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## Program

3:00 - 3:30 **Guests arrive**

3:30 - 3:45 **Welcome** Michael Jenkins, Executive Director, Seattle Design Commission

3:45 - 4:00 **Opening Comments** Leonard Garfield, Executive Director, MOHAI

4:00 - 4:30 **Project recognition**

*Emblematic of Seattle - Ben de Rubertis, Chair*

*Pronounced neighborhood impact - Osama Quotah, Former Chair, 2014*

*Elevated the role of public space and place - Julie Bassuk, Former Chair, 2011-12*

*Advanced equity - Mary Johnston, Former Chair, 2008*

*What could have been - Barbara Swift, Former Chair, 1996*

4:30 - 4:45 **Closing Comments** Colleen Echohawk, Executive Director, Chief Seattle Club



**Seattle**  
Design Commission

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## Who we are

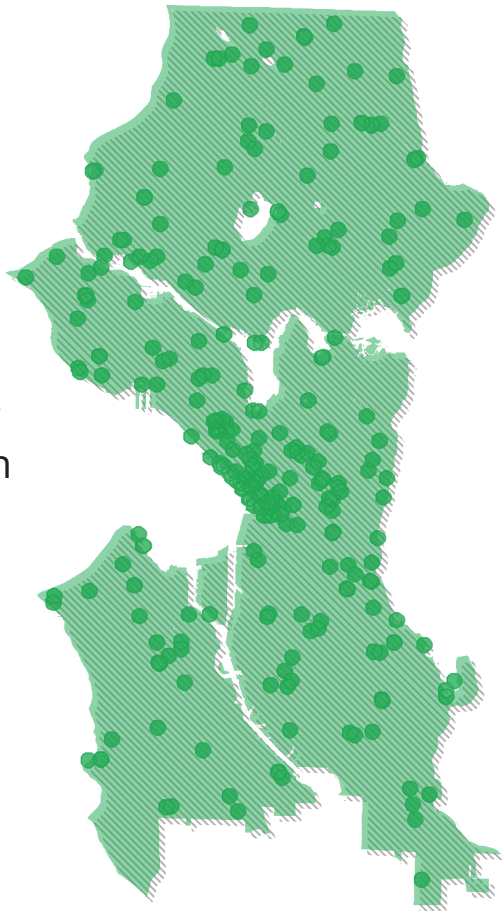
The Seattle Design Commission was established in 1968 to advise the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on the design of capital improvement projects that are located on City land, in the City right-of-way, or constructed with City funds.

We provide key recommendations on the aesthetic, environmental, and design principals and policies applied to these projects. We give advice through the entire design process, from consultant selection to the design concept and project construction.

We are made up of 10 commissioners from the design, planning, engineering, and arts community and are supported by four staff.

Since being  
established in  
1968...

We've reviewed over  
**1,200 projects** within  
the City of Seattle









## 50 years of The Commission

Since 1968, the Commission has reviewed more than 1200 projects, ranging from traditional City capital projects like parks, fire stations and community centers, to consulting on major transportation projects like the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement and the Seattle segments of SR 520. For our 50th anniversary, we will not be giving out individual awards like we have for our biennial Design Excellence ceremonies. Rather, we will focus on 20 projects of significance out of the 1200+ projects reviewed by the Commission over the past 50 years. The projects highlighted here were selected using the following categories:

- Emblematic of Seattle
- Pronounced impact on the neighborhood
- Elevated the role of public places or spaces
- Advanced equity
- What could have been

Many of the projects listed fit into more than one category. That says a great deal about the goals of the City, the members of each project team, and the public's interest and expectation about these projects and their impact on our City. Finally, the 1200+ projects and the projects highlighted here do not include projects currently under Commission review or are still in construction.

## **Emblematic of Seattle**

These projects represent the ideals, identity, or unique character of Seattle

## Projects

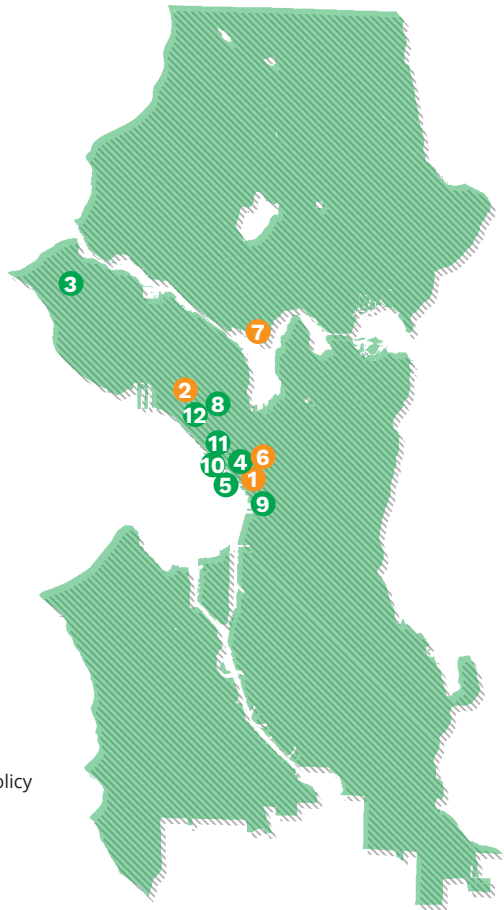
- 1 Central Library
- 2 Changing Form Sculpture
- 3 Discovery Park
- 4 Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
- 5 Elliott Bay Seawall
- 6 Freeway Park
- 7 Gasworks Park
- 8 MoPOP
- 9 Pioneer Square Historic District
- 10 Seattle Aquarium
- 11 Steinbrueck Park
- 12 Space Needle Improvements

## Citywide projects

Burke-Gilman Trail

One percent for Art program

City of Seattle Sustainable Building Policy





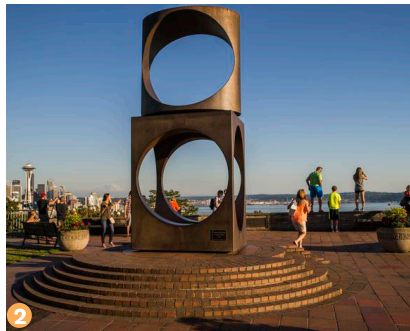
### **Central Library, 2004**

**Location:** *Downtown*

**Review Dates:** *2001*

**Design Lead:** *OMA, LMN*

The Central Library is the third iconic structure at this site. The new Central Library was the centerpiece of the 1998 Libraries for All levy that provided \$196 million for new and updated Seattle libraries. The Central Library also received a \$20 million donation from Bill Gates. Reviewed by the Commission from 1999-2001, the library opened in 2004 to national and international acclaim. This project represents Seattle's commitment to an exceptional public library system in a building that elevates excellence in architecture and urban design.



### **Changing Form, 1970**

**Location:** *Kerry Park*

**Review Dates:** *1968*

**Design Lead:** *Doris Totten Chase*

Designed by Doris Totten Chase, the iconic sculpture was commissioned by the Kerry family for the park that bears their name. The name Changing Form references the open geometry that allow for multiple cityscape views as the viewer's position changes. Prior to the 1973 adoption of the City's One Percent for Art program, the Design Commission evaluated art in public spaces.



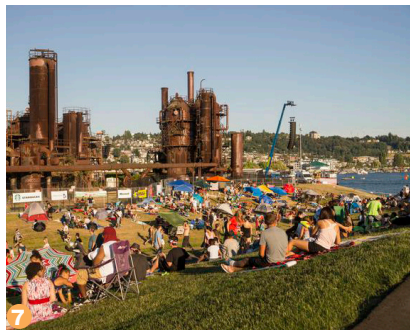
### **Freeway Park, 1976**

**Location:** *Downtown*

**Review Dates:** 1972

**Design Lead:** *Halprin, Danadjieva*

Completed in 1976, with expansions occurring in 1984 and with the 1988 construction of Washington State Convention Center, Freeway Park reconnected downtown Seattle to First Hill following the 1965 construction of Interstate 5. Freeway Park blends Art, Architecture and Landscape Architecture into a series of unique public spaces that effectively transport users out of the City while keeping the City as a backdrop. The Design Commission had an instrumental role in all phases of Freeway Park, from recommending Halprin to review of final construction drawings.



### **Gasworks Park, 1983**

**Location:** *Lake Union*

**Review Dates:** 1974

**Design Lead:** *Richard Haag*

The former home of a coal gasification plant for Seattle Gas Light Company, the 19-acre site was converted into a park in 1975, a decade following the plant closure. The project was designed by Richard Haag, a founder of University of Washington's landscape architecture program. Haag was the lead designer of numerous signature landscapes around Seattle and the NW. Haag's design was revolutionary in its reuse of industrial structures and in the use of bioremediation to cap and clean the soil on-site. Gasworks Park was one of the signature projects funded by Forward Thrust bonds.

## **Pronounced impact on neighborhood**

These projects have made a lasting impact on the neighborhood's identity

## Projects

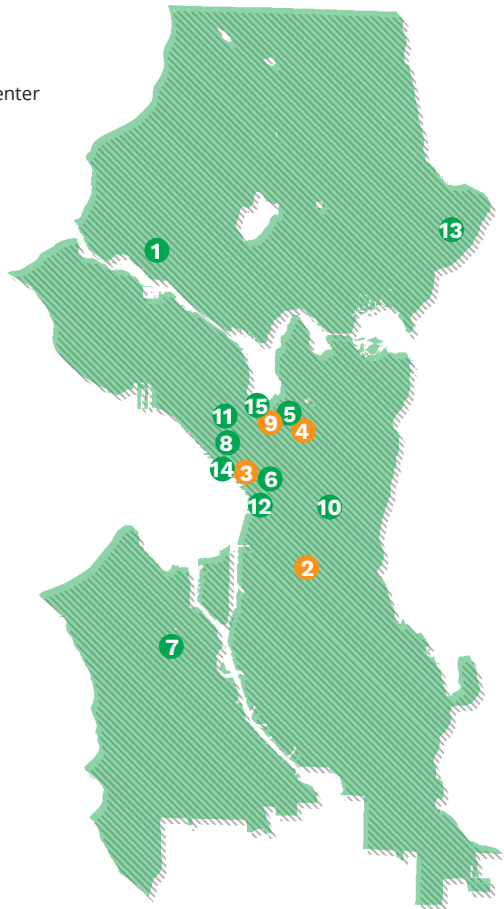
- 1 Ballard Public Library & Service Center
- 2 Beacon Hill Library
- 3 Benaroya Hall
- 4 Cal Anderson Park
- 5 Capitol Hill Library
- 6 City Hall Master Plan
- 7 Delridge Community Center
- 8 Denny Regrade Park
- 9 Denny Substation
- 10 Fire Station 6
- 11 Fisher Plaza
- 12 Occidental Park
- 13 Magnuson Park
- 14 Marketfront
- 15 South Lake Union Park

## Citywide projects

Seattle Streetcar

Sound Transit Stations

Rapid Ride Stations





### **Beacon Hill Library, 2004**

**Location:** *Beacon Hill*

**Review Dates:** *2001*

**Design Lead:** *Carlson Architects*

Like the Central Library, Beacon Hill Library was funded by the 1998 'Libraries for All' bond. Located in a rapidly-growing and diverse community, Beacon Hill Library outgrew its previous location in a former retail space. This library responds to neighborhood demographics by offering a wide range of material in Asian languages, and provides a quality public amenity in a neighborhood that had a history of underinvestment in City funded projects.



### **Benaroya Hall, 1998**

**Location:** *Downtown*

**Review Dates:** *1990-1993*

**Design Lead:** *LMN Architects*

Completed in 1998, Benaroya Hall provides downtown with an important civic and cultural presence as well as a striking example of the integration of art, architecture and urban design. Home to the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Benaroya Hall provides an important civic presence along the 3rd Avenue Transit Mall, the University Street connections to the Waterfront, and the Garden of Remembrance on 2nd Avenue. The structure rests atop the BNSF tunnel and next to the downtown ST tunnel and responds by including a state-of-the-art acoustic system.





## Cal Anderson Park, 2005

**Location:** *Capitol Hill*

**Review Dates:** 1997-2004

**Design Lead:** *Berger Partnership*

Originally conceived by the Olmsted brothers' as Lincoln Park and Playfield, followed by separate recognition of Bobby Morris Playfield, Cal Anderson Park is named in honor of Washington state's first openly gay legislator who died in 1995. The combined park and its redesign covered the original reservoir to create a great lawn and signature fountain, protected the historic pump station, and revitalized play areas within both the park and playfield. The reinvestment in this park revitalized an important gathering space for the Capitol Hill neighborhood.



## Denny Substation, 2019

**Location:** *Denny Regrade*

**Review Dates:** 2012-2015

**Design Lead:** *NBBJ*

Denny Substation upends the notion that utility infrastructure cannot be designed with placemaking as a primary goal. Shrouded in a signature metal screen that is integrated with an elevated pathway and public art, Denny Substation provides much needed electrical service to the growing South Lake Union and Denny Triangle neighborhoods. The design reinforces City Light's commitment to environmental stewardship and energy conservation. Denny Substation includes a series of public open spaces, terraced walkways, public art, and community space for meetings and events.

## **Elevated role of public spaces or places**

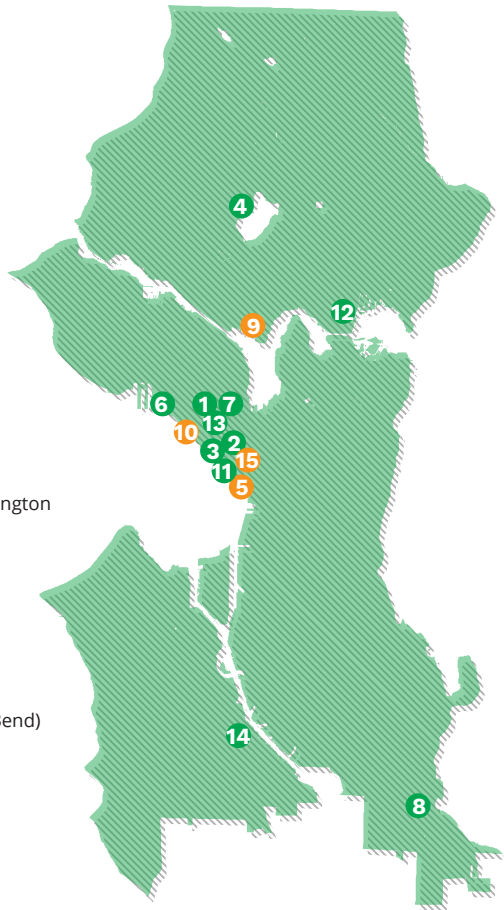
The design, site, and location of these projects represent the best elements of design through architecture, landscape, materials, or related elements

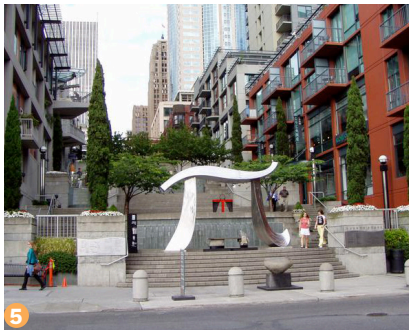
## Projects

- 1 Bagley Wright Theater Expansion
- 2 Bell Street Park
- 3 Belltown Cottage Park
- 4 Greenlake Bathhouse Theater
- 5 Harbor Steps
- 6 Helix Pedestrian Bridge
- 7 Intiman Theatre
- 8 Kubota Gardens
- 9 North Transfer Station
- 10 Olympic Sculpture Park
- 11 Pike Street Hillclimb
- 12 Rainier Vista at University of Washington
- 13 Seattle Center Century 21 Plan
- 14 South Transfer Station
- 15 Westlake Park

## Regional projects

Cedar River Education Center (North Bend)





### **Harbor Steps, 1994, 2000**

**Location:** *Downtown*

**Review Dates:** *1990*

**Design Lead:** *Callison, Hewitt Isley*

Developed by Harbor Properties between 1994 and 2000, Harbor Steps was a critical piece in re-imagining downtown as a place for both working and living. Its signature public staircase between 1st Avenue and Western provides an important link connecting the waterfront with Seattle Art Museum and Benaroya Hall. The project was realized with the vacation of University Street. The stairs and related public spaces were created in exchange for removing the street.



### **North Transfer Station, 2016**

**Location:** *Wallingford*

**Review Dates:** *2010-2014*

**Design Lead:** *Mahlum, HBB*

Originally built in 1965 for Seattle's "Garbage Utility", SPU rebuilt the North Transfer Station in 2014 as a model of how essential infrastructure can be reimagined. SPU worked with City departments, organizations, and community groups to create a recycling and reuse facility within an urban neighborhood that includes public viewing and education areas and public meeting spaces. The facility and site design also include onsite recreation facilities. The project also resulted in the creation of a new park, created through vacating a nearby street.



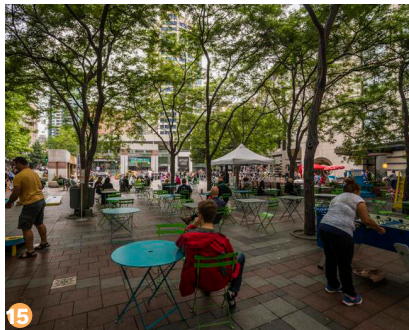
### **Olympic Sculpture Park, 2007**

**Location:** *Belltown*

**Review Dates:** 2002

**Design Lead:** *Weiss/Manfredi*

Olympic Sculpture Park reclaimed the former Union Oil fuel transfer site and turned it into a signature open space where art and landscape converge. Much is owed to philanthropists Virginia and Bagley Wright, Mary and Jon Shirley, and Mimi Gardner Gates, along with Martha Wycoff and the Trust for Public Land, for the vision and commitment to create a park out of a former industrial site. Free for all visitors and open 365 days a year, the space blends sculptural treasures alongside large- and small-scale landscapes, with a 1,000-foot-long restored intertidal beach.



### **Westlake Park, 1988**

**Location:** *Downtown*

**Review Dates:** 1986

**Design Lead:** *Hanna/Olin*

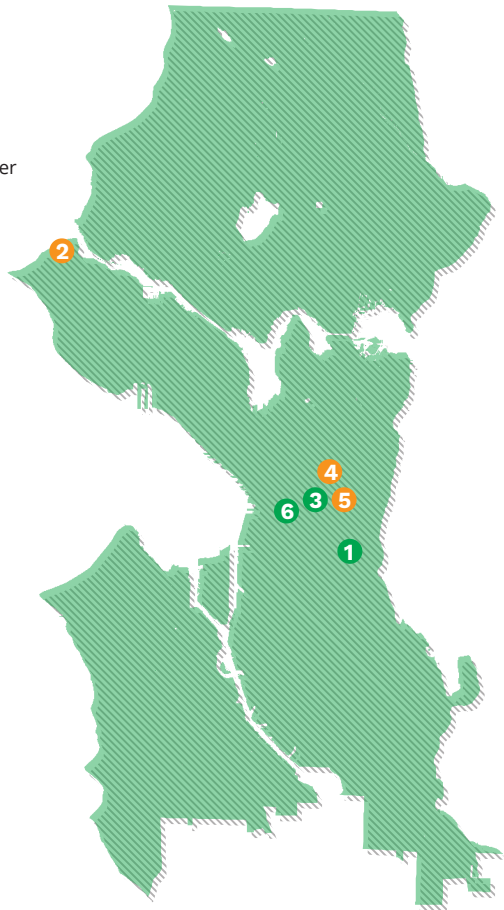
20 years in the making, Westlake Park is the living room for the City's retail district. Owing its beginnings to the 1962 World's Fair as the terminus of the Monorail, its conversion to Westlake Park was completed in 1988 by the Rouse Corporation with the Westlake Center office and retail development. Westlake Park shows that streets can be reimagined as a way to create civic spaces.

## **Advanced equity**

These projects provide a space for all, designed for all, and reflect the identity of the community

## Projects

- 1 Bradner Gardens Park
- 2 Daybreak Star Cultural Center
- 3 Langston Hughes Community Center
- 4 Medgar Evers Pool
- 5 Odessa Brown Center
- 6 Yesler Community Center rehab



## Citywide projects

Bicycle Master Plan

Pedestrian Master Plan



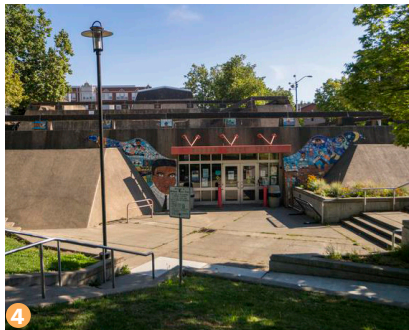
## **Daybreak Star, 1977**

**Location:** *Magnolia*

**Review Dates:** 1974

**Design Lead:** *Arai Jackson Architects*

Daybreak Star Cultural Center was the vision of Bernie Whitebear and the United Indians of All Tribes to create an urban base for indigenous people in Seattle. Located on a 20-acre parcel in Discovery Park on land reclaimed on March 8, 1970 by Whitebear and fellow indigenous activists, Daybreak Star includes a conference center, educational program, a location for powwows and an art gallery.



## **Medgar Evers Pool, 1970**

**Location:** *Central District*

**Review Dates:** 1968

**Design Lead:** *John M. Morse*

Medgar Evers Pool was funded in 1968 by Forward Thrust bonds as one of the first swimming pools built to serve Seattle's African American community. First named Garfield Pool after the adjacent High School, widespread community support resulted in renaming the pool to honor slain civil rights leader Medgar Wylie Evers. The pool exterior featured a variety of art projects including Omowale, a mural painted by Curtis Barnes and Royal Alley-Barnes.





### **Odessa Brown Center, 1969**

**Location:** *Central District*

**Review Dates:** 1970

**Design Lead:** *Benjamin McAdoo*

Acquired in 1970 by the City of Seattle, the former Herzl Synagogue was converted to the Odessa Brown Neighborhood Health Center to provide health services, job training, and employment activities for Seattle residents. The remodel was led by Benjamin McAdoo, the first African American architect to maintain a practice in Washington State. One of the first projects reviewed by the Design Commission, project funding was provided through Seattle's Model City program and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.



### **Bicycle Master Plan, 2014**

**Location:** *Citywide*

**Review Dates:** 2007-2013

**Design Lead:** *SDOT*

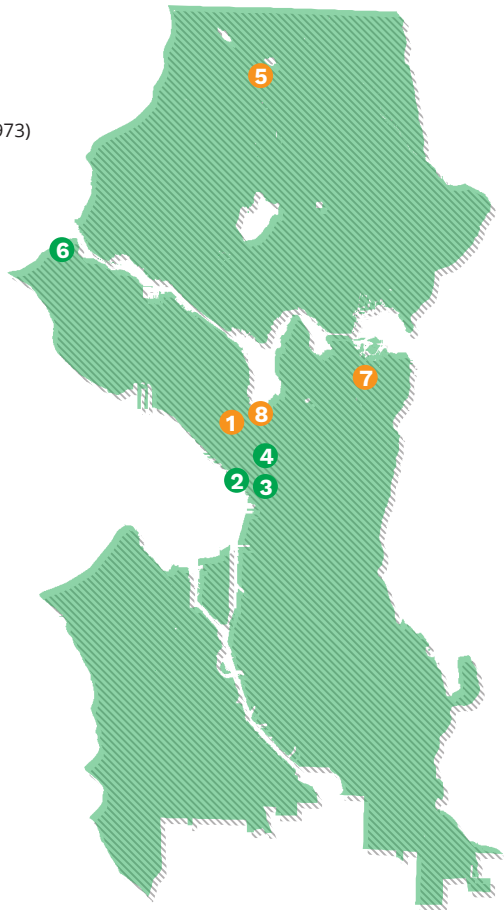
The Bicycle Master Plan provides the City and its citizens with a blueprint for how Seattle will accommodate people who ride bikes. The plan focuses on “all ages and abilities” and enshrines equity in all aspects of the plan, from project evaluation through implementation. The plan serves as an important blueprint for embedding equity as a cornerstone in planning and implementation of City funded capital projects.

## What could have been

These projects would have had a pronounced impact on the city and/or surrounding neighborhood, but were never built

## Projects

- 1 Bay Freeway
- 2 Central Waterfront Study (1970-1973)
- 3 City Hall Open Space Plan
- 4 Convention Place TOD
- 5 North Precinct Police Station
- 6 People's Lodge
- 7 R.H. Thomson Expressway
- 8 Seattle Commons



## Citywide projects

Seattle Monorail Project



### **R.H. Thomson & Bay Expressway**

**Location:** *Montlake & South Lake Union*

**Review Dates:** 1968 & 1969-1972

**Design Lead:** *WSDOT*

The RH Thompson Freeway and its companion the Bay Freeway would have extended freeway segments through the Central District, Montlake, the Washington Arboretum, and lower Queen Anne. Their rejection by Seattle voters in 1972, following a decade of political support and designs that would have displaced 4,000 residents and numerous businesses, was a watershed moment for citizen activism. Both projects came to the Commission as one of the first projects evaluated following its formation.



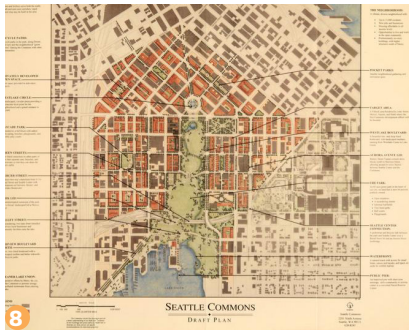
### **North Precinct Police Station**

**Location:** *North Seattle*

**Review Dates:** 2014-2016

**Design Lead:** *SRG Partnership*

The North Precinct station was designed to replace an existing facility built in 1984. The precinct offered a new vision for police stations including innovative commitments to sustainability in site and building design, significant public space, and public art. Over the course of the Commissions review, the size and scope of the program caused costs to nearly double. In late 2016 the City Council effectively cancelled the project due to rising construction costs, concerns about the use of City funds for traditional approaches towards policing, and the perceived lack of effective public engagement on the proposal.



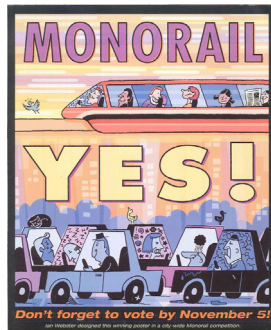
## Seattle Commons

**Location:** South Lake Union

**Review Dates:** 1990-1993

**Design Lead:** Seattle Commons

The Seattle Commons was a proposal for a 61-acre park stretching from downtown Seattle to Lake Union. The park, created along a three block stretch from Denny Way to Lake Union, was part of a proposed \$111 million property-tax levy that would have funded the development and construction of the Seattle Commons. The park would be framed by high-tech laboratories, condos, restaurants, and urban amenities by rezoning several blocks in South Lake Union. Drawing key political support from Seattle Mayor Norm Rice and Paul Allen, the proposal failed on two public votes in 1995 and 1996.



## Seattle Monorail Project

**Location:** Citywide

**Review Dates:** 2002-2003

**Design Lead:** Seattle Monorail Project

The Seattle Monorail Project was a proposed expansion of the City's existing monorail created as part of the 1962 World Fair. The 14-mile proposed route included 17 stations between Ballard and West Seattle via Seattle Center. The City created a Monorail Review Panel to evaluate the urban design and neighborhood planning implications of the proposal. The proposal was ultimately rejected by voters in 2005 due to cost overruns. From 1997 to 2005, approximately \$125 million dollars was spent to create the concept for this system.

## current design commissioners

Ben de Rubertis **Chair**

Brianna Holan **Vice Chair**

Justin Clark

Rikerrious Geter

Rachel Gleeson\*

Laura Haddad

Mark Johnson

Rick Krochalis

Amalia Leighton

Ross Tilghman\*, **former Chair**

John Savo\*, **former Chair**

Vinita Sidhu

Elaine Wine

\*Term ended in 2019

## staff

Michael Jenkins **Executive Director**

Valerie Kinast **Coordinator**

Aaron Hursey **Planner**

Juliet Acevedo **Administrative Staff**

Matthew Allen **Administrative Staff**

Diana Settlemyer **Intern**

Leary Labanlic **Intern**



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## former design commissioners

Susan Allen	Evan Fowler	Jescelle Major	Rick Sundberg, <a href="#">Chair</a>
Bernie Alonzo	Horace Foxall	Hannah McIntosh	G.W. Sutton-Brown
Cecilia Alvarez	David Fukui, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Peter Miller	Sharon Sutton
Charles Anderson	Seth Geiser	Anindita Mitra	Gary Swenson
Claudio Arenas	Jeff Girvin	Cary Moon	Barbara Swift, <a href="#">Chair</a>
Tasha Atchison	Warren Gonnason	William Mori	William Talley
Brodie Bain	Arvid Grant	Joyce Moty	Jay Taylor
Laura Ballock	Megan Groth	Ibsen Nelsen, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Tori Laughlin Taylor
Andrew Barash	Gerald Hansmire	Frances Neslon	Stan Titus
Arnold Barer, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Henry Hardnett	Tom Nelson, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Richard Unterman, <a href="#">Chair</a>
Fred Bassetti	Debbie Harris	Barry Onouye	Darrell Vange
Julie Bassuk, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Dennis Haskell, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Sheri Olson	Donald Vehige
Moe Batra	Lauren Hauck	Julie Parrett	Darby Watson
Pam Beyette	David Hewitt, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Robert Perron	Louis Warner
Graham Black	Mark Hinshaw	Louis Pierce	Edward Weinstein, <a href="#">Chair</a>
Mary Booth, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Norm Hoagy	Nathan Polanski	Alvin Williams
Evan Bourquard	William Hobson	Osama Quotah, <a href="#">Chair</a>	David Wright
A.O. Bumgardner, <a href="#">Chair</a>	John Hoffman	Dean Ratti	Jean Young
Tom Bykonen	Grant Hromas	Martin Regge	Alvin Zeman, <a href="#">Chair</a>
Grace Byrne	Yoshiko Ii	Iain Robertson	
Richard Cardwell	Nora Jaso	Nic Rossouw	
Adam Christiansen	Mary Johnston, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Donald Royse, <a href="#">Chair</a>	
Ralph Cipriani	Steve Johnson	David Rutherford	
Richard Clark	Dirk Jongejan	Scott Rutherford	
Robert Clark	Karen Kiest, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Dennis Ryan	
Brendan Connolly	Malika Kirkling	Norie Sato	
Lee Copeland	Laurel Kunkler	Symone Scales	
Carolyn Darwish	Juanita La Fond	Jack Sidener	
George Deleau	Carolyn Law	Laura Sindell	
Gail Dubrow	Jon Layzer	Archie James Smith	
Marvin Durning, <a href="#">Chair</a>	Jack Lyerla	Ellen Sollod	
Thaddeus Egging	Theo Lim	Amy Solomon	
Mary Fialko	Shannon Loew, <a href="#">Chair</a>	David Spiker, <a href="#">Chair</a>	
Anne Focke	Jack Mackie	Gail Staeger	
Robert Foley	Sherry Markovitz	Sydney Steinborn, <a href="#">Chair</a>	

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