



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**War Memorial Veterans Building
Re-Dedication Ceremony: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.
Open Houses September 16, 18 and 19, 2015**

SAN FRANCISCO, (September 14, 2015) – On Wednesday, September 16, at 11:30 a.m. the historic War Memorial Veterans Building will be re-dedicated by Mayor Edwin M. Lee, Board of Supervisors President London Breed, the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees and San Francisco Public Works. The entire City community is invited to attend this free public ceremony, which will be followed by an Open House of the newly renovated spaces in the Veterans Building.

On August 10, 2012, Mayor Edwin M. Lee signed legislation to fund War Memorial Veterans Building infrastructure improvements after the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the project on July 31, 2012. The project included seismic upgrades and earthquake damage repair, facility preservation, accessibility upgrades and energy efficiency upgrades. San Francisco Public Works managed the project, including providing architectural services.

“The War Memorial Veterans Building is one of our most treasured historic buildings and we can now continue to tell the stories of our nation’s heroes and the people of our City for generations to come,” said Mayor Lee at the time of the signing. “This legislation makes seismic upgrades, increased safety and greater accessibility possible while fulfilling my top priority of putting San Franciscans back to work.”

Thomas E. Horn, War Memorial Trustee and Chair of the War Memorial Board of Trustees’ Veterans Building Project Committee, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. He will be joined by Mayor Edwin M. Lee, Board of Supervisors President London Breed, War Memorial Board of Trustees President Wilkes Bashford and War Memorial Trustee MajGen J. Michael Myatt, USMC (ret.) to re-dedicate this San Francisco historic and cultural landmark. Acclaimed opera mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe will sing the National Anthem. The



Travis Brass U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West will provide ceremonial music and the 23rd Marine Regiment from San Bruno will present the colors.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. In order to ensure room for all, registration is encouraged. Please register at: www.sfwmpac.org/herbst-theatre

There will be an Open House immediately following the ceremony. Additional Open Houses are being offered on Friday, September 18 from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 19, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Those wishing to attend an Open House may register online at: www.sfwmpac.org/herbst-theatre.

MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

The War Memorial Veterans Building is being re-dedicated at the conclusion of a Seismic Upgrade & Improvements Project, which began on July 1, 2013. The total project cost of \$156,369,000 was funded by certificates of participation, city funds, grants and gift funds.

The Veterans Building is home to the Herbst Theatre and The Green Room reception space. The San Francisco Posts of the American Legion return to the Veterans Building to occupy meeting rooms and administrative offices. The facility will now house the offices of the San Francisco Arts Commission and Grants for the Arts, as well as a new 4,400 square foot San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery. The San Francisco Opera is investing \$21,000,000 in private funds for improvements to the 4th floor, where it will have offices and two new performances spaces as part of the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera.

HISTORY OF THE WAR MEMORIAL VETERANS BUILDING

The War Memorial Veterans Building was completed in 1932 as part of the War Memorial Complex, which included the Veterans Building, the War Memorial Opera House and the Memorial Court. Designed by architect Arthur Brown, Jr., the Veterans Building was one of the last beaux arts buildings to be completed in the United States. It completes a quintet of buildings designed by Arthur Brown, Jr. in San Francisco's Civic

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Center: San Francisco City Hall, the Opera House, Civic Auditorium and the former San Francisco Public Library building, which now houses the Asian Art Museum.

The Veterans Building was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, but remained open until the commencement of the Veterans Building Seismic Upgrade & Improvements Project in July 2013. In 1945 the United Nations Charter was signed by President Truman on Veterans Auditorium Stage (now Herbst Theatre). In 1951 the Japanese Peace Treaty was drawn up in the Veterans Building.