



FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE WEST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Project Number: 3035337-LU

Address: 570 Mercer Street

Applicant: Cody Lodi, Weber Thompson

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Board Members Present: John Morefield, Chair
Jen Montessor
Janell Eckrich
Tiffany Rattray
Allan Farkas

Board Members Absent: None

SDCI Staff Present: Joseph Hurley, Senior Land Use Planner

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Seattle Mixed – Uptown 85 (M1) [SM-UP 85 (M1)]

Nearby Zones: (North) Seattle Mixed – Uptown 85 (M1) [SM-UP 85 (M1)]
(South) Seattle Mixed – Uptown 95 (M) [SM-UP 95 (M)]
(East) Seattle Mixed – Uptown 85 (M1) [SM-UP 85 (M1)]
(West) Seattle Mixed – Uptown 85 (M1) [SM-UP 85 (M1)]



Lot Area: 16,792 sq. ft.

Overlays: Uptown Urban Center
Airport Height District
Uptown Design Review Guideline Area

Current Development:

The subject site is comprised of three existing tax parcels currently developed with two commercial structures built in 1946 and 1981. The site is elevated above the public right-of-way to the south approximately eight feet but is otherwise generally flat.

Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

The subject site lies along 6th Ave N from Mercer St to Roy St. in the Uptown Urban Center. Adjacent to the site are a hotel to the east, an office building to the south across Mercer St, and a childcare facility to the west. 6th Ave N and the alley west of the site terminate at the south end of the block where the site is elevated above principal arterial Mercer St due to the topography change for the underpass at Aurora Ave N one block to the east. Mercer St and Aurora Ave N support high volumes of vehicular activity, and additionally intersect with pedestrian and bicycle circulation routes. The vicinity includes a range of uses, including mixed-use, multi-family residential, office, research, commercial, hospitality, and educational. The site is situated between Lake Union to the northeast and the Seattle Center and Space Needle to the southwest and is between the civic performing arts venues in Lower Queen Anne and the science and research facilities concentrated in South Lake Union.

This location is a gateway to the South Lake Union neighborhood. Building forms transition in size from smaller residential structures in the north to larger block-length commercial and multifamily developments moving south. Buildings range from one to 14 stories in height. No one architectural style dominates, with a mix of modern mid-and highrise developments replacing turn of the century lowrise structures and parking lots, lending a more transitional character. Newer designs include heavy glazing, rectilinear forms, vertical emphasis, and pops of color. The area was rezoned from Neighborhood Commercial 3-40 to Seattle Mixed – Uptown 85 (M1) on 11/10/17. Multiple projects in the vicinity are currently in review or under construction for proposed development, including 601 Dexter Ave N, 700 Dexter Ave N, 701 Dexter Ave N, and 701 Valley St.

Access:

Vehicular access is proposed from the alley. Pedestrian access is proposed from 6th Ave N.

Environmentally Critical Areas:

There are no mapped environmentally critical areas located on the subject site.

Background Info:

On April 27, 2020, the Seattle City Council passed emergency legislation Council Bill 119769 which allows projects subject to full design review to opt into Administrative Design Review temporarily. As one of the projects impacted by Design Review Board meeting cancellations, this project elected to make this change for the first Early Design Guidance review.

This project came before the West Board for Recommendation on May 5th, 2021, and the Board recommended approval of the project. Since that time the development site has grown to include the adjacent parcel to the north and a larger project is now proposed, per the description and documents. The project returned before the West Board for an additional Recommendation meeting on February 16th, 2022.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Land use application to allow an 8-story office building with retail. Parking for 169 vehicles proposed. Existing buildings to be demolished. Early Design Guidance conducted under 3035400-EG. This project is participating in the Living Building Pilot Program.

The design packet includes materials that are 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

ADMINISTRATIVE EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE August 7, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

SDCI staff received the following design related comments:

- Applauded the project for taking part in the Living Building Pilot Program.
- Felt the eight-story height is out of scale for the neighborhood.
- Stated the proposed building will be highly visible due to its proximity to Mercer St.
- Suggested a generous setback to minimize blocked views.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning views and traffic.

One purpose of the design review process is for the City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. Concerns with off-street parking, traffic and construction impacts are reviewed as part of the environmental review conducted by SDCI and are not part of this review.

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 & RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, Staff provides the following siting and design guidance.

ADMINISTRATIVE EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE

1. Living Building

- a. Green Team Staff notes that the packet provides an acceptable level of detail for EDG stage of Living Building Pilot Program (LBPP) review, including an outline the LBPP requirements, the intended Petals and corresponding Imperatives, and strategies to achieve them.
- b. Staff appreciates the inclusion of this material in the packet but also notes that these sheets are the only indication (aside from the additional story and SBO departure request) that this project has any particular sustainability goals or Living Building intentions. Given the significance of these choices on the design, staff suggests using those programmatic elements to help shape the massing strategy. (CS1, DC2)

2. Site and Context

- a. Staff acknowledges the challenges and constraints associated with this site, including the termination of 6th Avenue N, the narrow elevated sidewalk at the south property line, the power lines at 6th Avenue N and the high visibility of this corner site from Mercer Street. Staff notes that these challenges can also be seen as opportunities and encourages the development of a unique design solution that is tied to this particular site and context. (CS2, CS3, DC2)

3. Mercer Street

- a. Staff notes the high volume of automobile, bicycle and (increasingly) pedestrian traffic at Mercer Street. The close proximity and slight elevation of this site will give this project a monumental appearance from Mercer Street. This degree of visibility and architectural presence will require a design solution of the highest quality. (CS2-A-2)

4. Massing and Design Concept:

- a. Staff agrees that the deployments of small variations in exterior expression on a virtually unchanged form shown in this packet do not constitute three distinct schemes and the stated design concepts/precedent images are not evident in the three options. Staff therefore directs the project to return for a second EDG review. Provide at least two additional distinct massing alternatives with a clearly demonstrated design concepts in the next EDG packet. (DC2)
- b. Staff appreciates the additional level of architectural detail brought to the three schemes and the intent to create a composition of distinctly legible elements but

- finds the very small changes in plane, parapet height and exterior expression to be insufficient to achieve this result. The architectural detail and treatments should be accompanied by both massing moves and articulation of the facades. (DC2-A, DC2-B)
- c. Staff appreciates the inclusion of inspirational precedent images on page 17 and encourages their use as generators of a compelling design concept. (DC2)

SECOND EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE November 18, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Concerned by the proliferation of glass boxes in Seattle.
- Suggested brick cladding with punched openings.
- Requested more and larger open space at ground level to draw pedestrians to this block.
- Supported the Mercer Street balconies and suggested increasing their size and distinction.
- Expressed support for the pedestrian amenities that this project would bring to the neighborhood.

SDCI staff did not receive any design related comments prior to the meeting.

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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 Schemes:** The Board noted previous guidance from staff regarding the lack of significant differences in the massing of the three proposed schemes and considered at some length the question of whether the project could be moved forward with guidance or be brought back for further EDG review to provide three clearly differentiated massing options.
 - a. The Board was unanimously concerned by the limited magnitude of proposed massing offsets in all of the schemes, agreeing that a project of this size required

massing definition and noting the potential for this project to read as two undifferentiated boxes. (CS2, CS3, DC2)

- b. The Board acknowledged existing site constraints had contributed to the limited options presented and agreed that there were aspects in the schemes that were on track to evolve and agreed that the project could move forward with guidance. (CS2, CS3, DC2)
- c. After deliberation and discussion, the five Board members agreed that although not a strong preference, Massing Concept C (Pivot) had the best potential to positively evolve and be supported at the next review phase. The Board noted the pattern of facade modulation, projecting balconies, street edges and roof expression in particular as design elements that, if strengthened, could result in a design with a clear architectural concept that responds to context. (DC2, DC4, CS3, PL3, CS2)

2. Site and Context

- a. The Board agreed that the connection between context and architectural composition was unclear on the two less-visible elevations at west and north, and that these should be developed to be both clearly connected to their unique contexts and to the overarching design concept as articulated on the more prominent south and east elevations. (CS2, CS3, DC2, DC2-B-1)

3. Massing and Design Concept:

- a. The Board agreed that their support for Massing Concept C (Pivot) was predicated on strengthening the legibility of the massing elements which will likely require more significant changes in plane than currently proposed. (DC2)
- b. The Board noted again the importance of creating distinction in the expression of the project's compositional components to create the recognizable elements at multiple levels of scale called for in the Guidelines. (DC2, DC2.1-6)
- c. The Board agreed that this could be achieved in a number of ways but likely would require the combination of multiple strategies including an increase in the magnitude of the massing offsets, strengthening discrete elements (balconies, roof, etc.), and the development of distinctly different architectural expressions for the compositional elements using material, fenestration pattern, and depth, shadow and texture. (DC2, DC2-1, DC2-5, DC2-6)
- d. The Board questioned the choice to 'return' the solarium roof down the north elevation (p.51, view from 6th) as it seemed to weaken the strong expression of this element. (DC2, DC4)
- e. The Board recognized the project's location above or away from well-travelled pedestrian routes, noted the project's participation in the Living Building Pilot Program and echoed public comment in suggesting a bolder approach to the design of this project that would make it a destination in the neighborhood. (CS2, CS3, DC2)
- f. The Board appreciated the recognition demonstrated in the packet of the understory (the elements visible from street level, looking up) and their expectation of strong design choices and complete details of how this important feature will be realized for the next review phase. (DC2, DC2-2, DC2-4-i.)

4. Street Edges

- a. The Board agreed that the primary entrance required strengthening and increased distinction to read clearly and meet criteria in the guidelines. (PL3-A, PL3-1)
- b. Echoing public comment, the Board noted the importance of creating usable outdoor space at the street edge and agreed that the scale and articulation of the outdoor space at the southwest corner appeared under-scaled and less articulated than would be expected, given its proximity and association with the two-story expression on Mercer (p.60). The Board noted that the other exterior spaces at street level should also be clearly represented at the next review phase with a clear rationale for their disposition. (CS2, CS3, PL3)
- c. The Board noted the blank wall condition at the north elevation and their expectation of a solution that met criteria in the Guidelines and was fully integrated with the design concept for the project. (DC2, DC2-B)

5. Living Building

- a. The Board concurred with previous guidance from staff that there was little evidence of the project's intent to participate in the Living Building Pilot Program and suggested strengthening the related features as a means of distinguishing and strengthening elements in the design concept per the guidance above. Among those features, the Board particularly noted the projecting balconies, the photo-voltaic array, the solarium, and landscape. (CS1, DC2)
- b. The Board did not support the choice to provide a significant proportion of required landscaping in movable planters and was concerned to hear that the very limited landscaping proposed was a result of adherence to Living Building Challenge criteria and that this contradiction would require further explanation. (CS1, DC4-D, DC4-2)
- c. The Board recognized the current early stage of design but expressed concern that there was so little evidence of how the *Petals* identified in the materials would be achieved, and their expectation of strong solutions and details at the next review phase. (CS1, DC2)
- d. Green Team Staff notes that the packet provides an acceptable level of detail for EDG stage of Living Building Pilot Program (LBPP) review, including an outline the LBPP requirements, the intended *Petals* and corresponding Imperatives, and strategies to achieve them.

RECOMMENDATION May 5, 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Expressed strong support for the proposed design noting the strong response to previous guidance, particularly as they have resulted in the creation of a destination in this evolving neighborhood.
- Encouraged the Board to provide a recommendation to the Seattle Department of Transportation in support of the two proposed right of way improvements.

SDCI staff did not receive any design related comments prior to the meeting.

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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. Process:

- a. The Board unanimously commended the design team for their direct and forthright response to their guidance from EDG.
- b. The Board agreed that revisions to the project had strengthened the legibility of the design concept, the pedestrian experience at the street edge, and the expression of the design elements associated with the Living Building Program, and voted unanimously and enthusiastically to recommend approval of the design (with two minor conditions) as shown in the Recommendation packet dated May 5, 2021. (DC2, PL3)
- c. The Board supported SDOT approval of the two proposed right of way improvements, noting that the panel articulation at Mercer Street and the street graphic at 6th Ave. were both strongly connected to the overall design concept and would help create character and a sense of place in this evolving neighborhood. (CS2-A, CS3)

2. Context and Architectural Concept

- a. The Board agreed that the southwest corner of the project would be highly visible, particularly to those travelling east, and agreed that the current design at street level lacked appropriate distinction and appeared disconnected from the larger architectural composition. (CS2-A, DC2-B)
- b. The Board recommended a condition to revise the composition of the southwest corner to create greater distinction and cohesion with the larger composition by increasing the degree of transparency at street level in a manner reflective of the corner above. (CS2-A, DC2-B)

3. Entry and Architectural Concept

- a. The Board discussed at length the composition of elements at the primary entry on 6th Avenue N. and agreed that the legible sustainability elements driving the story of the building lacked cohesion at this critical area. The Board noted in particular the

physical disconnection of the entry from the conceptually-critical roof water collection system and the potential for landscape elements to obscure the proposed water feature. (PL3-A, DC2)

- b. The Board recommended a condition to revise the ensemble of elements at the entry to be more clearly connected to the water system and architectural concept and create a greater degree of identity and distinction at this principal building entrance. (PL3-A, DC2)

4. Blank Wall

- a. After a discussion of the viability of the proposed materials and method for creating the pixelated graphic on the north elevation, the Board agreed unanimously to recommend approval as designed, specifically supporting the way this element was integrated architecturally and the clear connection to the architectural concept. (DC2-B)

5. Exterior Materials

- a. The Board supported the palette of carefully detailed and high quality exterior materials and recommended their approval as shown in the Recommendation packet. (DC4-A)

FINAL RECOMMENDATION February 16, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments offered at this meeting:

SDCI received the following comments in writing prior to this meeting, summarized by Staff as follows:

- The Uptown Land Use Review Committee offered the following comments:
 - Observed the building form successfully engages the pedestrian, provides connectivity and access to open space, and creates an attractive public open space on 6th. (Uptown Design Guideline CS1)
 - Noted the proposed ground-level treatments create a safe, attractive transition between the building and sidewalk on both street fronts. (Uptown Design Guideline CS1)
 - Felt the preferred massing scheme has a strong and distinctive design, and the south facing elevation contributes to the architectural fabric along Mercer. (Uptown Design Guideline CS2)
 - Stated the decks facing Mercer and Taylor add visual interest to the façade. (Uptown Design Guideline CS2)
 - Supported the proposed mural on 6th and a sign delineating entry into Uptown. (Uptown Design Guideline PL)
 - Encouraged layered landscaping, an at-grade entry along Mercer, and the proposed art gallery to enhance the pedestrian experience. (Uptown Design Guideline PL)

- Felt the design captures an architectural design diversity which reflects Uptown’s evolving and dynamic context. (Design Guideline DC)
- Acknowledged the non-traditional pattern of light colored brick, 2-story glazing pattern, massing, and all-glass bay on 6th as elements supporting the design concept and providing visual interest. (Design Guideline DC)
- Supported the proposed departures.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning archeological review.

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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. Project Development and Increased Scope

- a. The Board unanimously commended the design team for the positive evolution of the project since the previous review, noting in particular the strengthening of the multi-part design concept in conjunction with the increase in the size of the project. (DC2, CS3)
- b. The Board agreed that revisions to the project had strengthened the legibility of the design concept, the pedestrian experience at the street edge, and the expression of the design elements associated with the Living Building Program, and voted unanimously to recommend approval of the design (DC2, PL3, CS2)
- c. The Board supported SDOT approval of the two proposed right of way improvements, noting that the entrance at Mercer Street and the street graphic on 6th Avenue. were both strongly connected to the overall design concept and would help create character and a sense of place in this evolving neighborhood. (CS2-A, CS3)

2. Massing and Composition

- a. The Board agreed that the massing and composition of the now larger project was successful in creating multiple architectural expressions that mitigated scale and related well to their differing contexts, and recommended approval as designed. (CS2-A, DC2-B)

- b. The Board echoed their earlier concern regarding the lack of distinction in the rain leader carrying roof water to ground level. The Board recommended a condition that the current design including the water feature be held as a minimum standard. The Board also strongly encouraged the design team to strengthen the expression of the vertical rain leader in a manner that makes its existence, function and role in meeting Living Building criteria eminently clear to the public but declined to make this a condition. (DC2)

3. Mercer Street Entrance

- a. The Board enthusiastically supported the additional entry provided at Mercer Street, agreeing that this would bring activity and engagement to an otherwise barren streetscape, and recommended approval of the design. (PL3-A, DC2)
- b. The Board discussed the 6th Avenue entrance at length and agreed that its expression and articulation was of sufficient scale and character to create identity and distinction at this principal building entrance. (PL3-A, DC2)

4. Exterior Materials

- b. The Board supported the palette of carefully detailed and high-quality exterior materials and recommended a condition that they be maintained as shown in the Recommendation packet. (DC4-A)

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

SDCI's preliminary recommendation on the requested departure(s) 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 departure(s).

At the time of the FINAL RECOMMENDATION review, the following departures were requested:

1. **Rooftop Features - Coverage (SMC 23.48.025.C.4):** The Code allows rooftop features to extend up to 15 feet above the maximum height limit, so long as the combined total coverage of all features listed in this subsection do not exceed 20 percent of the roof area, or 25 percent of the roof area if the total includes stair or elevator penthouses or screened mechanical equipment. The applicant proposes the allowable rooftop features including elevator penthouses and screened mechanical equipment to cover 55% of the roof area (per page 101 of the Recommendation packet).

The Board unanimously and enthusiastically recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that this articulation of the programming, solar collection and roof form was integral to the design and would strengthen the Architectural Concept DC2. The proposal better meets the intent of this guideline.

2. **Rooftop Features – Location (SMC 23.48.025.C.7.b):** The Code allows the combined total coverage of rooftop features to be increased to 65 percent of the roof area provided that all mechanical equipment is screened and that no rooftop features are

located closer than 10 feet to the roof edge. The applicant proposes allowing the solar canopy roof to encroach on the 10 foot setback at the southeast corner (per page 101 of the Recommendation packet).

The Board unanimously and enthusiastically recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that this articulation of the roof form and programming was integral to the design and would strengthen the Architectural Concept DC2. The proposal better meets the intent of this guideline.

- 3. Structural Building Overhangs - Depth (SMC 23.53.035.B.5; allowed via departure per SMC 23.41.012.D.2.h):** The Code states maximum horizontal projection for a structural building overhang, measured to the furthest exterior element, shall be 3 feet. The applicant proposes Structural Building Overhangs measuring an additional 2 feet 10 inches on the east and seven foot 8 inches on the south over the maximum three feet allowed by code period (per page 102 in the Recommendation packet).

The Board reiterated their earlier support and recommended approval of this departure, noting their contribution to meeting Living Building goals and how their distinct articulation strengthened the Architectural Concept DC2. The proposal better meets the intent of this guideline.

- 4. Structural Building Overhangs - Length (SMC 23.53.035.B.7; allowed via departure per SMC 23.41.012.D.2.h):** The Code limits the length of structural building overhangs to 15 feet. The applicant proposes Structural Building Overhangs measuring an additional 74 feet 5 inches on the south and 71 feet 2 inches on the east over the maximum 15 foot length allowed and balconies an additional 12 foot 6 inches on the west and 8 foot 0 inches on the north and south (per page 103 in the Recommendation packet).

The Board reiterated their earlier support and recommended approval of this departure, noting their contribution to meeting Living Building goals and how their distinct articulation strengthened the Architectural Concept DC2. The proposal better meets the intent of this guideline.

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by Staff as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and are summarized below. 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-A Energy Use

CS1-A-1. Energy Choices: At the earliest phase of project development, examine how energy choices may influence building form, siting, and orientation, and factor in the findings when making siting and design decisions.

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.

CS1-D Plants and Habitat

CS1-D-1. On-Site Features: Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider relocating significant trees and vegetation if retention is not feasible.

CS1-D-2. Off-Site Features: Provide opportunities through design to connect to off-site habitats such as riparian corridors or existing urban forest corridors. Promote continuous habitat, where possible, and increase interconnected corridors of urban forest and habitat where possible.

CS1-E Water

CS1-E-1. Natural Water Features: If the site includes any natural water features, consider ways to incorporate them into project design, where feasible

CS1-E-2. Adding Interest with Project Drainage: Use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

CS1-1 Topography

CS1-1-a. Street Grade: Step the elevation of ground floors so that building entrances and ground floors roughly match the street grade.

CS1-1-b. Step with the Grade: Design the building massing to step with grade using techniques such as changes in the levels of upper floors, breaks in the roofline, vertical and horizontal modulation, stepping facades.

CS1-1-c. Service & Access Impacts: Use existing grade changes to minimize service and access impacts in through-block developments.

CS1-1-d. Step Fencing: If fencing or screening is included in the design, it should step along with the topography.

CS1-1-e. Safe & Attractive Transition: Design ground-level treatments that create a safe, attractive transition between the building, site and the sidewalk such as terraces, stoops, rockeries, stairs, and landscaping, or other positive approaches used on adjacent properties. Create a transition between ground level interior and adjacent pedestrian areas and public sidewalks that achieves a balance of transparency for safety (eyes on the street) and screening for privacy.

CS1-2 Plants and Habitat

CS1-2-a. Habitat Landscapes: Create habitat landscapes of native species in building setbacks, right-of-ways, green roofs, walls and gardens. Look for opportunities to contribute to neighborhood and citywide connective habitats for insects and birds, while providing a safe environment for pedestrians.

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-1. Corner Sites: Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

CS2-C-2. Mid-Block Sites: Look to the uses and scales of adjacent buildings for clues about how to design a mid-block building. Continue a strong street-edge and respond to datum lines of adjacent buildings at the first three floors.

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.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

CS2-1 Sense of Place

CS2-1-a. Identity Features: Use site identity features at Uptown Gateway locations. Examples of identity features include art, welcoming or wayfinding signage, distinct architecture or major public open space.

CS2-2 Adjacent Sites

CS2-2-a. Relationships & Connections: Buildings adjacent to the Seattle Center campus should be sited to create synergistic relationships and reinforce connections between the Seattle Center and the surrounding Uptown neighborhood.

CS2-3 Corner Sites

CS2-3-a. Address the Corner: Generally, buildings within Uptown should meet the corner and not be set back, except for Gateway locations. Buildings, retail treatments, and open spaces should address the corner and promote activity.

CS2-3-b. Corner Entrances: Generally, corner entrances are discouraged for retail uses. However, corner entrances may be appropriate to emphasize Gateways or locations with high pedestrian activity within the Heart of Uptown.

CS2-3-c. Special Features: Corner sites are often desirable locations for small publicly-accessible plazas, art, and other special features.

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

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together: Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

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-3. Established Neighborhoods: In existing neighborhoods with a well-defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings.

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.

CS3-B-2. Historical/Cultural References: Reuse existing structures on the site where feasible as a means of incorporating historical or cultural elements into the new project.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

CS3-1 Placemaking

CS3-1-a. Design Features: Include design features that make the Arts and Cultural District visible to pedestrians such as interpretive panels, banners, plaques, building names, wayfinding, signage and art.

CS3-1-b. Visual Art: Make visual art an integral part of the design concept, especially along Mercer/Roy Street corridor, near theaters and other cultural venues, and in the Heart of Uptown.

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-1. Enhancing Open Space: Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

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.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

PL1-1 Enhancing Open Spaces

PL1-1-a. Connections: Locate plazas intended for public use at or near grade to promote both a physical and visual connection to the street. Where publicly accessible plazas abut private open space, use special paving materials, landscaping, and other elements to provide a clear definition between the public and private realms.

PL1-2 Adding to Public Life

PL1-2-a. Adjacency to Seattle Center: Opportunities to add to public life are especially important for street-facing facades that are adjacent to the Seattle Center.

PL1-3 Pedestrian Volumes and Amenities

PL1-3-a. Volume & Flow: Encourage streetscapes that respond to unique conditions created by Seattle Center. Design wide sidewalks, sturdy street furniture and durable landscaping to accommodate high pedestrian volumes and flow of event crowds.

PL1-3-b. Notable Locations: Pedestrian amenities are especially encouraged in the Heart of Uptown, and along the Queen Anne Ave. and 1st Ave N corridors.

PL1-3-c. Pedestrian Uses: All of Uptown should be considered a “walking district.” New development should strive to support outdoor uses, activities and seating that create an attractive and vibrant pedestrian environment. Consider widening narrow sidewalks though additional building setback at street level.

PL1-4 Outdoor Uses and Activities

PL1-4-a. Outdoor Dining: Encourage outdoor dining throughout Uptown.

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.

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-2. Common Entries: Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

PL3-A-3. Individual Entries: Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

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-B Residential Edges

PL3-B-1. Security and Privacy: Provide security and privacy for residential buildings through the use of a buffer or semi-private space between the development and the street or neighboring buildings.

PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential: Privacy and security issues are particularly important in buildings with ground-level housing, both at entries and where windows are located overlooking the street.

PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses: Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

PL3-B-4. Interaction: Provide opportunities for interaction among residents and neighbors.

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.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

PL3-1 Entries

PL3-1-a. Pedestrian Orientation: Design entries to be pedestrian-friendly. Consider how the position, scale, architectural detailing, and materials will create an entry that is clearly discernible to the pedestrian.

PL3-1-b. Safety Sightlines & Features: Individual or unit entrances in buildings that are accessed from the sidewalk or other public spaces should consider safety sightlines as well as safety features such as decorative fencing and high visibility gating. Landscaping should be consistent with these features.

PL3-1-c. Design Features: The use of distinctive paving, detailing, materials and landscaping, and artistic designs with cultural references is strongly encouraged. Building addresses and names (if applicable) should be located at entrances, and tastefully crafted.

PL3-2 Residential Edges on Pedestrian Streets

PL3-2-a. Security: Where residential buildings are located along the pedestrian-oriented Class 1 or Class 2 Pedestrian Streets, include façade lighting and visible lobbies or public-facing retail spaces to enhance the security of the adjacent sidewalk.

PL3-3 Ground Level Residential Edges (Including Live/Work Uses)

PL3-3-a. Entries: Provide a direct entry into the unit from the street. The entry should include weather protection sufficient to shelter persons entering the building during inclement weather.

PL3-3-b. Elevate the Ground Floor: Elevating the ground floor of the living area two to four feet above the adjacent sidewalk grade to increase privacy is desirable. This design guideline does not apply to designated ADA accessible units.

PL3-3-c. Boundaries: Provide a physical “threshold” feature such as a hedge, retaining wall, rockery, stair, railing, or a combination of such elements on private property that defines and bridges the boundary between public right-of-way and private yard or patio. Thresholds may screen but not block views to and from the street and should help define individual units. Retaining walls should generally not be taller than four feet. If additional height is required to accommodate grade conditions, then terraces can be employed.

PL3-3-d. Gates & Fencing: Where gates and fencing are used as threshold features, design them for high visibility and incorporate landscaping to soften these features.

PL3-4 Retail Edges

PL3-4-a. Retail Size: Smaller store-front shops are preferred along Class 1 and Class 2 Pedestrian Streets to accommodate smaller local retailers and provide affordable retail space options.

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.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

PL4-1 Entry Locations and Relationships

PL4-1-a. Consider Transit Riders: When buildings are located adjacent to a major transit stop, integrate weather protection and public seating for bus riders into the design of the building to eliminate the need for a bus shelter, and enhance the function and safety of the pedestrian environment.

PL4-2 Planning Ahead for Bicyclists

PL4-2-a. Bike Facilities: Placement of long-term bicycle storage should consider cyclist safety and ease of access. Provide the required short-term bike racks near main building entrance to accommodate private and shared bicycles. Consider customizing the SDOT approved racks (“inverted U” or “staple” style) to reflect Uptown Arts and Cultural District branding such as colors, distinctive place-names, plaques, or other design elements.

PL4-2-b. Bike Connections: Facilitate connections to major bicycle infrastructure including the Thomas Street Bridge/Elliot Bay Trail, Mercer Street protected bike lane and 2nd Avenue/Denny Way protected bike lane.

PL4-3 Transit Facilities

PL4-3-a. Pedestrian Activity: Transit facilities should be designed as an integral part of any co-development and be designed to support all relevant Citywide Design Guidelines, especially those regarding the ground floor and pedestrian activity.

1. On Class I Pedestrian Streets, required street level uses are essential to achieving the intent of Pedestrian Street Classifications. Operational needs may require that vehicle entrances to transit facilities be wider than permitted for parking garages, and facade lengths may be greater than other structures in the neighborhood. Street frontage of these projects should maintain and reinforce the levels of pedestrian activity and visual interest that Class I Pedestrian streets are intended to achieve.
2. On all streets bus layover facilities should completely screen the layover space from public view. Ideally other uses with transparent, active storefronts are located between bus parking and all adjacent, street public right of way.

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 Façade Composition

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

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

DC2-1 Architectural Context

DC2-1-a. Arts & Cultural District: Architecture that emphasizes human scale, streetscape rhythm, quality detailing and materials is more important than consistency with a particular period or style. Uptown's evolving and dynamic architectural context embraces a range of historical styles, and modern innovative design that reflects the Uptown Arts and Cultural District.

DC2-2 Blank Walls and Retaining Walls

DC2-2-a. Artwork & Murals: Artwork and murals, created in collaboration with the Uptown Arts and Cultural Coalition, are encouraged for any temporary or permanent blank walls.

DC2-2-b. Pattern & Texture: Throughout Uptown any visible retaining walls should be constructed of materials that will provide substantial pattern and texture. Rockery, stone, stacked stone or stained concrete, or brick are preferred. Walls should be appropriately designed and scaled for the pedestrian environment. Landscaping or art in conjunction with retaining walls is strongly encouraged.

DC2-3 Secondary Architectural Features

DC2-3-a. Storefront Design: Design storefronts to allow and encourage tenants to create individualized architectural features.

DC2-3-b. Window Design: Encourage substantial window detailing and recessed windows. Discourage flush window treatments.

DC2-4 Dual Purpose Elements

DC2-4-a. Canopies & Weather Protection: The use of exterior canopies or other weather protection features is favored throughout Uptown for residential and commercial uses. Canopies and awnings should be sized to the scale of the building and the pedestrian, and blend well with the building and surroundings.

DC2-5 Tall Buildings

DC2-5-a. Response to Context: Integrate and transition to a surrounding fabric of differing heights; relate to existing visual datums, the street wall and parcel patterns. Respond to prominent nearby sites and/or sites with axial focus or distant visibility, such as waterfronts, public view corridors, street ends.

DC2-5-b. Tall Form Placement, Spacing & Orientation: Locate the tall forms to optimize the following: minimize shadow impacts on public parks, plazas and places; maximize tower spacing to adjacent structures; afford light and air to the streets, pedestrians and public realm; and minimize general impacts to nearby existing and future planned occupants.

DC2-5-c. Tall Form Design: Avoid long slabs and big, unmodulated boxy forms, which cast bigger shadows and lack scale or visual interest. Consider curved, angled, shifting and/or carved yet coherent forms. Shape and orient tall floorplates based on context, nearby opportunities and design concepts, not simply to maximize internal efficiencies. Modulation should be up-sized to match the longer, taller view distances.

DC2-5-d. Intermediate Scales: To mediate the extra height/scale, add legible, multi-story intermediate scale elements: floor groupings, gaskets, off-sets, projections, sky terraces, layering, or other legible modulations to the middle of tall forms. Avoid a single repeated extrusion from base to top.

DC2-5-e. Shape & Design All Sides: Because tall forms are visible from many viewpoints/distances, intentionally shape the form and design of all sides (even party walls), responding to differing site patterns and context relationships. Accordingly, not all sides may have the same forms or display identical cladding.

DC2-5-f. Adjusted Base Scale: To mediate the form's added height, design a 1-3 story base scale, and/or highly legible base demarcation to transition to the ground and mark the 'street room' proportion. Tall buildings require several scale readings, and the otherwise typical single-story ground floor appears squashed by the added mass above.

DC2-5-g. Ground Floor Uses: Include identifiable primary entrances -scaled to the tall form - and provide multiple entries. Include genuinely activating uses or grade-related residences to activate all streets.

DC2-5-h. Facade Depth & Articulation: Use plane changes, depth, shadow, and texture to provide human scale and interest and to break up the larger facade areas of tall buildings, especially in the base and lower 100 feet. Compose fenestration and material dimensions to be legible and richly detailed from long distances.

DC2-5-i. Quality & 6th Elevations: Intentionally design and employ quality materials and detailing, including on all soffits, balconies, exterior ceilings and other surfaces seen from below, including lighting, vents, etc.

DC2-5-j. Transition to the Sky & Skyline Composition: Create an intentional, designed terminus to the tall form and enhance the skyline (not a simple flat 'cut-off'). Integrate all rooftop elements and uses into the overall design, including mechanical screens, maintenance equipment, amenity spaces and lighting. Use wide photo simulations to study & design how the tall building will contribute to the overall skyline profile and variety of forms.

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

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-B-4. Multifamily Open Space: Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction.

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.

Uptown Supplemental Guidance:

DC4-1 Building Materials

DC4-1-b. Quality Materials: Quality exterior finish materials should be incorporated at all levels and on all exterior walls. Materials at the street level should be of the highest quality.

DC4-1-c. Compatible Materials: Use materials, colors, and details to unify a building’s appearance; buildings and structures should be clad with compatible materials on all sides. Where buildings have side setbacks adjacent to other buildings, materials and design treatments should intentionally ‘wrap the corner’ of window and door openings,

and at building corners, so cladding materials and treatments appear substantial, and not two-dimensional or paper thin.

DC4-1-d. Stucco: The use of stucco is

DC4-2 Commercial Signage

DC4-2-a. Pedestrian-Scale Signage: Pedestrian-scale commercial signage such as blade signs, wall-mounted signs, and signs below awnings, are encouraged. Signs for arts and cultural uses that incorporate elements of color and light are also encouraged.

DC4-2-b. Creative Expression: Storefront signs that integrate creativity and individual expression into the overall design of storefronts are encouraged. Signs that appear cluttered and detract from the quality of the building's design are discouraged.

DC4-3 Commercial Lighting

DC4-3-a. Pedestrian-Scale Lighting: Uptown accommodates shopping and eating experiences during the dark hours of the Northwest's late fall, winter, and early spring. Pedestrian-scale lighting for both the public sidewalks and private pathways is encouraged.

DC4-3-b. Visual Interest: Creative distinct lighting fixtures and schemes that enhance the unique identity of the Uptown Arts and Cultural District is strongly encouraged. Lighting should add visual interest for both pedestrians and drivers while not disturbing any adjacent residential properties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

The recommendation summarized above was based on the design review packet dated Wednesday February 16, 2022, and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the February 16, 2022, Design Recommendation meeting. After considering the site and context, hearing public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the five Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design and departures with the following conditions:

1. The current design of the system carrying roof water to ground level including the water feature shall be held as a minimum design standard. (DC2, DC4)
2. Maintain the exterior materials and details as shown in the Recommendation packet. (DC4, DC2)