



**EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE OF THE  
CENTRAL AREA DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

Record Number: 3040434-EG

Address: 1203 E Spruce St

Applicant: Eli Hardi, MG2

Date of Meeting: March 30, 2023

Board Members Present: Jeff Floor  
Quanlin Hu  
Brittany Port  
Ana Garcia

Board Members Absent: Troy Britt

SDCI Staff Present: David Sachs

**SITE & VICINITY**

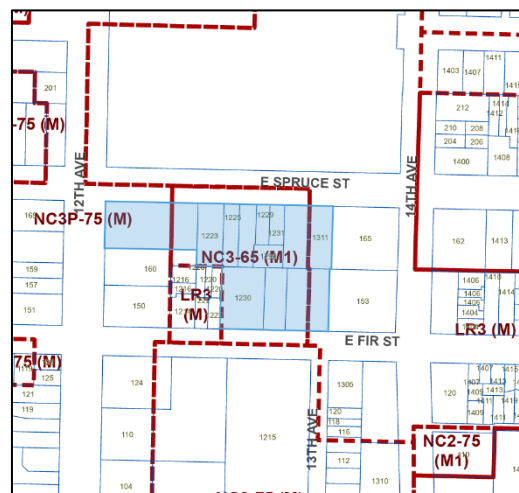
**Site Zone:** Lowrise 3 (M) & Neighborhood Commercial 3-65 (M1) & Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M)

**Nearby Zones:** (North) Lowrise 3 (M)  
(South) Lowrise 3 (M) & Neighborhood Commercial 3-75 (M) & Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M)  
(East) Lowrise 3 (M)  
(West) Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M)

**Lot Area:** 72,544 sq. ft.

**Current Development:**

The subject site is comprised of thirteen existing tax parcels which are vacant of existing development. Much of the site is a gravel lot used for parking and construction staging, with greenbelt areas and small trees on some of the lots and lot boundaries. The site is irregular in shape and slopes downward northwest to southeast approximately twenty-six feet.



**Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:**

The subject site is located on the southeast corner of 12 Ave and E Spruce St in the First Hill/Capitol Hill Urban Center, near the west edge of the Central Area neighborhood. The site includes additional street frontage on E Fir St to the south. This development site occupies the majority of the block. A three-story multifamily residential building and historic City landmark structure Washington Hall are adjacent at the east end of the block, facing 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. Two lowrise commercial structures and four small-scale residential structures occupy the southwest corner of the block. Minor arterial 12<sup>th</sup> Ave provides north-south circulation through the Central Area, connecting it to Capitol Hill to the north and the Chinatown-International District to the south. Yesler Terrace development is located to the west and the Central Area continues to the east. Two blocks to the south, E Yesler Way provides east-west connection between the Central Area and downtown. Boren Ave two blocks to the west creates a diagonal disruption to the orthogonal street grid and provides access between First Hill and the Central Area. The site is situated across three zones (Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M), Neighborhood Commercial 3-65 (M1), and Lowrise 3 (M)) and was rezoned to these classifications on April 19, 2019.

The proximate vicinity is largely developed with residential uses of varying scales, including single-family, multifamily, and mixed-use. A small-scale residential area comprised of single-family and two- to four-unit multifamily buildings extends to the east of 14<sup>th</sup> Ave, while there is a transition to larger-scale multifamily and newer mixed-use structures to the west of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and south of E Fir St. Government and commercial buildings are interspersed, including the full block site to the north, which houses the King County Juvenile Court Youth Services Center ("Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center").

The neighborhood fabric reflects the varying eras of development and their associated scale and architectural styles which span the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, lending a transitional character of historic and contemporary. No one architectural style dominates. Structures range from low- to midrise, stand-alone buildings, and full-block developments, punctuated by open spaces. The neighborhood is in transition as lowrise residential and commercial structures are replaced by larger mixed-use developments up to eight stories in height.

**Access:**

Vehicle access is proposed from E Fir St. Pedestrian access is proposed from 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and E Fir St.

**Environmentally Critical Areas:**

A mapped steep slope area is present in the western half of the site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Design Review Early Design Guidance for a 9-story, 391-unit apartment building with retail. Parking for 243 vehicles proposed.

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>

Any recording of the Board meeting is available in the project file. This meeting report summarizes the meeting and is not a meeting transcript.

## **EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE – MARCH 30, 2023**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Historic Seattle offered the following comments:
  - Stated Washington Hall (153 14th Ave) is a designated Seattle Landmark (built in 1908) and historic building listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
  - Stated full support for comments submitted to SDCI and the Design Review Board by the Central Area Land Use Review Committee (LURC).
  - Felt the proposed project was not adequately addressing the design guidelines, particularly CS3 (Architectural Context and Character) and PL1 (Connectivity).
  - Stated the proposed project is on a large site and is massive in scale. Noted that this one building fronts three streets, so no matter what modulation is proposed to break up the massing and bulk, the scale will still be overwhelming even compared to nearby recent projects.
  - Felt the east side of Scheme C looms ominously over Washington Hall and appeared to have a minimal setback, unlike the previously permitted project at this site (First Central Station) which had a generous setback and more open space between the buildings and included a pedestrian path supporting connectivity.
  - Stated the proposed project ignores Washington Hall and its significance.
  - Stated that they do not wish to see this project mimic the physical features of Washington Hall but felt some effort to meet the Central Area Neighborhood Design Guidelines goals is needed.
  - Requested the review by City Landmarks Staff per SMC 25.05.675H.2.d. (Landmark Adjacency Review) happen early in the project before the Recommendation meeting.

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

- The Central Area Land Use Review Committee offered the following comments:
  - Stated the project will have an outsized impact on both the immediate neighbors and greater community due to the large site, necessitating the importance of consulting the Central Area Design Guidelines.
  - Reminded that the Central Area Design Guidelines prioritize "community accessible open space, interactions between residents and shopkeepers with passersby, and transparency of street uses."
  - Emphasized the importance of a publicly accessible, highly visible through-block pedestrian connection between Fir St and Spruce St to mitigate the site's length. (CS2.1. d)
  - Advocated for appropriate zone transitions to the neighboring LR3 zones. (CS2.1. a)
  - Requested including high ceilings in ground-floor spaces. (CS3.1.c)

- Provide safe and well-connected open spaces such as by connecting pedestrian paths with neighboring projects, shared space, and public spaces, and using linkages to create and contribute to an active and well-connected open space network. (PL1.1.a)
- Provide cultural and place-specific open spaces that can be used for a variety of uses including social gathering, festivals, and other larger celebrations. (PL1.2.a)
- Ensure exclusive rooftop, private, or gated open spaces are not the only form of open space provided for the project. (PL1.2.d)
- Design for livability for families and the elderly. (PL1.3)
- Encouraged smaller and varied building forms or dividing the massing of larger building forms so it does not appear as one monolithic building. (DC2.1.c)
- Where possible, provide common courtyards and yards that are publicly visible and accessible. These spaces should be activated and layered, so that there is a graduation from private outdoor space, to the fully shared realm. (DC3.1.a.)
- Provide generous common, open space, including shared courtyards and plazas that serve as extensions of the adjacent public realm. (DC3.1.c)
- Noted that 23<sup>rd</sup> & Union and 23<sup>rd</sup> & Jackson are examples of common open space and shared plazas recently developed in the Central Area as part of projects of similar size to this one, and this this proposal does not provide any significant publicly accessible open space
- Stated the approach and enjoyment of Washington Hall can be enhanced through imaginative and sensitive treatment of the east portion of the site, and noted the new development adjacent to Seattle's Town Hall as a similar example of an adjacent open space enhancing an important public building.
- Noted the proposal omits any public pedestrian connection between E Spruce and E Fir and such a connection would be very desirable. Precedents include Capitol Hill light rail station and 23<sup>rd</sup> & Jackson.
- Reminded that the county-owned property to the north will be developed in the future, so the impact of that future development should be considered.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments prior to the meeting:

- The project frontages on E Spruce St, 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, and E Fir St are required to meet the minimum standards of curb ramps, 6' curbs, 5.5' planting strips with street trees, and 6' sidewalks. A minimum 8' sidewalk is required on 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- SDOT is working with the project on frontage improvements through their Street Improvement Permit.
- The project packet does not appear to include a solid waste collection plan. SDOT strongly recommends onsite solid waste collection.

Seattle Public Utilities offered the following comments prior to the meeting:

- The project must submit a Solid Waste Storage and Access Checklist for Designers and site plans with solid waste storage and access details.
- Supports collection off E Fir St.
- Supports roll-off compaction for residential recycle and combined garbage. Roll-off service requires a minimum 14' overhead clearance with containers stored on a 4' high dock and a 12' wide loading berth per compactor.
- Requires turning studies that demonstrate trucks can collect compactors with adequate clearance to protect private property.

- Supports uncompacted 2 cubic yard dumpsters for commercial recycle.

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 Seattle Design Guidelines 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 (3040434-EG): <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

#### PRIORITIES & BOARD GUIDANCE

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, Zone Transition, Response to Adjacent Historic Structure:**

- a. The Board discussed all massing options provided by the applicant, considered the responsiveness to the existing context, and agreed with the applicant's preferred Scheme 3. The Board appreciated Scheme 3 for its implied facade modulation widths along E Spruce St and the terraced interior courtyard that opens to the east. However, in agreement with public comment, the Board was concerned that the facade modulation of Scheme 3 did not adequately break down the overall massing along E Spruce St into discernible and appropriately scaled structures that respect the existing structural width pattern in the neighborhood. The Board noted the success of the physical separation between structures along E Spruce St shown on Scheme 2. Moving forward, the Board gave guidance for the applicant to explore ways to incorporate similar major massing moves from Scheme 2 while developing the design of Scheme 3, to help further break down the bulk and scale of the building along E Spruce St. **CS2-C-3, DC2-A, DC2-1-c**
- b. In agreement with public comment, the Board noted that the massing of the applicant's preferred Scheme 3 did not appear to address the transition to the mid-block lower scaled zone (LR3) along the west interior lot line. Moving forward, the Board gave guidance for the applicant to provide adequate information, including site sections, showing how the proposed massing creates a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the proposed development and the anticipated development potential of the adjacent LR3 zone. **CS2-D, CS2-1-a**
- c. The Board appreciated the proposed step in massing on the east side of the building and at the courtyard of Scheme 3 in response to the lower zoning height of the adjacent parcels and the historic Washington Hall building. The Board noted that the steps successfully reduced the perceived height, bulk, and scale of the building when viewed from the corner of E Fir St and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. However, the Board, in agreement with public comment, was specifically concerned with the distance proposed between the Washington Hall building and the proposed development. The Board acknowledged that the setbacks as proposed may meet specific zoning code requirements, however, the Board noted that the required Landmark Adjacency Review could require additional setback of the building at the southeast corner in response to the historic Washington Hall building. The Board gave

guidance for the applicant to engage in conversations with the Department of Neighborhoods to determine the appropriate relationship between the proposed massing and the Washington Hall building. **CS2-C-3, CS3-A, DC2-A, DC2-1-c**

## **2. Ground Level Uses, Streetscape, and Connectivity:**

- a. The Board supported the overall ground level programing proposed in Scheme 3 with its retail space fronting 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, centrally located residential lobby on E Spruce St, and the accompanying lobby and amenity space across the courtyard on E Fir St. The Board gave guidance for the applicant to continue to develop the overall composition of the retail space and the areas around the various residential entries to provide a clear sense of arrival and place making, utilizing benches and seating area, lush and varied landscaping, and hardscape. **PL1-B-3, PL1-C-1, PL3-A, PL3-B, PL3-C, PL3-1, PL3-2, DC4-D**
- b. The Board was concerned with the appropriateness of the proposed residential use at the southeast corner of the building on E Fir St. adjacent to the historic Washington Hall. The Board gave guidance to further study the ground level programing along the east edge of the site to ensure compatibility of uses between the proposed development and the more active event programing of Washington Hall and its parking lot next door. **PL3-B-4, DC3-A-1**
- c. The Board supported the ground level residential units along E Spruce and E Fir St and appreciated the generous setbacks which have the potential to create a sense of separation between the sidewalk and the individual units while maintaining enough space for patios that add more residential character. The Board gave guidance that the patios should remain a usable size and to explore robust landscaping that considers privacy for the residential units while creating a visually interesting experience for pedestrians. **PL3-B-2, PL3-2-d, PL3-2-j, DC4-D**
- d. The Board gave guidance for the applicant to carefully consider the location of bike facilities within the building and clearly call them out in the Recommendation packet. **PL4-B**
- e. The Board specifically noted the importance of addressing the Central Area guidelines when developing the character of the ground level and streetscape. The Board therefore requested rendered landscape plans and adequate graphics in the Recommendation packet to describe the quality of the overall pedestrian experience on all sides of the building. **A.1-1, A2-1**
- f. In agreement with public comment, the Board noted that the block between 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave was longer than the average block length found elsewhere in the neighborhood, and they discussed at length the benefit of a through-site pathway which could contribute to a more porous city block. The Board gave guidance for the applicant to include a through-site pathway or study ways to strengthen the connection, either physically or visually between the street frontages, courtyards, and open spaces proposed. **CS2-1-d**

## **3. Articulation and Materiality:**

- a. The Board noted that the site is set within an evolving neighborhood that includes a variety of traditional and contemporary architectural styles and materials. The Board also noted the prevalence of the use of brick as a prominent building material in the immediate context of this site. Moving forward, the Board gave guidance for the applicant to further study the articulation and materials of buildings within the neighborhood, including the adjacent historic Washington Hall building, to inform an overall façade articulation and material

application concept and material palette that relates to context and is appropriate for this specific project. **CS3-A-1, PL1-A**

- b. The Board noted the visual prominence of the massing at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and E Spruce St and reiterated the importance of well-designed facades. The Board gave guidance for the applicant to carefully consider the articulation of the massing and material application and at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and E Spruce Street. **CS2-C-1, CS3-1**

### **DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES**

The Board's recommendation on the requested departure(s) will be based on the departure's potential to help the project better meet these design guideline priorities and achieve a better overall project design than could be achieved without the departure(s).

At the time of the Early Design Guidance meeting, no departures were requested.

### **DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES**

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood 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](#).

<b>CONTEXT &amp; SITE</b>
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<b>CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.</b>
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**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.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**CS1-1 Local Topography**

**CS1-1-a. Respond to Local Topography:** Respond to local topography with terraces, stoops, stepping facades, or similar approaches. Use appropriately scaled rockeries, stairs, and landscaping to transition between the sidewalk, building façade, and entrances in keeping with local topographic conditions, and existing neighboring approaches.

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

**CS1-2 Connection to Nature**

**CS1-2-a. Impact on Solar Access:** Be sensitive to the project's impact on solar access to adjacent streets, sidewalks, and buildings. Where possible, consider setting taller buildings back at their upper floors, or pushing buildings back from the street and providing wider sidewalks so sunlight can reach pedestrian level spaces and neighboring properties. Ensure sunlight reaches building entrances whenever possible.

**CS1-2-b. Provide Vegetation:** Provide vegetated spaces throughout the project. Vertical green walls are encouraged in addition to landscape beds.

**CS1-2-c. Gardens and Farming Opportunities:** Incorporate edible gardens and urban farming opportunities within the design, both at grade, and on the roof for larger buildings.

**CS1-2-d. Unify with Landscaping:** Unify streets through street trees and landscaping.

- a. Consider tree species as a unifying feature to provide identifiable character to a street or project.
- b. Incorporate an irrigation plan for the trees and other landscaping proposed to ensure maintainability of the plants, or include low-maintenance, drought-resistant species.

**CS1-2-e. Protect Sidewalks:** Create protected sidewalks by utilizing planter strips with lush landscaping, to help create a "room" between the street and the building.

**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.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**CS2-1 Transition and Delineation of Zones**

**CS2-1-a. Provide Privacy Layering and Scale:** Where denser zones transition to lower density residential zones, provide privacy layering and scale for ground related entrances, porches, and stoops on façades facing the less dense residential zone.

**CS2-1-b. Transition using Massing and Articulation:** In addition to building height, use building massing and articulation to transition to single-family scaled fabric. Other acceptable methods include setbacks, building footprint size and placement on the site, building width, façade modulation, and roof line articulation.

**CS2-1-c. Relate to Human Scale:** The use of appropriately scaled residential elements, such as bay windows and balconies, on larger buildings next to single-family zones are encouraged to better relate to the human scale. This is especially important for buildings four stories and lower.

**CS2-1-d. Reduce Building Mass Using Passageways:** Along with smaller building massing, the use of breezeways, portals, and through-block connections help to lessen the mass of the overall building, and add to the existing network of pedestrian pathways.

**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.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**CS3-1 Neighborhood Context**

**CS3-1-a. Retain Neighborhood Character:** Retain and encourage the extension of existing positive attributes of the surrounding neighborhood character.

**CS3-1-b. Continue Existing Neighborhood Fabric:** Where appropriate, encourage the preservation, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and/or addition to existing structures as a way to continue the existing neighborhood fabric.

**CS3-1-c. Include High Ceilings at Ground Level:** Include high ceilings in ground floor spaces of new structures consistent with older character structures in the vicinity. Floor to ceiling heights of at least 15 feet with clerestory windows are encouraged for commercial ground floors.

**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.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**PL1-1 Accessible Open Space**

**PL1-1-a. Safety & Connectivity:** Provide safe and well connected open spaces. Utilize walkways and linkages to visually and physically connect pedestrian paths with neighboring projects, shared space and public spaces such as streets. Use linkages to create and contribute to an active and well-connected open space network.

**PL1-1-b. Neighborhood Nodes & Business Corridors:** Larger projects around important neighborhood nodes should create generous recessed entries, corner plazas, and more usable open space adjoining the streets. Projects along dense business corridors should maintain a continuous street wall definition contributing to the area's urban feel.

**PL1-1-c. Transparent Indoor Community Spaces:** Incorporate transparent and open indoor community meeting spaces at the ground level of larger projects. Avoid having any window coverings or window film that permanently obscure views into or out of the space.

**PL1-2 Connection Back to the Community**

**PL1-2-a. Multi-Purpose Gathering Spaces:** Provide cultural and place-specific open spaces that can be used for a variety of uses including social gathering, festivals, and other larger celebrations.

**PL1-2-b. Weather Protection:** When providing open gathering spaces for the community, include weather protection to ensure the space can remain active all year long.

**PL1-2-c. Lighting, Art and Special Features:** Enhance gathering places with lighting, art and features, so that the scale of the art and special features are commensurate with the scale of the new development.

**PL1-2-d. Common & Accessible Open Spaces:** Ensure exclusive rooftop, private, or gated open spaces are not the only form of open space provided for the project. Prioritize common, accessible, ground level open space at the building street fronts and/or with courtyards that are not restricted or hidden from street views.

**PL1-2-e. Hardscapes:** Not all open spaces need to be landscaped; hardscapes are encouraged when sized and designed to encourage active usage. At these locations, building edges should be inviting while creating well defined open spaces for common use. These spaces are especially important close to prominent intersections, streets, and Cultural Placemaker locations. In areas where it is not feasible to be open to physical pedestrian access, visual openness should be provided.

**PL1-2-f. Rooftop Vegetation:** When providing vegetation at the roof level, consider urban agriculture instead of a passive green roof to provide residents access to fresh produce.

**PL1-3 Livability for Families and Elderly**

**PL1-3-a. Safe Play Areas:** Provide safe areas for children to play where they can be seen. Incorporate seating areas nearby for parents, guardians, and other community members to congregate.

**PL1-3-b. Rooftop Gathering Spaces:** Consider utilizing building rooftops as an opportunity for family gathering and gardening.

**PL1-3-c. Preserve Alleys for Access and Use:** Where applicable, preserve alleys for pedestrian access and service use. Provide adequate lighting, transparency and entrances to ensure active usage.

**PL1-3-d. Multi-Generational Gathering Spaces:** Provide multi-generational community gathering spaces for young and old to recreate and converse together.

**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.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**PL3-1 Frontages**

**PL3-1-a. Design Elements:** Encourage color, material, and signage variation in storefront design.

**PL3-1-b. Emulate Pedestrian-Oriented Context:** Design ground floor frontages in commercial and mixed-use areas that emulate or improve upon the surrounding pedestrian-oriented context, while acknowledging the pedestrian patterns that exist.

**PL3-1-c. Promote Transparency:** Promote transparency and “eyes on the street.” No reflective or obscure glass should be used. Discourage retailers from putting display cases or window film up against windows to maintain transparency into commercial spaces.

**PL3-1-d. Step Storefronts Along the Grade:** Avoid grade separations at retail. Storefronts should step along with the grade (ex: 30’ max length of any floor level on a sloping frontage) with a focus on accessibility.

**PL3-1-e. Frequent Entrances and Expressed Breaks:** In pedestrian-oriented commercial areas, provide frequent entrances and expressed breaks along storefronts through columns or pilasters at regular intervals of 25 to 30 feet, to accommodate and encourage smaller retailers and community-oriented businesses.

**PL3-1-f. Live/Work Spaces:** Live/work spaces should be designed to activate street frontage, maintain transparent windows, and arrange the interior to place work space at the street windows.

**PL3-1-g. Couple Entries:** At residential projects, provide coupled entries where possible to foster a sense of community and visual interest in building entryways. Provide generous porches at these entries to encourage sitting and watching the street.

**PL3-1-h. Exterior Access at Ground Level:** Provide exterior access to ground floor residential units. This interior/exterior connection should occur frequently with entrances placed at a regular interval.

#### **PL3-2 Streetscape Treatment**

**PL3-2-a. Emphasize Building Relationship to the Street:** Emphasize the relationship between buildings and their entrances to the street, pedestrians, and neighboring buildings both adjacent and across the street. Provide special treatment through paving or building materials to highlight each business's presence along the street.

**PL3-2-b. Recessed Business Entries:** Provide recessed business entries to encourage a slower pedestrian pace where people have sheltered space to stop and gather.

**PL3-2-c. Overhead Weather Protection:** To protect pedestrians along the sidewalk, provide awnings or overhead weather protection at all non-residential frontages, neighborhood nodes, and on west-facing facades with a minimum depth of 6'. Larger commercial projects should have deeper coverage, with a minimum depth of 8' at all street frontages, especially street corners.

**PL3-2-d. Pedestrian Environment:** Encourage a quality pedestrian environment that provides safe, comfortable routes for pedestrians that reflect the existing character of the building fabric.

**PL3-2-e. Activate the Planter Zone:** Encourage activation of the planter zone to include community gardens, as well as street trees and pedestrian furniture (with SDOT concurrence).

**PL3-2-f. Limit Solid Barriers and Blank Walls:** Limit the placement of solid barriers or blank walls next to the sidewalk. Consider using landscape buffers instead.

**PL3-2-g. Voluntary Spaces:** Provide voluntary space abutting the sidewalk right-of-way for businesses to utilize (ex: cafes, produce markets, street markets, fish vendors, buskers, pop-up shops, etc.).

**PL3-2-h. Complete Streets:** Encourage a safe, comfortable environment for pedestrians with components of complete streets (ex: wide planter zones, wide sidewalks, and/or building setbacks to allow for usable porches, stoops, and outdoor seating).

**PL3-2-i. Porches and Stoops:** Porches and stoops are the life of the street. Encourage human activity by providing opportunities for neighbors to connect, walk, and talk together on the sidewalk.

**PL3-2-j. Buffer Private Outdoor Spaces:** To facilitate usable stoops and patios, and to encourage pedestrian-to-resident interaction, buffer private outdoor spaces from the public sidewalk with low walls, planters and landscape layering that defines the private space yet allows for face to face conversations. Tall 'privacy walls' or fences are not acceptable.

**PL3-2-k. Raise Private Stoops Above Sidewalk Grade:** If floor levels and site grading allows, the private stoop at residential units should be raised above sidewalk grade, using 30" as an average height, with universal access to the unit included elsewhere.

**PL3-2-l. Discourage Recessed Residential Patios:** Residential patio levels recessed more than 18" below the adjacent sidewalk grades are discouraged and should be used discerningly, as they can hinder interaction, and may create safety and maintenance issues.

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

##### **PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships**

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

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

##### **PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists**



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

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

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

#### **PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit**

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

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

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

### **DESIGN CONCEPT**

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

##### **DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses**

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

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

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

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

##### **DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation**

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

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

##### **DC1-C Parking and Service Uses**

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

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

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

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

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

**DC2-A Massing**

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

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

**DC2-B Architectural and Facade Composition**

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

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

**DC2-C Secondary Architectural Features**

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

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

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

**DC2-D Scale and Texture**

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

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

**DC2-E Form and Function**

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

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC2-1 Building Layout and Massing**

**DC2-1-a. Clarify Concepts:** Project concepts should be intelligible and clear. Clarity makes knowledge of the design accessible, thus a larger portion of the community will be able to participate in the planning and design process.

**DC2-1-b. Engage the Ground Plane:** Building design should relate to the earth, using building forms and massing that engage the ground plane, rather than 'float above'. Ground level transparency should still occur on major pedestrian and commercial streets.



**DC2-1-c. Encourage Smaller and Varied Building Forms:** Smaller and varied building forms are encouraged. Larger building forms should divide their mass up so that it does not appear as one, monolithic building. These breaks in massing and differentiation should take cues from the surrounding fabric. Vertical and horizontal datums and patterns can help provide a guide for how to articulate and break down the overall massing. Modulated façades for large buildings keep the building inviting and consistent with the finer-grain fabric found in the Central Area neighborhood. As such, projects should use 50' – 75' massing widths as a guide for modulation.

**DC2-1-d. Relate Scale and Form to the Adjacent Public Realm:** Appropriately scale buildings so that they relate to the scale and form of the adjacent public realm (i.e. the width of the streets and/or affronting open spaces and adjacent smaller scale zones).

**DC2-1-e. Façade Impacts:** Consider all sides of the building and the impacts each façade has on its immediate neighboring context. If building on a slope, consider the project's roofscape as well.

**DC2-1-f. Consider Climate:** Consider how each façade may respond to climate conditions such as solar shading and prevailing winds.

**DC2-1-g. Upper Floor Setbacks:** Consider upper floor setbacks along secondary retail zones. In these less dense areas, tall does not always mean urban. Walkable urban places can be achieved at a smaller scale with buildings that have visual texture through their retail frontage, pedestrian scaled signage, tile details, and accented knee walls, as demonstrated by the businesses along Union St, west of 23rd Avenue.

**DC2-1-h. Encourage Family-Sized, Ground-Level units:** Where compatible with the surrounding streetscape, family sized, ground related apartment units (2 and 3 bedrooms) with usable adjacent open spaces are encouraged.

**DC2-1-i. Cluster Small Businesses:** Encourage clusters of small and local businesses together.

1. Reduce the scale of commercial façades so that they are conducive to small business tenants.
2. Include commercial spaces with smaller footprints to promote and accommodate local establishments at street level.
3. Set the maximum length of street frontage for individual businesses to be consistent with the existing business character of the area.
4. Where there is not a strong existing character for the area, follow guidance provided in frontage section (PL3-I).

### **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.

**DC3-C Design**

**DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space:** Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

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

**DC3-C-3. Support Natural Areas:** Create an open space design that retains and enhances onsite natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC3-1 Common Open Spaces**

**DC3-1-a. Visible and Accessible Common Courtyards:** Where possible, provide common courtyards and yards that are publicly visible and accessible. These spaces should be activated and layered, so that there is a graduation from private outdoor space, to the fully shared realm.

**DC3-1-b. Delineate Between Shared and Private Spaces:** Encourage courtyard housing and bungalow courts which use landscaping as the delineation between shared and private spaces, instead of fencing.

**DC3-1-c. Extend the Public Realm:** Provide generous common, open space, including shared courtyards and plazas that serve as extensions of the adjacent public realm.

**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.

**DC4-E Project Assembly and Lifespan**

**DC4-E-1. Deconstruction:** When possible, design the project so that it may be deconstructed at the end of its useful lifetime, with connections and assembly techniques that will allow reuse of materials.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**DC4-1 Screening**

**DC4-1-a. Artistic Opportunity:** When screening or fencing is used, it should be designed as an artistic opportunity.

**DC4-1-b. Allow for Views:** Design screening height, porosity, and materials to allow for views in and out of the site, and visual interaction with the public realm.

**DC4-2 Building Materials**

**DC4-2-a. Reinforce Local Cultural References:** Consider vibrant and bold uses of color, materials, texture, and light to reinforce local cultural references.

**DC4-2-b. Variation and High-Quality Materials:** Encourage variation in building materials and employ high quality materials.

**DC4-2-c. Reuse Building Materials:** Salvage building materials from the site when possible. If reusable materials, such as brick, are removed from demolished buildings, use them in the new development as visible building components.

**DC4-3 Building Details and Elements**

**DC4-3-a. Natural Ventilation:** Provide operable windows in a way that promotes natural ventilation.

**DC4-3-b. Reflect Human Scale and Craftmanship:** Incorporate building materials and details that reflect human scale and the craftsmanship of the building process (ex: use of brick or wood for exterior cladding).

**DC4-3-c. Add Human Scale and Façade Texture:** Incorporate elements such as bay windows, columns, and deep awnings which add human scale and façade texture.

**DC4-3-d. Exhibit Rhythm and Transparency:** Façades should exhibit a rhythm of fenestration, and transparency of the inside program out to the public realm.

**Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

**A.1-1 History and Heritage**

**A.1-1-a. Express African and Black American Presence:** Provide design features to express the African and Black American presence within the neighborhood. Create 'pockets of culture' to represent both the Black American identity within the Central Area, as well as other heritages that have had a large impact on the Central Area's past.

**A.1-1-b. Include Visual Arts in the Design Concept:** Consider including visual arts as an integral part of the design concept along main street building façades, within highly trafficked pedestrian areas, and within open spaces.

**A.1-1-c. Cover Blank Walls with Art:** Use any resulting blank walls and surfaces for the visible expression of art that references the history, heritage, and culture of the community.

**A.1-1-d. Interpretive Storytelling:** Include interpretive opportunities (through visual art, signage, markers, etc.) that tell the story of the neighborhood's history in engaging ways.

**A.1-1-e. Reflect Racial, Economical and Multi-Generational Character:** Encourage the building design to reflect the racial, economical, and multi-generational character of the community.

**A.1-1-f. Support the Black Veteran Community:** Developments are encouraged to provide housing and/or amenities for the Black Veteran community.

**A.1-1-g. Local Activities and Interests:** Provide amenities appropriate to the activities and interests of the local community, such as basketball hoops, chess boards, tot lots and other family oriented activities.

**A.1-1-h. Encourage Bicycle Use and Parking:** Bicycle use and parking should be encouraged to promote a healthy and active neighborhood and to support local businesses. Bicycle racks should be plentiful, and either be from the Seattle Department of Transportation's bike parking program or be an approved rack of similar "inverted U" or "staple" style. The bicycle racks may also be an opportunity for placemaking, such as having a uniform color for bike racks within the Central District or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

#### **A.1-2 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Union Character Area**

**A.1-2-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. A cohesive neighborhood grain with historic character that establishes the area as a destination for the surrounding community.
2. An established, pedestrian-scaled neighborhood-commercial area, with a mix of both commercial and residential uses, grounded by locally-owned businesses and institutions.
3. Hub of the African and Black American community.
4. Diverse range of shops, restaurants, entertainment, and places of worship. Specific buildings to note are the Central Cinema (1411 21<sup>st</sup> Ave) and Katy's Cafe (2000 E Union St).

**A.1-2-b. Provide Accessible Open Space and Community Gathering Opportunities:** In this area it is especially important to provide additional accessible open space and community gathering opportunities, for example plazas adjacent to the public sidewalks.

#### **A.1-3 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Cherry Character Area**

**A.1-3-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. Smaller-scaled fabric with many culturally specific restaurants, as well as community and youth-centered resources.
2. Specific places to note are Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave), Garfield Community Center (2323 E Cherry St), Quincy Jones Performing Arts Center (400 23rd Ave), Medgar Evers Pool (500 23rd Ave), and Eritrean Community Center (2402 E Spruce St).

#### **A.1-4 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson Character Area**

**A.1-4-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. Larger-scale, mixed-use commercial district with opportunities for startups, and both large and small scaled businesses.
2. Both a local and regional destination due to its commercial developments, social services, community assets, and shops for daily household needs.
3. Specific places to note are the Pratt Fine Arts Center (1902 S Main St), Wood Technology Center (2310 S Lane St), Seattle Vocational Institute (2120 S Jackson St), Langston

Hughes Performing Arts Institute (104 17th Ave S), and Douglass Truth Library (2300 E Yesler Way).

### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **A.2-1 Cultural Placemakers**

**A.2-1-a. Emphasize Cultural Placemakers:** Emphasize Cultural Placemakers within the community. The Cultural Placemaker map identifies several key intersections in the Central Area that serve as cultural anchors for their surrounding areas. Projects at these corner locations should stimulate activities and create visual interest to enhance the Central Area's identity and a sense of arrival, such as:

1. Providing street furniture, public art, landscape elements, pedestrian lighting, mosaics, varied paving patterns, etc.
2. Creating façade enhancements at prominent building corners.
3. Creating a building layout and setbacks that provide opportunities for open space that expand the usable space beyond the width of the sidewalks.
4. Providing larger landscape buffers at placemakers along heavier trafficked streets.

### **BOARD DIRECTION**

At the conclusion of the Early Design Guidance meeting, the majority of the Board members at this meeting requested a second EDG meeting to review alternate designs that specifically include a through-block connection, similar to a previously proposed development at this site. The Board related this direction to Guideline:

***CS2-1-d. Reduce Building Mass Using Passageways:*** Along with smaller building massing, the use of breezeways, portals, and through-block connections help to lessen the mass of the overall building, and add to the existing network of pedestrian pathways.

The SDCI Design Review Program Manager has considered this Board guidance and appreciates the Board's overall guidance to ensure that the proposal meets Design Guidelines. A through block connection is not part of the current proposal and is not required to meet the Land Use Code development standards in this location. The Design Review Manager has considered the Board's guidance and the applicable design guideline, and notes that it is possible for a design at this site to meet Design Guidelines without requiring a through-block connection. The Design Review Program Manager has therefore determined that a second EDG meeting is not required.

While a second EDG meeting is not required, it remains important for the design to resolve the visual length and mass of the E Spruce St façade, for the design to respond to nearby pedestrian connections and open spaces, and for the design to provide open spaces that meet the Central Area Design Guidelines. The applicant should work to resolve these issues in the proposed design and demonstrate the response in the Recommendation packet.