

I've worked in the small business sector for most of my life here. We must protect it to ensure community survival and cultural sustainability. We should:

- Advocate for protections for commercial tenants at the state and local level
- Strengthen enforcement of the storefront vacancy tax; ensure that corporations and app-based delivery pay their fair share and truly support our local economy.
- Stay true to our longtime resistance to big box chainstore encroachment by creating subsidies for small businesses and prevent food and medicine scarcity by shifting our reliance on corporations who are abandoning brick and mortar and instead invest in public markets and locally-owned pharmacies.
- Provide more funding to local nonprofit microlenders like MEDA to support low-cost (or even 0%) flexible loans to our neighborhood small businesses. The City deployed this strategy during the pandemic to great impact, and it provided a lifeline to thousands of small businesses across San Francisco.

Most of all we need to defray costs and negative impacts to business in the here and now, whether that means onerous vandalism abatement barriers, staffing safety ambassadors and foot patrols, or baseline engagement before major corridor changes that decimate access to these vital members of our community