisco. He is honored with a display in their office.

# Mayor's Rotunda Balcony



- ◆ “Oro en Paz Fierro en Guerra” is inscribed in the limestone.
- ◆ It means “Gold in Peace, Iron in War.”

# George Moscone



- ◆ A statue of Mayor George Moscone is located in the Mayor's ceremonial rotunda.
- ◆ Mayor Moscone served from 1972-1978.

# Dianne Feinstein



- ◆ A statue of Mayor Dianne Feinstein is located in the Mayor's ceremonial rotunda.
- ◆ Mayor Feinstein served from 1978-1988.

# Willie L. Brown Jr.

- ◆ In recognition of the restoration of San Francisco City Hall, a bust of Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr. has been placed in the ceremonial rotunda outside the Mayor's Office.
- ◆ Mayor Brown served from 1996-2004

# Historic Elevators



- ◆ White gloved attendants originally operated the City Hall elevators.
- ◆ Known as the City Hall “Birdcages,” a person could look over and see the passenger in the adjacent elevator.

# Elevator Designs



- ◆ The floor of the elevators is wood, inlaid with brass.
- ◆ The floor features the official monogram of San Francisco.
- ◆ The letters S and F are surrounded by Laurel leaves.

# Accessibility



- ◆ City Hall is completely ADA accessible.
- ◆ A ramp was built to make access across the Rotunda possible.
- ◆ The railing replicates the same designs surrounding the Rotunda.

# South Light Court



The South Light Court houses exhibits which chronicle significant events in San Francisco history.

# South Light Court Exhibit



- ◆ The Ceremonial Shovel used by Mayor Jim Rolph to begin construction on the “New City Hall” is featured in one of the exhibits in the South Light Court.

# South Light Court Vault



- ◆ An original vault used for the Treasury of the City and County of San Francisco.

# South Light Court Statue



- ◆ The head from a statue of the Goddess of Liberty was rescued from the original City Hall.

# South Light Court Clock



- ◆ The clocks in the public areas of City Hall were designed by Albert Samuels Jr.
- ◆ The Roman numeral for 4 is spelled IIII. Samuels wanted to create a unique design specifically for City Hall.

# South Light Court Flags



- ◆ An exhibit honoring those who served in San Francisco's 363<sup>rd</sup> infantry, 91<sup>st</sup> division is located in the South Light Court.

# Light Court Skylights



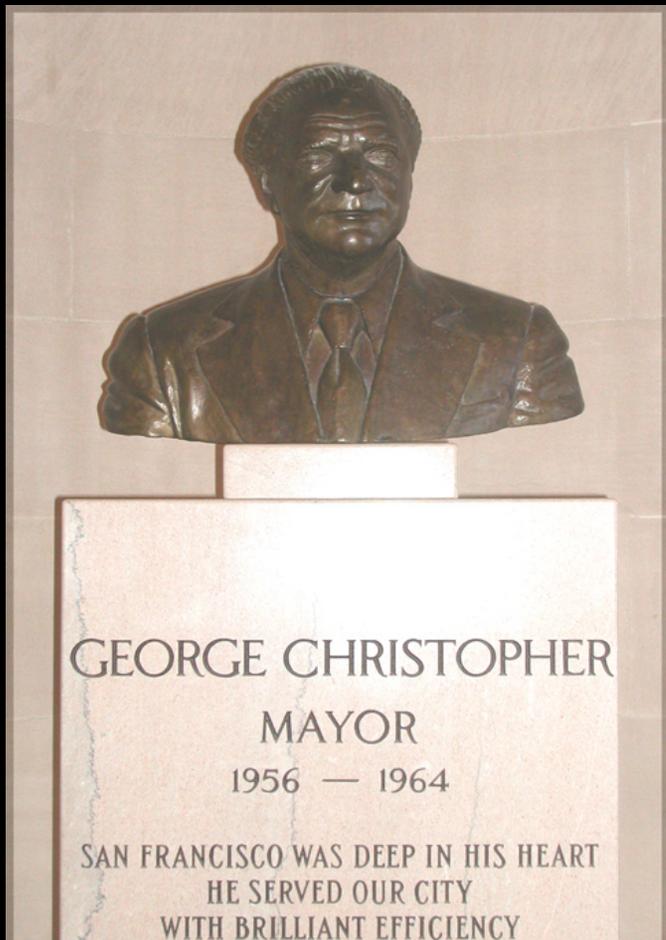
- ◆ During the renovation, the covering placed on the skylights during the cold war was removed.
- ◆ This allowed natural light to once again properly illuminate the main floor of City Hall.

# North Light Court



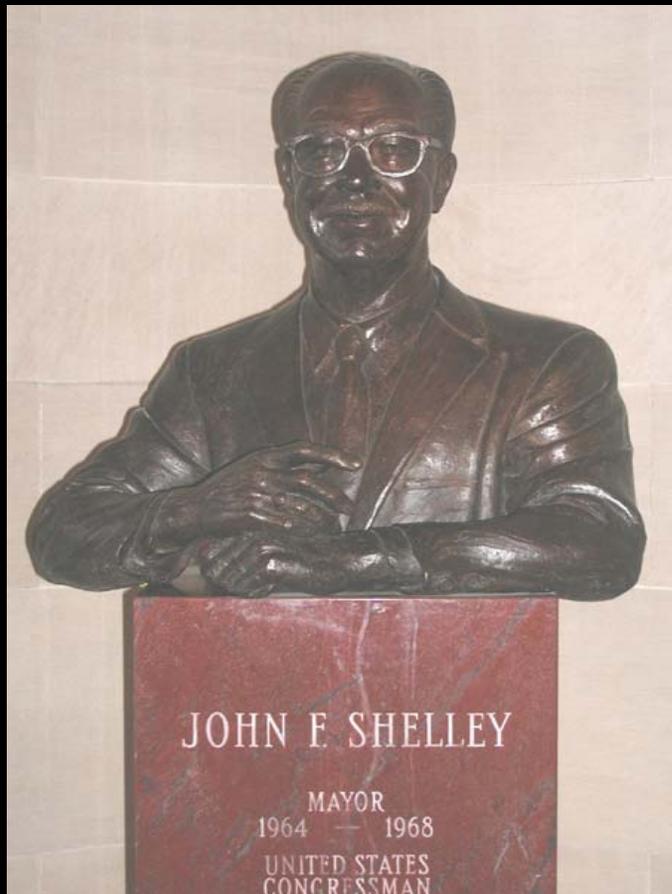
- ◆ The North Light Court hosts a variety of Civic and private functions.

# George Christopher



- ◆ A statue of Mayor George Christopher is located in the Goodlett Lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Christopher served from 1956-1964.

# John Shelley



- ◆ A statue of Mayor John Shelley is located in the Goodlett lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Shelley served from 1954-1958.

# Edward Robeson Taylor



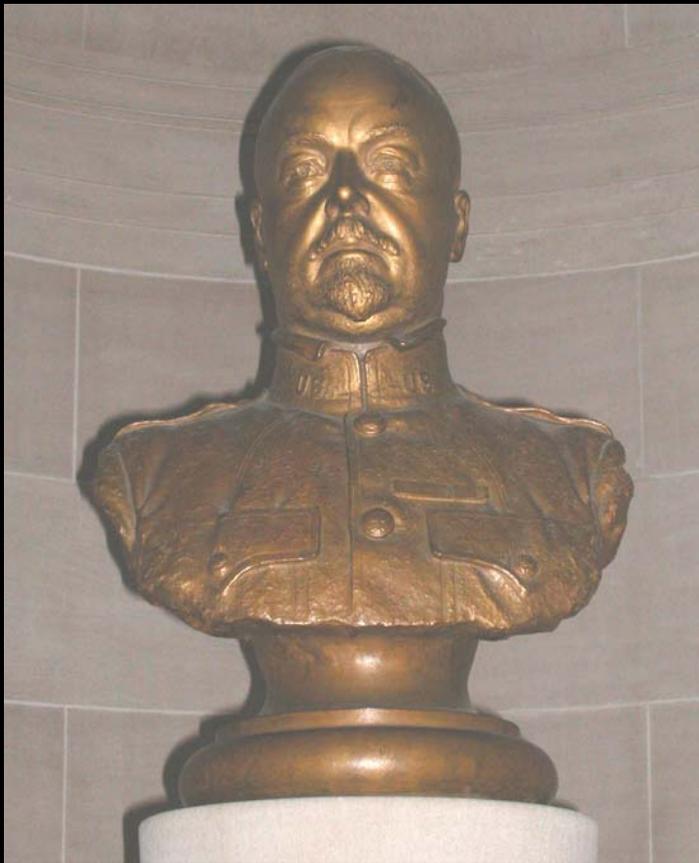
- ◆ A statue of Mayor Robeson Taylor is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Robeson Taylor served from 1907-1910.

# Angelo Rossi



- ◆ A statue of Mayor Angelo Rossi is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Mayor Rossi served from 1931-1943.

# Frederick Funston



- ◆ A statue of Frederick Funston is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ Funston was a distinguished Major General from San Francisco.

# Michael O'Shaughnessy



- ◆ A statue of Engineer Michael O'Shaughnessy is located in the Van Ness lobby on the first floor.
- ◆ O'Shaughnessy oversaw the completion of the Dam at Hetch Hetchy.

# City Hall Art



- ◆ City Hall displays artworks in the South Light Court and in a public gallery on the ground floor level.

# City Hall Events



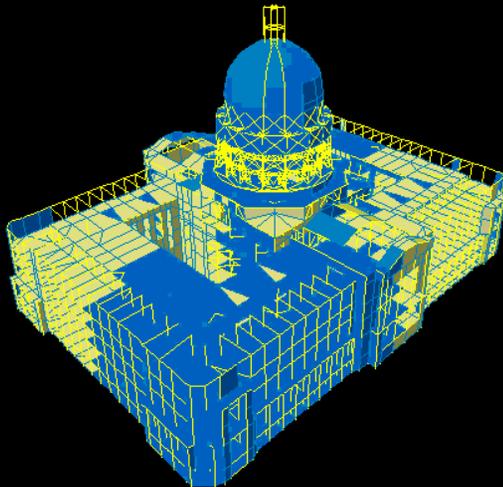
- ◆ City Hall hosts many civic and private events which often support services and functions for the people and City of San Francisco.

# City Hall Renovation

To protect against earthquake damage, a system utilizing base isolators was installed under City Hall.

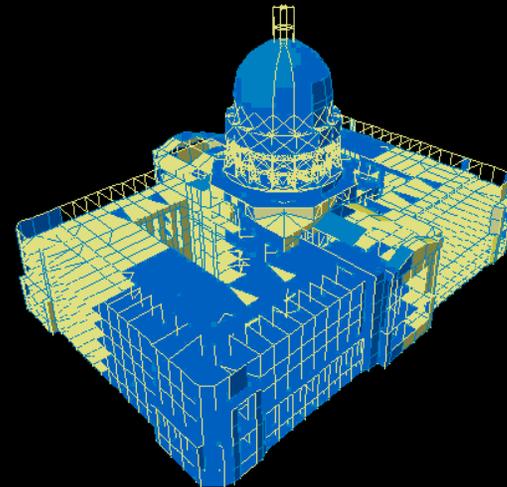
Building Response  
prior to restoration.

(Please click on image)



Building Response  
after restoration.

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# San Francisco City Hall



- ◆ San Francisco City Hall has been restored to its former glory and at the same time updated in order to meet the needs of San Francisco for years to come.
- ◆ San Francisco City Hall: truly the people's palace and crown jewel of San Francisco.