



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 169/24

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, August 13, 2024

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Hybrid Meeting

Board Members Present

Eric Chan
Heather Hargesheimer
Kyle Jacobson
Adrian Lam
Samantha Wong

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt
Melinda Bloom

Absent

Nella Kwan
Gary Lee

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

ROLL CALL

081324.1 PUBLIC COMMENT

081324.2 MEETING MINUTES

April 23, 2024

MM/SC/KJ/SW

4:0:1

Minutes approved. Mr. Chan abstained.

June 11, 2024

MM/SC/HH/KJ

3:0:2

Minutes approved. Mssrs. Chan and Lam abstained.

081324.3 CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

081324.31 1227 S. Weller St.

Record number: DONH-COA-01364

Applicant: Anh Nguyen, Friends of Little Saigon

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed application of a painted mural applied to a portion of the east façade. This site is located east of I-5, in Little Saigon. She said reviewing artwork, the Board considers placement, materials, colors, scale and method of attachment.

The applicant explained the project is a collaboration of multiple groups including Friends of Little Saigon, CIDBIA, SCIDBIA, SCIDPDA. The project is funding through HopeCorps. She provided context of the area and proposed siting of the mural on the building. She went over community engagement that was done and said the history of the neighborhood is important to the community. The applicant explained the selection process and said the artist team for the mural consists of Stevie Shao, Celeste Byers, and Lauren YS. She said the mural is a painting of a Vietnamese woman with plum blossoms in her hair. Proposed materials are exterior latex house paints and spray paints.

Ms. Hargesheimer said she loves the story of the work and the symbolism. She asked if a plaque or interpretive panel is planned. She asked if a graffiti coating is planned.

Ms. Nguyen said there would be a graffiti coat, and that the artist's contract includes maintenance for the first two years. She said Friends of Little Saigon and the property owner will maintain it as long as possible. She agreed a plaque would be nice.

Ms. Hargesheimer said she appreciated the thoroughness of the planning.

Mr. Lam appreciated the mural was adapted to fit the profile of the façade.

Ms. Wong appreciated the vibrancy and noted the color, scale and material.

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 on the east façade, 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 August 13, 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

- A. General Requirements
- C. Exterior design outside the Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/SW/KJ

5:0:0

Motion carried.

081324.32

668 S. Lane St. – Asia Condominiums

Record number: DONH-COA-01409

Proposed artwork (mural) to be painted on the north façade

Applicant: An Huynh, SCIDpda

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed application of a painted mural, design by Lauren YS, applied to the north façade. The Asia Condominiums building is a non-contributing building, located outside of the Asian Design Character District. She said, when reviewing artwork, the Board considers placement, materials, colors, scale and method of attachment.

The applicant explained the funding source for this site is the same as the 1227 S. Weller mural. She provided context of the building and indicated where the mural would be sited. She provided a detailed overview of community engagement done.

The artist, Lauren YS, explained the mural aims to capture the powerful links between past, present and future within the Asian community surrounding Seattle Chinatown. A constellation of characters inspired by important members of the diaspora center around a family scene in which siblings, parents and grandparents share food, a ubiquitous gesture of togetherness and generational love across cultures. An elder character holding fish represents the fisherman's history in Seattle with nods to the Vietnamese immigrant experience, and a femme character performing martial arts gives a nod to the fighter's legacy in Seattle. The mural also includes references to the Seattle Chinese Community girls' drill team, Japanese taiko drumming, traditional Filipina garb and a character from a traditional Chinese lion dance. The mural will be painted directly on the wall's surface using industrial grade house paints and spray paints. A coat of anti-graffiti covering will be applied, which ensures decades of color resistance and longevity. Installation is anticipated in late August to mid-September. The artist will maintain it for two years; after that it will be the building's responsibility.

In response to a Board member question, the applicant said a plaque would be included.

There was discussion about the positioning of characters in the image. A Board member noted that the design was centered on a boy child and wondered if the hierarchy was unintended. They recommended having the meal in the center, with the children on either side, for balance.

The artist said much of their work centers female characters and for this work she changed it up, but she would take the comments into account.

Ms. Hargesheimer appreciated the project and the thoughtfulness of including a maintenance plan. She appreciated the consideration of public comments.

Ms. Frestedt said issues raised were shared with applicants who have worked through issues. She said the Board may consider that revisions to the image could be reviewed by staff.

Ms. Wong made a motion in support of the proposal. Ms. Hargesheimer seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about inclusion of verbiage to allow staff administrative review of community responses. Mmes. Wong and Hargesheimer supported the amendment.

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 on the north façade, per the submitted application materials. Incorporation of changes to the design in response to public comment feedback can be reviewed administratively by staff.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the August 13, 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

A. General Requirements

C. Exterior design outside the Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/SW/HH

5:0:0

Motion carried.

Ms. Hargesheimer left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

081324.4 BOARD BRIEFING

081324.41 Record number: DONH-COA-01256

Presenter: Joshua Gawne, Seattle Department of Transportation

The presenter explained the project to install 15 new Seamless Seattle wayfinding signs within the ISRD boundaries. Seamless Seattle is the City of Seattle's new standard for pedestrian wayfinding. The project replaces the existing red wayfinding sign program. These signs will be installed as part of the fourth phase of the work, which focuses on four district areas: Chinatown/International District, Convention Center, Seattle Center, and the Waterfront.

He explained the four pillars that underpin the Seamless Seattle wayfinding strategy:

1. Modal Integration: Walking information deployed in stations, stops and interchanges, and integrated digital tools, that will connect transit modes to each other and last mile walking journeys.

2. Local Distinctiveness: Development of a single, agreed city-wide wayfinding standard that will provide a consistent information layer, while allowing for local content, and local design distinctiveness for historic landmark neighborhoods.
3. Design for All: Development of planning rules to prioritize safe and accessible walking routes, prioritization of content to support people with greater needs and system design guided by strong inclusive design principles establishing accessibility of information for all.
4. Systemization: Design standards with a high degree of commonality for planning and system design, to guide deployment of all city wayfinding. Supported by a back-of-house Content Management System run by the city and/ or its partners to ensure system integrity.

He said two sign prototypes are proposed, area and nudge signs. The Nudge sign gives directional information to navigate the local area, providing route confirmation and acting as a last mile homing beacon to find places. The Area sign includes two scales of map: finder and planner scale. The Finder Map allows users to locate local destinations and explore their immediate vicinity, while the Planner Map allows longer journeys to be planned and transit connections to be understood. In addition, a panel on the edge of the sign will provide the sign address in Braille and tactile. Directional content provides quick reading information for users enroute to a destination and the address information confirms a users' location. He said of the proposed 15 new signs 6 are Area freestanding, 2 are Area pole mounted, six are Nudge freestanding, and 2 and Nudge pole mounted.

Ms. Frestedt said the proposed elements would be in the right of way. The Nudge signs will not attach to ornamental poles, which are a defining feature of the neighborhood.

The presenter said there would be no pole mounted signs on decorative features. He provided an overview of community engagement. In order for the system to better reflect the character of historic districts, side panels of both Area and Pole- Mounted Signs can be decorated with a graphic pattern. On the Area Sign, this pattern wraps around the entire side panel, revealing a small section of the pattern on the front and rear faces of the sign. On Pole-Mounted Signs, this pattern is on the street facing panel. Patterns for Little Saigon and Japantown are currently in progress.

A Board member asked the applicant to be sensitive to the issue of restriction of movement in the district. He said the impacts are not just aesthetic and he noted the reduction of navigable space.

Mr. Gawne said the transportation operations division deals with all the clearance details and noted mobility device users.

A Board member noted that the south edge is the weakest area. He asked how signage could help or clarify the southern edge of the district.

Mr. Gawne identified signs that were specifically included to help define that location on south edge. He noted that the signs are designed for durability and that the CIDBIA is ; contracted to help maintain them.

081324.5 Staff Summary and Board Business

The Coordinator provided a review of administrative approvals that were issued or pending since date of last meeting

Adjourn at 6:13 p.m.