ISRD Workshop 1
A Look Back and Forward

Schemata Workshop & BOLA Architecture and Planning
Process
Overview of work group meetings:

- Workshop 1: A look back/forward
  - February
- Workshop 2: Walking Tour A & Discussion
  - March
- Workshop 3: Walking Tour B & Discussion
  - March
- Workshop 4: Walking Tour C & Discussion
  - March
- Workshop 5: Walking Tour D & Discussion
  - April
Process
Locational focus with three themes:

- Historic Preservation
- Culturally Responsive Design
- New Construction Design
International Special Review
District Design Guidelines

Background Review and Analysis
1. Seattle Municipal Code 23.66
5. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines
6. Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
7. Relevant National Parks Service Historic Buildings Preservation Briefs
9. Chinatown International District 2020 Healthy Community Action Plan
Seattle Municipal Code 23.66

- Has goals for overall district, as well as the IDM, IDR, East of I-5 and Union Station Corridor

- Encourages rehabilitation and renovation of existing structures in a contextually compatible way

- Lists building elements, materials, colors, surfaces and transparencies appropriate for the Asian Design Character District

- Primary focus on Awnings & Canopies, Storefront Design, Security Systems, Sidewalk Displays, and Signage

- Makes reference to the SMC as well as the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation when addressing façade alterations

- Outlines the purpose of the ISRD as promoting, preserving, and perpetuating the cultural, social, economic and historical qualities of the area

- Describes criteria and process for Certificate of Approval

- Encourages accessibility and pedestrian-oriented street level design

- Provides specific guidance on site design, building design, signage and appropriate exterior materials, detailing and colors

- Breaks guidance down into three topic areas: Site & Context, Public Life and Design Concept
- Recommends that existing architectural character, history and culture be considered in the design process
- Allows for specific, location based, neighborhood design guidelines to be used as an additional overlay
Builds on the 1992 International District community plan

Has four objectives: Cultural and Economic Vitality, Housing Diversity and Affordability, Safe and Dynamic Public Spaces, and Increased accessibility

Focus on having a pedestrian friendly environment to support and encourage patronage of businesses
Vision is to ensure CID is a healthy, safe and livable neighborhood for residents, businesses and community members

Focus on having a clean and welcoming street presence to promote safe environments and increase outdoor activity

Provides measurable outcomes to track the CID’s progress on health, safety, and livability objectives
Other documents we will be reviewing:

• The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines

• Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

• Relevant National Parks Service Historic Buildings Preservation Briefs
Common themes arising from our review

- Promoting Asian character design (through signage and other elements)
- Ensuring public spaces are designed with a welcoming and pedestrian-friendly focus
- Contextually appropriate alterations to historic buildings through adherence to the Secretary of Interiors Standards
- Feeling safe in the streets – accessibility/CPTED
Questions arising from our review

- What does Asian character design mean?
- How does new development address and incorporate Asian character?
- What is culturally responsive design? And when does it become cultural appropriation or ornamentation without meaning?
- What public spaces do the community find welcoming?
- What do new buildings in a historic/cultural neighborhood look/feel like?
International Special Review
District Design Guidelines

Jurisdiction Precedent Study
Design Guidelines from other Cities

Westcoast cities with Asian cultural districts:
1. Portland, OR
2. Vancouver, BC
3. Los Angeles, CA