



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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

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PSB 205/21

Staff REPORT

for Board meeting December 15, 2021

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.

121521.31 **Fortson Square**
Corner of Yesler and 2nd Ave

Application to install a welcome figure artwork in the public right of way

Staff report: The Board had a briefing on the redevelopment of the public space currently known as Fortson Square in October 2019. The Board supported the project at the time. The artwork currently installed will go through a process with City of Seattle Office of Arts and Culture to remove the installation. The Board reviewed that the existing light fixtures are not historic, but historic replicas and did not object to their removal and replacement with a lighting style and placement yet to be determined. Considering the issues with safety in this area The Board encouraged ample lighting in the design.

The proposal includes a briefing on renaming the public space. While renaming the space is not something that requires a Certificate of Approval, because the space is public space, they are including the name change in the briefing as part of the public outreach. The Board may express their support for the renaming during the meeting.

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 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,

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The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

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and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Pioneer Square Preservation District Rules

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

In addition to the Pioneer Square Preservation District Ordinance and Rules, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation with Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, and the complete series of Historic Buildings Preservation Briefs developed by the National Park Service shall serve as guidelines for proposed exterior alterations and treatments, rehabilitation projects, and new construction. (7/99)

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.

XIV. STREET TREES AND VEGETATION

London Plane is the preferred street tree in Pioneer Square, and the required street planting in Occidental Mall, its future extension, and all north/south Avenues. Throughout the rest of the District's street right of ways, if physical site constraints preclude use of London Planes, a tree similar in habit and form may be substituted, subject to City Arborist approval. For individual small parks and spaces, a different, complementary tree may be proposed as a signature tree for that area. (7/99)

Median strips and permanent plant beds shall contain plants approved for urban conditions, combining evergreen shrubs with ground cover and, where appropriate, flowers. Hanging baskets with seasonal flowers are recommended. Given the maintenance required to keep plant material lush and full, temporary ground-level planters are not recommended. (7/99)

XV. STREET LIGHTING

The three-globe Chief Seattle bronze base light fixture currently used in the District will be the approved street lighting standard. Additional alternative lighting standards and fixtures that are compatible with the historic character of the District may be approved by the Board for installation in conjunction with three-globe fixtures as needed to improve pedestrian-level lighting and public safety. (7/03)

XVII. SIDEWALK TREATMENT

A. Standards

Sidewalk paving and improvements shall be completed with one pound lamp-black per cubic yard of concrete, scored at two-foot intervals. This material shall be used for all projects of 1/4 block or greater size. On small projects, if it is feasible, sidewalk material may be selected as for all projects of 1/4 block or greater size. On small projects, if it is feasible, sidewalk material may be selected to match adjacent sidewalks in color, pattern and texture.

C. Special Sidewalk Treatment

Decorative treatments within the sidewalk may be allowed as outlined below. Repair and maintenance of decorative sidewalk elements are the responsibility of the property owner.

Building Entry. Owners are allowed reasonable flexibility in calling attention to their entryways through special paving that is integrated with the sidewalk as a whole. Special treatments for building entries should be considered according to the following criteria:

1. Infill Area: Tiled entryways will be considered only when in character with the District and the scale and integrity of the building. In all cases, the intent of entryway flexibility should be to provide diversity to the streetscape at logical points within a generally coherent scheme.
2. Size of Treatment: Building entry materials should generally not extend into the sidewalk any farther than the building base. Exceptions may be granted when the scale of the entry and the building merit treatment.

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Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator