



SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE OF THE DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3020176/3018096/3020177 (Convention Center Expansion)

Address: 1600 9th Avenue/ 920 Olive Way/ 1711 Boren Avenue

Applicant: LMN Architects, for Pine Street Group

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Board Members Present: Anjali Grant (Acting Chair)
Gabe Grant (substitute)
Peter Krech (substitute)
Grace Leong
Alan McWain

Board Members Absent: Murphy McCullough (recused for this project)
Gundula Proksch

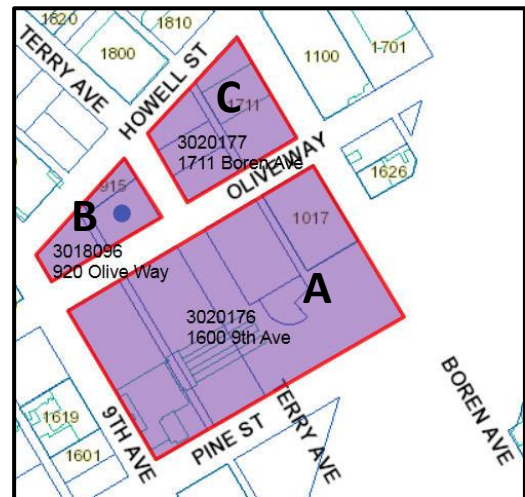
DPD Staff Present: Garry Papers, M.Arch, Senior Land Use Planner
Lisa Rutzick, Design Review Program Manager

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: DMC 340/290-400; Downtown Mixed Commercial, 340 ft non-residential maximum height

Nearby Zones: (North) DMC 340/290-400
(South) DMC 340/290-400
(East) DMC 340/290-400 (NC3P-85 across I-5)
(West) DOC2 500/300-500

Lot Area: 3020176 Site A: 202,509 sq ft.
3018096 Site B: 25,551 sq ft.
3020177 Site C: 50,979 sq ft.



Current Development:

The majority of site A consists of a bus and light rail marshalling yard and station, mostly recessed below adjacent grades, plus a 2 story commercial building at the northeast corner. Site B consists of an alley and 2 one-story commercial buildings and surface parking lots. Site C consists of an alley and one, one story commercial building wrapped by surface parking lots.

Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

The largest site A has the Paramount Theatre at its southwest, and one 14 story apartment tower at its northeast, and the rest of the south and east sides face vacant land and the sunken I-5 freeway corridor. There are existing and proposed towers to the north and west of the larger 3-block project area, including office, hotel and residential projects 14-40 stories tall. The surrounding Denny Triangle neighborhood consists of mixed commercial structures and parking lots, rapidly transitioning to tall, dense mixed use structures, consistent with zoning and planning policies.

The project site is a physical and urban design 'hole' in the dense downtown fabric, and is located between two connector streets (Pine and Olive) which bridge the I-5 trough, which is the edge between downtown density and the mid-rise, mixed use fabric of the Capital Hill and First Hill neighborhoods to the east and south.

Access:

Pedestrian access is from the surrounding sidewalks on the following streets: Pine, Olive and Howell running east-west; 9th Ave, Terry and Boren running north-south. Terry Street and alleys were previously vacated from Site A, so vehicular access to it must be off one of the four surrounding street frontages. The two alleys and Terry segment between Olive and Howell are operational at the moment, but are proposed to be fully vacated concurrent with this project; those vacations are assumed to have occurred for the purposes of this Design Review.

Environmentally Critical Areas:

None

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development on double-block site A is a 5 level, approximately 200 ft tall structure containing about 1.4 million sf of exhibition space, meeting rooms, service and support, with associated parking access and below grade loading docks. The facility is a detached expansion of the Washington State Convention Center. Parking for 600-800 cars is located within the primary structure. A 16 story office tower is proposed on the northeast block C, with retail and a truck holding zone and ramp at the ground level; the spiral ramp serves the underground loading docks for the convention facility. A 30 story residential tower is proposed on the northwest Block B, with ground level retail and a loading/service bay.

FIRST EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE (EDG) May 19, 2015

The Design Proposal booklet includes materials presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the project number at this website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx>

The booklet is also available to view in the file, by contacting the Public Resource Center at DPD:

Mailing Public Resource Center

Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000

P.O. Box 34019

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

INTRODUCTION TO EDG #1:

This EDG meeting intentionally focused on context and urban design analysis, for the public and Downtown Design Review Board (the Board) to provide early input and guidance about important contextual concerns, and how context might influence and inspire the building forms and/or program. At EDG#2, the applicants will provide the typical EDG massing options, respond to EDG#1 guidance, and the Board will identify the Priority Downtown Guidelines at that time.

NOTE: While the drawings and general Board comments refer to the co-development towers that may occur above Sites B and C, those two towers are not submitted for detailed review at this time. If and when they are proposed to move forward, they would receive separate reviews, public notice and MUP numbers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Stated the project appears overly program-driven and not adequately responsive to context yet.
- Supported more pedestrian activating uses on all street level frontages, as they all are heavily used connectors between neighborhoods.
- Concerned that floor slabs and large blank walls appear to occur along many pedestrian eye levels, and the floors should adjust to prevent that.
- Stated the project lacks an overarching goal or idea for such a large and impactful structure.
- Regretted the urban analysis did not include emphasis on the smaller grain of the neighborhoods to the east.
- Emphasized that the sidewalks on Pine and Olive are key connectors and are crowded now, and the project should widen those sidewalks and add amenity to them.
- Reiterated the need for consistent pedestrian activation and practical uses along the sidewalks, since most pedestrians will not be attending actual conventions.

- Impressed by other convention centers designed by the architects (Vancouver, BC in particular) and stressed that Seattle deserves the same or better, particularly in terms of activation, transparency, sustainability and nighttime beauty.
- Emphasized that Pine Street should be lined with continuous retail, and that the ‘pop-up’ retail spaces shown were not viable.
- Requested the project develop how it functions as “a civic building”.
- Requested more public open space(s) and attention to the large roof.
- Stressed how the structure will be visible from streets and public viewpoints to the east, in particular 4 Columns Park.
- Stated the project should exhibit a smaller grain, compatible with the character and pattern of adjacent neighborhoods.
- Submitted the project is large but should not be a singular ‘icon’.
- Stated the terminus of the Terry Green Street should not be a parking or vehicle entrance.
- Opposed to the large truck portal on Boren, across from a residential building.
- Asked for more nature and green elements in the project, such as small parks and tree clusters, as there “are no parks in Denny triangle”.

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the five Design Review Board members (the Board) provided the following siting and design guidance for the Convention Center expansion (CCX):

All page references are to the EDG#1 booklet dated 5/19/2015; Citations in parenthesis are to the Downtown Design Guidelines.

FIRST EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE May 19, 2015

1. Respond to Views & Influences from Adjacent Context:

- a. **Context Analysis:** The Board appreciated the complete context inventory provided (especially the multiple perspectives, pg. 54-65), and applauded many of the applicant stated goals such as: “Engage the downtown urban framework...Create a welcoming street presence...Integrate mixed uses such as retail...Enrich urban diversity...Create a unique (Seattle and PNW) experience”. Tangible follow through on these commendable goals will be the applicant test for future Board meetings. (A1)
- b. **Viewpoints:** The Board noted this large building will be seen from many vantage points, with differing scales and fields-of-view; the Board was particularly concerned with the wide-angle views from neighborhoods to the east and south, where intervening buildings do not (and likely never will) moderate the size and bulk of the proposed structure (pg 60/61). The Board supported the stated ‘collage of S,M,L scales to mitigate an XXL building’. (B1; C2)

- c. **Street Grid:** The Board agreed the project should acknowledge the street grid shift at Howell, and recognize how the building form will be visible at the street end views down 9th & Terry Avenues from the north (pg 62/63). The Board emphasized these two streets are designated Green Streets, connecting the site to SLU and Lake Union with pedestrian, bike and landscaping enhancements. These Green Streets are the only 'public open space' contemplated in the rapidly densifying and open space deficient Denny Triangle district. (A1; B1)
- d. **Connections:** Pedestrian movement along all adjacent streets was a prime focus of Board considerations; special emphasis was on the Pine Street 'hillclimb' and 9th Avenue. Since some joint convention events will link the proposed Convention Center Expansion (CCX) and the existing Convention Center, the segment of 9th between Pike and Pine will be heavily loaded with pedestrian groups, and how those crowds of pedestrians are received at the southwest corner and along the 9th Ave frontage was emphasized. (B3, D1)

The Board suggested that streetscape improvements on 9th between Pine and Pike, and 'intersection repair' at Pike and 9th might become off-site Public Benefits through other city reviews.

NOTE: Since the project involves street vacations, it will receive Design Commission (DC) review of the public realm and benefits; the Board received a memo from DC staff based on the EDG booklet.

- e. **Landmarks:** The Board noted the adjacent Paramount Theatre is a designated city landmark and functions as a key way-finding marker; the project massing should respect and possibly defer to the Paramount (pg 59), opening up light and views to the theatre's rich north facade (see #6 on pg 11 and 63). This guidance might coincide with comments under 2d below. (B2; B3)
- f. **Prominent Corners:** The Board agreed the southwest corner should generously recess to accommodate crowds from Pine and 9th (see 1d), possibly with exterior decks above to optimize views up and down Pine Street (pg 39, and building section shown at meeting). The Board agreed both east corners will be highly visible to many neighborhoods south and east (and to users of the freeway) and they should be 'pedestrian beacons' to help bridge the I-5 gap (pg 60, 64); the Board supported the retail shown at those corners and encouraged they be larger (pg 51/52). The northwest corner will be extra visible because of the grid shift, and should respond to the axial street view down 9th (pg 63). Finally, the northeast corner also deserves attention, as Olive Way is a key pedestrian link to Capitol Hill, regardless of the one-way, eastbound vehicular flows. (B1; B3; C1; C4)

2. Massing & Public Realm:

- a. **Vertical Programming:** The Board appreciated the complex building program and supported the challenge of a new 'vertical convention center prototype'. The Board applauded retention of the existing streets rather than an even larger super block,

but was concerned about the scale compatibility of even the resulting double-block form (347 ft x 565 ft footprint) in a fabric largely made up of quarter block and smaller masses (pg 10). (A1; B2)

Regarding the physical massing model shown, the Board was glad to hear that ‘carving of the CCX volume is possible’, to explore various ways to achieve the correct ‘collage of S,M,L scales’. The Board supported exterior decks to populate the large facades, and internal light-wells for the program, but not if such private assets are at the expense of street level needs for the public realm. This pivotal 3 block, 6.4 acre project will be an exercise in balancing a large internal program and external urban design priorities. (B4)

- b. **Mitigate the I-5 Gap:** The Board agreed the project should knit the adjacent neighborhoods together. The large and fully visible south and east walls will be seen within the fabric beyond of smaller, more vertical downtown buildings (pg 60/61), therefore massing modulation and façade scaling techniques will be especially critical on those elevations. (A1; B2; B4; C2)
- c. **Terry Street & ‘Truck Plaza’:** The stated reason for the full vacation of the segment of Terry between Howell and Olive was to enable sizable and multiple truck maneuvering options there (from block C onto Olive, Howell and possibly Terry northbound). The Board was strongly opposed to creating a compromised streetscape or ‘truck plaza’ on a Green Street, or as a terminus of a Green Street that links downtown to Lake Union. After learning the preliminary size and number of truck movements, the Board was especially concerned about compromising Green Street continuity and safe, direct pedestrian movements between Howell and the proposed CCX building across Olive Way (also see 3e). (A1-Green Street Policies; B1; B3; E3)
- d. **Lobby and 9th Avenue Interface:** The Board agreed that the primary CCX entries and lobby are best facing the southwest sun and along 9th, and they supported the stated intention to make that lobby highly permeable to the street and frequently open to the general public (the controlled zone being deep inside). The Board supported the two corners being described as transparent, tall and welcoming. However, the absence of a sizable setback or public open space along the 9th Avenue Green Street was a concern (pg 51), especially considering crowd surges from the proposed lobby. An open space ‘pearl’ (like Plymouth Pillars and Westlake Parks) on the Pine Street link between Cal Anderson and the Pike Market, would be a valuable open space addition (see 1c, and pg 39/left). (C4; D1;D3)

The Board discussed this important frontage & public realm interface at length: additional ground level space for the Green Street treatment and CCX events to spill out was agreed to have potential; the proposed retail ‘market hall’ –if open typical hours –was supported in order to activate the 300+ ft long façade when no CCX events are happening. Even a tall, transparent wall looking into an often empty lobby with just escalators was agreed to not be genuinely activating; the hours and degree

of public porosity into the lobby and what public attractors are within will be critical. (C1-2)

- e. **Massing Options for EDG #2:** The Board looks forward to three massing options at the next meeting that respond to all major context influences, yet manifest three clear, and distinct design concepts; suggestions for those might be: a) Program-driven/code compliant; b) Subtractive, slices and notches; c) Additive, volumes and voids. A hybrid is certainly plausible, as the primary Block A is alone 4.5 acres in size, and this site has uniquely different east and west view prospects (see 1b). (A2; B4)
- f. **Roof Design:** The Board stressed the very large roof is a “5th Elevation” which will be visible from many adjacent towers and neighborhoods. The 4+ acres provides a major opportunity for a combination of: sizable sustainable strategies; useable open space for users; canvas for an exceptional landscape design; and/or possible public realm in a dense, park deficient district. The Board cautioned that these uses should determine roof structural considerations, rather than the structural cost being used to eliminate a superior design or use. (A2; D1; D2)

3. Perimeter Street Edges & Ground Floors: (B3-3; C1; C3; C4; D1-1; E1)

- a. **Ground Floor Edges:** The Board agreed all street edges in this central location must be done well, with no street sacrificed as a designated ‘back-of-house’. To maximize pedestrian interaction and provide legitimate uses for all Seattleites not only CCX users, all ground level frontages should: minimize the number and length of blank walls; interject regular lengths of retail or porous, activating uses; reasonably step floors with the adjacent sloping sidewalks to permit regularly spaced doors; and integrate any mandatory services, exit doors or other blank elements in a highly artful manner. The Board agreed maximum transparency is good, but pedestrians looking into closed and frequently empty lobby spaces does not equal diverse and consistent activation.
- b. **Pine Street:** The Board agreed this sidewalk is a very heavily traveled link uphill to Capitol Hill, and it likely deserves additional width via a setback, a consistent curbside landscape amenity, and definitely requires more substantial retail activation than the small ‘pop-ups’ indicated on pg 52/left.
- c. **Boren Avenue:** The Board supported the 4 retail corners and stretching that activation along all of Boren, and visually minimizing any vehicle portals along both block fronts of Boren Avenue, particularly the east truck portal into site C.
- d. **Olive Way:** The Board was concerned this important pedestrian street lacked consistent retail activation. Any elevators or blank walls should be staggered with intermittent retail or similar activation. Perimeter services should be pushed inward rather than interior parking/services pushing out to the sidewalk.

- e. **Terry Avenue Green Street Terminus:** The Board was unanimously opposed to a vehicle portal as the terminus of the Terry Green Street (regardless of the outcome of the streetscape issues in 2c above), and instead advised a major pedestrian entry be on axis, and link into the public lobby facing 9th. Any parking portal on this frontage should be shifted east.
- f. **Howell Street:** Like Olive, this street is an important stitch between the CCX and the rapidly infilling district to the north, so it requires interesting uses and facades on all block faces that reinforce pedestrian movements both east-west and north-south.
- g. **Site C, Northeast Block:** The Board agreed the truck movements appear to overwhelm this block and retail should be maximized and fill in the corners and every available part of the perimeter. The Board seeks SDOT technical corroboration that the truck movements are absolutely the smallest necessary, and all curb cuts and portals should be minimized in width and façade presence.
- h. **Sites B & C; Co-development:** The Board supported planning ahead and requested more details to ensure viable cores, lobbies, and loading space will be possible on the two blocks. The potential for public open space at the interesting hinge of the two street grids should be explored on the west ‘point’ of the northeast Block B (see 1c/f).

4. General:

- a) The Board was intrigued by the applicant’s statement that this CCX represented a 5th generation Convention facility, geared toward generation “z”, and requested more development of what that means for the physical form and expression of this project.
- b) The Board agreed the objective must be much more than filling the existing void with a large block of self-serving program; the site is at a crossroads of scales, views and neighborhoods and there is an obligation to also improve connections, enhance the public realm, and add substantial and dynamic uses that serve all pedestrians.

SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE (EDG) July 21, 2015

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Mailing Public Resource Center
Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
 P.O. Box 34019

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

INTRODUCTION TO EDG #2:

This EDG#2 meeting focused on massing options for all 3 blocks, since the two co-development blocks between Olive and Howell are now full parts of the review. The Board also provided guidance on the design development of the primary convention center block, and those EDG#2 comments are listed **in BOLD** under each restated topic from the EDG#1 guidance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Stated the project should include a public, pedestrian pass through of the double block, like the current Convention Center provides, preferably from Pine to Olive/Terry.
- Supported more pedestrian activating uses on all street level frontages, as they all are heavily used connectors between neighborhoods.
- Stated the project should incorporate an LRT station or bus stops that provide direct access for convention visitors and workers in the surrounding district.
- Stated the project turns its back on the Boren Street pedestrian experience; should design as though the I-5 noise and void will not be a permanent condition.
- Regretted the design did not include more emphasis on the smaller grain of the neighborhoods to the east, and that the project has 'no relationship to the east'.
- Stated the proposal lacks a vision merited by its critical location between downtown, Denny Triangle and Capitol Hill.
- Stated the project has minimal street level uses that would foster civic life and engagement; the program 'box' is too dominant.
- Regretted the large, expensive proposal does not do more to be a civic icon on par with others such as the Central Library, Olympic Sculpture Park, or Central Waterfront.
- Stated the proposal should better integrate with the surroundings and do more to heal the scar of the freeway, as the first Convention Center did with Freeway Park.
- Requested the applicants meet directly with PPUNC, 'as promised'.
- Emphasized that the 'micro-retail' on the existing Convention Center is not successful, and the proposal should have more consistent and deep retail on the street levels.
- Stated the Boren and Olive facades look like afterthoughts, and large detailed elevations are needed to confirm pedestrian scale, activation and interest.
- Noted the streetscape designs were not lush, and the highly visible roof had no design.
- Supported the deep modulations and warm tones of the visible ceilings and soffits shown on the 9th avenue perspectives.
- Concerned the highly transparent Pine street façade is too tall and flat, and it is highly visible to the east and south.
- Requested consistent pedestrian activation and unique shops for visitors along the sidewalks, especially Pine which is the prime connector, since 'Pike is so unfriendly'.
- Stated the ground level looks 'abandoned, with only 10% retail', and the Terry terminus was 'mean'.

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the five Design Review Board members (the Board) provided the following siting and design guidance for the Convention Center expansion (CCX):

All page references below are to the EDG#2 booklet dated 7/21/2015; citations in parenthesis are to the Downtown Design Guidelines.

SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE July 21, 2015

5. Respond to Views & Influences from Adjacent Context:

- a. **Context Analysis:** The Board appreciated the complete context inventory provided (especially the multiple perspectives, pg. 54-65), and applauded many of the applicant stated goals such as: “Engage the downtown urban framework...Create a welcoming street presence...Integrate mixed uses such as retail...Enrich urban diversity...Create a unique (Seattle and PNW) experience”. Tangible follow through on these commendable goals will be the applicant test for future Board meetings. (A1)

At the EDG#2, the Board reiterated how centrally located and visible the structure will be, thus the project forms and architectural character should express a memorable and civic identity, yet not appear alien or out of scale.

- b. **Viewpoints:** The Board noted this large building will be seen from many vantage points, with differing scales and fields-of-view; the Board was particularly concerned with the wide-angle views from neighborhoods to the east and south, where intervening buildings do not (and likely never will) moderate the size and bulk of the proposed structure (pg 60/61). The Board supported the stated ‘collage of S,M,L scales to mitigate an XXL building’. (B1; C2)

At the EDG#2, the Board appreciated the multiple and detailed perspective views provided, and recommended additional views for the next meeting, from more distant viewpoints on Capitol Hill and First Hill, along the Boren and Olive facades, and other public viewpoints.

- c. **Street Grid:** The Board agreed the project should acknowledge the street grid shift at Howell, and recognize how the building form will be visible at the street end views down 9th & Terry Avenues from the north (pg 62/63). The Board emphasized these two streets are designated Green Streets, connecting the site to SLU and Lake Union with pedestrian, bike and landscaping enhancements. These Green Streets are the only ‘public open space’ contemplated in the rapidly densifying and open space deficient Denny Triangle district. (A1; B1)

At the EDG#2, the Board supported the strong cantilevered form that punctuates the grid shift as viewed south down 9th Avenue (pg 62,63), and the setback, canted

lower levels on the southeast corner of block B, which open views and pedestrian movement from Terry to the CCX lobby entry (pg 47). The applicants should provide massing studies which set back the entire tower form at that corner to improve those same views to the CCX, and enhance light to the Terry Plaza.

- d. **Connections:** Pedestrian movement along all adjacent streets was a prime focus of Board considerations; special emphasis was on the Pine Street ‘hillclimb’ and 9th Avenue. Since some joint convention events will link the proposed Convention Center Expansion (CCX) and the existing Convention Center, the segment of 9th between Pike and Pine will be heavily loaded with pedestrian groups, and how those crowds of pedestrians are received at the southwest corner and along the 9th Ave frontage was emphasized. (B3, D1)

The Board suggested that streetscape improvements on 9th between Pine and Pike, and ‘intersection repair’ at Pike and 9th might become off-site Public Benefits through other city reviews.

NOTE: Since the project involves street vacations, it will receive Design Commission (DC) review of the public realm and benefits; the Board received a memo from DC staff based on the EDG booklet.

At the EDG#2, the Board reiterated how the project forms, public realm and street edges must be generous and respond to the current (ie Pine Street) and projected increases (developments to north and west) in pedestrian street activity, and movement desire lines, especially through the double block. The sidewalk widths may need to be widened from the currently shown code minimums on Pine, Boren and Olive.

- e. **Landmarks:** The Board noted the adjacent Paramount Theatre is a designated city landmark and functions as a key way-finding marker; the project massing should respect and possibly defer to the Paramount (pg 59), opening up light and views to the theatre’s rich north facade (see #6 on pg 11 and 63). This guidance might coincide with comments under 2d below. (B2; B3)

At the EDG#2, the Board supported the size and location of the southwest entry plaza, and the associated step backs on 9th Avenue (pg 69,79), which provide space and scale transitions to the landmark Paramount, with refinement guidance under 6d below.

- f. **Prominent Corners:** The Board agreed the southwest corner should generously recess to accommodate crowds from Pine and 9th (see 1d), possibly with exterior decks above to optimize views up and down Pine Street (pg 39, and building section shown at meeting). The Board agreed both east corners will be highly visible to many neighborhoods south and east (and to users of the freeway) and they should be ‘pedestrian beacons’ to help bridge the I-5 gap (pg 60, 64); the Board supported the retail shown at those corners and encouraged they be larger (pg 51/52). The

northwest corner will be extra visible because of the grid shift, and should respond to the axial street view down 9th (pg 63). Finally, the northeast corner also deserves attention, as Olive Way is a key pedestrian link to Capitol Hill, regardless of the one-way, eastbound vehicular flows. (B1; B3; C1; C4)

At the EDG#2, the Board agreed both east corner points remain visually weak. Although the southeast 40 ft retail height is supported, the retail porosity of both corners should be enhanced, and there should be more vertical presence relative to the tall mass above. The ground level corner setback shown at 9th and Boren is essential; a similar one is possibly desirable at Boren and Olive.

6. Massing & Public Realm:

- a. **Vertical Programming:** The Board appreciated the complex building program and supported the challenge of a new 'vertical convention center prototype'. The Board applauded retention of the existing streets rather than an even larger super block, but was concerned about the scale compatibility of even the resulting double-block form (347 ft x 565 ft footprint) in a fabric largely made up of quarter block and smaller masses (pg 10). (A1; B2)

Regarding the physical massing model shown, the Board was glad to hear that 'carving of the CCX volume is possible', to explore various ways to achieve the correct 'collage of S,M,L scales'. The Board supported exterior decks to populate the large facades, and internal light-wells for the program, but not if such private assets are at the expense of street level needs for the public realm. This pivotal 3 block, 6.4 acre project will be an exercise in balancing a large internal program and external urban design priorities. (B4)

At the EDG#2, the Board applauded the large scale physical model and its use as a dynamic study tool. The Board supported the preferred CCX concept of the central mass-box with three stepped and legible volumes on the north, south and west sides. The transparency of the west and south layers is critical to lightening the massive form (pg 69) however more information on the materiality of the north volume (along Olive) is needed. The multiple roof decks and balconies shown were supported, and strongly encouraged to be publically accessible when an event is not occurring, or at least certain securable portions at typical (8-8 or 10-10) public hours (dedicated public elevator to balconies shown on Pine, etc).

The Board agreed the Pine Street elevation is a fully and highly visible wall to the community, and appears to be overly flat for a 500 ft long, 200 ft tall wall (pg 88). The balconies and vertical elevators shown are critical to create intermediate scales. Additional modulation elements and 'chiseling' are also recommended especially at the lower levels. The specific materiality of this south-facing glass volume should be explained in detail at the next meeting, in terms of reflectivity, glass patterns/color, energy performance and shading.

- b. **Mitigate the I-5 Gap:** The Board agreed the project should knit the adjacent neighborhoods together. The large and fully visible south and east walls will be seen within the fabric beyond of smaller, more vertical downtown buildings (pg 60/61), therefore massing modulation and façade scaling techniques will be especially critical on those elevations. (A1; B2; B4; C2)

At the EDG#2, the Board agreed the proposed east façade (pg 88) presents an exciting super-window and visible ballroom ceiling to the neighborhood, but the middle and street levels are entirely too blank and lack intermediate scales. This elevation should be treated like any other pedestrian street, and not assume the I-5 culvert is a permanent condition. The Board also recommended the long meeting room balcony have greenery and/or glazing to make it attractive to users and the vicinity.

- c. **Terry Street & ‘Truck Plaza’:** The stated reason for the full vacation of the segment of Terry between Howell and Olive was to enable sizable and multiple truck maneuvering options there (from block C onto Olive, Howell and possibly Terry northbound). The Board was strongly opposed to creating a compromised streetscape or ‘truck plaza’ on a Green Street, or as a terminus of a Green Street that links downtown to Lake Union. After learning the preliminary size and number of truck movements, the Board was especially concerned about compromising Green Street continuity and safe, direct pedestrian movements between Howell and the proposed CCX building across Olive Way (also see 3e). (A1-Green Street Policies; B1; B3; E3)

At the EDG#2, the Board restated concerns about the quantity and timings of truck movements on the Terry plaza, and requested more detailed information on those operations (the 26 of 30 days per month shown on pg 116 was very concerning, but the actual hours and frequency of truck movements is needed). The Board generally endorsed the design approach to pedestrianize and minimize vehicular impacts on the plaza – to design for ‘pedestrians first’. The Board agreed this space is a critical visual and pedestrian link from the Terry Green Street to the CCX facility, and its streetscape and adjacent building walls must be fully composed; the street-level image on pg 47 presented many concerns about large, blank ground level loading doors, and visual terminus. Also see comments under 7e.

Staff NOTE: As a formal street vacation request, this portion of Terry Avenue will receive full future review by SDOT and the Design Commission, and they will have detailed input on the plaza surface and former ROW streetscape design; the Board has purview over the adjacent private building walls and thus are commenting on the activation and materials of the frontages, regardless of the eventual streetscape design.

- d. **Lobby and 9th Avenue Interface:** The Board agreed that the primary CCX entries and lobby are best facing the southwest sun and along 9th, and they supported the stated intention to make that lobby highly permeable to the street and frequently open to

the general public (the controlled zone being deep inside). The Board supported the two corners being described as transparent, tall and welcoming. However, the absence of a sizable setback or public open space along the 9th Avenue Green Street was a concern (pg 51), especially considering crowd surges from the proposed lobby. An open space 'pearl' (like Plymouth Pillars and Westlake Parks) on the Pine Street link between Cal Anderson and the Pike Market, would be a valuable open space addition (see 1c, and pg 39/left). (C4; D1;D3)

The Board discussed this important frontage & public realm interface at length: additional ground level space for the Green Street treatment and CCX events to spill out was agreed to have potential; the proposed retail 'market hall' –if open typical hours –was supported in order to activate the 300+ ft long façade when no CCX events are happening. Even a tall, transparent wall looking into an often empty lobby with just escalators was agreed to not be genuinely activating; the hours and degree of public porosity into the lobby and what public attractors are within will be critical. (C1-2)

At the EDG#2, the Board strongly supported the southwest entry plaza, but recommended the two open sides slope or step with the adjacent sidewalks to maximize pedestrian access and diagonal desire lines. The Board also agreed both building plaza edges needed retail activation besides the retail and adjacent CCX entry doors shown (even if these doors are open during public hours to the 'mixing zone' as stated). Added retail activation at the southeast corner of this plaza will also address the recommendation for more Pine activation (7b).

The Board agreed the two-sided market hall along Pine Street will succeed only if the adjacent public 'mixing zone' has a natural flow-through circulation from Pine to Olive. The steep 14ft tall, narrow stairs shown on Olive and the recessed, hidden doors at the upper landing are not welcoming or easy to use. The Board recommended the Olive stairs be widened and possibly the 'mixing zone' volume project at that street, with the stairs internal. More gradual stepped floors of the mixing zone should be studied, even if impacting ceiling heights below. The narrow stairs to Pine were not essential, thus providing more retail continuity on that street.

- e. **Massing Options for EDG #2:** The Board looks forward to three massing options at the next meeting that respond to all major context influences, yet manifest three clear, and distinct design concepts; suggestions for those might be: a) Program-driven/code compliant; b) Subtractive, slices and notches; c) Additive, volumes and voids. A hybrid is certainly plausible, as the primary Block A is alone 4.5 acres in size, and this site has uniquely different east and west view prospects (see 1b). (A2; B4)

At the EDG#2, the Board supported the applicant-preferred massing scheme for both the CCX structure and the two co-development blocks (pg 92-94), with important refinements to the co-development blocks found under 7g and 7h.

- f. **Roof Design:** The Board stressed the very large roof is a “5th Elevation” which will be visible from many adjacent towers and neighborhoods. The 4+ acres provides a major opportunity for a combination of: sizable sustainable strategies; useable open space for users; canvas for an exceptional landscape design; and/or possible public realm in a dense, park deficient district. The Board cautioned that these uses should determine roof structural considerations, rather than the structural cost being used to eliminate a superior design or use. (A2; D1; D2)

At the EDG#2, the Board restated the need for a creative and multi-purpose design for the large and visible roof (pg 95); a complete landscape design, preferably with some usable space and public access, should be provided at the next meeting.

7. Perimeter Street Edges & Ground Floors: (B3-3; C1; C3; C4; D1-1; E1)

- a. **Ground Floor Edges:** The Board agreed all street edges in this central location must be done well, with no street sacrificed as a designated ‘back-of-house’. To maximize pedestrian interaction and provide legitimate uses for all Seattleites not only CCX users, all ground level frontages should: minimize the number and length of blank walls; interject regular lengths of retail or porous, activating uses; reasonably step floors with the adjacent sloping sidewalks to permit regularly spaced doors; and integrate any mandatory services, exit doors or other blank elements in a highly artful manner. The Board agreed maximum transparency is good, but pedestrians looking into closed and frequently empty lobby spaces does not equal diverse and consistent activation.

At the EDG#2, the Board agreed the street level program and design required the most attention, as the response to clear EDG#1 guidance was not sufficient on almost all frontages. The Board recommended frequent doors and actual porosity where humans move from sidewalks into building spaces, not simply ‘visual porosity’ or transparency. The 9th Avenue frontage design shown (pg 61) has the best potential; the Board supported the storefront modulation and setbacks shown, but recommended more depth for the street facing portions of the split level retail (pg 66 shows 12 ft) to ensure this critical Green Street frontage is successful and lively. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

- b. **Pine Street:** The Board agreed this sidewalk is a very heavily traveled link uphill to Capitol Hill, and it likely deserves additional width via a setback, a consistent curbside landscape amenity, and definitely requires more substantial retail activation than the small ‘pop-ups’ indicated on pg 52/left.

At the EDG#2, the Board strongly reiterated this street frontage is critical to provide consistent retail activation on a busy pedestrian link to Capitol Hill. The retail amount/consistency shown is a very inadequate link, as the context diagram on pg 71 clearly shows. The Board recommended more retail depth (where customers

enter the space) and more linear retail frontage in the middle and west block face, well beyond the approximately 25% shown (pg 71; code requires 75%).

The Pine retail should read more as tall pavilions along the street that provide scale. Setbacks between them, for cafes and select smaller views into the pre-function atrium, which should possibly be narrowed to afford more retail depth, at least at sidewalk levels (see 6d). Daylight into the pre-function atrium can occur above the more contextually-critical retail pavilions, which can be interspersed between any escalators and landings; the pavilion roofs could provide public view decks, internally and to the street. Large scale, detailed elevations and sections of the prefunction atrium are needed at the next meeting.

- c. **Boren Avenue:** The Board supported the 4 retail corners and stretching that activation along all of Boren, and visually minimizing any vehicle portals along both block fronts of Boren Avenue, particularly the east truck portal into site C.

At the EDG#2, the Board strongly agreed the Boren street level is important to pedestrians and the nearly continuous blank walls shown were of major concern (pg 88, 93). The Board recommended shallow 'pop-up' retail here rather than on Pine, or at a minimum, a continuous layer for display windows, artful wall treatments, and narrow landscape planters at the building edge (plus the lush curbside planter). Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

- d. **Olive Way:** The Board was concerned this important pedestrian street lacked consistent retail activation. Any elevators or blank walls should be staggered with intermittent retail or similar activation. Perimeter services should be pushed inward rather than interior parking/services pushing out to the sidewalk.

At the EDG#2, the Board strongly agreed the Olive street level should have more retail frontage, especially near the Terry intersection, and pedestrian activation along the length. The freight elevators might be exposed as pedestrian interest and a visual feature on the elevation, if they are of glass or a similar dynamic treatment. Wall treatments similar as described above for Boren, should be employed on any necessary blank walls. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

- e. **Terry Avenue Green Street Terminus:** The Board was unanimously opposed to a vehicle portal as the terminus of the Terry Green Street (regardless of the outcome of the streetscape issues in 2c above), and instead advised a major pedestrian entry be on axis, and link into the public lobby facing 9th. Any parking portal on this frontage should be shifted east.

At the EDG#2, the Board was disappointed the parking portal did not move, and did not accept the rationale provided; the portal shown continues to be an unsatisfactory terminus for the Terry Green Street (pg 47). The Board restated it should be shifted, or further façade and scale techniques must be developed to

mitigate the portal presence, yet provide a suitably scaled visual terminus. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

The Board supported the two pedestrian crosswalks of Olive at Terry, but agreed the 'receiving uses' of employee and parking entries are not suitable for a Green Street. The Board recommended replacing these with retail, or a prominent and gracious forecourt/entry that leads Green Street pedestrians west to the stairs/escalators at the north end of the 'mixing zone' (see comment 6d); this would truly implement the applicant diagram on page 36, blue arrow.

- f. **Howell Street:** Like Olive, this street is an important stitch between the CCX and the rapidly infilling district to the north, so it requires interesting uses and facades on all block faces that reinforce pedestrian movements both east-west and north-south.

At the EDG#2, the Board agreed the placement and linear amount of active uses along Howell (pg 92, left) appears sufficient, and expects the applicant to pursue further increases in the amount and depth of 'retail orange' graphically shown on both blocks B and C. The Board agreed the screening of the truck ramp portion in the middle of block C must be sophisticated and provide excellent pedestrian interest. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

- g. **Site C, Northeast Block:** The Board agreed the truck movements appear to overwhelm this block and retail should be maximized and fill in the corners and every available part of the perimeter. The Board seeks SDOT technical corroboration that the truck movements are absolutely the smallest necessary, and all curb cuts and portals should be minimized in width and façade presence.

At the EDG#2, the Board restated the above technical checks are still needed. The Board agreed the office massing shown was bulky and squat, and recommended studies that increase the reading of two more slender volumes that slip past each other, east-west. The offset at the top of each volume might be more substantial to improve the legibility, plus the south volume might register to Olive to enhance the grid shift, and thus create a consistent, sunnier podium stepback along Olive. The Board agreed the tower should not lap down to grade on the Howell elevation, and the podium needs a clear expression, possibly taller than 1 story on the north and south sides.

- h. **Sites B & C; Co-development:** The Board supported planning ahead and requested more details to ensure viable cores, lobbies, and loading space will be possible on the two blocks. The potential for public open space at the interesting hinge of the two street grids should be explored on the west 'point' of the northeast Block B (see 1c/f).

At the EDG#2, the Board supported the basic massing of preferred block B, with a tall podium, expressed gasket and the tower proportions. The Board supported the generous set back at grade at the west with the adjacent activating retail, but

agreed the overall form should better respond to the visual axis down Olive onto the 'flat iron' building and site condition. Also see comments under 5c.

8. General:

- a) The Board was intrigued by the applicant's statement that this CCX represented a 5th generation Convention facility, geared toward generation "z", and requested more development of what that means for the physical form and expression of this project.

At the EDG#2, the Board heard the response to what 5th generation means , but still had difficulty seeing how this is tangibly expressed in the proposed building. The proposal does offer high transparency out to the context, but the building does not appear more 'welcoming and open' to the public than a typical facility, nor does the perimeter or land locked mixing zone provide 'engagement between the event and the city' (pg 117, last paragraph). More tangible follow through on these assertions is needed at future meetings.

- b) The Board agreed the objective must be much more than filling the existing void with a large block of self-serving program; the site is at a crossroads of scales, views and neighborhoods and there is an obligation to also improve connections, enhance the public realm, and add substantial and dynamic uses that serve all pedestrians.

At the EDG#2, the Board summarized that while the proposed CCX massing has improved, and has shifts, transparency and the beginnings of scale modulations that respond to context, it needs much more refinement, particularly on the south side. While the 9th Avenue street level and plaza have potential, the ground floor edges on all three other streets require substantially more program space and effort to provide genuine activation, porosity, and pedestrian scale. The Co-development proposals are promising, but also require massing refinements and more detailed design of all pedestrian level facades.

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Board identified the following **Downtown Design Guidelines of highest priority for this specific project**, while all guidelines remain applicable. The Priority Downtown Guidelines are summarized below; for the full text please visit the [Design Review website](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/aboutus/whoweare/designreview/designguidelines/default.htm) and <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/aboutus/whoweare/designreview/designguidelines/default.htm>

SITE PLANNING AND MASSING

A1 Respond to the Physical Environment: Develop an architectural concept and compose the building's massing in response to geographic conditions and patterns of urban form found nearby or beyond the immediate context of the building site.

A1.1. Response to Context: Each building site lies within a larger physical context having various and distinct features and characteristics to which the building design should respond. Develop an architectural concept and arrange the building mass in response to one or more of the following, if present:

- a. a change in street grid alignment that yields a site having nonstandard shape;
- b. a site having dramatic topography or contrasting edge conditions;
- c. patterns of urban form, such as nearby buildings that have employed distinctive and effective massing compositions;
- d. access to direct sunlight—seasonally or at particular times of day;
- e. views from the site of noteworthy structures or natural features, (i.e.: the Space Needle, Smith Tower, port facilities, Puget Sound, Mount Rainier, the Olympic Mountains);
- f. views of the site from other parts of the city or region; and
- g. proximity to a regional transportation corridor (the monorail, light rail, freight rail, major arterial, state highway, ferry routes, bicycle trail, etc.).

A1.2. Response to Planning Efforts: Some areas downtown are transitional environments, where existing development patterns are likely to change. In these areas, respond to the urban form goals of current planning efforts, being cognizant that new development will establish the context to which future development will respond.

ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSION

B1 Respond to the neighborhood context: Develop an architectural concept and compose the major building elements to reinforce desirable urban features existing in the surrounding neighborhood.

B1.1. Adjacent Features and Networks: Each building site lies within an urban neighborhood context having distinct features and characteristics to which the building design should respond. Arrange the building mass in response to one or more of the following, if present:

- a. a surrounding district of distinct and noteworthy character;
- b. an adjacent landmark or noteworthy building;
- c. a major public amenity or institution nearby;
- d. neighboring buildings that have employed distinctive and effective massing compositions;
- e. elements of the pedestrian network nearby, (i.e.: green street, hillclimb, mid-block crossing, through-block passageway); and
- f. direct access to one or more components of the regional transportation system.

B1.2. Land Uses: Also, consider the design implications of the predominant land uses in the area surrounding the site.

B3 Reinforce the Positive Urban Form & Architectural Attributes of the Immediate Area.: Consider the predominant attributes of the immediate neighborhood and reinforce desirable siting patterns, massing arrangements, and streetscape characteristics of nearby development.

B3.1. Building Orientation: In general, orient the building entries and open space toward street intersections and toward street fronts with the highest pedestrian activity. Locate parking and vehicle access away from entries, open space, and street intersections considerations.

B3.2. Features to Complement: Reinforce the desirable patterns of massing and facade composition found in the surrounding area. Pay particular attention to designated landmarks and other noteworthy buildings. Consider complementing the existing:

- a. massing and setbacks,
- b. scale and proportions,
- c. expressed structural bays and modulations,
- d. fenestration patterns and detailing,
- e. exterior finish materials and detailing,
- f. architectural styles, and
- g. roof forms.

B3.3. Pedestrian Amenities at the Ground Level: Consider setting the building back slightly to create space adjacent to the sidewalk conducive to pedestrian-oriented activities such as vending, sitting, or dining. Reinforce the desirable streetscape elements found on adjacent blocks. Consider complementing existing:

- h. public art installations,
- i. street furniture and signage systems,
- j. lighting and landscaping, and
- k. overhead weather protection.

B4 Design a Well-Proportioned & Unified Building: Compose the massing and organize the interior and exterior spaces to create a well-proportioned building that exhibits a coherent architectural concept. Design the architectural elements and finish details to create a unified building, so that all components appear integral to the whole.

B4.1. Massing: When composing the massing, consider how the following can contribute to create a building that exhibits a coherent architectural concept:

- a. setbacks, projections, and open space;
- b. relative sizes and shapes of distinct building volumes; and
- c. roof heights and forms.

B4.2. Coherent Interior/Exterior Design: When organizing the interior and exterior spaces and developing the architectural elements, consider how the following can contribute to create a building that exhibits a coherent architectural concept:

- d. facade modulation and articulation;
- e. windows and fenestration patterns;
- f. corner features;
- g. streetscape and open space fixtures;
- h. building and garage entries; and
- i. building base and top.

B4.3. Architectural Details: When designing the architectural details, consider how the following can contribute to create a building that exhibits a coherent architectural concept:

- j. exterior finish materials;
- k. architectural lighting and signage;

- l. grilles, railings, and downspouts;
- m. window and entry trim and moldings;
- n. shadow patterns; and
- o. exterior lighting.

THE STREETScape

C1 Promote Pedestrian Interaction: Spaces for street level uses should be designed to engage pedestrians with the activities occurring within them. Sidewalk-related spaces should appear safe, welcoming, and open to the general public.

C1.1. Street Level Uses: Provide spaces for street level uses that:

- a. reinforce existing retail concentrations;
- b. vary in size, width, and depth;
- c. enhance main pedestrian links between areas; and
- d. establish new pedestrian activity where appropriate to meet area objectives. Design for uses that are accessible to the general public, open during established shopping hours, generate walk-in pedestrian clientele, and contribute to a high level of pedestrian activity.

C1.2. Retail Orientation: Where appropriate, consider configuring retail space to attract tenants with products or services that will “spill-out” onto the sidewalk (up to six feet where sidewalk is sufficiently wide).

C1.3. Street-Level Articulation for Pedestrian Activity: Consider setting portions of the building back slightly to create spaces conducive to pedestrian-oriented activities such as vending, resting, sitting, or dining. Further articulate the street level facade to provide an engaging pedestrian experience via:

- e. open facades (i.e., arcades and shop fronts);
- f. multiple building entries;
- g. windows that encourage pedestrians to look into the building interior;
- h. merchandising display windows;
- i. street front open space that features art work, street furniture, and landscaping;
- j. exterior finish materials having texture, pattern, lending themselves to high quality detailing.

C2 Design Facades of Many Scales: Design architectural features, fenestration patterns, and material compositions that refer to the scale of human activities contained within. Building facades should be composed of elements scaled to promote pedestrian comfort, safety, and orientation.

C2.1. Modulation of Facades: Consider modulating the building facades and reinforcing this modulation with the composition of:

- a. the fenestration pattern;
- b. exterior finish materials;
- c. other architectural elements;
- d. light fixtures and landscaping elements; and

e. the roofline.

C3 Provide Active — Not Blank — Facades: Buildings should not have large blank walls facing the street, especially near sidewalks.

C3.1. Desirable Facade Elements: Facades which for unavoidable programmatic reasons may have few entries or windows should receive special design treatment to increase pedestrian safety, comfort, and interest. Enliven these facades by providing:

- a. small retail spaces (as small as 50 square feet) for food bars, newstands, and other specialized retail tenants;
- b. visibility into building interiors;
- c. limited lengths of blank walls;
- d. a landscaped or raised bed planted with vegetation that will grow up a vertical trellis or frame installed to obscure or screen the wall's blank surface;
- e. high quality public art in the form of a mosaic, mural, decorative masonry pattern, sculpture, relief, etc., installed over a substantial portion of the blank wall surface;
- f. small setbacks, indentations, or other architectural means of breaking up the wall surface;
- g. different textures, colors, or materials that break up the wall's surface.
- h. special lighting, a canopy, awning, horizontal trellis, or other pedestrian-oriented feature to reduce the expanse of the blank surface and add visual interest;
- i. seating ledges or perches (especially on sunny facades and near bus stops);
- j. merchandising display windows or regularly changing public information display cases.

PUBLIC AMENITIES

D1 Provide Inviting & Usable Open Space: Design public open spaces to promote a visually pleasing, safe, and active environment for workers, residents, and visitors. Views and solar access from the principal area of the open space should be especially emphasized.

D1.1. Pedestrian Enhancements: Where a commercial or mixed-use building is set back from the sidewalk, pedestrian enhancements should be considered in the resulting street frontage. Downtown the primary function of any open space between commercial buildings and the sidewalk is to provide access into the building and opportunities for outdoor activities such as vending, resting, sitting, or dining.

- a. All open space elements should enhance a pedestrian oriented, urban environment that has the appearance of stability, quality, and safety.
- b. Preferable open space locations are to the south and west of tower development, or where the siting of the open space would improve solar access to the sidewalk.
- c. Orient public open space to receive the maximum direct sunlight possible, using trees, overhangs, and umbrellas to provide shade in the warmest months. Design such spaces to take advantage of views and solar access when available from the site.
- d. The design of planters, landscaping, walls, and other street elements should allow visibility into and out of the open space.

D1.2. Open Space Features: Open spaces can feature art work, street furniture, and landscaping that invite customers or enhance the building’s setting. Examples of desirable features to include are:

- a. visual and pedestrian access (including barrier- free access) into the site from the public sidewalk;
- b. walking surfaces of attractive pavers;
- c. pedestrian-scaled site lighting;
- d. retail spaces designed for uses that will comfortably “spill out” and enliven the open space;
- e. areas for vendors in commercial areas;
- f. landscaping that enhances the space and architecture;
- g. pedestrian-scaled signage that identifies uses and shops; and
- h. site furniture, art work, or amenities such as fountains, seating, and kiosks. residential open space

D1.3. Residential Open Space: Residential buildings should be sited to maximize opportunities for creating usable, attractive, well-integrated open space. In addition, the following should be considered:

- i. courtyards that organize architectural elements while providing a common garden;
- j. entry enhancements such as landscaping along a common pathway;
- k. decks, balconies and upper level terraces;
- l. play areas for children;
- m. individual gardens; and
- n. location of outdoor spaces to take advantage of sunlight.

D2 Enhance the Building with Landscaping: Enhance the building and site with generous landscaping— which includes special pavements, trellises, screen walls, planters, and site furniture, as well as living plant material.

D2.1. Landscape Enhancements: Landscape enhancement of the site may include some of the approaches or features listed below:

- a. emphasize entries with special planting in conjunction with decorative paving and/or lighting;
- b. include a special feature such as a courtyard, fountain, or pool;
- c. incorporate a planter guard or low planter wall as part of the architecture;
- d. distinctively landscape open areas created by building modulation;
- e. soften the building by screening blank walls, terracing retaining walls, etc;
- f. increase privacy and security through screening and/or shading;
- g. provide a framework such as a trellis or arbor for plants to grow on;
- h. incorporate upper story planter boxes or roof planters;
- i. provide identity and reinforce a desired feeling of intimacy and quiet;
- j. provide brackets for hanging planters;
- k. consider how the space will be viewed from the upper floors of nearby buildings as well as from the sidewalk; and

l. if on a designated Green Street, coordinate improvements with the local Green Street plan.

D2.2. Consider Nearby Landscaping: Reinforce the desirable pattern of landscaping found on adjacent block faces.

- m. plant street trees that match the existing planting pattern or species;
- n. use similar landscape materials; and
- o. extend a low wall, use paving similar to that found nearby, or employ similar stairway construction methods.

D3 Provide Elements That Define the Place: Provide special elements on the facades, within public open spaces, or on the sidewalk to create a distinct, attractive, and memorable “sense of place” associated with the building.

D3.1. Public Space Features and Amenities: Incorporate one or more of the following a appropriate:

- a. public art;
- b. street furniture, such as seating, newspaper boxes, and information kiosks;
- c. distinctive landscaping, such as specimen trees and water features;
- d. retail kiosks;
- e. public restroom facilities with directional signs in a location easily accessible to all; and
- f. public seating areas in the form of ledges, broad stairs, planters and the like, especially near public open spaces, bus stops, vending areas, on sunny facades, and other places where people are likely to want to pause or wait.

D3.2. Intersection Focus: Enliven intersections by treating the corner of the building or sidewalk with public art and other elements that promote interaction (entry, tree, seating, etc.) and reinforce the distinctive character of the surrounding area.

VEHICULAR ACCESS AND PARKING

E2 Integrate Parking Facilities: Minimize the visual impact of parking by integrating parking facilities with surrounding development. Incorporate architectural treatments or suitable landscaping to provide for the safety and comfort of people using the facility as well as those walking by.

E2.1. Parking Structures: Minimize the visibility of at-grade parking structures or accessory parking garages. The parking portion of a structure should be architecturally compatible with the rest of the building and streetscape. Where appropriate consider incorporating one or more of the following treatments:

- a. Incorporate pedestrian-oriented uses at street level to reduce the visual impact of parking structures. A depth of only 10 feet along the front of the building is sufficient to provide space for newsstands, ticket booths, flower shops, and other viable uses.
- b. Use the site topography to help reduce the visibility of the parking facility.
- c. Set the parking facility back from the sidewalk and install dense landscaping.

- d. Incorporate any of the blank wall treatments listed in Guideline C-3.
- e. Visually integrate the parking structure with building volumes above, below, and adjacent.
- f. Incorporate artwork into the facades.
- g. Provide a frieze, cornice, canopy, overhang, trellis or other device at the top of the parking level.
- h. Use a portion of the top of the parking level as an outdoor deck, patio, or garden with a rail, bench, or other guard device around the perimeter.

E2.2. Parking Structure Entrances: Design vehicular entries to parking structure so that they do not dominate the street frontage of a building. Subordinate the garage entrance to the pedestrian entrance in terms of size, prominence on the street-scape, location, and design emphasis. Consider one or more of the following design strategies:

- i. Enhance the pedestrian entry to reduce the relative importance of the garage entry.
- j. Recess the garage entry portion of the facade or extend portions of the structure over the garage entry to help conceal it.
- k. Emphasize other facade elements to reduce the visual prominence of the garage entry.
- l. Use landscaping or artwork to soften the appearance of the garage entry from the street.
- m. Locate the garage entry where the topography of the site can help conceal it.

E3 Minimize the Presence of Service Areas: Locate service areas for trash dumpsters, loading docks, mechanical equipment, and the like away from the street front where possible. Screen from view those elements which for programmatic reasons cannot be located away from the street front.

E3.1. Methods of Integrating Service Areas: Consider incorporating one or more of the following to help minimize these impacts:

- a. Plan service areas for less visible locations on the site, such as off the alley.
- b. Screen service areas to be less visible.
- c. Use durable screening materials that complement the building.
- d. Incorporate landscaping to make the screen more effective.
- e. Locate the opening to the service area away from the sidewalk.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on any requested departures will be based on the departure's potential to help the project **better meet these design guidelines priorities and achieve a better overall project design** than could be achieved without the departure(s). The Board's recommendation will be reserved until the final Board meeting.

At EDG#2, possible departures were presented in the booklet, but the Board deferred reviewing them until EDG#3, when revisions from the above guidance are incorporated and the departures may be revised and augmented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the EDG#2 meeting, the Board requested the following for the next EDG meeting: Please read the complete comments under each citation to fully understand the context for the request.

5b: Additional Perspective Views: from more distant viewpoints on Capitol Hill and First Hill, close ups along the Boren and Olive facades, and other key public viewpoints.

5c: Block C Massing: provide massing studies which set back the entire tower form at the southeast corner to improve pedestrian views to the CCX, and enhance light to the Terry Plaza.

5c: Terry Avenue Frontages: adjacent building walls must be fully composed; the street-level image on pg 47 presented many concerns about large, blank ground level loading doors.

5f: East Corners: both east corner points remain weak; the retail should be larger and have more vertical presence relative to the tall mass above.

6a: Public Viewing Decks: encouraged more balconies and roof decks to be publically accessible, or at least certain securable portions at typical public times (dedicated public elevator to balconies shown on Pine, etc).

6a: Pine Street Elevation: Additional modulation elements and 'chiseling' are also recommended especially at the lower levels. The specific materiality of this south-facing glass volume should be explained in detail at the next meeting, in terms of reflectivity, glass patterns/color, energy performance and shading.

6b: Boren Elevation: middle and street levels are entirely too blank and lack intermediate scales. This elevation should be treated like any other pedestrian street.

6c: Truck Operations: the quantity, duration and daily timings of truck movements on the Terry plaza, and more detailed information on those operations.

6d: Southwest Plaza: recommended the two open sides slope or step with the adjacent sidewalks to maximize pedestrian access and diagonal desire lines, and add retail activation at the southeast corner of this plaza.

6d: North End of "Mixing Zone": recommended the Olive stairs be widened and possibly the 'mixing zone' volume project at that street, with the stairs internal. More gradual stepped floors of the mixing zone should be studied, even if impacting ceiling heights below.

6f: CCX Roofscape Plan: a complete landscape design, preferably with some usable space and public access, should be provided at the next meeting.

7a: 9th Avenue: recommended more depth for the street facing portions of the split level retail (pg 66 shows 12 ft) to ensure this critical Green Street frontage is successful and lively. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

7b: Pine Street: recommended more retail depth (where customers enter the space) and more linear retail frontage in the middle and west block face, well beyond the approximately 25% shown; the pre-function atrium should possibly be narrowed to afford more retail depth, at least at sidewalk levels. Large scale, detailed elevations and sections of the pre-function atrium are needed at the next meeting.

7c: Boren Avenue: recommended shallow 'pop-up' retail here rather than on Pine, or at a minimum, a continuous layer for display windows, artful wall treatments, and narrow landscape planters at the building edge. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

7d: Olive Way: more retail frontage, especially near the Terry intersection, and pedestrian activation along the length. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

7e: Terry Avenue Terminus: the parking portal should be shifted, or further façade and scale techniques must be developed to mitigate the portal presence, yet provide a suitably scaled visual terminus. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

7e: Olive Way - West End: recommended replacing the employee and parking entries with retail, or a prominent and gracious forecourt/entry that leads Green Street pedestrians west to the stairs/escalators at the north end of the 'mixing zone' (see comment 6d).

7f: Howell Street: screening of the truck ramp portion in the middle of block C must be sophisticated and provide excellent pedestrian interest. Large scale, detailed elevations are needed at the next meeting.

7g: Block C Massing: recommended studies that increase the reading of two more slender volumes that slip past each other, east-west. The offset at the top of each volume might be more substantial to improve the legibility, plus the south volume might register to Olive to enhance the grid shift, and thus create a consistent, sunnier podium stepback along Olive.

8a: 5th Generation, Public Welcoming: More tangible follow through on pg 117-last paragraph goals of public welcoming, openness, and engagement is needed at future meetings.

BOARD DIRECTION

At the conclusion of the Second Early Design Guidance meeting, the Board unanimously recommended the project return for another EDG meeting in response to the guidance provided above. The Board agreed this large, exciting and significant project requires a very complete and careful design evolution, and full consideration of design alternatives and studies to ensure optimum compliance with adopted Design Guidelines.