

Columbus United Cooperative
55 Columbus Avenue, Chinatown, San Francisco
San Francisco Community Land Trust



In June 2009, the Land Trust celebrated the Grand Opening of our first project -- Columbus United Cooperative --a 21-apartment, mixed-use building at the edge of San Francisco's Chinatown. This limited-equity housing co-op is an important success story in a neighborhood where few residents are able to own a home. In 2005, the San Francisco Community Land Trust was approached about working with the tenants of the building, mostly low- and very low-income Chinese-American families who were fighting to save their homes from demolition. With the help of Asian Law Caucus and Chinatown Community Development Center, the tenants organized to fight the eviction. Through an extensive process of community collaboration, we secured public and private financing to purchase the building and worked with the residents and community partners to rehabilitate the building and complete the coop conversion. With support and direction from the SFCLT, the tenants formed a housing cooperative. Former tenants are now back in the building, and SFCLT and Coop worked together to select new qualified Coop members for several vacant units.

