



## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 2015

# U District Station

**Edward B. Murray**  
Mayor

**Diane Sugimura**  
Director, DPD

**Shannon Loew**  
Design Commission, Chair

**Ellen Sollod**  
Design Commission, Vice Chair

**Brodie Bain**  
Design Commission

**Lee Copeland**  
Design Commission

**Thaddeus Egging**  
Design Commission

**Jerry Garcia**  
Arts Commission

**Rachel Gleeson**  
Design Commission

**Grant Hromas**  
Design Commission

**Brad Khouri**  
Planning Commission

**Marj Press**  
Planning Commission

**Martin Regge**  
Design Commission

**John Savo**  
Design Commission

**Ross Tilghman**  
Design Commission

**Michael Jenkins**  
Director

**Valerie Kinast**  
Coordinator

**Nicolas Welch**  
Planner

**Joan Nieman**  
Administrative Staff

### Panel Members Present

Shannon Loew, Chair  
Ellen Sollod, Vice Chair  
Lee Copeland  
Thaddeus Egging  
Jerry Garcia  
Rachel Gleeson  
Marj Press  
John Savo  
Ross Tilghman

### Panel Members Excused

Brodie Bain  
Grant Hromas  
Brad Khouri  
Martin Regge

### Project Description

Sound Transit proposes to build an underground light rail station with entrances on Brooklyn Ave NE at NE 43rd St and NE 45th St in the University District neighborhood. Formerly known as Brooklyn Station, the University District Station (UDS) will include both an at-grade station entrance and will accommodate future transit-oriented development above and adjacent to the station. By 2030, the station will serve approximately 12,000 riders daily who will be able to travel to Northgate in five minutes and to downtown in eight minutes.

The subject of this review was the proposed station artwork by Daniel Mihalyo and Annie Han of Lead Pencil Studio. The artists propose incorporating a series of aluminum windows as well as other street aesthetics such as ladders, cornices, and awnings along the east wall of the station box at the platform level. The windows and street aesthetics will extend from the wall through the metalworking technique of repoussé. The artists also propose a video installation within several of the window treatments along the east wall. The video installation will provide a "window into another world" and includes five primary themes – UW-Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition, window reflections, Northwest forest environment, urban windows, people, and interactions.

### Meeting Summary

This briefing was to update the Light Rail Review Panel (LRRP) on the art concept for the UDS prior to the LRRP's review of the design development phase of the station. The LRRP approved the concept and schematic designs of the station in June 2011 and May 2012, respectively. The LRRP did not take an action on the art concept but offered recommendations to the project team to guide its development.

### Recusals and Disclosures

There were no recusals or disclosures

**July 2, 2015**

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

## Phase

Schematic Design

## Previous Reviews

[5/17/12](#), [6/2/11](#)

## Project Team Present

**Debora Ashland**

Sound Transit

**Annie Han**

Lead Pencil Studio

**Kurt Kiefer**

Sound Transit

**Barbara Leuke**

Sound Transit

**Daniel Mihalyo**

Lead Pencil Studio

**John Pettersen**

LMN Architects

## Attendees

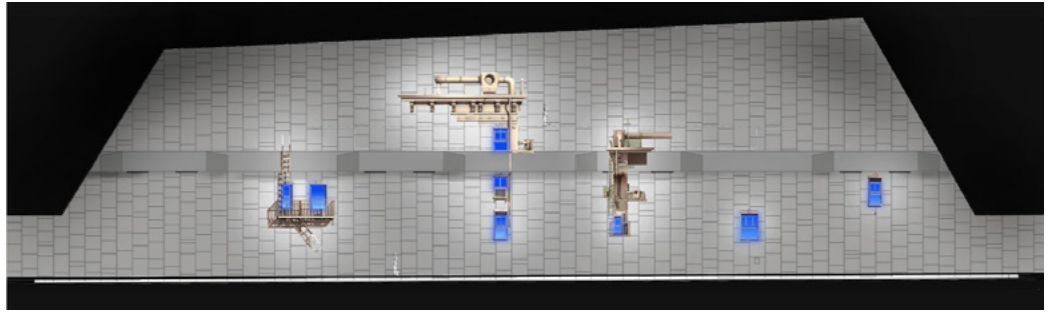
**Ruri Yampolsky**

Office of Arts & Culture

## Summary of Presentation

Barbara Luecke described the purpose of today's meeting and the LRRP's previous reviews of the UDS. Debora Ashland provided context by highlighting the station location and its current design.

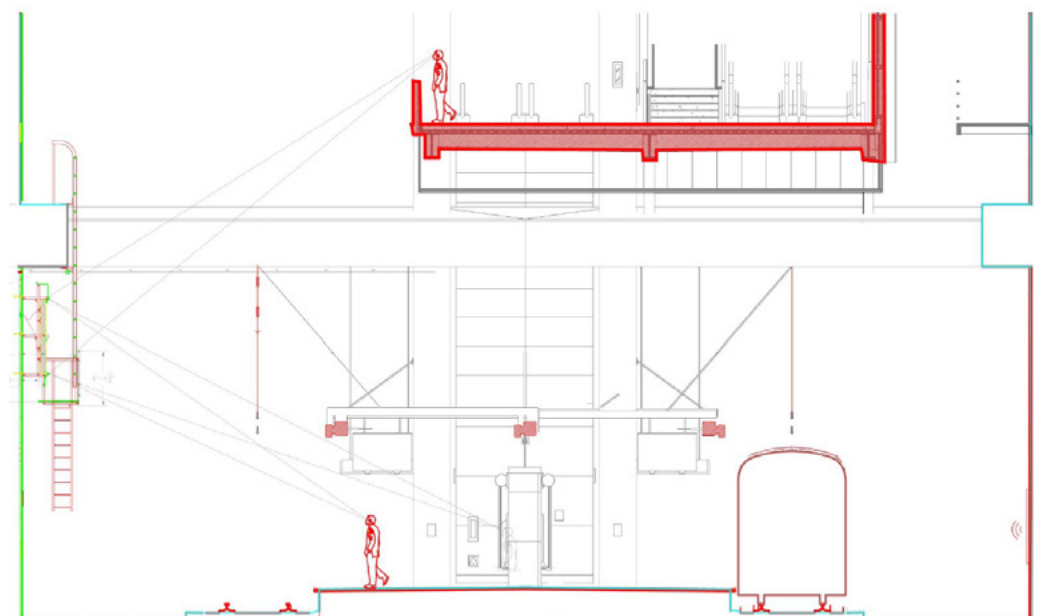
Daniel Mihalyo and Annie Han showed images of their previous work, in particular their work analyzing components that adhere or are affixed to buildings in New York and Rome. The artists described their experience using the French metalworking technique of repoussé in which they cover and hammer objects with malleable aluminum. They also presented historical photographs of the University District and a map of the neighborhood when it was intended to be called "Brooklyn," which serves as inspiration for the artists' work at the station (see *figure 1*).



*Figure 1: Proposed public art program*



*Figure 2: View of proposed art from station platform*



*Figure 3: Art section view study*

The team briefly described the station design and construction so that the LRRP could understand the location and context of the proposed artwork. Lead Pencil Studio's approach is to install windows of varying size and architectural style across the east wall at the platform level. The artists then showed several perspectives of the artwork, as well as an example of the video content the windows would display, which they described as dynamic, ambient, and easy for ST to maintain, see *figures 2 & 3 for more detail*.

### Agency Comments

None

### Public Comments

None

### Summary of Discussion

The LRRP thanked Sound Transit for the briefing on the artwork at the UDS. Overall, the LRRP was supportive of the direction of the art concept. The LRRP offered the following recommendations:

1. To enhance the idea and concept of 'Cityscape', consider how the windows and pieces are arranged. The current arrangement of pieces on the wall should be reconsidered to strike a better balance between clustering and isolating the windows in order to achieve the desired effect.
2. As video content is developed, consider content that includes a sense of mystery, intrigue, and humor.
3. Consider incorporating sound into the video content where appropriate.
4. Strive for video content with a muted or matte quality as opposed to full color, to correspond with the overall themes explored in the Art.
5. The importance of the video content notwithstanding, consider whether to increase the investment in the "cityscape" features (gutters, ladders, cornice, etc.), and reducing the number of windows with video capability, in order to achieve the overall Art concept.
6. Explore archival photographs and video content from the University of Washington, Museum of History and Industry, History Link, and other sources.
7. At the next review, include in the illustrations the standard Sound Transit signage that will be present at the station platform.
8. The waler is part of what makes a building a building. Either subdue it as much as possible or make it a more prominent feature. In the current design, the waler appears to wrestle with the artwork.

### Action

The LRRP did not take an action on the art concept but offered recommendations to the project team to guide its development.