



FINAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING OF THE DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Record Number: 3028747-LU

Address: 601 4th Ave

Applicant: James Cheng of James K.M. Cheng Architects

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Board Members Present: Aaron Argyle
Belinda Bail (Chair)
Han Ban
Aaron Luoma
Matt Olszewski
Ed Palushock

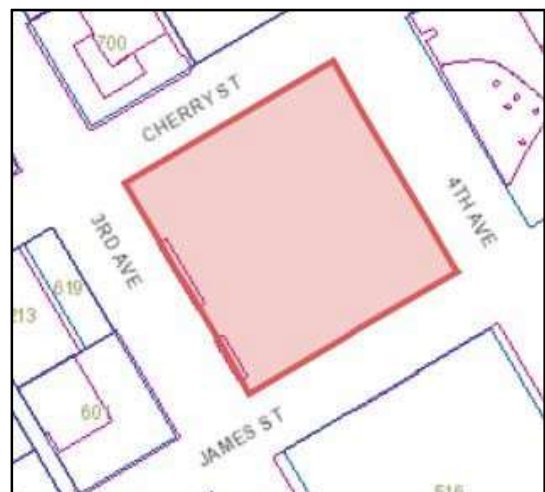
SDCI Staff Present: Beth Hartwick

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Downtown Mixed Commercial
(DMC- 340/290-400)

Nearby Zones: (North) DOC 1 U/450-U
(South) DMC- 340/290-400
(East) DOC 1 U/450-U
(West) DMC- 340/290-400

Lot Area: 57,348 sf



Current Development:

Formerly the location of the City of Seattle’s Public Safety Building, the site is currently vacant and is surrounded by a protective barrier.

Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

The project site sits amongst a collection of civic buildings. As part of the “Civic Center,” this area is bordered by the historic Pioneer Square district to the southwest and the Financial District to the north. Directly across Fourth Avenue lies City Hall and beyond it stands the Seattle Justice Center. Across James St to the south is the King County Courthouse, and further uphill lies the King County Administration Building and the King County Correctional Building. Other significant buildings in the vicinity include the Columbia Tower, the Arctic Building, the Dexter Horton Building and the Lyon Building. Both the Arctic Building and the Lyon Building are City of Seattle Historic Landmarks and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The surrounding area is well served by light rail transit and bus. Bound by the rights-of-way of Cherry Street, James Street, Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue, the site contains an existing easement for access to the underground transit access as well as a surface bus stop. Third Avenue is classified as principal transit street and Fourth Avenue as a principal arterial street. Cherry and James Streets are classified as Class II pedestrian and principal arterial streets and lie within a designated view corridor. James St. carries traffic both east and west bound while Cherry St. is one way east bound. Third Avenue runs both north and south bound; Fourth Avenue travels one-way north bound. The prior onsite alley has been vacated for over a century.

Nearby open space includes Prefontaine Place Park, Pioneer Square and Occidental Square. Across 3rd to west, the City Hall stepped plazas, cascading gardens and an integrated stair and water feature forms a symbolic connection from the Justice Center. The water feature is planned to continue down through the project site.

In 1999 the Mayor and City Council published the Civic Center Master Plan in response to planning a municipal campus that could invite participation in the public realm, express our civic identity, and be an attractive and lively gathering place for the people of Seattle. The previous design for this site (MUP 3007149, approved in 2007) had included a public park, which was reviewed separately by the Design Commission. However, for this proposal, the plaza will be privately owned with an easement for public use. It should be also noted that the uses envisioned for the project site in the 1999 Master Plan were described as public, institutional or private office activities rather than the residential uses currently proposed.

Access:

Proposed access varies slightly in the different massing options and is tested from both Cherry St and James St.

Environmentally Critical Areas:

There are no mapped Environmental Critical Areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Referred to as Civic Square, the proposal is for a 57-story residential building containing 423 apartment units, 28,305 square feet of retail, and below-grade parking for 526 vehicles. The site design also includes a 25,000 sq. ft. plaza.

The design packet includes information presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the record 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 SDCI:

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

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

FIRST EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE November 7, 2017

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Lack of support for the vehicular access and turn around shown in the Massing Option 2 and 3.
- Noted that the Civic Center Master Plan celebrated the hillside with a strong connection to the City Hall open space and water feature.
- Supported the preferred Massing Option 3 as it achieves most of the qualities in the Civic Center Master Plan. While the massing is not as open as originally proposed, the lifted portion of the building along James provides views through and celebrates accessibility.
- Supported the intent to respect the existing historic buildings with the location of open space.
- Observed that the original masterplan had planned for street walls and the Massing Option 2 and 3 creates a suburban expression, which has been discredited over the years.
- Would like to see the street edges reinforced in the project.
- Noted that sidewalks will still be the main pedestrian routes.
- Concerned with the street edge and the form of the tower.
- Concerned with activation and ground level uses. Noted that the City Hall red façade is not successful in creating activation.
- Would like to see parking account for electric cars.

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

- Supported the ambition, scale and scope of the project. As existing development is fairly uniform in height, the development of this project and other proposed development will significantly improve the skyline.
- Encouraged by the proposed interaction with the street as it creates a much more walkable and usable environment.
- Concerned that the tower divides the public space away from City Hall. In a city with few “large” parks and civic open spaces, this site presents an opportunity to share and enhance the existing open space at City Hall to the East.
- Concerned that the City Hall’s views will be blocked; the project does not prioritize people’s relationship of viewing City Hall’s beautiful frontage.
- Would like to see a connection between City Hall and Civic Square.
- Preference for Option 1.
- Would like to see an all-weather transit hub and an opportunity for much smaller retailers to set up shop.

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.

The Board commended the thoughtful presentation and site analysis presented at the meeting, however, the Board had several unresolved concerns related to street edges, circulation and distribution of open space and massing placement. The Board recommended the project return for another EDG meeting in response to the guidance provided.

- 1. Pedestrian and Vehicular Flow:** As the 25,000 sf plaza is nearly half the site, the Board recognized the importance of establishing pedestrian and vehicular flow through the site and began their deliberation by focusing on the proposed circulation.
 - a. While the Board generally supported the intent to pull the driveway in to increase visibility and safely create space for vehicular cueing, the Board agreed the amount of space dedicated to vehicular access with the drive court greatly diminished the quality of open space. Echoing public comment, the Board unanimously supported more direct vehicular access and agreed vehicular and pedestrian access should not be combined into a drive court as it is not consistent with Downtown Design

Guidelines. The Board also referenced the Seattle Public Library and 701 Fourth Ave (project #3020955) as projects which incorporate direct access successfully without dominating the street wall. (E1, E2)

- b. The Board discouraged sunken zones adjacent to the sidewalk as they are problematic for the urban environment. The Board viewed this area as an opportunity for ground level space rather than space dedicated to vehicular access (B3, E1, E2, D6)
 - c. Related to pedestrian flow, the Board agreed circulation should prioritize spaces for pause. The Board noted that two of the projects shown as open space precedents are axial, have a clear origin and destination and strong street edges to define the open space and pedestrian circulation. The Board preferred this design to curvilinear spaces, which tend to conceal edges. (A1, D1, D3)
 - d. The Board strongly supported the integrated loading design shown in Massing Option 3, which cleverly concealed the loading functions into a setback facade. (E3)
- 2. Location of the Mass on the Site:** The Board supported the general intent to locate open space in response to the nearby historic buildings and to maximize solar access, however the Board also stressed the importance relating to City Hall to the east.
- a. The Board preferred to see a connection made between the open space provided on site with the City Hall open space and recommended responding with the same level of deference to the City Hall spaces as shown for the nearby historic buildings. (A1, B2, B3)
 - b. The Board agreed the design should maintain a visual connection for the public, through the site from Fourth Avenue to Third Avenue, and that the Massing Options 2 and 3 should be modified to allow these views. (A1, B2, B3)
 - c. The Board acknowledged public comment which recognized Fourth avenue as a location where public speech marches and events occur and agreed the location of massing should create more of a dialogue to knit together the functions of civic space and a public space. The Board also acknowledged the everyday perspective and the importance of balancing pedestrian fluidity through the space with the sidewalk circulation. (A1, B3)
- 3. Street Edges:** The Board recognized that Massing Options 2 and 3 required departures related to the street wall height and setback and agreed the design should have additional presence on the street. The Board acknowledged Cherry St as the heavily used pedestrian route and recommended further exploration for a street wall edge along this frontage. Related to Massing Option 3 the Board supported the proposed kiosk and agreed the structure could be further developed to hold the corner. The Board also encouraged pavilion sized spaces at a height similar to transit entrance stations to potentially remove the need or scope of a departure(s). (B1, C1, C3, D3)
- 4. Open Space Concept:** The Board appreciated the effort to meet grade at the edges of the site and supported the general landscape biospheres concept and water feature and gave guidance to enhance activation and connections along the site frontages.
- a. To strengthen the open space relationship with the streetscape and increase the

potential for future activation, the Board strongly recommended programming each open space with a purpose and a function. The Board encouraged compiling an inventory of the nearby open spaces and recommended differentiating the proposed open spaces from other nearby spaces to serve different needs. (B3, C1, D1, D3)

- b. The Board preferred incorporating additional soft, planted areas to better define the open spaces and reduce the reliance on flexible spaces, which may be hard to activate. (B3, D1, D2)
- c. The Board noted that the City Hall open space functions as formal civic spaces and supported the intent to create a more playful counterpoint onsite. The Board agreed if the open space is configured into two spaces, then the upper open space should respond to City Hall while the lower open space could relate to Pioneer Square. (A1, B3, D1, D3)
- d. The Board discussed the scale of the architecture adjacent to the open space and recommended a greater exploration into proportion and detailing to establish a human scale. (C1, C2)
- e. The Board generally supported the amphitheater seating and requested clearly delineating the circulation space for the next meeting. The Board recommended studying areas of pause and incorporating accessible routes through the site, without the need for interior access, and referenced the 1201 2nd Ave (project #3019177) as a successful precedent. (B3, C1, D1)
- f. The Board noted that transit station entrances do not yet appear to be integrated with the open space and encouraged studying options to enhance potential activation. (B3, C1, D1, D3)

5. Massing Options: After discussing the street edges, circulation and distribution of open space, the Board debated the merits of the three massing options. The majority of the Board agreed that the street wall on Cherry, visibility of the City Hall plaza, the continuous open space connecting to City Hall, and the direct vehicular access all shown in Option 1 were very successful and recommended carrying forward these site plan elements into the massing evolution. The Board stated that the massing may borrow from the other two curvilinear formed massing options. (A1, B2, B3, C1, D1)

- a. Related to the early ideas for façade composition and materiality, the Board supported the early intent to create a unique architectural composition and material response. The majority of the Board generally supported the dynamic curvilinear form shown in Massing Options 2 and 3 as a unique architectural expression and agreed that this tower form could be combined with aspects of Massing Option 1. Alternatively, a few members of the Board agreed Massing Option 2 and 3 could also be pulled away from the northeast corner to address concerns with the massing spanning the entire width of the block. (A1, B2, B3, B4)
- b. The Board supported the secondary patterns shown in Massing Option 2 which break down the scale of the tower. Related to Massing Options 3, the Board also acknowledged that the success of the composition was dependent on translating the detailing occurring above the floor 20 down to the pedestrian level. (B2, B4, C2)

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Supported the beautiful architectural expression.
- Noted that this space is uniquely important and has the potential to create an activating center, celebratory of Seattle as an innovative global community with civic and environmental values.
- Preference for one larger open space. Concerned that the divided open spaces dilutes the potential for public space. Observed that there is less open space in the developed massing option when compared to the massing options shown at the last meeting.
- Lack of support for the fountain shown at the upper plaza.
- Supported the architectural expression of the façade Concept 1, but would like to see a more slender version of the massing.
- Would like to see sustainability measures incorporated, such as meeting the 2030 challenge, providing energy efficient windows, green infrastructure and stormwater capture.
- Stated preference for a special contribution to the skyline.
- Would like to see the open space be covered to serve the public best; preference for a conservatory or an arboretum.
- Preference for improving accessibility and incorporating a publicly accessible elevator.
- Would like to see transit and accessibility to the light rail station improved as the proposed development will double pedestrian traffic.
- Supported the design of the tower and the openness of the open space.

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

- Concerned with the large amount of parking proposed for a downtown development that is close to mass transit.
- Noted that the project is on top of a light rail station and should be discouraging driving.
- Would like to see the Pioneer Square Station entry substantially widened to provide normal-width escalators that allow people to pass each other.

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PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board was pleased overall with the revised massing option and supported the general configuration of open space and proposed massing which incorporated active street wall the site and the general intent to create a series of open spaces, the Board agreed with public comment that additional design development was needed to ensure the open spaces feel welcoming to the public.

- 1. Pedestrian Circulation and Vehicular Access:** The Board discussed the modified pedestrian and vehicular circulation.
 - a. The Board strongly supported the consolidated design for vehicular and loading access, in particular the integrated loading design which conceals loading functions when not in use. The Board agreed the solution minimizes the impact on the pedestrian realm. (E1, E2)
 - b. The Board noted that the success of the recessed vehicular access relies on the design development and recommended carefully studying the proportion of the overhang, relationship to adjacent retail, narrowing the width of the vehicular zone and fine-grained pavement pattern to delineate the pedestrian zone. For the next meeting, the Board requested enlarged sections and a study model of the area. (B3, E1, E2, D6)
 - c. To reinforce the visibility of the residential tower main entry, the Board recommended relocating the entry to along the street frontage or at the corner. (C4)
 - d. The Board unanimously agreed that the retail overlook should be avoided as it creates a dead end condition with safety challenges. For this area, the Board recommended studying a pass through space with a wider opening which could act as a secondary route through to the open space and transit stations. Several members of the Board also indicated additional retail could also be a potential solution as it would reinforce the street wall. (B1, B3, C1, C3, D1, D6)

- 2. Street Edges:** The Board strongly supported the development of the street wall edge along Cherry and the addition of retail to support the heavily used pedestrian route. To avoid the presence of blank concrete walls, the Board recommended stepping the retail frontage and expanding the transparency down to the pedestrian. (B1, C1, C3)

- 3. Location of the Tower on the Site:** The Board deliberated on the placement of the massing and the proposed division of the open space into several spaces.
 - a. The majority of the Board supported the revised massing option response which shifted the massing to the north portion of the site, reduced the tower width, and positioned the tower form to allow for views of the nearby historic buildings and City Hall. (A1, B1, B2, B3)
 - b. The Board acknowledged public comment regarding the location of massing and division of open spaces, however, the Board concluded that the design intent to create a series of open spaces, rather than one cohesive space, would allow for more diverse space design, programming and uses. The Board also agreed the three open space zones have the potential to be adapted and used for both civic and informal ways and avoid the challenges of programming one singular space. (A1, B1, B3, D1, D3)

While the majority of the Board supported the location of massing on the site and the general intent to create a series of open spaces, the Board unanimously agreed they would be open to rotating or shifting the tower form further northeast, closer to the corner of 4th and Cherry to provide additional room for the open space and expand visual connection through the site. (A1, B1, B3, D1, D3)

- c. The Board strongly supported the proposed height of the lifted tower overhang as shown on pages 58 and 62 of the packet, as the void maintains a visual connection for the public from Fourth Avenue to Third Avenue. (A1, B1, B3, D1)

4. Open Space Concept: While the Board supported the design intent to create a series of open spaces allowing for varied experiences, the Board agreed with public comment that additional design development was needed to ensure the open spaces feel welcoming to the public and gave guidance to enhance accessibility and connectivity. For the next meeting, the Board requested additional enlarged sections, elevations and perspective views to help explain the detailing and intended character of each open space.

- a. The Board supported the effort to create a visual connection between the upper plaza open space provided on site with the City Hall open space as the circular geometry visually joins the spaces together. Related to this open space, the Board was concerned that the circular water feature creates a barrier and recommended refining the height and location to enhance the connection to the street. (A1, B1, B3, C1, D1, D3)
- b. The Board continued to stress the importance of balancing pedestrian connectivity through the space with the sidewalk circulation. Echoing public comment, the Board recommended incorporating accessible routes through the site and supported adding an elevator to allow for a fully accessible route. (B1, C1, D1, D3)
- c. The Board approved of the addition of soft, planted areas to define the open spaces edges and balance the hardscape plaza areas. The Board also supported the use of bio-retention planters and recommended developing the design of the planters in conjunction with circulation and hardscape. The Board referenced the City Creek Center (Salt Lake City) and Art Institute (Chicago) as precedents. (B1, C1, D1, D2)
- d. For the green terraces open space, the Board acknowledged public comment and was concerned with the location and amount of space dedicated to a water feature and recommended sizing the water feature based on the operation and maintenance. The Board also requested additional information on the seasonal design intent, when the water feature is turned off during the winter. (B1, D1, D3)
- e. In addition to narrowing the water feature, the Board recommended revising the circulation and incorporating additional spaces for seating and pause. While the Board supported the general design approach to shift circulation for specific vistas, the Board observed and stressed the opportunity to enhance the connection between retail frontage and open space, similar to the open space graphic shown on page 34 of the packet. The Board also cautioned against seating areas which appear exclusive for retail users and agreed the open spaces should encourage seating and be welcoming for everyone. (B1, C1, D1, D3)
- f. The Board continued to recommend integrating the transit station entrances with the

open space and encouraged studying options to enhance the stations and surrounding the open space. (B3, C1, D1, D3)

- 5. Tower Materiality and Form:** The Board approved of the design approach to create a unique architectural composition with textured materials to contrast with surrounding glazed towers.
- a. The Board supported the gradation of depth and shadow produced by the expressed projecting balconies shown in developed façade concept one. The Board supported the legible pattern shown in the physical model, rather than the precedent images in the packet which indicate random variation. (A1, B2, B3, B4)
 - b. The Board continued to recommend developing the scale of the architecture adjacent to the open space and recommended exploring the proportion and detailing to establish a human scale and translating the tower detailing down to the pedestrian level. The Board indicated the tower overhang soffit is critical to resolve and recommended thoughtfully exploring the materials and lighting for this element. (A1, B3, B4, C2)
 - c. Related to the tower top, the Board agreed with public comment that tower should provide a special contribution to the skyline and may require further refinement to be better integrated with the rest of the design concept. To provide interest to the skyline and reinforce a unifying tower form, the Board recommended developing the rooftop elements in a way that is sculptural and cohesive. The Board also referenced the 1201 2nd Avenue (project #3019177) as an example. (A2, B1, B3, B4)
 - d. The Board acknowledged public comment related to sustainability and encouraged the applicant to develop sustainability measures into the project. The Board also noted they would consider departures to better achieve sustainability goals. (A1, B4)

INITIAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING April 2nd, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Stated that originally the open space on site was to be publicly owned but is now proposed to be sold to the City with an overlay of legally delineated 25,000 sq. ft. of open space. Per the sales agreement the 25,000 sq. ft. of space will be free and open to the public, with wheelchair access, from 7am-10pm daily. 10 public celebrations and 10 private events a year will be allowed. The space is to be designed to accommodate multiple public uses, and be flexible, lively, richly developed and should be reviewed similar to a Design Commission project. No sleeping or camping will be allowed in the space.
- Noted that the City may not modify the design once constructed, so it is critical to design the space to accommodate the intended uses and functions.
- Noted that the open space will not be a typical private or private/public space and that it will be protected.

- Stated that the design is excellent with its views and the connection to the City Hall plaza.
- Encouraged that flexibility be built into the open space as it will not be allowed to change.
- Encouraged a choice of plant materials to celebrate the seasons of Seattle.
- Noted that the visibility of maintenance of the gardens could be helpful.
- Commended the design team for the light, graceful design.
- Supported the curved footprint of the tower.
- Encouraged the Board to be wary of the separation of podium and tower, and noted that Early 20th century building did not have podiums.

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 record 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 recommendations.

1. **Street Edges - Cherry St.** The Board appreciated the design along Cherry St with a façade of vision glass extending down to the sidewalk but was concerned about the lack of activation along the facade. The Board noted that the vehicle/pedestrian access into the site works well for as a vehicle entry, but as shown with the large column near the pedestrian entry doors, it does not work well as a pedestrian entry. The entry needs to be welcoming and people should not have to squeeze their way around a column to enter the building. The Board had also given guidance at the 2nd EDG to consider a visual and physical connection between the entry along Cherry St and the lower plaza along 3rd Ave. The design presented at the Initial Recommendation meeting did not have that connection. After deliberation the Board indicated a visual connection to the plaza at the entry point should be provided. (C3.1, C4.2, C5) The following guidance was given:
 - a. Provide activation along the Cherry St. façade with operable windows, doors if possible, and resting/seating areas. (C3.1.b, C3.1.i)
 - b. Provide a continuous canopy or recesses that provide weather protection for the length of the street. (C5)
 - c. Design the vehicle and pedestrian access area along Cherry St to be welcoming and easily accessible, with additional visibility into the pedestrian lobby from the drop off circulation area. (C3.1.b)
 - d. Design the vehicle and pedestrian access area along Cherry St so that it provides visual access to the plaza below which is accessed from 3rd Ave. (C4.2)

- e. Consider an entry into the retail space from Cherry St near elevation 109'. (C1.3.f)
2. **Street Edges - 4th Ave.** The Board commented that the design treatment along 4th Ave is successful, and they appreciated the extended fountain design. The design team was asked to study how the fountain along 4th Ave functionally connects to the water feature at City Hall so that the two water features relate to each other. (B1.1)
 3. **Street Edges - James St** The Board supported the proposed tiered design of landscaping/hardscape that steps down along James St. The Board was concerned about the garage exhaust vents and the height and bulk of the gas meter equipment located within the landscaping near the sidewalk. After a debate of the best location for the large gas meter it was agreed James St was preferable over Cherry St. The Board gave guidance to study a reduction of the height and bulk of the gas meter and to make it as unobtrusive as possible. (D2.1, E3) The following guidance was given:
 - a. Study the gas meter equipment enclosure location along James St and design it to be as unobtrusive as possible. Consider combining the enclosure with the bus stop. (E3)
 - b. Provide only one vertical garage vent, instead of the two shown at the Initial Recommendation meeting. Turn the vent into a piece of art or sculptural element to provide visual interest. (D1.2)
 4. **Street Edges - 3rd Ave.** The Board agreed that the glass façade design at the corner of Cherry St and 3rd Ave provided a successful relationship of the retail space to the street and the surrounding context. They encouraged the design team to work with Sound Transit to understand proposed future improvements to the transit stop and further explore the design of the plaza adjacent to transit stop. (B1.1.f, B4.2)
 5. **Open Space:** The Board was generally supportive of the generous open space within the site which includes 25,000 sq. ft. of space available to the public from 7am-10pm daily. The open space is broken into three areas: the upper plaza between the fountain and the structure, the tiered landscaping/hardscape along James St and the lower plaza between 3rd Ave and the structure. The Board expressed concerns about wayfinding into and through the site and the flexibility of the lower open space plaza accessed from 3rd Ave. (D1.2, D6)

An elevator is being provided that will connect the lower level plaza to the 4th Ave level , with a stop at an intermediate level. The Board supported the glass elevator as shown in the Recommendation packet, but they were concerned that wayfinding to the elevator from 3rd Ave and the lower level plaza was not clear. (D1.2.a, D6)

- a. The Board gave guidance that the curved steps at the upper plaza facing 4th Ave need to be designed so that sitting on them will be comfortable. (D3.1.f)
- b. The Board commented that the design of the lower level plaza needs to be very flexible and that they would support a design with more flexibility. They encouraged the design team to work with Sound Transit to understand proposed future improvements to the transit stop and further explore the design of the plaza

adjacent to transit stop. (D1)

- c. Provide additional clarity of wayfinding to the elevator and show circulation options for users to get to the elevator from various locations on the site. (D1.2.a, D6)
- d. Maintain the design of the elevator with glass walls, as shown. (B4.3)
- e. The Board noted that the landscaping and site furniture near the corner of James and 3rd Ave as shown was a potential pinch point into the site and elevator. (D1.2.a)
- f. At the 2nd Recommendation meeting the Board would like to see additional details of the proposed hardscape/landscape materials and elements. (D2.1)

6. Location of the Tower: At the Initial Recommendation meeting a departure was requested to allow a tower with a width along 4th and 3rd Ave greater than the 120' width allowed by code. A departure for tower width had not been identified at either of the two EDG meetings. The Board observed that the amount of the departure request was large and struggled to find suitable justification to support the departure given in the Recommendation packet. The Board noted that at both EDG meetings the Board has either supported or given guidance for a tower location on the northern portion of the site, expressing at the 2nd EDG that they would be open to shifting the tower form further northeast, closer to the corner of 4th and Cherry St. (A1.1, B1.1)

- a. The Board requested the design team to provide at the 2nd Recommendation meeting a site plan and a massing study of a code compliant option to compare with the proposed tower mass and location. The "yellow" line shown on page 53 of the Initial Recommendation packet, should not move south. (A1.1, B1.1) See departures below.
- b. The massing study of the code compliant option should show how the tower will be viewed from pedestrian level and as part of the skyline. (A1.1, A2, B1.1)

7. Tower and Materiality: The Board was supportive of the tower design with its successful use of balconies and the simple design at the top of the tower. The Board appreciated the design of the tower without a podium. The Board was concerned by the material choice of painted concrete at the visible vertical structural members on the "north" and "south" façades of the tower and asked that a different material be used, as painted concrete does not provide a unified façade design. (B4)

- a. Provide a design at the north and south façades where the structure blends in with the curtain wall to provide a unified design. (B4.3)
- b. Consider a design with additional porosity at the base of the tower. (B4.1)

8. Lighting and Signage: The Board was supportive of the proposed lighting and signage but did not support the use of any up lighting. It was noted that the proposed lit retail signage shown was not urban. (D4, D5)

FINAL RECOMMENDATION MEETING June 18, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Encouraged that the plazas be designed to be flexible as the open space can't change once it is built.
- Supported the shifted elevator location and encouraged a glass shaft and cab walls with a contrasting frame.
- Supported the chamfered corner at 4th Ave and Cherry St. Stated they would like the applicant to consider a similar smaller chamfer at the 3rd Ave and Cherry St corner.
- Supported the plazas, the water feature, the seating and stepped seating.
- Encouraged keeping the fountain edge along 4th Ave low and stepped.
- Encouraged a design of the elevator alcove that will be safe for users.
- Consider paving instead of turf at the southeast corner.
- Appreciated the opening up at of the design the southwest corner as it will be the most obvious areas to be used. Encouraged a turf zone with no bioorientation function around the gas meter.
- Encouraged adding electrical boxes on the plaza (220V) and water bibs to promote and facilitate a variety of programming.

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

- Expressed support for the tower design.
- Stated the design embraces the needs of a livable city at the street level while continuing the legacy established in the original plans for this site.
- Noted the design is a contextual, appropriate response to the unique urban conditions of the site, including City Hall and neighboring open spaces.
- Observed that the design progresses the original planning efforts by evolving it to meet the needs of the city today, such as by continuing the open public plaza spaces, integrating terraced gardens, and engaging the Pioneer Square Light rail entrance.
- Concerned about the functionality of the tower's single access point for loading, parking, waste collection and pedestrian egress.
- Suggested loading berth turn radius studies, separation of loading and waste functions, and a dedicated vehicle turn around.
- Concerned that the size and number of loading berths are too low.
- Questioned the location and functionality of where passengers will be dropped off by rideshare vehicles.
- Stated that the proposed location of waste access is against code and is unsafe.
- Noted there appears to be no barrier preventing vehicles from cutting across pedestrian access walk way.

SDCI also received non-design related comments concerning traffic congestion, parking, and density.

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 record 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 recommendations.

1. **Street Edges - Cherry St.** The Board appreciated the response to the Board guidance for activation along Cherry St with a covered chamfered corner at the corner of Cherry St and 4th Ave with a planter, passageway, bench and retail entry. The Board approved of the design of the residential entry and overlook area off the vehicle entry, stating that the additional setback at the pedestrian entry provides better pedestrian circulation while maintaining the expression of an entry, and the openness at the overlook into the lower plaza at 3rd Ave was successful. The Board also supported the clear vision glazing down to the sidewalk along Cherry St and the elegant solution of the stepped canopies (B4.2, C1, C4, C5, D3).
 - a. The Board recommended the following conditions:
 - i. Show the retail entry and the bench at the chamfered covered corner at Cherry St and 4th Ave in the plan sets. (Staff note: The Land Use Planner will also verify this item with the land use inspection to ensure they are constructed.) (C1, D3)
 - ii. Provide clear vision glass down to the sidewalk along Cherry St as shown in the Recommendation packet. Demonstrate this item in the plan sets. (Staff note: The Land Use Planner will also verify this item with the land use inspection to ensure they are constructed.) (B4.2, C1.3.g)
 - b. The Board gave guidance to provide the following design responses, but did not recommend conditions related to these items:
 - i. Provide lighting at the overlook area and adjacent wall, and the pedestrian entry off Cherry St to create a warm pedestrian environment and to ensure it does not appear as a “back of house” area. (B4.3, C1, C4)
 - ii. Maintain the openness at the overlook down to the lower plaza. The Board expressed support for a wind barrier at the opening if it is needed. (C4.2, D1)
 - iii. Expand the seating at the wall west of the overlook area and relocate the bike parking away from the overlook. (C4.1, D1.2)
 - iv. Provide a design at the recess where two stairs have exits, east of the curb cut, so that the area will not be used for “unsafe” activities. (D6.1)
2. **Street Edges - 4th Ave.** The Board supported the proposed visual and audio connection of the water feature to the City Hall water feature. (B3.3, D3.1)

3. **Street Edges - James St** The Board supported the gas meter enclosure design as shown and recommended that the design provide landscaping that will discourage climbing into the enclosure, described below. The Board also recommended a condition to ensure the design of the garage vent will be as presented in the Recommendation packet. (D1.2, D6)
 - a. Design the enclosure around the gas meter, especially the concrete wall parallel with James St street with landscaping, to discourage climbing into the enclosure. (D6)
 - b. The Board recommended a condition to have the vertical garage vent designed by an artist as a sculptural feature within the landscaping as presented in the Recommendation packet on page 27. (D1.2.h)

4. **Street Edges - 3rd Ave** The Board approved of the lower plaza design and encouraged a design with flexibility near the Sound Transit easement to respond to potential development by Sound Transit. They gave support and encouragement to collaborate with Sound Transit on any future improvements to the transit entries, including lighting. (B1.1)

5. **Open Space and Site Circulation:** The Board supported the design changes made at the lower plaza off 3rd Ave. The Board supported the location of the shifted elevator but was concerned that the elevator alcove at the lower plaza was not visually prominent. There was support for the circulation through the site with guidance to ensure that the publicly assessable route signage to the elevator be prominent and provided near the benches on the lower plaza. (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5)
 - a. The Board recommended the applicant maintain the open space design as shown. (D1, D2, D3, D4, D5)
 - b. The Board supported the location of the shifted elevator and recommended a condition that the transparent glazed elevator walls and cab be maintain as shown. The Board deferred to the design team on the elevator enclosure frame color but wanted the lower plaza elevator entry area to be more visually prominent. (B4)
 - c. In response to public comments, the Board recommended a condition to add 220V power outlets and water bibs at the plazas off 3rd and 4th Aves, to facilitate a range of uses and events on the plazas. (D1)
 - d. The Board specified the design should maintain the 18" deep treads for sitting at the stairs facing 4th Ave. (D1.1)
 - e. The Board encouraged the applicant to study modification to the bioretention areas near James St and 3rd Ave to allow more occupiable landscaped space. (D1.2)
 - f. The Board specified that the applicant design the area, including the walls and lighting, near the elevator entry on the lower plaza to be welcoming and a visual focal point. (D1, D3, D5)
 - g. The Board specified that the applicant locate the assessable route signage to the elevator in prominent locations including near the two long benches on the lower plaza. (D1.2.a)
 - h. The Board specified the design should maintain the proposed hardscape materials and landscaping as shown. (D2)
 - i. The Board encouraged the use of low level lighting on the plazas as it promotes reduced glare. (D5.1)

6. **Tower and Materiality:** The Board appreciated the presentation of recent proposed tower development on the site and approved of the relocation of the tower as shown in the recommendation packet. They noted that the tower ties in well to the proposed landscaping, the slope of the block and the relationship to the surrounding structures. The Board recommended approval of the tower design and materiality as shown. (A2, B4)
 - a. The applicant clarified to the Board that the metal panels on the tower are to be flat panels. (B4.3.j)

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on the requested departures was 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 departures.

At the time of the **Final Recommendation** meeting the following departures were requested.

1. **Structure Height (SMC23.049.008. A.4.e.2):** The Code allows a structure in a DMC 340/290-440 zone on a lot comprising a full block that abuts a DOC1 zone along at least one street frontage may gain additional structure height.....under the certain conditions..... including that at least 35 percent of the lot area, or a minimum of 25,000 square feet, whichever is greater, is in open space use substantially at street level meeting certain standards, and subject to the following allowances for coverage:..... Up to 20 percent of the area used to satisfy the open space condition to allowing additional height may be covered by the following features: permanent, freestanding structures, such as retail kiosks, pavilions, or pedestrian shelters; structural overhangs; overhead arcades or other forms of overhead weather protection; and any other features approved by the Director that contribute to pedestrian comfort and active use of the space.....

The applicant proposed coverage of 21.6% of the approx. 28,360 sq. ft. of proposed open space.

The Board agreed that this departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Guidelines **C1 Promote Pedestrian Interaction and D1 Provide Inviting & Usable Open Space**. In response to Board guidance to activate Cherry St and provide a retail entry, the corner of the structure at 4th Ave and Cherry St has been chamfered. The resulting covered open space includes a planter, and a pedestrian walkway with a bench and retail entry which will provide activation, and a welcoming covered space for sitting.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend this departure.

2. **Overhead Weather Protection (SMC23.049.018. A.1, B, D):** The Code requires continuous overhead weather protection for new development along the entire street frontage of a lot except for certain circumstances.... Overhead weather protection shall have a minimum

dimension of eight (8) feet measured horizontally from the building wall or must extend to a line two (2) feet from the curb line, whichever is less; The lower edge of the overhead weather protection must be a minimum of ten (10) feet and a maximum of fifteen (15) feet above the sidewalk.

The applicant proposed two recessed areas at the chamfered corner that will provide less than of 8' of horizontal coverage. See page 158 of the 2nd Recommendation packet for graphics and additional information.

The applicant proposed four areas along Cherry St where the horizontal dimension of coverage will be 3'-6" instead of 8' to allow for street trees. See page 158 of the 2nd Recommendation packet for graphics and additional information.

The applicant proposed 3 areas of canopy that will be outside the 10' to 15' height above the sidewalk along Cherry St, due to the slope of the street. See page 158 of the 2nd Recommendation packet for graphics and additional information.

The Board agreed that this departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Guideline **B4 Design a Well-Proportioned & Unified Building and D2.2. Consider Nearby Landscaping** by allowing a design of the weather protection on a site with slope with architectural elements and finish details to create a unified building, so that the components appear integral to the whole and will allow for street trees as specified by SDOT.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend this departure.

3. **Facade Setback Limits (SMC23.49.056.A.1):** The Code requires in this zone a minimum façade height of 25' on Class 1 Pedestrian Streets.

The applicant is proposing along 4th Ave, which is a Class 1 Pedestrian Street, a minimum height of 18'-3" for a 54' length of the façade.

The Board agreed that this departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Guidelines **B1 Respond to the neighborhood context, and C2 Design Facades of Many Scales**, by lowering the height of the facade at the corner of 4th Ave and Cherry St to facilitate views to the water from City Hall and provide a human scale at the retail space.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend this departure.

4. **Maximum Tower Width (SMC23.49.058.C.2.a):** The Code states that in DMC zones, the maximum facade width for portions of a building above 85 feet along the general north/south axis of a site (parallel to the Avenues) shall be 120 feet or 80 percent of the width of the lot measured on the Avenue, whichever is less....

The applicant proposed a tower façade width along 3rd and 4th Avenues of 155 feet.

The Board agreed that this departure would provide an overall design that would better meet the intent of Design Guidelines **A1.2. Response to Planning Efforts, B1 Respond to the Neighborhood Context, D1 Provide Inviting & Usable Open Space and D3 Provide Elements That Define the Place.** By allowing the wider curved tower over the base the building better responds to the design of the tower to the northeast and to City Hall, provides generous south and west facing open space with a mixture of usable plazas, landscaped terraces and water features that will have a unique character, and preserves views from the plaza at City Hall.

The Board voted unanimously to recommend this departure.

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Downtown Design Guidelines recognized by the Board as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and are summarized below. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

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.

A2 Enhance the Skyline: Design the upper portion of the building to promote visual interest and variety in the downtown skyline. Respect existing landmarks while responding to the skyline's present and planned profile.

A2.1. Desired Architectural Treatments: Use one or more of the following architectural treatments to accomplish this goal:

- a. sculpt or profile the facades;
- b. specify and compose a palette of materials with distinctive texture, pattern, or color;
- c. provide or enhance a specific architectural rooftop element.

A2.2. Rooftop Mechanical Equipment: In doing so, enclose and integrate any rooftop mechanical equipment into the design of the building as a whole.

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.

B2 Create a Transition in Bulk and Scale: Compose the massing of the building to create a transition to the height, bulk, and scale of development in nearby less-intensive zones.

B2.1. Analyzing Height, Bulk, and Scale: Factors to consider in analyzing potential height, bulk, and scale impacts include:

- a. topographic relationships;
- b. distance from a less intensive zone edge;
- c. differences in development standards between abutting zones (allowable building height, width, lot coverage, etc.);
- d. effect of site size and shape;
- e. height, bulk, and scale relationships resulting from lot orientation (e.g., back lot line to back lot line vs back lot line to side lot line); and
- f. type and amount of separation between lots in the different zones (e.g. , separation by only a property line, by an alley or street, or by other physical features such as grade changes); g. street grid or platting orientations.

B2.2. Compatibility with Nearby Buildings: In some cases, careful siting and design treatment may be sufficient to achieve reasonable transition and mitigation of height, bulk, and scale impacts.

Some techniques for achieving compatibility are as follows:

- h. use of architectural style, details (such as roof lines, beltcourses, cornices, or fenestration), color, or materials that derive from the less intensive zone.

- i. architectural massing of building components; and
- j. responding to topographic conditions in ways that minimize impacts on neighboring development, such as by stepping a project down the hillside.

B2.3. Reduction of Bulk: In some cases, reductions in the actual bulk and scale of the proposed structure may be necessary in order to mitigate adverse impacts and achieve an acceptable level of compatibility. Some techniques which can be used in these cases include:

- k. articulating the building's facades vertically or horizontally in intervals that reflect to existing structures or platting pattern;
- l. increasing building setbacks from the zone edge at ground level;
- m. reducing the bulk of the building's upper floors; and
- n. limiting the length of, or otherwise modifying, facades.

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.

C4 Reinforce Building Entries: To promote pedestrian comfort, safety, and orientation, reinforce building entries.

C4.1. Entry Treatments: Reinforce the building's entry with one or more of the following architectural treatments:

- a. extra-height lobby space;
- b. distinctive doorways;
- c. decorative lighting;
- d. distinctive entry canopy;

- e. projected or recessed entry bay;
- f. building name and address integrated into the facade or sidewalk;
- g. artwork integrated into the facade or sidewalk;
- h. a change in paving material, texture, or color;
- i. distinctive landscaping, including plants, water features and seating
- j. ornamental glazing, railings, and balustrades.

C4.2. Residential Entries: To make a residential building more approachable and to create a sense of association among neighbors, entries should be clearly identifiable and visible from the street and easily accessible and inviting to pedestrians. The space between the building and the sidewalk should provide security and privacy for residents and encourage social interaction among residents and neighbors. Provide convenient and attractive access to the building’s entry. To ensure comfort and security, entry areas and adjacent open space should be sufficiently lighted and protected from the weather. Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian-oriented open space should be considered.

C5 Encourage Overhead Weather Protection: Project applicants are encouraged to provide continuous, well-lit, overhead weather protection to improve pedestrian comfort and safety along major pedestrian routes.

C5.1. Overhead Weather Protection Design Elements: Overhead weather protection should be designed with consideration given to:

- a. the overall architectural concept of the building
- b. uses occurring within the building (such as entries and retail spaces) or in the adjacent streetscape environment (such as bus stops and intersections);
- c. minimizing gaps in coverage;
- d. a drainage strategy that keeps rain water off the street-level facade and sidewalk;
- e. continuity with weather protection provided on nearby buildings;
- f. relationship to architectural features and elements on adjacent development, especially if abutting a building of historic or noteworthy character;
- g. the scale of the space defined by the height and depth of the weather protection;
- h. use of translucent or transparent covering material to maintain a pleasant sidewalk environment with plenty of natural light; and
- i. when opaque material is used, the illumination of light-colored undersides to increase security after dark.

C6 Develop the Alley Façade: To increase pedestrian safety, comfort, and interest, develop portions of the alley facade in response to the unique conditions of the site or project.

C6.1. Alley Activation: Consider enlivening and enhancing the alley entrance by:

- a. extending retail space fenestration into the alley one bay;
- b. providing a niche for recycling and waste receptacles to be shared with nearby, older buildings lacking such facilities; and
- c. adding effective lighting to enhance visibility and safety.

C6.2. Alley Parking Access: Enhance the facades and surfaces in and adjacent to the alley to create parking access that is visible, safe, and welcoming for drivers and pedestrians. Consider

- d. locating the alley parking garage entry and/ or exit near the entrance to the alley;
- e. installing highly visible signage indicating parking rates and availability on the building facade adjacent to the alley; and
- f. chamfering the building corners to enhance pedestrian visibility and safety where alley is regularly used by vehicles accessing parking and loading.

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 an 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.

D4 Provide Appropriate Signage: Design signage appropriate for the scale and character of the project and immediate neighborhood. All signs should be oriented to pedestrians and/or persons in vehicles on streets within the immediate neighborhood.

D4.1. Desired Signage Elements: Signage should be designed to:

- a. facilitate rapid orientation
- b. add interest to the street level environment
- c. reduce visual clutter
- d. unify the project as a whole
- e. enhance the appearance and safety of the downtown area.

D4.2. Unified Signage System: If the project is large, consider designing a comprehensive building and tenant signage system using one of the following or similar methods:

- a. signs clustered on kiosks near other street furniture or within sidewalk zone closest to building face;
- b. signs on blades attached to building facade;
- c. signs hanging underneath overhead weather protection.

D4.3. Signage Types: Also consider providing:

- d. building identification signage at two scales: small scale at the sidewalk level for pedestrians, and large scale at the street sign level for drivers;
- e. sculptural features or unique street furniture to complement (or in lieu of) building and tenant signage;
- f. interpretive information about building and construction activities on the fence surrounding the construction site.

D4.4. Discourage Upper-Level Signage: Signs on roofs and the upper floors of buildings intended primarily to be seen by motorists and others from a distance are generally discouraged.

D5 Provide Adequate Lighting: To promote a sense of security for people downtown during nighttime hours, provide appropriate levels of lighting on the building facade, on the underside of overhead weather protection, on and around street furniture, in merchandising display windows, in landscaped areas, and on signage.

D5.1. Lighting Strategies: Consider employing one or more of the following lighting strategies as appropriate.

- a. Illuminate distinctive features of the building, including entries, signage, canopies, and areas of architectural detail and interest.
- b. Install lighting in display windows that spills onto and illuminates the sidewalk.
- c. Orient outside lighting to minimize glare within the public right-of-way.

D6 Design for Personal Safety & Security: Design the building and site to promote the feeling of personal safety and security in the immediate area.

D6.1. Safety in Design Features: To help promote safety for the residents, workers, shoppers, and visitors who enter the area:

- a. provide adequate lighting;
- b. retain clear lines of sight into and out of entries and open spaces;
- c. use semi-transparent security screening, rather than opaque walls, where appropriate;
- d. avoid blank and windowless walls that attract graffiti and that do not permit residents or workers to observe the street;
- e. use landscaping that maintains visibility, such as short shrubs and/or trees pruned so that all branches are above head height;
- f. use ornamental grille as fencing or over ground-floor windows in some locations;
- g. avoid architectural features that provide hiding places for criminal activity;
- h. design parking areas to allow natural surveillance by maintaining clear lines of sight for those who park there, for pedestrians passing by, and for occupants of nearby buildings;
- i. install clear directional signage;
- j. encourage “eyes on the street” through the placement of windows, balconies, and street-level uses; and
- k. ensure natural surveillance of children’s play areas.

VEHICULAR ACCESS AND PARKING

E1 Minimize Curb Cut Impacts: Minimize adverse impacts of curb cuts on the safety and comfort of pedestrians.

E1.1. Vehicle Access Considerations: Where street access is deemed appropriate, one or more of the following design approaches should be considered for the safety and comfort of pedestrians.

- a. minimize the number of curb cuts and locate them away from street intersections;
- b. minimize the width of the curb cut, driveway, and garage opening;
- c. provide specialty paving where the driveway crosses the sidewalk;
- d. share the driveway with an adjacent property owner;
- e. locate the driveway to be visually less dominant;
- f. enhance the garage opening with specialty lighting, artwork, or materials having distinctive texture, pattern, or color
- g. provide sufficient queueing space on site.

E1.2. Vehicle Access Location: Where possible, consider locating the driveway and garage entrance to take advantage of topography in a manner that does not reduce pedestrian safety nor place the pedestrian entrance in a subordinate role.

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the conclusion of the Recommendation meeting, the Board recommended approval of the project with conditions.

The recommendation summarized above was based on the design review packet dated Tuesday, June 18, 2019, and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the Tuesday, June 18, 2019 Design Recommendation meeting. After considering the site and context, hearing public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the six Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design and departures with the following conditions:

1. Provide the retail entry and the bench at the chamfered covered corner at Cherry St and 4th Ave., to be shown in the plan sets and verified by the planner during the land use inspection. (C1, D3)
2. Provide clear vision glass down to the sidewalk along Cherry St as shown in the Recommendation packet, to be shown in the plan sets and verified by the planner during the land use inspection. (B4.2, C1.3.g)
3. Have the vertical garage vent designed by an artist as a sculptural feature within the landscaping as presented in the Recommendation packet on page 27. (D1.2.h)
4. Add 220V power outlets and water bibs at the plazas off 3rd and 4th Aves, to facilitate a range of uses and events on the plazas. (D1)
5. Provide the transparent glazed elevator walls and cab as presented, to be shown in the plan sets and verified by the planner during the land use inspection. (B4)