



The City of Seattle

## Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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

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PSB 248/23

### Staff REPORT

for Board meeting October 4, 2023

Board Members Please Note: The citations from the District Ordinance, Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and Secretary of the Interior's Standards listed below are for your consideration in addition to any other citations you find relevant in considering each application.

#### **100423.31 Seattle Waterfront Project**

Alaskan Way

Proposed 11 signs that provide historic, cultural and natural interpretive information related to Seattle's waterfront and welcome and operation information.

Staff report: The Pioneer Square Preservation Board approved the Seattle Waterfront project in 2018. Planned for but not finalized in the project were wayfinding and cultural and interpretive information panels. The panels for the Alaskan way are now finalized and presented for approval. Free standing signs are prohibited but signs that identify areas such as parks are allowed as they are not commercial signs. Some locations along the waterfront are not completed as seen in the photo so you will need to imagine the final conditions of where the signs will be installed.

Draft Motion: I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for: installation of 11 historical, cultural and natural interpretive informational signs. All s presented.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the *October 4, 2023* public meeting and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

#### Code Citations:

SMC

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

- A. Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces

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The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

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in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

23.66.160 - Signs

A. Signs.

2. The following signs are prohibited throughout the Pioneer Square Preservation District:

Permanently affixed, freestanding signs (**except those used to identify areas such as parks** and those authorized for surface parking lots under subsection 23.66.160.C.7);

- B. To ensure that flags, banners and signs are of a scale, color, shape and type compatible with the Pioneer Square Preservation District objectives stated in Section 23.66.100 and with the character of the District and the buildings in the District, to reduce driver distraction and visual blight, to ensure that the messages of signs are not lost through undue proliferation, and to enhance views and sight lines into and down streets, the overall design of a sign, flag, or banner, including size, shape, typeface, texture, method of attachment, color, graphics and lighting, and the number and location of signs, flags, and banners, shall be reviewed by the Board and are regulated as set out in this Section 23.66.160. Building owners are encouraged to develop an overall signage plan for their buildings.
- C. In determining the appropriateness of signs, including flags and banners used as signs as defined in Section 23.84A.036, the Preservation Board shall consider the following:
  3. Signs not attached to structures shall be compatible with adjacent structures and with the District generally.

RULES FOR THE PIONEER SQUARE PRESERVATION DISTRICT

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. (7/99) In considering rehabilitation projects, what is critical is the stabilization of significant historical detailing, respect for the original architectural style, and compatibility of scale and materials.

Secretary of Interior's Standards

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be taken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Issued: September 26, 2023

Genna Nashem  
Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator