



The City of Seattle

## International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

ISRD 171/24

### MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, September 10, 2024

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Hybrid Meeting

#### **Board Members Present**

Eric Chan  
Heather Hargesheimer  
Nella Kwan  
Kyle Jacobson  
Adrian Lam  
Gary Lee

#### **Staff**

Rebecca Frestedt  
Melinda Bloom

#### **Absent**

Samantha Wong

Chair Adrian Lam called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **091024.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes**

July 23, 2024

MM/SC/GL/KJ 4:0:2 Messrs. Lam and Chan abstained.

Minutes approved.

##### **091024.2 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

##### **091024.3 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL**

**091024.31**      651 S. Main St. – Nihonmachi Terrace  
Record number: DONH-COA-01409  
Applicant: YongKang “YK” Zhou, CIDBIA

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed application for a painted mural, artwork by Tori Shao applied to the base of the building at the southwest corner. Nihonmachi Terrace is a non-contributing building, located outside of the Asian Design Character District. When reviewing artwork, the Board considers placement, materials, colors, scale and method of attachment.

YK Zhou, CIDBIA, provided context of the proposed mural. He said it is one of three mural projects hosted by the Chinatown International District (CID) Small Business Relief Team (SBRT). SBRT is a joint effort between three community-based organizations in the Chinatown International District: the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA), Friends of Little Sài Gòn (FLS), and the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda). The goal for this project is to create large-scale public art that is impactful and reflective of the neighborhood’s culture, history, and diverse community. Nihonmachi Terrace, one of the selected mural locations, is situated at 653 South Main St, across the street from the Danny Woo Community Garden and Yesler Terrace. This project is funded by a Hope Corps grant from the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (ARTS). The Hope Corps Downtown Seattle Murals Project, in collaboration with the Office of Economic Development, is a one-time investment as part of ARTS’ Hope Corps program. This initiative aims to create public murals in alignment with Mayor Harrell’s Downtown Activation Plan and the Many Hands Art Initiative.

Tori Shao is a Seattle-based landscape architect and illustrator, who recently designed a mural for the Nagomi Tea House. Her work is informed by our cultural and ecological relationships to objects, plants, and one another. Tori’s interest in public artwork is rooted in its transformative nature and the opportunity to create community-centered pieces. She explained how she divided the design to work with the oddly shaped building section and planter.

Mr. Zhou said no SDOT permit is required.

Mr. Chan appreciated the project and suggested interpretive signage.

Ms. Shao said nothing is planned at this time, but it can be discussed.

Mr. Zhou said it is a good idea and said that a QR code would be a good idea.

Mr. Jacobson liked the QR code idea. He asked about blank spots within the painting and expressed concern that they would be tagged.

Mr. Lee appreciated the design and concept and said it is beautiful.

Ms. Hargesheimer appreciated the presentation and said the design is beautiful. She appreciated the building color as backdrop and said it makes the mural feel like part of the building.

Mr. Lam asked if they have the ability to tie all murals together somewhere.

Mr. Lam suggested having landing pages that connect all artwork on the QR codes. He appreciated the themes and said the artwork is appropriate. He suggested having a continuation of the blue clouds around the corner and to pay attention to that detail and how it wraps the corner.

Ms. Frestedt said the board could add language suggesting inclusion of signage to explain meaning of the mural and for the applicant to have the ability to incorporate and submit to staff, and to consider a plaque or sign to convey meaning or artwork by submission to staff.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for exterior alterations for the application of a painted mural, per the submitted application materials.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the September 10, 2024 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance and relevant Standards:**

**Seattle Municipal Code (SMC)**

SMC 23.66.336 - Exterior building finishes

General Requirements

Exterior design outside the Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/HH/NK

6:0:0

Motion carried.

**091024.4 Staff Summary and Board Business**

Ms. Frestedt said the election mailing will go out at the end of the month. She said position #3 and #5 are open. She mentioned that the intention to do an assessment and review of election procedures and identify opportunities for improvement. She said there wasn't enough time this election cycle.

Mr. Jacobson suggested a change to the nomination process so position candidates are distributed as evenly as possible, avoiding uncontested seats and increasing participation.

Ms. Frestedt said the mail in process has held steady with in-person turnout. She said there are many more eligible than participate. She said employees are difficult to engage, especially with small businesses and staff.