



City of Seattle

Department of Construction and Inspections
Nathan Torgelson, Director

DESIGN
REVIEW

SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE OF THE WEST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3026942
Address: 700 Dexter Ave N
Applicant: Jon O'Hare for Biomed Realty
Date of Meeting: Wednesday, November 01, 2017
Board Members Present: Christine Harrington (Chair)
Homero Nishiwaki
Patreese Martin
Stephen Porter
Brian Walters
SDCI Staff Present: Beth Hartwick, Senior Land Use Planner

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: SM-SLU 175/85-280

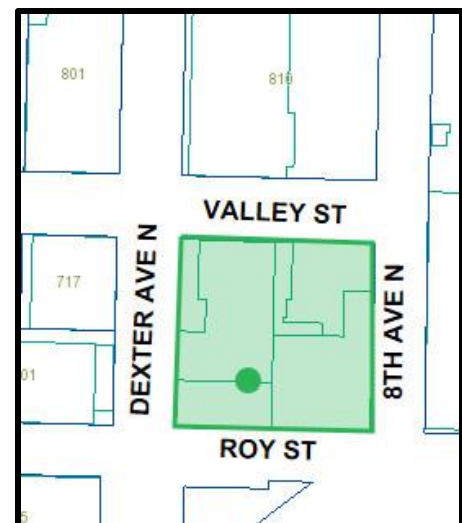
Nearby Zones: (North) SM-SLU 175/85-280 and SM-SLU 100/95
(South) SM-SLU 175/85-280
(East) SM-SLU 100/95
(West) SM-SLU 175/85-280

Lot Area: 59,818 sq. ft.

Current Development: The site is vacant with the slab and below grade remains of a demolished commercial structure.

Access: As the site is a full block it has access from Valley St, 8th Ave N, Roy St and Dexter Ave N.

Environmentally Critical Areas: None



Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

The site is located within the South Lake Union Urban Center neighborhood. The surrounding neighborhood is in rapid transition with new mid and high-rise office and residential developments.

Across 8th Ave N to the east of the site is the Landmarked Puget Sound Power and Light Co. structure built in 1926. Across Roy St to the south is land under SDOT ownership as part of the 99 tunnel/portal improvements. To the west across Dexter Ave N are a 6-story office building constructed in 1984 and a 7-story apartment building constructed in 2012. Across Valley St is a recently completed 7-story apartment building.

Dexter Ave N is a major north/south routes for vehicles, transit, and bicycles. Dexter Ave N as well as other streets in the neighborhood have been transitioning from pedestrian unfriendly streets to streets that encourage activity and use by pedestrians and cyclist. SDOT is currently working on a streetscape plan for 8th Ave N which is a neighborhood Green Street. Aurora Ave N, one block to the west, is a heavily traveled road that is a barrier separating this portion of South Lake Union to the Uptown neighborhood to the west. The recently improved Mercer Street underpass a couple blocks to the south has created a friendlier pedestrian user connection between the two neighborhoods.

The office and commercial uses in South Lake Union are easily accessible by walking. Bus routes run on Aurora Ave N, Dexter Ave N, and Mercer St. Dexter Ave N is a major north/south bike corridor. South Lake Union Park is a few block to the east offering recreational opportunities. Seattle Center is located to the southwest accessible by the Mercer St. underpass.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposal at EDG was for a two-tower, fourteen-story building with 348,580 sq. ft. of office use and 26,253 sq. ft. of ground level commercial space. Parking for 520 vehicles is to be located below grade.

The design packet includes information 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 packet is also available to view in the file, by contacting the Public Resource Center at SDCl:

Mailing Public Resource Center
Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Stated that they do not support the tower separation departure, and that tower spacing should not be a departable standard. When the code was modified, it was envisioned that towers on a block would be located kitty-corner to each other.
- Concerned that the entry to the through block connection off of 8th Ave with the stairs will not be welcoming.
- Supported and encouraged greater setbacks.
- Stated they do not support changes to the podium.
- Supported that the full block design will not have a “back side” and encouraged the fifth roof elevation to be well designed.

SDCI staff also summarized design related comments received in writing prior to the meeting:

- Concerned that the structure is too tall and will dwarf the surrounding buildings.

SDCI summarized the comments received from SDOT:

- SDOT requested that all streetscape dimensions be included in the next packet.
- SDOT encouraged an entire block planting strip with street trees along Dexter Ave N as there is a bicycle lane along the street frontage.
- SDOT requested trees at the entry to the internal through block pedestrian connection to ensure no one crosses Dexter Ave N at midblock.
- SDOT encouraged moving of the entire curb line along 8th Ave N to create a wider sidewalk and on-street parallel parking. A pedestrian street is proposed for 8th Ave N.
- SDOT is supportive of curb bulbs at Valley ST/8th Ave N and 8th Ave N/Roy St to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable citywide and neighborhood design guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the project number: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following siting and design guidance.

1. **Massing:** The Board noted that the presentation focused on the struggles to have a massing that meets the proposed program uses, and why the two-bar massing presented is preferred by the design team. However, the Board expressed concern that there was little difference between the three options presented, that they usually see more

massing options at EDG that show an exploration of massing alternatives, and that the block size is a typical block size for the city and not an unusually shaped or small infill site. They agreed that compared to a solid full block massing, the massing with a through block pedestrian connection is preferred, as it will provide for more generous frontage. The Board determined a 2nd EDG was needed where the design team should either provide two massing options or a single preferred option showing the design thinking/process from a code compliant massing to the preferred massing with the following guidance in mind. (CS2-D-2, DC2-A-1, DC2-I-i)

- a. Provide sketches and diagrams, of the design process from a code compliant option to a preferred option. As part of the process explain how the base, podium and tower relate to each other. (CS2-D-2, DC2-A-1, DC2-B-1)
 - b. The Board supported the podium design as shown in Option 3. (DC2-A-1)
 - c. The Board supported the stepping back of the south tower on Dexter Ave N. in Option 3 and encouraged further setbacks for open space along the street. (PL1-A-2, DC3-B-1)
 - d. The Board questioned if the area of the 5' tower setback at the upper levels, along Roy St in Option 3 would be better located elsewhere on the site. (DC2-A-1)
 - e. Provide a massing that allows better solar access and visibility into the site and consider a narrowing of the tower spacing to achieve this. (PL1-C-1, DC2-A-1)
 - f. The Board appreciated the presented cladding/materials studies and would like additional information on the relationship of materials to the massing and design. (DC2-D, DC4-A-1)
2. **Through-block Pedestrian Connection:** The Board supported the through block connection as it will allow for generous lower level frontage. The following guidance was given:
- a. Consider braking the plaza of the through block connection into two large areas at differing elevations to allow a better relationship to 8th Ave N with fewer stairs. (CS1-C, DC3-B-1, DC3-C-2)
 - b. Provide the same amount of attention to the design of the ground level elevations of the internal site connections as the street facing ground level facades. (PL3-II-ii, PL3-II-iii, DC3-A-1)
 - c. Show how accessibility around and through the site work will work. (PL2-A)
3. **Street Level Design:** The Board supported the porosity into the site and the location of the uses at the street level, and noted the development will be relating to the neighborhood context on all four street frontages. There was discussion about the design along 8th Ave N, with the proposed field house, covered open spaces and a generous stair connecting the sidewalk to the raised plaza of the through block connection. The Board noted that as 8th Ave N is a designated neighborhood Green Street; the street level design should be at a civic scale. (CS2-B-2, PL2-C-3, DC3-B-1, DC3-C-3)
- a. Design 8th Ave N at a civic scale befitting a Green Street. Break down the scale of the stairs off of 8th Ave N with landscaping, and landings that the abutting retail

- pavilions open onto. Provide a better connection to the street. (CS2-B-2, PL1-A-2, PL2-C-3, DC3-B-1, DC3-C-2)
- b. Provide a design that further opens up the plaza along Dexter Ave N. (CS2-B-2, PL1-A-2, DC3-C-2)
 - c. Provide graphics of the ground level experience where the building overhangs open space. Design these spaces with a civic pedestrian scale. (PL2-C-3)
 - d. Provide porosity into the site from Valley St if possible. At a minimum provide visual access into the site from Valley St. (PL3-C-1, DC3-A-1)
 - e. Supported the field house as a nice amenity. Provide further information on the field house use and connection to the street. (DC3-A-1, DC3-B-2, DC1-A-2)
 - f. Show how accessibly around and through the site work will work. (PL2-A)
 - g. Supported the curb cut location on Valley St. (DC1-B-1)

For the Second EDG meeting, provide the following:

- Provide better eye level renderings of the four sides of the development, include the existing neighboring context so the proposal can be better understood.
- Provide enlarged graphics of the proposed street level modulation for all the exterior facades.
- Provide a graphic that shows how accessibly for all users around and through the site will work.
- Provide a roof plan.

SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE November 1, 2017

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Appreciated that the design team presented to the SLU Policy & Planning Committee before the meeting.
- Supported the ground plane activation as imaginative and innovative for the neighborhood.
- Noted that the porosity of the envelope at the SE corner invites the passerby to inquire and engage.
- Stated that the topography of the new mid-block plaza creates an inviting location to engage the community.
- Noted the seating area to the north of the sport court as a place to linger and relax while taking in the views.
- Noted that this has the prospect of becoming a great addition to the pedestrian experience in this NW corner of SLU.
- Concerned about accessibility points for those with limited mobility and would like the design team to identify that access more clearly.
- Stated that with the buildout of Dexter Ave N as an apartment corridor, increased foot traffic from the NW to SE will likely flow through the site into the heart of SLU. Encouraged the future design to place further emphasis on this likely pedestrian route.

- Supported the design of the tower exteriors as they will add tactility and interest in a welcome change from many of the smooth glass buildings that have recently been developed in SLU. Noted that the textural references made to the industrial history of the neighborhood were well received by the committee.
- Acknowledged the good effort being made by BioMed Realty to complete the environmental cleanup necessary for this site. We understand that they are collaborating with the Department of Ecology to develop a final plan for that remediation. As part of that plan they have committed to further community engagement and we welcome that approach.
- Supported the departure from façade modulation, as the inclusion of textural features will create visual interest.
- Deferred to the Design Review Board on the departure for podium height. Noted that podium height is a concern with projects across the neighborhood as it has a direct impact on the street level pedestrian experience.
- Supported the departure for decreased tower spacing and believe that the light entry afforded at the west end of the project, and other incorporated amenities, make up for this decrease in plaza width.
- Supported the curb cut departure to allow service vehicles to access the sport court, as it will facilitate diverse programming for that space and be a benefit to the community.

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PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following siting and design guidance.

1. **Massing and Design:** The Board was supportive of the design teams preferred massing and design concept as presented at the meeting, with its nod to traditional warehouse design, materials, skin articulation, “gasket” floor, and the 12” glazing setback at the towers. The Board agreed that in lieu of meeting code required upper level modulation along Valley and Roy Streets, the design should continue to use articulation, the glazing setback and materials to break down the scale of the massing. They noted that the towers exterior design is too similar to the podium base and gave guidance to provide a different experience at the ground levels, and consider slight differences between the two towers. (CS3-I-I, DC2-B-1, DC2-C-1, DC2-C-3, DC4-A-1)
 - a. Continue to break down the massing with materials, articulation, and modulation at the gasket and the successful “grid within a grid” design. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C-1)
 - b. Maintain a design with the glazing setback a minimum of 12” from the surrounding exterior materials. (DC2-C-1)

- c. Provide contrast between the secondary elements of the podium and the tower. (DC2-C-1)
 - d. Differentiate the design of the two massings at the ground level. (DC2-C-1, DC2-D-2)
 - e. Use the materials as shown in the EDG presentation. (DC4-A-1)
 - f. Consider a design with slight differences of the facades of the north and south towers. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C-3)
2. **Ground Level Design:** The Board expressed appreciation for the design team being responsive to their guidance on the through-block pedestrian connection and street level design, especially along Valley St and 8th Ave N. The Board noted that the pedestrian realm will be important to the success of the project and gave guidance to provide a different experience at grade from the towers above. (CS2-B-2, DC3-C-2)
- a. Use lighting and signage to elevate the design. (DC4-B-2, DC4-C-1)
 - b. Provide a design with a different design experience at grade from the tower design above. (DC2-D-2)
 - c. The Board supported the field house as a neighborhood asset. (PL1-C-3, DC1-A-2, DC3-B-1)
3. **Site Access, Wayfinding, and Accessibility:** The Board appreciated the effort to provide accessibility for all users into and through the sloped, full block site. They gave guidance to design the wayfinding and access to be welcoming and legible, using signage and other elements, instead of relying on discovery. (PL2-A, PL2-D-1, DC4-B-2)
- a. Use design to lead pedestrians into the through block connection. (CS2-B-2, PL2-D-1, DC4-B-1)
 - b. Using signage and other design elements to provide wayfinding into and through the site. (PL2-D-1, DC4-B-2)
 - c. Use the field house to help with wayfinding into the site. (PL2-D-1, DC3-A-1)
 - d. Maintain the breezeway and the ramp with art, from Valley St. (CS2-B-2, PL1-B-1, DC2-D-1)
 - e. Consider keeping public access into the site open at all times. (PL1.I.i)

At the Recommendation meeting, provide the following:

- Provide information on signage, and site and building lighting.
- Present the landscaping and ground plane materials.
- Present the art feature on the Roy St ramp.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on the requested departure(s) 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 the time of the SECOND Early Design Guidance the following departures were requested:

1. **Façade Modulation (SMC23.48.245.D):** The Code requires facade modulation for street-facing portions of a structure located within 15 feet of a street lot line above the podium height. The maximum length of a facade without modulation is 150' for stories above the podium height and 120' for stories above 145 feet. This maximum length shall be measured parallel to each street lot line, and shall apply to any portion of a facade, including projections such as balconies, that is located within 15 feet of street lot lines.

If a portion of a facade that is within 15 feet of the street lot line is the maximum length permitted for an unmodulated facade, the length of the facade may be increased only if additional portions of the facade are set back a minimum of 15 feet from the street lot line for a minimum distance of 40 feet. If the required setback is provided, additional portions of the facade may be located within 15 feet of the street lot line.

The design team proposed shallow articulation on all facades of both towers and a single story with setbacks providing a “gasket” between the podium and both towers, in lieu of the required modulation.

The Board indicated support for this departure if the design follows the guidance given above (see Massing and Design), and provides a minimum 12” setback of the glazing from the outermost façade materials, along with contrast of the secondary elements of the podium and tower facades. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C-1)

2. **Podium Height (SMC23.48.245.B.4.a):** The Code requires height limits for podiums. The height limit extends from the street lot line parallel to the street lot line, from the street lot line to a distance of 120 feet from the street lot line. The podium height is measured from the grade elevation at the street lot line. The required podium height along and from Dexter Ave N is 65' and the required podium height along and off of 8th Ave N is 45'.

The design team proposed an increase of the 8th Ave N podium height to 75' to allow for a bridge connecting the two towers to be located on the 4th floor instead of the 3rd floor to allow better open space on the plaza below by having the bridge massing higher.

The Board indicated preliminary support for this departure.

3. **Tower Spacing (SMC23.48.245.F.5.b):** To allow two towers on a site all applicable sections of 23.48.245.5 a-h need to be met. Section b requires that a minimum separation of 60 feet is provided between all portions of structures on the lot that exceed the mapped podium height.

The design team proposed a spacing of 52' between the north and south towers at the outermost planes of the facades.

The Board indicated support this departure, dependent on maintaining the setbacks at Dexter Ave N.

4. **Curb Cut Width and Quantity (SMC23.48.085.E.1):** The Code states permitted access shall be limited to one two-way curb cut.

The applicant proposed a two way 24' curb cut on Valley St and a second 12' two way curb cut to allow infrequent access the field house, from 8th Ave N.

The Board indicated support for this departure. {Staff note: SDOT is fine with this limited use curb cut being located here.}

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The priority Citywide and Neighborhood guidelines identified as Priority Guidelines are summarized below, while all guidelines remain applicable. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

CONTEXT & SITE

CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.

CS1-B Sunlight and Natural Ventilation

CS1-B-1. Sun and Wind: Take advantage of solar exposure and natural ventilation. Use local wind patterns and solar gain to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation and heating where possible.

CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading: Maximize daylight for interior and exterior spaces and minimize shading on adjacent sites through the placement and/or design of structures on site.

CS1-B-3. Managing Solar Gain: Manage direct sunlight falling on south and west facing facades through shading devices and existing or newly planted trees.

CS1-C Topography

CS1-C-1. Land Form: Use natural topography and desirable landforms to inform project design.

CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes: Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

CS1-I Responding To Site Characteristics

CS1-I-i. Sustainable Design: New development is encouraged to take advantage of site configuration to accomplish sustainability goals. The Board is generally willing to recommend departures from development standards if they are needed to achieve sustainable design. Refer to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) manual which provides additional information. Examples include:

1. Solar Orientation.

CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.

CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood

CS2-A-1. Sense of Place: Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place. Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence: Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces

CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics: Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street: Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

CS2-B-3. Character of Open Space: Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

CS2-C Relationship to the Block

CS2-C-3. Full Block Sites: Break up long facades of full-block buildings to avoid a monolithic presence. Provide detail and human scale at street-level, and include repeating elements to add variety and rhythm to the façade and overall building design.

CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale

CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning: Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features: Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

CS2-D-3. Zone Transitions: For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

CS2-D-4. Massing Choices: Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites: Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

CS2-I Responding to Site Characteristics

CS2-I-i. Views: Encourage provision of “outlooks and overlooks” for the public to view the lake and cityscapes. Examples include provision of public plazas and/or other public open spaces and changing the form or facade setbacks of the building to enhance opportunities for views.

CS2-II Height, Bulk, and Scale Compatibility

CS2-II-i. Corridor Experience: Address both the pedestrian and auto experience through building placement, scale and details with specific attention to regional transportation corridors such as Mercer, Aurora, Fairview and Westlake. These locations, pending changes in traffic patterns, may evolve with transportation improvements.

CS2-II-ii. Upper-level Setbacks: Encourage stepping back an elevation at upper levels for development taller than 55 feet to take advantage of views and increase sunlight at street level. Where stepping back upper floors is not practical or appropriate other design considerations may be considered, such as modulations or separations between structures.

CS2-II-iii. Width Ratios: Relate proportions of buildings to the width and scale of the street.

CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood.

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-2. Contemporary Design: Explore how contemporary designs can contribute to the development of attractive new forms and architectural styles; as expressed through use of new materials or other means.

CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods: In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

CS3-B Local History and Culture

CS3-B-1. Placemaking: Explore the history of the site and neighborhood as a potential placemaking opportunity. Look for historical and cultural significance, using neighborhood groups and archives as resources.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

CS3-I Height, Bulk, and Scale Compatibility

CS3-I-i. Facade Articulation: Articulate the building facades vertically or horizontally in intervals that relate to the existing structures or existing pattern of development in the vicinity.

CS3-I-ii. Reduce Visual Bulk: Consider using architectural features to reduce building scale such as:

- a. landscaping;
- b. trellis;
- c. complementary materials;
- d. detailing;
- e. accent trim.

CS3-II Architectural Context

CS3-II-i. Mix of Building Style: Support the existing fine-grained character of the neighborhood with a mix of building styles.

CS3-II-iv. Historic Aesthetic: Respond to the history and character in the adjacent vicinity in terms of patterns, style, and scale. Encourage historic character to be revealed and reclaimed, for example through use of community artifacts, and historic materials, forms and textures.

CS3-II-v. Industrial Character: Respond to the working class, maritime, commercial and industrial character of the Waterfront and Westlake areas. Examples of elements to consider include:

- a. window detail patterns;
- b. open bay doors;
- c. sloped roofs.

PUBLIC LIFE

PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.

PL1-A Network of Open Spaces

PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life: Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

PL1-B Walkways and Connections

PL1-B-1. Pedestrian Infrastructure: Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.

PL1-B-2. Pedestrian Volumes: Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.

PL1-B-3. Pedestrian Amenities: Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered.

PL1-C Outdoor Uses and Activities

PL1-C-1. Selecting Activity Areas: Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.

PL1-C-2. Informal Community Uses: In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer’s markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.

PL1-C-3. Year-Round Activity: Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

PL1-I Human Activity

PL1-I-i. Open Connections: Keep neighborhood connections open, and discourage closed campuses.

PL1-I-ii. Pedestrian Network: Reinforce pedestrian connections both within the neighborhood and to other adjacent neighborhoods. Transportation infrastructure should be designed with adjacent sidewalks, as development occurs to enhance pedestrian connectivity.

PL1-I-iii. Lighting: Design for a network of safe and well-lit connections to encourage human activity and link existing high activity areas.

PL1-II Landscaping To Reinforce Design Continuity With Adjacent Sites

PL1-III Pedestrian Open Spaces and Entrances

PL1-III-i. Public Realm Amenity: New developments are encouraged to work with the Design Review Board and interested citizens to provide features that enhance the public realm, i.e. the transition zone between private property and the public right of way. The Board is generally willing to consider a departure in open space requirements if the project proponent provides an acceptable plan for features such as:

- a. curb bulbs adjacent to active retail spaces where they are not interfering with primary corridors that are designated for high levels of traffic flow;
- b. pedestrian-oriented street lighting;
- c. street furniture.

PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.

PL2-A Accessibility

PL2-A-1. Access for All: Provide access for people of all abilities in a manner that is fully integrated into the project design. Design entries and other primary access points such that all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through the front door.

PL2-A-2. Access Challenges: Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other challenges.

PL2-B Safety and Security

PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street: Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.

PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety: Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

PL2-B-3. Street-Level Transparency: Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

PL2-C Weather Protection

PL2-C-1. Locations and Coverage: Overhead weather protection is encouraged and should be located at or near uses that generate pedestrian activity such as entries, retail uses, and transit stops.

PL2-C-2. Design Integration: Integrate weather protection, gutters and downspouts into the design of the structure as a whole, and ensure that it also relates well to neighboring buildings in design, coverage, or other features.

PL2-C-3. People-Friendly Spaces: Create an artful and people-friendly space beneath building.

PL2-D Wayfinding

PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding: Use design features as a means of wayfinding wherever possible.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

PL2-I Streetscape Compatibility

PL2-I-i. Street Level Uses: Encourage provision of spaces for street level uses that vary in size, width, and depth. Encourage the use of awnings and weather protection along street fronts to enhance the pedestrian environment.

PL1-I-ii. Streetscape Amenities: Provide pedestrian-friendly streetscape amenities

- a. tree grates;
- b. benches;
- c. lighting.

PL1-I-iii. Sidewalk Retail: Where appropriate, configure retail space so that it can spill-out onto the sidewalk (retaining six feet for pedestrian movement, where the sidewalk is sufficiently wide).

PL2-II Personal Safety and Security

PL2-II-i. All-Day Activity: Enhance public safety throughout the neighborhood to foster 18- hour public activity. Methods to consider are:

- a. enhanced pedestrian and street lighting;
- b. well-designed public spaces that are defensively designed with clear sight lines and opportunities for eyes on the street.

PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.

PL3-A Entries

PL3-A-1. Design Objectives: Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements: Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

PL3-C Retail Edges

PL3-C-1. Porous Edge: Engage passersby with opportunities to interact visually with the building interior using glazing and transparency. Create multiple entries where possible and make a physical and visual connection between people on the sidewalk and retail activities in the building.

PL3-C-2. Visibility: Maximize visibility into the building interior and merchandise displays. Consider fully operational glazed wall-sized doors that can be completely opened to the street, increased height in lobbies, and/or special lighting for displays.

PL3-C-3. Ancillary Activities: Allow space for activities such as sidewalk vending, seating, and restaurant dining to occur. Consider setting structures back from the street or incorporating space in the project design into which retail uses can extend.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

PL3-I Streetscape Compatibility

PL3-I-i. Retail Location: Where appropriate, consider a reduction in the required amount of commercial and retail space at the ground level, such as in transition zones between commercial and residential areas. Place retail in areas that are conducive to the use and will be successful.

PL3-II Human Activity

PL3-II-i. Public/Private Transition: Create graceful transitions at the streetscape level between the public and private uses.

PL3-II-ii. Active Facades: Design facades to encourage activity to spill out from business onto the sidewalk, and vice-versa.

PL3-II-iii. Coordinate Retail/Pedestrian Activity: Reinforce retail concentrations with compatible spaces that encourage pedestrian activity.

PL3-II-iv. Activity Clusters: Create businesses and community activity clusters through colocation of retail and pedestrian uses as well as other high pedestrian traffic opportunities.

PL4 Active Transportation: Incorporate design features that facilitate active forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and use of transit.

PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships

PL4-A-1. Serving all Modes of Travel: Provide safe and convenient access points for all modes of travel.

PL4-A-2. Connections to All Modes: Site the primary entry in a location that logically relates to building uses and clearly connects all major points of access.

PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists

PL4-B-1. Early Planning: Consider existing and future bicycle traffic to and through the site early in the process so that access and connections are integrated into the project along with other modes of travel.

PL4-B-2. Bike Facilities: Facilities such as bike racks and storage, bike share stations, shower facilities and lockers for bicyclists should be located to maximize convenience, security, and safety.

PL4-B-3. Bike Connections: Facilitate connections to bicycle trails and infrastructure around and beyond the project.

PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit

PL4-C-1. Influence on Project Design: Identify how a transit stop (planned or built) adjacent to or near the site may influence project design, provide opportunities for placemaking.

PL4-C-2. On-site Transit Stops: If a transit stop is located onsite, design project-related pedestrian improvements and amenities so that they complement any amenities provided for transit riders.

PL4-C-3. Transit Connections: Where no transit stops are on or adjacent to the site, identify where the nearest transit stops and pedestrian routes are and include design features and connections within the project design as appropriate.

DESIGN CONCEPT

DC1 Project Uses and Activities: Optimize the arrangement of uses and activities on site.

DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses

DC1-A-1. Visibility: Locate uses and services frequently used by the public in visible or prominent areas, such as at entries or along the street front.

DC1-A-2. Gathering Places: Maximize the use of any interior or exterior gathering spaces.

DC1-A-3. Flexibility: Build in flexibility so the building can adapt over time to evolving needs, such as the ability to change residential space to commercial space as needed.

DC1-A-4. Views and Connections: Locate interior uses and activities to take advantage of views and physical connections to exterior spaces and uses.

DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation

DC1-B-1. Access Location and Design: Choose locations for vehicular access, service uses, and delivery areas that minimize conflict between vehicles and non-motorists wherever possible. Emphasize use of the sidewalk for pedestrians, and create safe and attractive conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

DC1-B-2. Facilities for Alternative Transportation: Locate facilities for alternative transportation in prominent locations that are convenient and readily accessible to expected users.

DC1-C Parking and Service Uses

DC1-C-1. Below-Grade Parking: Locate parking below grade wherever possible. Where a surface parking lot is the only alternative, locate the parking in rear or side yards, or on lower or less visible portions of the site.

DC1-C-2. Visual Impacts: Reduce the visual impacts of parking lots, parking structures, entrances, and related signs and equipment as much as possible.

DC1-C-3. Multiple Uses: Design parking areas to serve multiple uses such as children’s play space, outdoor gathering areas, sports courts, woonerf, or common space in multifamily projects.

DC1-C-4. Service Uses: Locate and design service entries, loading docks, and trash receptacles away from pedestrian areas or to a less visible portion of the site to reduce possible impacts of these facilities on building aesthetics and pedestrian circulation.

DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.

DC2-A Massing

DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses: Arrange the mass of the building taking into consideration the characteristics of the site and the proposed uses of the building and its open space.

DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass: Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

DC2-B Architectural and Facade Composition

DC2-B-1. Façade Composition: Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs— considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

DC2-B-2. Blank Walls: Avoid large blank walls along visible façades wherever possible. Where expanses of blank walls, retaining walls, or garage facades are unavoidable, include uses or design treatments at the street level that have human scale and are designed for pedestrians.

DC2-C Secondary Architectural Features

DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest: Add depth to facades where appropriate by incorporating balconies, canopies, awnings, decks, or other secondary elements into the façade design. Add detailing at the street level in order to create interest for the pedestrian and encourage active street life and window shopping (in retail areas).

DC2-C-2. Dual Purpose Elements: Consider architectural features that can be dual purpose— adding depth, texture, and scale as well as serving other project functions.

DC2-C-3. Fit With Neighboring Buildings: Use design elements to achieve a successful fit between a building and its neighbors.

DC2-D Scale and Texture

DC2-D-1. Human Scale: Incorporate architectural features, elements, and details that are of human scale into the building facades, entries, retaining walls, courtyards, and exterior spaces in a manner that is consistent with the overall architectural concept

DC2-D-2. Texture: Design the character of the building, as expressed in the form, scale, and materials, to strive for a fine-grained scale, or “texture,” particularly at the street level and other areas where pedestrians predominate.

DC2-E Form and Function

DC2-E-1. Legibility and Flexibility: Strive for a balance between building use legibility and flexibility. Design buildings such that their primary functions and uses can be readily determined from the exterior, making the building easy to access and understand. At the same time, design flexibility into the building so that it may remain useful over time even as specific programmatic needs evolve.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

DC2-I Architectural Concept and Consistency

DC2-I-i. Roofscape Design: Design the “fifth elevation” — the roofscape — in addition to the streetscape. As this area topographically is a valley, the roofs may be viewed from locations outside the neighborhood such as the freeway and Space Needle. Therefore, views from outside the area as well as from within the neighborhood should be considered, and roof-top elements should be organized to minimize view impacts from the freeway and elevated areas.

DC3 Open Space Concept: Integrate open space design with the building design so that they complement each other.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

DC3-A Building-Open Space Relationship

DC3-A-1. Interior/Exterior Fit: Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.

DC3-B Open Space Uses and Activities

DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs: Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.

DC3-B-2. Matching Uses to Conditions: Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities.

DC3-B-3. Connections to Other Open Space: Site and design project-related open spaces to connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate.

DC3-C Design

DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space: Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting,

buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

DC3-C-2. Amenities/Features: Create attractive outdoor spaces suited to the uses envisioned for the project.

South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:

DC3-I Landscaping To Reinforce Design Continuity With Adjacent Sites

DC3-I-i. Sustainable Landscaping: Encourage landscaping that meets LEED criteria. This is a priority in the Cascade neighborhood.

DC3-I-ii. Native Vegetation: Where appropriate, install indigenous trees and plants to improve aesthetics, capture **water and create habitat**.

DC3-I-iv. Water Features: Water features are encouraged including natural marsh-like installations.

DC3-I-v. Lighting: Reference the City of Seattle Right Tree Book and the City Light Streetscape Light Standards Manual for appropriate landscaping and lighting options for the area.

DC3-II Landscaping To Enhance The Building and/or Site

DC3-II-i. Integrated Artwork: Consider integrating artwork into publicly accessible areas of a building and landscape that evokes a sense of place related to the previous uses of the area. Neighborhood themes may include service industries such as laundries, auto row, floral businesses, photography district, arts district, maritime, etc.

DC3-III Landscape Design To Address Special Site Conditions

DC3-III-i. View Orientation: Landscaping should be designed to take advantage of views to waterfront and downtown Seattle.

DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.

DC4-A Exterior Elements and Finishes

DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials: Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness: Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle’s climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

DC4-B Signage

DC4-B-1. Scale and Character: Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design: Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design, lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

DC4-C Lighting

DC4-C-1. Functions: Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare: Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

DC4-D Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials

DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials: Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials: Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning: Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

DC4-D-4. Place Making: Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

BOARD DIRECTION

At the conclusion of the SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE meeting, the Board recommended moving forward to MUP application.