



## FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE WEST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

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Record Number: 3035865-LU

Address: 816 Mercer St.

Applicant: Jodi Patterson O'Hare for NBBJ Architects

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Board Members Present: John Morefield (c)  
Janell Eckrich  
Allan Farkas  
Jen Montessoro  
Tiffany Rattray

Board Members Absent: None

SDCI Staff Present: Joe Hurley, Senior Land Use Planner, SDCI

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### SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Seattle Mixed – South Lake Union  
175/85-280 (SM-SLU 175/85-280)

Nearby Zones: (North) SM-SLU 100/95 and  
SM-SLU 175/85-280  
(South) SM-SLU 175/85-280  
(East) SM-SLU 85/65-160  
(West) SM-SLU 175/85-280

Lot Area: 102,427 sq. ft.

Overlays: South Lake Union Urban Center  
Airport Height District  
South Lake Union Design Review Guideline Area  
SEPA Scenic Route  
Archaeological Buffer Area  
South Lake Union Seaport Flight Corridor



**Current Development:**

The subject site is vacant and slopes downward west to east approximately twenty-two feet.

**Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:**

The subject site occupies a full block within the South Lake Union Urban Center. Adjacent to the site are a vacant lot, a warehouse structure, and historic City Landmark structure Puget Sound Power and Light Co. Utilities Building to the north across Roy St; a life sciences building to the east across 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N; a life sciences building and a vacant lot to the south across Mercer St; and a warehouse structure and a parking lot to the west across Dexter Ave N. The site is situated at a gateway location between the civic performing arts venues in Lower Queen Anne, the Seattle Center campus, and the science and research facilities concentrated in South Lake Union. The vicinity includes a range of uses, including mixed-use, multi-family residential, office, research, commercial, hospitality, and educational. South Lake Union is located two blocks to the northeast. Each of the adjacent streets has a different character and the site lies on several major commuter routes for automobiles, pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit riders. Mercer St is a principal arterial which supports high volumes of vehicular activity and intersects with pedestrian and bicycle circulation routes. Roy St is a pedestrian-oriented minor arterial and similar to Mercer St provides east-west circulation. Principal arterial 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N and minor arterial Dexter Ave N provide north-south circulation.

This location is a gateway to the South Lake Union neighborhood. Building forms transition in size from smaller residential structures in the north to larger block-length commercial and multifamily developments moving south. Buildings range from one to 14 stories in height. No one architectural style dominates, with a mix of modern mid-and highrise developments replacing turn of the century lowrise structures and parking lots, lending a more transitional character. Newer designs include heavy glazing, rectilinear forms, vertical emphasis, and pops of color. The area was rezoned from Seattle Mixed – South Lake Union 160/85-240 to Seattle Mixed – South Lake Union 175/85-280 on 5/14/17. Multiple projects in the vicinity are currently in review or under construction for proposed development, including 601 Dexter Ave N, 700 Dexter Ave N, 701 Dexter Ave N, 701 Valley St, and 570 Mercer St.

**Access:**

Vehicular access is proposed from 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N and Roy St. Pedestrian access is proposed from all sides: Roy St to the north, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N to the east, Mercer St to the south, and Dexter Ave N to the west.

**Environmentally Critical Areas:**

No mapped environmentally critical areas are located on the subject site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Land Use Application to allow 2, 13-story buildings with office, lab and retail. Parking for 630 vehicles proposed.

The design packet includes information presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the record number at this website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx>

Any recording of the Board meeting is available in the project file. This meeting report summarizes the meeting and is not a meeting transcript.

The packet is also available to view in the file, by contacting the Public Resource Center at SDCI:

**Mailing      Public Resource Center**

**Address:** 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000

P.O. Box 34019

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

**Email:** [PRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PRC@seattle.gov)

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE* EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE September 17, 2020</b>
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\*On April 27, 2020, the Seattle City Council passed emergency legislation Council Bill 119769 which allows projects subject to full design review to opt into Administrative Design Review temporarily. As one of the projects impacted by Design Review Board meeting cancellations, this project had elected to make this change for the first Early Design Guidance review.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SDCI staff did not receive any public comments.

One purpose of the design review process is for the City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. Concerns with off-street parking, traffic and construction impacts are reviewed as part of the environmental review conducted by SDCI and are not part of this review.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

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Included for reference:

## **SEATTLE DESIGN COMMISSION**

Summary of Mercer Blocks Subcommittee Meeting:

### Meeting purpose

The Purpose of this subcommittee was to evaluate whether the proposed designs developed by Alexandria Real Estate for its development proposed for the block bounded by 9th Avenue N, Roy Street, Mercer Street, and Dexter Ave N meet the Conditions imposed by the City Council in its approval of a vacation for segments of Broad Street (Clerk File 314309, signed December 11, 2017). In its approval, the City Council adopted the following Condition 7:

*“Prior to issuance of a MUP for either development site created as a result of this vacation, the SDC will review and approve the implementation of 8th Avenue ROW improvements abutting the project site, using the 8th Avenue design guidelines developed for this vacation. The SDC review and approval shall occur before the publication of a Master Use Permit decision for any development at this site. “*

### Discussion Summary

Commissioners thanked the project team for their presentation on the Mercer Blocks project. Commissioners appreciated how the project has been designed to be a thoughtful response to the 8th Avenue N design guidelines. Specifically, Commissioners appreciated the location, access, and integration of the proposed Community Center for Seattle Parks and Recreation located at the base of the western structure with the adjacent outdoor gathering spaces. Commissioners also appreciated the location of uses along the 8th Ave N public easement and encouraged the project team to continue to understand how those uses will help activate the surrounding spaces. Commissioners provided the following recommendations:

1. Provide information on how sustainability is being integrated into the design concept
2. Provide information on programming, specifically how the design will function for public gatherings, festivals, etc. as well as how the building and public easement will relate with the immediate surroundings.
3. Evaluate the use of materials in the 8th Ave public easement and Community Center to ensure that the spaces feel like they are publicly accessible.
4. Evaluate how the 8th Ave public easement design relates to other adjacent City streets and public ROW, including how standard right of way improvements will be incorporated through the site balanced against custom or unique site elements.
5. Integrate lighting and seating in a way that will feel public.
6. Design the north entry to serve as a gateway for pedestrians accessing the site
7. Be creative about the design around the King County utilities. Consider the incorporation of artistic elements and access to make it feel welcoming.
8. Reconsider the function of a raised intersection at the intersection of 8th Ave N and Roy St to see if the funding could be better used elsewhere.
9. Evaluate the location of spaces and their role in circulation/connectivity and gathering spaces. Determine how the location and scale of trees and other vegetation will reduce impacts on mobility and circulation through the site.
10. Look to ways to expand on the public nature of the space including the use of site furniture that can be used by the community (blank walls, kiosks, community murals, etc.) to elevate the public nature of the space and its relationship to the surrounding neighborhoods.

A subsequent meeting to evaluate the extent to which these recommendations have been addressed has not been scheduled. This meeting would be consistent with the Conditions requirement for the SDC to “review and approve” the proposed improvements.

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## **PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS**

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, Staff provides the following siting and design guidance.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE**

#### **1. Massing Options and Response to Context:**

- a. Design Guideline DC-2 reads *“Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.”* Achieving this on an ‘average’ site is a challenge for many of the development teams that go through the Design Review process. The great size of this project and its location on rising ground, at a neighborhood ‘Gateway’, along a principal transportation corridor, and at the conjunction of four unique contextual environments makes this an exceptionally challenging design problem. It is also, as the design team clearly recognizes, a unique and exciting opportunity. Staff recognizes this confluence of factors and the possibility that a singular iconic design is an appropriate solution. Staff will support such a design provided the Design Guidelines are appropriately considered in its development. (DC2, CS2-C, CS2-1, CS3, CS2-A.2)
- b. Staff recognizes the “Slow Cut” scheme of Option C as both formally compelling and responsive to context. Staff appreciate the schematic indications of individualized responses to the very different contexts at Mercer, Dexter, Roy and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- c. For the next review phase, further demonstrate how these responses cohere in the larger design concept and provide complete details for each street condition, with drawings of the project edges that include existing context. (CS2, DC2-A, CS2-D, CS2-4)

#### **2. Design Concept and Context**

- a. Staff appreciates the extensive contextual analysis of this area that includes historic information regarding the settlement and use of this site over time. As documented in the packet, that pattern of use (by native peoples, as the old Broad Street right-of-way, and as a connection between the two Neighborhood Gateways) manifests as a diagonal line crossing the site from southwest to northeast. (CS3-B, CS2)
- b. Staff recognizes that this analysis has informed the preferred “Slow Cut” option and appreciate the response to earlier concerns that the broadly diagonal ‘desire

line' that emerges from that analysis was insufficiently understandable at street level (for a pedestrian or cyclist or driver). The removal of physical and visual obstructions in this path has strengthened its legibility and Staff expect this strengthening to continue in the next review phase . (DC2, CS2, CS3)

### **3. Site Planning**

- a. The work planned for the 8th Avenue Public Access Easement has the potential to be a marvelous public amenity. As such, it's existence should be broadcast up and down the surrounding streets with a clear invitation to come and see and use this area. To demonstrate how this will be accomplished, please provide perspective views from various points along the adjacent streets indicating the site planning and architectural elements that will convey this message. Please also include views from either end of the PAE that show how potential users will be able to see through the site to the streets beyond, which is a critical element in the decision-making process for potential users. (CS2-A.1, PL1, CS2-4, DC3)
- b. Echoing comment from the Seattle Design Commission (SDC) and the City Council, Staff notes that the appearance of this area as public and available for use by anyone is essential to its success. From a distance, at the "entrances" to this area (at Roy and Mercer) and while within the area, it should be eminently clear that all are welcome, regardless of whether they are employed in the adjacent buildings or frequenting the adjacent businesses. (CS2-4, PL1, PL1-1, PL2, DC3)
- c. To make this area a truly occupiable, community-supporting gathering space, the congregating and seating areas should feel welcoming, safe and comfortable. Ideally, these areas will also provide views out through the space to the city beyond, offering prospect and refuge to members of the public considering their use. (CS2, PL1, DC3, CS2-4)

### **4. Landscape Design**

- a. Staff recognizes the intent to connect this area with the larger street grid and convey its public nature through the use of 'standard' street features, including the pattern of 'street' trees, the 2x2 concrete grid and streetlights. As the design develops it will be important to continue to strengthen this connection, ideally resulting in a design that will read both as a 'place' and as a navigable 'street'. (PL2-D, CS2-A.1, PL1, CS2-4, DC3)
- b. Staff recognizes that the SPU curved vent pipes at the north end of site create an aesthetic design challenge, and encourages the design team to see these not as a problem to be solved but as an opportunity to engage with the reality of this site. Staff appreciate the revised schematic design strategy included here that acknowledges and incorporates this utility use at the site, and encourage further development along these lines. (CS1, CS2)
- c. As Staff have noted in previous meetings, this project will create a large amount of new impervious area (from both structures and hardscape). Staff encourages the design team to look for opportunities to create interest in the landscape

design through expressive, even dynamic, stormwater management. (CS1-E-2, CS1-1)

- d. Given the importance of landscape design for this project, the Recommendation phase should include complete details of the landscape design, including plantings, furnishings, hardscape materials, sheet flow and stormwater management strategies, and pedestrian-level perspective sketches. (CS2-B-3)

## **5. Podiums and Street Edges**

- a. Podium elements in South Lake Union should be developed to create pedestrian-friendly environments at street level using variety in the expression of the street wall and human-scale elements. (DC2-3)
- b. Staff supports the significant glazing indicated for much of the street edge but have concerns regarding the limited number of access points provided and street edge programming that may not be active or engaging. (DC1, PL3, CS1-C, CS2-B.2, CS1-C)
- c. To create lively and engaging street edges that will encourage human interaction and activity, Staff suggests exploration of additional porosity (through added doors and operable windows), the alignment of interior floor levels with the sidewalk, and the programming of street-edge areas with active uses. (PL3-B.4, DC1-A, CS2-B.2, PL3)
- d. Staff recognizes the great length of these street frontages and their very different character and that this will inform the location of areas with a high level of activity and engagement. For all street edges and pedestrian circulation areas it will be important to create paths with recognizable destinations and focal points in visually engaging pedestrian environments that provide regular sensory stimulation (building entrances, window displays, seats, landscaping, change of architectural character, alcoves, artwork, etc.) (PL3-1, PL2-2, PL3)
- e. Staff notes this project's location at the conjunction of two major cycling routes (Dexter and Mercer) and appreciate the intent to support bicycle use with direct access to storage areas. Staff supports this direct access and encourages its continued development with means of ingress and egress specifically shaped for the needs of cyclists. (PL4-B)

## **6. Unique Conditions**

- a. At the Recommendation phase, provide graphic representations of the 601 Dexter project in conjunction with this project and an analysis of the relationship between the two proposed designs. The scope of this review is solely the work proposed for these two blocks but the similarities in massing, modulation and architectural character of the 601 Dexter project should be acknowledged and addressed in regard to the design concept of this project. Demonstrate how the intent of the proposed design is to either contrast with 601 Dexter or build on the context of 601 Dexter. (DC2, CS2, CS3)
- b. As previously noted by Staff, it will be challenging to develop this scheme in a manner that meets criteria in the South Lake Union Neighborhood Design Guidelines regarding large projects and full block sites, as the repetition of

similarly scaled massing moves and similar exterior expressions has the potential to create uniform architectural character and a campus-like environment. (CS2-4-b. Full Block Sites)

- c. In counterpoint, and with reference to the guidance provided above (at 1.a.) regarding possible support for a singular and iconic design solution, Staff notes that the Design Review process is one of balancing the criteria identified in the Guidelines with the specific qualities of the site and the proposed design. In some cases, an exemplary response to a majority of the Guidelines may make a different response to other Guidelines acceptable.

#### **INITIAL RECOMMENDATION June 16, 2021**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- A representative from Seattle Parks and Recreation provided the following comments:
  - Noted that the Community center will serve the South Lake Union, Denny Triangle and Lower Queen Anne neighborhoods and encouraged the Design Review Board to advance the project.
  - Noted their collaboration with the developer during the design process had enabled them to ensure that the building and the center integrate with the site design, particularly 8th Avenue, in a way that will receive and welcome visitors to the utmost.

SDCI staff also summarized design related comments received in writing prior to the meeting:

- A letter from the South Lake Union Community Council (SLUCC) supported the design of the project and in particular the following features:
  - The concept of the slow cut and the striking form and inviting presence of the sports court and Community Center;
  - The connection from Lake Union Park to this new neighborhood amenity;
  - The lifted form of the West tower that provides the needed civic expression and presence for the Community Center to be understood as a unique experience within the larger development; and
  - The massing of the project. including the full height gateway corner and the carving of the building mass in response to context.
- The council also supported the departure requests for:
  - Rooftop screening, noting its necessity for laboratory facilities and that it has often been granted in previous projects;
  - Façade modulation, noting the uniqueness of the strong sculptural form proposed and its role in displaying the sports court volume;
  - Larger setbacks, noting their role in creating more open space and facilitating sightlines where transportation modes meet; and
  - Reducing the number of large parking stalls required, noting that that it has often been granted in previous projects.
- Noted the SLUCC fully supports the design and believes it will be a significant contributor to the quality of the urban experience in South Lake Union as well as a



welcome addition for the growth of new life science companies, further adding to the diversity of the workforce.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

### **PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following recommendations.

- 1. Massing and Architectural Concept:** The Board reviewed the architectural concept and massing that was supported at EDG and considered how well the design had developed since that time and in response to guidance.
  - a. The Board strongly supported the architectural concept recommended at EDG, noting the legible composition of program elements, the unique and striking massing scheme recognizably tied to programming and context, and their cohesion in a clear and unified design concept (DC2, CS2)
  - b. The Board expressed concern that the strength of that design concept had been diminished in the current proposal, through the addition of a complex variety of facade treatments, the loss of the Slow Cut-emphasizing arrangement of columns and bike access at Roy Street, the diminished distinction and visibility of the Recreation Center, the lack of conceptual cohesion with the Public Access Easement (PAE) area, and the changes to the massing that de-emphasize the Slow Cut. (DC2)
  - c. The Board agreed that the project should be refined to clarify and strengthen the EDG design concept, citing in particular the images from that design shown on pages 26-29. (DC2)
  - d. The Board supported the Slow Cut design concept and agreed that it continued to legible in the large-scale massing moves but had concerns regarding its legibility from pedestrian areas. (DC2, CS2)
  - e. The Board supported the intent (as described in the packet and presentation) to draw people through the site along the culturally and topographically generated historic diagonal route between Lake Union and Elliot Bay and noted the legibility of the Slow Cut as critical to the successful execution of this design concept. The Board recognized this pattern in the plan drawings and large-scale massing but had difficulty seeing this in the drawings representing the ground-level experience. The Board agreed that the execution of this idea required

further development to be appreciated and utilized by building users, pedestrians, and other multimodal traffic. (CS1-C, CS2, CS2-4, DC2, CS3-B)

## **2. Design Development and Execution:**

- a. The Board recognized the connection to historic warehouses and supported the cladding system and fenestration patterns of the West building but agreed that the exterior expression of the East building was not as well-resolved, noting in particular the weak execution of the clerestory-inspired fenestration. (DC2, DC2-B, CS2, DC2-5)
- b. The Board expressed difficulty understanding the rationale or underlying order driving some of the changes to the glazing patterns and cladding systems of the different massing elements, particularly at the East building. (DC2, DC2-B, CS3)
- c. The Board noted the proposed design did not appear to meet Design Guidelines that discourage campus-like character in large projects. The Board noted that it was unlikely this could be achieved through variations in cladding and fenestration patterns (as currently proposed), particularly given the close connection between the two structures in concept and massing. The Board reiterated their support for the bold massing scheme supported at EDG and noted the possibility that the two structures could be more similar in architectural character, while emphasizing the distinctly different expression of the “public” elements (the Recreation Center and the Public Access Easement [“PAE”] area) creating the ‘other’ and non-campus like character called for in the Guidelines. (DC2, CS2-4-b.1)

## **3. Recreation Center Expression:**

- a. The Board supported the high visibility, striking geometry and distinctive expression of the Recreation Center as shown at EDG, noting its success in creating a beacon that would attract interest and draw potential users into this area from a wide variety of locations around the site. The Board agreed that this was an important aspect of the design concept supported at EDG and critical to help this large project avoid a campus-like appearance. (CS2-4-B.1, DC2)
- b. The Board did not support the current design of the Recreation Center, noting that its proposed expression was too much like that of the office towers and that this lack of differentiation had diminished its ability to mark this important programmatic element and had weakened the larger design concept. (DC2, CS2-A, CS2-4)
- c. The Board was concerned by the lack of an identifiable entry or wayfinding cues directing pedestrians to the Recreation Center. The Board agreed that the design should be revised to make the entry obvious, identifiable, and distinctive, legible from the adjacent areas and ideally strengthened with site planning elements and wayfinding cues in the adjacent PAE area. (CS2, PL3-A, DC2, PL2-D)
- d. The Board noted the lack of human scale elements in the current articulation of the Recreation Center and that these should be incorporated in the revised design. (DC2-D, DC2-2)

#### **4. Pedestrian Experience:**

- a. The Board noted that many of the renderings were taken from points either too far away or too close to effectively convey the pedestrian experience and agreed that these limited views and the lack of detail made it difficult to evaluate the design of building edges and the pedestrian realm. The Board noted page 123 in particular as lacking the finer grained detail they expect and require at the Recommendation phase. To facilitate their review the Board requested the following be provided at the next meeting. (DC4, CS2, PL1, DC2, PL2, PL3, DC2-2, DC2-3)
  - i. Appropriately scaled and located ground-level views at building edges that provide a comprehensive understanding of composition and character of the street fronts and the pedestrian experience along Mercer, Roy, 9th and Dexter. The Board noted that context and a realistic ground plane should be included to facilitate understanding.
  - ii. Street sections for 'typical' conditions and for areas of critical importance, in sequence, if movement is a significant consideration. (DC4, DC2-2, DC2-3, PL3, CS2)
- b. The Board reiterated their support for the 'lifting' of massing elements and other large-scale conceptual moves but noted that the current graphics make it difficult to see how the principal conceptual move (the Slow Cut) would be understood and experienced by pedestrians. The Board agreed that graphics demonstrating the legibility, comprehensibility, and appeal of the Slow Cut from the pedestrian realm will be required for the next meeting. (CS2, CS3-B, DC2, CS2-4, CS3, PL1, PL3, DC3)

#### **5. Site Planning and Public Access Easement Area (PAE):**

- a. The Board recognized the external design parameters established for this area but noted the possibility of working within those parameters to better support the design concept and respond to the proposed buildings, particularly the public element of the Recreation Center. (CS2, PL1, CS2-4, PL1-1, DC1, DC3)
- b. The Board expressed concern regarding the sameness in scale and expression of site design elements and the lack of legible hierarchy or wayfinding cues as seen from both Mercer and Roy. (CS2-4, PL2-D, PL1, CS2)
- c. The Board suggested the development of expressive and engaging elements in the stormwater management system, particularly given the opportunity this would provide to the children who will attend daycare at the Recreation Center. (CS1-E, PL1, DC1)
- d. The Board supported the carefully considered inclusion and integration of the utility infrastructure elements at the north edge of the PAE area. (CS1, CS2)
- e. The Board was disappointed with the perspective images provided, noting that these images did not provide the information required to properly evaluate the design of this area and how it would appear from Mercer and Roy Streets. (CS2, PL1, PL3, DC1)

- f. The Board noted that among the many perspective images provided there were none that indicate what would draw pedestrians into this area (by an attraction, interesting view, or a clearly articulated route and destination), either in the manner of the Slow Cut or particularly to the Recreation Center. To facilitate their review at the next meeting the Board requested the following be provided. (CS2, DC2, PL3, PL1, CS2-4, CS1)
  - i. Complete and sequential drawings demonstrating pedestrian apprehension and experience of the Slow Cut design concept from all approaches.
  - ii. Appropriately scaled and located ground-level views showing how pedestrians will be drawn in with attraction and opportunity, and how architectural and landscape elements will be deployed to convey the public nature of this area from all approaches on Mercer and Roy.
  - iii. Sun studies of the PAE area providing a comprehensive understanding of sun and shade at different times of day and in different seasons.

**6. Gateway Stair Tower:**

- a. The Board support the location of this element at the corner of Mercer Street and Dexter Avenue but were concerned that the limited visibility of the current configuration from many approaches, including from the east on Mercer and the north on Dexter, had limited its effectiveness in marking the Neighborhood Gateway. (CS2-1)
- b. The Board agreed that the design of this element did not effectively hold the corner or engage the street and contrasted this with recently reviewed stair towers that meaningfully opened to the street, clearly expressed their function and dynamically engaged the public realm with activity and movement. (DC2, CS2-1)
- c. The conceptual strength of this element was also compromised, the Board noted, by the existence of a similar but somewhat differently expressed stair tower adjacent to the PAE area. (DC2, DC2-B, DC2-E)
- d. The Board did not support the exterior expression of this element, noting the potential difficulty in recognizing its function during daylight hours, and that the proposed change of glazing system intended to articulate this lacked either a clear connection to or significant distinction from other project elements. (DC2)
- e. The Board noted the intent for this element to help draw pedestrians from the Gateway through the center of the site (as diagrammed in the packet and noted in the presentation) but agreed that the execution of this idea would require further refinement to be successful and that clear documentation should be provided for the next review. (DC2, CS3-B, CS2-1)

**7. Materials and Detailing:**

- a. The Board agreed that it was difficult to understand building materiality and tectonics from the packet materials and that they would require (as, they noted, with all projects at the Recommendation phase) complete architectural details,

including for the glazing and cladding systems for the office towers, Recreation Center, and street edges, and for the understory, landscape and site. All materials should be specified and large-scale dimensioned drawings for the most common and critical details should be included. (DC2, DC2-2, DC2-3, DC2-6, DC4)

- b. The Board noted the particular importance of fully specified and dimensioned details of the cladding and glazing systems to facilitate their understanding in conjunction with the perspective renderings. (DC2, DC4)
- c. Include complete landscape and hardscape drawings and details for the PAE area to demonstrate how these elements will appear and how this area will be experienced by pedestrians and building users. (CS2, PL1, CS2-4, PL1-1, DC1, DC3)

## **FINAL RECOMMENDATION November 17, 2021**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SDCI staff summarized design related comments received in writing prior to the meeting:

A letter from the South Lake Union Community Council (SLUCC) supported the design of the project and in particular the following features:

- Felt the towers' differing façade concepts will be an attractive addition to the Mercer corridor.
- Opined the ground-level transparency and entries engage the street edges.
- Noted the materials provide clear separation between the building programs.
- Stated the transparency around the dynamic sports and childcare uses creates a welcoming corner expression.
- Felt the 8<sup>th</sup> Ave design to be open and accessible with landscaping that creates a respite and buffer from the street.
- Suggested adding warmth through material or color to enhance the design, especially the visible elements of the community center.
- Supported the use of color to highlight the southwest corner stairwell.
- Suggested exploring further uses of color and details to highlight design features and entry points.
- Felt the Slow Cut and public space were strengthened by widening the cut and the ample landscaping.
- Noted the requested departures focus on improving the public realm around 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and the recreation center.

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- A representative of the South Lake Union Community Council:
  - Thanked staff for the summary of the council's comments,
  - Expressed support for the project and appreciation for the collaborative approach taken by the development team.

- Expressed enthusiasm for the improved urban experience that this project would provide in the neighborhood.
- A representative from Seattle Parks and Recreation:
  - Noted that the Community center will serve the South Lake Union, Denny Triangle and Lower Queen Anne neighborhoods and encouraged the Design Review Board to approve the project.
  - Supported the design of the project, and particularly the unique architectural expression of the sport court programming elements as this would have the potential to draw attention, interest, and use.
  - Stated their collaboration with the developer during the design process helped the Recreation Center integrate with the site design, particularly at 8th Avenue, in a way that will receive and welcome visitors to the utmost.
- A representative from the Seattle Design Commission provided background on the SDC's review process for the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Pedestrian Easement Area (PAE) and noted the Commission's support and approval of the proposed design.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

## **PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following recommendations.

### **1. Massing and Architectural Concept:**

- a. The Board revisited their previous guidance to refine, clarify, and strengthen the design concept that was supported at EDG, and unanimously agreed that this refinement had occurred and had strengthened the design concept. (DC2)
- b. The Board agreed that the form and massing of the two structures was complementary, that their architectural expression was appropriately similar, and that the relationship between them was harmonious. (DC2, DC2-1, CS3)
- c. The Board recommended approval of the design, noting the legible composition of program elements, the unique massing scheme recognizably tied to programming and context, and their cohesion in a clear and unified design concept (DC2, CS2, DC3)
- d. The Board noted that the Mercer entry to the West building was not as well integrated with the larger architectural language than other building entries and encouraged the applicant to continue refining the design of this area, but declined to recommend a condition related to this statement. (PL3)

### **2. Previous Guidance and REC Packet**

- a. The Board agreed that the response to previous guidance was exemplary, both in project design and in the provision of drawings, information and particular views that were requested at the previous meeting.

### **3. Recreation Center Expression:**

- a. The Board reiterated their earlier support for the high visibility, striking geometry and distinctive expression of the Recreation Center as shown at EDG, noting its success in creating a beacon that would attract interest and draw potential users into this area from a wide variety of locations around the site. The Board agreed that this was an important aspect of the design concept that was supported at EDG and critical to help this large project avoid a campus-like appearance. (CS2-4-B.1, DC2)
- b. The Board supported and recommended approval of the current design of the Recreation Center, noting that its proposed expression was distinct and clearly differentiated from the office towers and that it clearly marked this important programmatic element. (DC2, CS2-A, CS2-4)

### **4. Mid-level Roofs**

- a. The Board supported and recommended approval of the design of the occupiable mid-level roof areas, supporting both the activation they provide, and the simple composition of their edges as seen from below. (DC2, PL3)

### **5. Site Planning and Public Access Easement Area (PAE):**

- a. The Board approved of the refinements made to the site planning and landscape design of this area, noting the response to building angles, Slow Cut geometry and project programming elements. (CS2, PL1, DC3)

### **6. Condition**

- a. The Board recommended a condition to maintain the architectural composition, materials, details, and lighting as rendered in the Recommendation packet dated November 17, 2021. (CS3, PL3, DC2, DC3, DC4)

## **DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES**

The Board's recommendation on the requested departures was based on the departure's potential to help the project better meet these design guidelines priorities and achieve a better overall project design than could be achieved without the departures.

At the time of the FINAL RECOMMENDATION review, the following departures were requested:

1. **Rooftop Features (23.48.025.C.7.b):** The Code allows the combined total coverage of rooftop features to be 65% with no rooftop features located closer than 10 feet from the roof edge. The applicant proposes a rooftop screen on both buildings, with features

closer than 10 feet to the roof and 100% rooftop coverage, per drawings in the Recommendation packet.

The Board recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that it allowed for a consistent expression that strengthened the architectural concept and better met the intent of Design Guideline DC2 - Design Concept.

2. **Parking Stall Sizes (23.54.030.B.2.c):** The Code requires a minimum of 35% parking spaces to be sized and striped for large vehicles. The applicant proposes reducing the percentage of large vehicles spaces from 35% to 20%.

The Board recommended approval of this departure based on this departure's ability to help rationalize structural elements with the site's unique geometry and minimize the impact of vehicle circulation on project design and the pedestrian realm. With the departure, the project better meets the intent of Design Guidelines DC1-B - Vehicular Access and Circulation, and CS1-3.c -Conceal & Treat Parking.

3. **Lot Line Setback (23.48.240.B.1.b):** The Code requires the street-facing facade of a structure to be set back a maximum of 12 feet from the street lot line. The applicant proposes varied setbacks, some as large as 75', per drawings in the Recommendation packet.

The Board recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that these areas of deeper setback were part of a street-level design that increased pedestrian connectivity and interaction and better met the intent of Design Guidelines PL1 - Connectivity and PL3 - Street-Level Interaction.

4. **Facade Modulation in SM Zones (23.48.245.D.1):** The Code requires the maximum length of unmodulated facade within 15 feet of a street lot line to be 150 feet. The applicant proposes an unmodulated facade for 225 feet on the west building along Mercer Street.

The Board recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that it allowed for a consistent expression that strengthened the architectural concept and better met the intent of Design Guideline DC2 - Design Concept.

5. **Podium Height (23.48.245.B.4.a):** The Code allows a maximum podium height of 85 feet. The applicant proposes a podium height of 122 feet 8 inches for the structure on the west block per drawings in the REC packet dated 11/17/21.

The Board recommended approval of this departure, agreeing that it was consistent with the architectural concept and allowed for the unique expression of the Recreation Center, helping the project better meet the intent of Design Guideline CS2-A.1 - Sense of Place and CS2-A.2. - Architectural Presence.



## DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by the Board as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and are summarized below. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

### CONTEXT & SITE

**CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.**

#### **CS1-A Energy Use**

**CS1-A-1. Energy Choices:** At the earliest phase of project development, examine how energy choices may influence building form, siting, and orientation, and factor in the findings when making siting and design decisions.

#### **CS1-B Sunlight and Natural Ventilation**

**CS1-B-1. Sun and Wind:** Take advantage of solar exposure and natural ventilation. Use local wind patterns and solar gain to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation and heating where possible.

**CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading:** Maximize daylight for interior and exterior spaces and minimize shading on adjacent sites through the placement and/or design of structures on site.

**CS1-B-3. Managing Solar Gain:** Manage direct sunlight falling on south and west facing facades through shading devices and existing or newly planted trees.

#### **CS1-C Topography**

**CS1-C-1. Land Form:** Use natural topography and desirable landforms to inform project design.

**CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes:** Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

#### **CS1-D Plants and Habitat**

**CS1-D-1. On-Site Features:** Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider relocating significant trees and vegetation if retention is not feasible.

**CS1-D-2. Off-Site Features:** Provide opportunities through design to connect to off-site habitats such as riparian corridors or existing urban forest corridors. Promote continuous habitat, where possible, and increase interconnected corridors of urban forest and habitat where possible.

#### **CS1-E Water**

**CS1-E-1. Natural Water Features:** If the site includes any natural water features, consider ways to incorporate them into project design, where feasible

**CS1-E-2. Adding Interest with Project Drainage:** Use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

- CS1-1 Energy Use:** Take advantage of site configuration to accomplish sustainability goals. Examples include solar orientation; stormwater run-off, detention, and filtration systems; sustainable landscaping; or versatile building design for entire building life cycle.
- CS1-2 Sunlight and Shadows:** Avoid or reduce shadow impacts to Cascade, South Lake Union, and Denny Parks, particularly the gardens or active use areas of the parks.
- CS1-3 Topography and Elevation Changes:** Accommodate sloping terrain through ‘stepping’ ground floor and other architectural features. Emphasis should be placed on ground-level treatments that create a safe, attractive transition between the site and pedestrian zone.
- CS1-3-a. Transitional Space:** On sloping street frontages, entryways should include a generous and level transitional space for commercial or residential activity, in addition to Citywide Design Guideline PL3.
- CS1-3-b. Setback or Recess Entrances:** Setback or recess entrances for a gracious transition from a sloped sidewalk to a flat grade at the entry.
- CS1-3-c. Conceal & Treat Parking:** Conceal underground parking from street views and design any parking walls exposed above grade-level with an attractive treatment such as integrated, quality architectural cladding, planting, and/or artwork.
- CS1-3-d. Visual Transition:** Create a safe visual transition between ground-level interior and adjacent pedestrian areas and public sidewalks.
- CS1-3-e. Incorporate Hill Climbs:** Incorporate hill climbs as identified in the South Lake Union Urban Design Framework.
- CS1-4 Plants and Habitat:** South Lake Union is on a bird and insect flight path between green-belts on Capitol Hill, Queen Anne, and Magnolia.
- CS1-4-a. Provide Refuge Habitat and Food Sources:** Consult with landscape architects to develop landscape plans that provide refuge habitat and food sources in project landscape species to facilitate movement for urban population of some species.
- CS1-4-b. Consider Species’ Needs:** In designing open spaces, Green Factor measures, green roofs, and other landscape element consideration should be given to plantings and other elements (such as fountains) that might be used by such species.

## **CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.**

### **CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood**

**CS2-A-1. Sense of Place:** Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place. Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

**CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence:** Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

### **CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces**

**CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics:** Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

**CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street:** Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

**CS2-B-3. Character of Open Space:** Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

**CS2-C Relationship to the Block**

**CS2-C-1. Corner Sites:** Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

**CS2-C-2. Mid-Block Sites:** Look to the uses and scales of adjacent buildings for clues about how to design a mid-block building. Continue a strong street-edge and respond to datum lines of adjacent buildings at the first three floors.

**CS2-C-3. Full Block Sites:** Break up long facades of full-block buildings to avoid a monolithic presence. Provide detail and human scale at street-level, and include repeating elements to add variety and rhythm to the façade and overall building design.

**CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale**

**CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning:** Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

**CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features:** Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

**CS2-D-3. Zone Transitions:** For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

**CS2-D-4. Massing Choices:** Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

**CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites:** Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**CS2-1 Gateways Locations:** The South Lake Union Urban Design framework (UDF) identifies important gateways to consider in project design. Gateways are transition locations and places that mark entry or departure points to the neighborhood for automobiles and pedestrians. Private sites at gateways should create opportunities for identification - a physical marker so the community notices they are entering a special place.

**CS2-1-a. Site Characteristics:** Consider site characteristics such as topography, views, or surrounding building patterns, which are important for gateway locations.

**CS2-1-b. Contributing Elements:** Design elements that contribute to gateways include building out to meet the corner where appropriate, or tools such as setbacks to allow for pedestrian friendly spaces and expanded sidewalks, signage, landscaping, artwork, or signature facade treatments.

**CS2-1-c. Collaborate with Adjacent Projects:** Where opportunities exist, collaborate with adjacent development projects or projects across the street that mark the same gateway location.

**CS2-2 Heart Locations:** In addition to Gateways, the UDF identifies Regional and Neighborhood Heart Locations. ‘Heart’ locations are the center of commercial and social activity within the neighborhood. These locations provide anchors for the community and give form to the neighborhood.

**CS2-2-a. Respond to Heart Locations:** Primary building entries and facades should respond to the heart location. Amenities to consider include: pedestrian lighting, public art, special paving, landscaping, additional public open space provided by curb bulbs, and entry plazas.

**CS2-3 Adjacent Streets:** Project design should respond to adjacent street character. These street descriptions should inform how projects relate to the right-of-way. See full guidelines for design guidance for projects on the streets below.

**CS2-3-a. Aurora and Dexter Ave N:** Projects should include substantial landscaping and attractive building facades. The scale of street improvements and facade elements could be larger than if these streets were predominantly pedestrian-oriented.

**CS2-3-b. Eighth and Ninth Ave N:** Substantial landscaping and pedestrian interest should be emphasized along the street front. Courtyards and small open spaces may be more appropriate than a uniform street wall.

**CS2-3-c. Westlake Ave N:** Projects facing Westlake should reinforce the street wall at ground level by aligning buildings along the sidewalk or should feature small courtyards, plazas, or other pedestrian oriented open spaces. The setback of upper stories from Westlake Ave should be encouraged to reduce view blockage of the lake.

**CS2-3-d. Boren, Fairview, Minor, Pontius, Yale and Eastlake Ave N:** Respond to the character of the historical structures that are along these streets by featuring some of the massing, fenestration patterns, use of materials, or other non-stylistic character of the older buildings.

**CS2-3-e. Denny Way:** Large scale landscaping features such as street trees are more appropriate than smaller pedestrian pockets or plazas. Pedestrian orientated retail uses are less important on Denny Way if the ground floor is active with interior uses and is lit at night. Maintain the spatial street envelope with street-front facades that create a strong street wall or an active open space.

**CS2-3-f. John and Thomas Streets:** John Street is a neighborhood Green Street that is well-suited for ground related housing. Thomas Street is a Green Street. The Thomas Street Streetscape Concept Plan supports bicycle-friendly design.

**CS2-3-g. Harrison, Republican and Mercer Streets (East of Fairview Ave):** These are envisioned as residential streets between Fairview and Yale Avenues. East-west mid-block connections are encouraged. Ground floor residential uses are appropriate. Landscaped areas and courtyards are encouraged on Harrison and Republican Streets.

**CS2-3-h. Mercer St:** Strong street walls on both sides of the street will enhance the street’s spatial characteristics. Ground floors should contain active building uses such as lobbies and group work spaces facing the corridor as well as retail and other pedestrian oriented uses. Ground floor spaces should be lit at night.

**CS2-4 Relationship to the Block**

**CS2-4-a. All Corner Sites:** Emphasize the importance and/or amount of pedestrian activity at corners with widened pedestrian areas, landscaping, corner building entries, artwork, and other architectural features.

**CS2-4-b. Full Block Sites:** New developments often occupy half to full block sites which can have street facades as long as 400 feet. Unmodulated or unbroken facades that long generally disrupt the smaller, historical pattern and pedestrian scale at the ground level, and create a blocky podium from when the building is viewed from afar. The zoning code limits the size of a building's podium and towers, but these provisions do limit the development of expansive, full block-long facades.

1. With the exception of the Eastlake/Mercer subarea, avoid internalized campus like developments with uniform architectural character. Large projects should express varied architectural elements and orient open spaces toward the streets and public realm.
2. Building facades should be articulated with modulation, fenestration patterns, different materials, and/or other means so that the building podium is not a monolithic block. The articulation should extend to all stories in the podium. If a tower extends directly over the front building facade, then the articulation should extend into the tower itself. Horizontal and vertical modulation beyond code minimums that further breaks a building's facade into legible elements, is encouraged.
3. Projects that include Landmarks should provide generous upper-level step-backs from historical facades to maintain the scale of the Landmark at the street level.

**CS2-4-c. Mid-block Connections:** Mid-block connections are code required for large blocks. These connections have several purposes. First, they enhance pedestrian movement through the neighborhood by breaking up large blocks. Second, they break up large buildings and provide modulation between buildings. Mid-block connections also provide usable ground-level open space.

1. Although portions of mid-block connections may be covered, entrances should open to the sidewalk and interruption of connections with doors or other enclosed space should be avoided.
2. If the connection does not provide a clear line of sight from one end to the other, it should be inviting to the public and be designed to appear as a passage through the block.
3. The ideal mid-block connection will be activated by street-level uses, water features, landscaping, seating, and public art.
4. Mid-block connections should be well lit, safe, and be designed to take maximum advantage of natural light.

### **CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood.**

#### **CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes**

**CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together:** Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through

building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

**CS3-A-2. Contemporary Design:** Explore how contemporary designs can contribute to the development of attractive new forms and architectural styles; as expressed through use of new materials or other means.

**CS3-A-3. Established Neighborhoods:** In existing neighborhoods with a well-defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings.

**CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods:** In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

**CS3-B Local History and Culture**

**CS3-B-1. Placemaking:** Explore the history of the site and neighborhood as a potential placemaking opportunity. Look for historical and cultural significance, using neighborhood groups and archives as resources.

**CS3-B-2. Historical/Cultural References:** Reuse existing structures on the site where feasible as a means of incorporating historical or cultural elements into the new project.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**CS3-1 Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes & Challenges**

**CS3-1-a. Fitting Old and New Together:** The retention of existing structures or facades is encouraged by allowing greater flexibility in applying these guidelines if the retention of the existing building fabric contributes to the overall design character and quality of the project.

**PUBLIC LIFE**

**PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.**

**PL1-A Network of Open Spaces**

**PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space:** Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

**PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life:** Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

**PL1-B Walkways and Connections**

**PL1-B-1. Pedestrian Infrastructure:** Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.

**PL1-B-2. Pedestrian Volumes:** Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.

**PL1-B-3. Pedestrian Amenities:** Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered.

## **PL1-C Outdoor Uses and Activities**

**PL1-C-1. Selecting Activity Areas:** Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.

**PL1-C-2. Informal Community Uses:** In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer's markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.

**PL1-C-3. Year-Round Activity:** Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety.

### ***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**PL1-1 Network of Open Spaces:** Open spaces in South Lake Union include mid-block connections, ground-level open space developed in new projects, and three parks: Denny Park, Cascade Playground, and Lake Union Park. Including green streets, Class I Pedestrian streets, the development of an open space network is a priority of the neighborhood. These features should be designed as high priority amenities when granting departures from development standards. Proponents should consider the following:

**PL1-1-a. Mid-Block Connections:** Where possible, incorporate mid-block connections, linked courtyards, or activating alleyways. For residential focus areas, use mid-block connections with active and/or passive recreation that can strengthen existing urban activities. Consider merging different mid-block connectors to increase activity, such as an alleyway joined by a courtyard. Alleyway mid-block connections that include parking should incorporate paving that can be used for recreational activity.

**PL1-1-b. Street-Level Open Space:** For both retail and residential focus areas, consider private or semi-private courtyards facing the street, or pocket parks.

**PL1-1-c. Open Space Connections:** Open space connections should respond to view corridors of neighborhood-scale and regional open spaces, such as the Seattle Center, Lake Union, Denny Park, and Cascade Playground.

**PL1-1-d. 8th Ave N:** Create a visual and physical connection along 8th Ave between Mercer Street and Roy Street.

## **PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.**

### **PL2-A Accessibility**

**PL2-A-1. Access for All:** Provide access for people of all abilities in a manner that is fully integrated into the project design. Design entries and other primary access points such that all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through the front door.

**PL2-A-2. Access Challenges:** Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other challenges.

### **PL2-B Safety and Security**

**PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street:** Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.



**PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety:** Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

**PL2-B-3. Street-Level Transparency:** Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

**PL2-C Weather Protection**

**PL2-C-1. Locations and Coverage:** Overhead weather protection is encouraged and should be located at or near uses that generate pedestrian activity such as entries, retail uses, and transit stops.

**PL2-C-2. Design Integration:** Integrate weather protection, gutters and downspouts into the design of the structure as a whole, and ensure that it also relates well to neighboring buildings in design, coverage, or other features.

**PL2-C-3. People-Friendly Spaces:** Create an artful and people-friendly space beneath building.

**PL2-D Wayfinding**

**PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding:** Use design features as a means of wayfinding wherever possible.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**PL2-1 Weather Protection:** Overhead weather protection is encouraged in areas of high pedestrian activity such as along Green Streets, designated trails, and where retail uses are provided along the ground floor.

**PL2-1-a. Reinforce Pedestrian Scale:** Consider opportunities for the canopy or other weather protection to reinforce a sense of pedestrian scale.

**PL2-1-b. Modulation:** Avoid long monolithic designs in favor of modulation along the length of a block. This can be achieved by matching overhead protection to facade bays and breaking up canopies or overhangs accordingly.

**PL2-1-c. Shelter Entries to Eating Establishments:** Entries to spaces that may house eating or drinking establishments should be recessed or provide two sets of doors so that temporary ‘air locks’ over the sidewalk are not necessary.

**PL2-2 Walkways and Pedestrian Interest:** Visually engaging pedestrian walkways reinforce the pedestrian network and are an important element in project design. The pattern of near-by features, spatial changes, and points of interest define the pedestrian experience.

**PL2-2-a. Regular Sensory Stimulation:** Points of interest that may include building entrances, window displays, seats, landscaping, change of architectural character, alcoves or artwork should be placed every 15 to 20 feet to create regular sensory stimulation.

**PL2-2-b. Focal Features:** Focal features—an open space, pedestrian connection, activity center, or significant variation in spatial enclosure or architecture character—should be placed approximately every 130 feet.

**PL2-2-c. Provide a Destination:** A strong element at one end of a corridor can act as a ‘terminus’ by providing a destination or a view point that can be seen from the corridor.



Similarly, a central plaza or landmark can attract pedestrians from throughout the corridor, thereby unifying the corridor's activity.

**PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.**

**PL3-A Entries**

**PL3-A-1. Design Objectives:** Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

**PL3-A-2. Common Entries:** Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

**PL3-A-3. Individual Entries:** Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

**PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements:** Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

**PL3-B Residential Edges**

**PL3-B-1. Security and Privacy:** Provide security and privacy for residential buildings through the use of a buffer or semi-private space between the development and the street or neighboring buildings.

**PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential:** Privacy and security issues are particularly important in buildings with ground-level housing, both at entries and where windows are located overlooking the street.

**PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses:** Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

**PL3-B-4. Interaction:** Provide opportunities for interaction among residents and neighbors.

**PL3-C Retail Edges**

**PL3-C-1. Porous Edge:** Engage passersby with opportunities to interact visually with the building interior using glazing and transparency. Create multiple entries where possible and make a physical and visual connection between people on the sidewalk and retail activities in the building.

**PL3-C-2. Visibility:** Maximize visibility into the building interior and merchandise displays. Consider fully operational glazed wall-sized doors that can be completely opened to the street, increased height in lobbies, and/or special lighting for displays.

**PL3-C-3. Ancillary Activities:** Allow space for activities such as sidewalk vending, seating, and restaurant dining to occur. Consider setting structures back from the street or incorporating space in the project design into which retail uses can extend.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**PL3-1 Entries:** Buildings with more than 200 linear feet of street frontage should feature one or more primary building entries that are enhanced or articulated by design measures such as entry design elements that extend above the ground floor, special canopy

features, architectural elements such as special lighting, artwork, or other similar treatment.

### **PL3-2 Residential Edges**

**PL3-2-a. Ground-Level Residential (Including Live/Work):** The UDF identifies areas with a residential focus. Projects fronting onto a designated Green or ‘woonerf’ street should include the following elements to provide privacy layering to the sidewalk.

1. Provide a direct entry into the unit from the street. The entry should include weather protection sufficient to shelter persons entering the building during inclement weather.
2. Elevate the ground floor of the living area at least 2-4 feet above the adjacent sidewalk grade. This guideline does not apply to designated ADA accessible units.
3. Provide a physical ‘threshold’ feature such as a hedge, retaining wall, rockery, stair, gate, railing, or a combination of such elements on private property that defines and bridges the boundary between public right-of-way and private yard or patio. Thresholds should filter but not block views to and from the street, and should help define individual units. Retaining walls should generally not be taller than 4 feet. If additional height is required to accommodate grade conditions, then stepped terraces of more than one 4 foot wall can be employed.
4. Provide an outdoor space at least 6 feet in depth and 6 feet wide (36 square foot minimum) in the front yard such as a porch, patio, or similar space that can accommodate seating at least 2 persons. Where feasible, this space should be at the same level as the interior of the unit.
5. Design the front door and entry area to enhance the privacy transition. Windows should be located so that pedestrians on the sidewalk cannot see directly into the lower half of the ground floor. (This means that the bottom of the ground floor windows facing the street should be at least 6 feet above sidewalk grade.)

### **PL4 Active Transportation: Incorporate design features that facilitate active forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and use of transit.**

#### **PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships**

**PL4-A-1. Serving all Modes of Travel:** Provide safe and convenient access points for all modes of travel.

**PL4-A-2. Connections to All Modes:** Site the primary entry in a location that logically relates to building uses and clearly connects all major points of access.

#### **PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists**

**PL4-B-1. Early Planning:** Consider existing and future bicycle traffic to and through the site early in the process so that access and connections are integrated into the project along with other modes of travel.

**PL4-B-2. Bike Facilities:** Facilities such as bike racks and storage, bike share stations, shower facilities and lockers for bicyclists should be located to maximize convenience, security, and safety.

**PL4-B-3. Bike Connections:** Facilitate connections to bicycle trails and infrastructure around and beyond the project.

#### **PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit**

**PL4-C-1. Influence on Project Design:** Identify how a transit stop (planned or built) adjacent to or near the site may influence project design, provide opportunities for placemaking.

**PL4-C-2. On-site Transit Stops:** If a transit stop is located onsite, design project-related pedestrian improvements and amenities so that they complement any amenities provided for transit riders.

**PL4-C-3. Transit Connections:** Where no transit stops are on or adjacent to the site, identify where the nearest transit stops and pedestrian routes are and include design features and connections within the project design as appropriate.

***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**PL4-1 Bicycle Facilities:** Bicycle use and parking should be encouraged to promote a healthy and active neighborhood and to support local businesses. Bicycle racks should be plentiful, and either be from the Seattle Department of Transportation's bike parking program or be an approved rack of similar 'inverted U' or 'staple' style. The bicycle racks may also be an opportunity for placemaking, such as having a uniform color for bike racks within South Lake Union or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

**PL4-2 Transit Facilities:** Public transit is an essential part of a well-functioning Urban Center that supports dense, mixed-use development with high concentrations of jobs and housing. These facilities work best when they are carefully integrated into the urban fabric of the neighborhood and reinforce pedestrian activity at the ground level. Transit facilities that occur out of the public right-of-way and are subject to design review can include light rail stations, bus terminals, and off-street bus layover.

**PL4-2-a. Pedestrian Activity:** Transit facilities should be designed as an integral part of any co-development and be designed to support all relevant Citywide Design Guidelines, especially those regarding the ground floor and pedestrian activity.

1. On Class I Pedestrian Streets required street-level uses are essential to achieving the intent of Pedestrian Street Classifications. Operational needs may require that vehicle entrances to transit facilities be wider than permitted for parking garages and facade lengths may be greater than other structures in the neighborhood. Street frontage of these projects should maintain and reinforce the levels of pedestrian activity and visual interest that Class I Pedestrian streets are intended to achieve.
2. Consider completely screening the layover space from public view. Ideally other uses with transparent, active storefronts are located between bus parking and the public right of way.

**DESIGN CONCEPT**

**DC1 Project Uses and Activities: Optimize the arrangement of uses and activities on site.**

**DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses**

**DC1-A-1. Visibility:** Locate uses and services frequently used by the public in visible or prominent areas, such as at entries or along the street front.

**DC1-A-2. Gathering Places:** Maximize the use of any interior or exterior gathering spaces.

**DC1-A-3. Flexibility:** Build in flexibility so the building can adapt over time to evolving needs, such as the ability to change residential space to commercial space as needed.

**DC1-A-4. Views and Connections:** Locate interior uses and activities to take advantage of views and physical connections to exterior spaces and uses.

#### **DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation**

**DC1-B-1. Access Location and Design:** Choose locations for vehicular access, service uses, and delivery areas that minimize conflict between vehicles and non-motorists wherever possible. Emphasize use of the sidewalk for pedestrians, and create safe and attractive conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

**DC1-B-2. Facilities for Alternative Transportation:** Locate facilities for alternative transportation in prominent locations that are convenient and readily accessible to expected users.

#### **DC1-C Parking and Service Uses**

**DC1-C-1. Below-Grade Parking:** Locate parking below grade wherever possible. Where a surface parking lot is the only alternative, locate the parking in rear or side yards, or on lower or less visible portions of the site.

**DC1-C-2. Visual Impacts:** Reduce the visual impacts of parking lots, parking structures, entrances, and related signs and equipment as much as possible.

**DC1-C-3. Multiple Uses:** Design parking areas to serve multiple uses such as children's play space, outdoor gathering areas, sports courts, woonerf, or common space in multifamily projects.

**DC1-C-4. Service Uses:** Locate and design service entries, loading docks, and trash receptacles away from pedestrian areas or to a less visible portion of the site to reduce possible impacts of these facilities on building aesthetics and pedestrian circulation.

**DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.**

#### **DC2-A Massing**

**DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses:** Arrange the mass of the building taking into consideration the characteristics of the site and the proposed uses of the building and its open space.

**DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass:** Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

#### **DC2-B Architectural and Facade Composition**

**DC2-B-1. Façade Composition:** Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs—considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

**DC2-B-2. Blank Walls:** Avoid large blank walls along visible façades wherever possible. Where expanses of blank walls, retaining walls, or garage facades are unavoidable, include uses or design treatments at the street level that have human scale and are designed for pedestrians.

#### **DC2-C Secondary Architectural Features**

**DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest:** Add depth to facades where appropriate by incorporating balconies, canopies, awnings, decks, or other secondary elements into the façade design. Add detailing at the street level in order to create interest for the pedestrian and encourage active street life and window shopping (in retail areas).

**DC2-C-2. Dual Purpose Elements:** Consider architectural features that can be dual purpose— adding depth, texture, and scale as well as serving other project functions.

**DC2-C-3. Fit With Neighboring Buildings:** Use design elements to achieve a successful fit between a building and its neighbors.

#### **DC2-D Scale and Texture**

**DC2-D-1. Human Scale:** Incorporate architectural features, elements, and details that are of human scale into the building facades, entries, retaining walls, courtyards, and exterior spaces in a manner that is consistent with the overall architectural concept

**DC2-D-2. Texture:** Design the character of the building, as expressed in the form, scale, and materials, to strive for a fine-grained scale, or “texture,” particularly at the street level and other areas where pedestrians predominate.

#### **DC2-E Form and Function**

**DC2-E-1. Legibility and Flexibility:** Strive for a balance between building use legibility and flexibility. Design buildings such that their primary functions and uses can be readily determined from the exterior, making the building easy to access and understand. At the same time, design flexibility into the building so that it may remain useful over time even as specific programmatic needs evolve.

#### ***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

**DC2-1 Massing, Design, and Scale:** Consideration of three scales. Buildings and their surroundings are perceived at three scales: 1) The pedestrian scale that relates to human activity within the immediate vicinity of the pedestrian (roughly 60 feet horizontally); 2) The street space where the street and adjacent open spaces are perceived as a ‘room’ (generally street block or two long and about 60 feet high); and 3) Tall building or skyline scale (where the building form is perceived generally at more than a block away).

**DC2-2 Pedestrian Scale:** These guidelines apply to both taller buildings above the base height of 85 feet and buildings less than 85 feet in height.

**DC2-2-a. Street-Level Scale:** Podiums in South Lake Union are intended to promote a pedestrian scale by creating a ‘street wall’ that is proportional to the width and intensity of the streets they face. A Podiums lower three floors or less are limited to 75% lot coverage to promote creative massing within the constraints of the podium height limits. Towers that extend a building’s street-front facade upward directly from the podium can break up height and scale consistency of an otherwise coherent spatial ‘street room.’ For a successful scale transition, the podium facade should provide pedestrian scaled elements and proportions.

**DC2-2-b. Commercial Podiums:** Structures should express a podium level by setting back a portion of the structure at the podium height limit.

**DC2-3 Building Podiums:** Podiums in South Lake Union are intended to promote a pedestrian scale by creation a ‘street wall’ that is proportional to the width and intensity of the

streets they face. Podiums lower three floors or less are limited to 75% lot coverage to promote creative massing within the constraints of the podium height limits. Towers that extend a building's street-front facade upward directly from the podium can diminish or disrupt height and scale consistency of an otherwise coherent spatial 'street room.' For a successful scale transition, the podium facade must provide pedestrian scaled elements and proportions.

**DC2-3-a. Express Building Podiums:** Commercial structures should express a podium level by stepping back a portion of the structure at the podium height limit.

**DC2-3-b. Street Wall Variation:** Although podiums are required it is important to achieve some variety in street wall height. Full block projects should explore creative massing at the podium level to achieve variety.

**DC2-4 Tall Buildings:** Tall buildings require additional design guidance since they are highly visible above typical 'fabric structures' and impact the public visual realm with inherently larger facade surfaces, bulk, and scale shifts. These Tall Building Guidelines work in concert with and do not restate applicable Citywide Guidelines (or applicable neighborhood guidelines), which cover many important topics on the base and lower levels of tall buildings. Tall Building Guidelines apply to the entire structure whenever any portion of the structure exceeds 85 foot height.

**DC2-4-a. Response to Context:** Integrate and transition to a surrounding fabric of differing heights; relate to existing visual datums, the street wall and parcel patterns. Respond to prominent nearby sites and/or sites with axial focus or distant visibility, such as waterfronts, public view corridors, street ends.

**DC2-4-b. Tall Form Placement, Spacing & Orientation:** Locate the tall forms to optimize the following: reduce shadow impacts on public parks, plazas and places; increase tower spacing to adjacent structures; afford light and air to the streets, pedestrians and public realm; and minimize impacts to nearby existing and future planned occupants.

**DC2-4-c. Tall Form Design:** Avoid long slabs and big, unmodulated boxy forms, which cast bigger shadows and lack scale or visual interest. Consider curved, angled, shifting and/or carved yet coherent forms. Shape and orient tall floorplates based on context, nearby opportunities and design concepts, not simply to maximize internal efficiencies. Modulation should be up-sized to match the longer, taller view distances.

**DC2-4-d. Intermediate Scales:** To mediate the extra height/scale, add legible, multi-story intermediate scale elements: floor groupings, gaskets, off-sets, projections, sky terraces, layering, or other legible modulations to the middle of tall forms. Avoid a single repeated extrusion from base to top.

**DC2-4-e. Shape & Design All Sides:** Because tall forms are visible from many viewpoints/distances, intentionally shape the form and design all sides (even party walls), responding to differing site patterns and context relationships. Accordingly, not all sides may have the same forms or display identical cladding.

**DC2-4-f. Adjusted Base Scale:** To mediate the form's added height, design a 1-3 story base scale, and/or highly legible base demarcation to transition to the ground and mark the 'street room' proportion. Tall buildings require several scale readings, and the otherwise typical single-story ground floor appears squashed by the added mass above.

**DC2-4-g. Ground Floor Uses:** Include identifiable primary entrances -scaled to the tall form - and provide multiple entries. Include genuinely activating uses or grade-related residences to activate all streets.

**DC2-4-h. Facade Depth & Articulation:** Use plane changes, depth, shadow, and texture to provide human scale and interest and to break up the larger facade areas of tall buildings, especially in the base/ lower 100 feet. Compose fenestration and material dimensions to be legible and richly detailed from long distances.

**DC2-4-i. Quality & 6th Elevations:** Intentionally design and employ quality materials and detailing, including on all soffits, balconies, exterior ceilings, and other surfaces seen from below, including lighting, vents, etc.

**DC2-4-j. Transition to the Sky & Skyline Composition:** Create an intentional, designed terminus to the tall form and enhance the skyline (not a simple flat 'cut-off'). Integrate all rooftop elements and uses into the overall design, including mechanical screens, maintenance equipment, amenity spaces and lighting. Use wide photo simulations to study and design how the tall building will contribute to the overall skyline profile and variety of forms.

## **DC2-5 Secondary Architectural Features**

### **DC2-5-a. Visual Depth and Interest**

1. Rooftops: Design the 'fifth elevation' — the roofscape — in addition to the facades. As South Lake Union is a topographic valley, the roofs will be visible from tall buildings and locations outside the neighborhood such as the freeway and Space Needle. Therefore, roof-top elements should be intentionally designed and organized to present a coherent image when seen from above. Equipment should be fully screened.
2. Windows and Fenestration: Fenestration design should respond to context and the size and character of glazed areas. Well-articulated fenestration with a break in the facade plane is strongly encouraged. Expanses of unarticulated glazing and repeated horizontal 'ribbon' windows are discouraged. Patterns of different sized windows indicate how interior spaces or residential units are organized. Multi-paned windows provide a much finer scale and sense of refinement – and can sometimes relate to near-by historical structures.

## **DC2-6 Scale and Texture**

**DC2-6-a. Texture:** Materials such as brick, stone, pre-cast concrete, smaller paned glass, tile, etc. provide both scale and texture and should be selected, especially where the surfaces are prominent or where there are no other architectural features.

**DC3 Open Space Concept: Integrate open space design with the building design so that they complement each other.**

### ***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **DC3-A Building-Open Space Relationship**

**DC3-A-1. Interior/Exterior Fit:** Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.

#### **DC3-B Open Space Uses and Activities**



**DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs:** Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.

**DC3-B-2. Matching Uses to Conditions:** Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities.

**DC3-B-3. Connections to Other Open Space:** Site and design project-related open spaces to connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate.

**DC3-B-4. Multifamily Open Space:** Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction.

### **DC3-C Design**

**DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space:** Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

**DC3-C-2. Amenities/Features:** Create attractive outdoor spaces suited to the uses envisioned for the project.

**DC3-C-3. Support Natural Areas:** Create an open space design that retains and enhances onsite natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife.

### ***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **DC3-1 Building Open Space Relationship**

**DC3-1-a. Interior/Exterior Fit:** Locate open spaces toward streets with high pedestrian volumes and 'Heart' locations. Open spaces accessible to the public should be visible from the street.

### **DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.**

#### **DC4-A Exterior Elements and Finishes**

**DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials:** Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

**DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness:** Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle's climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

#### **DC4-B Signage**

**DC4-B-1. Scale and Character:** Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

**DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design:** Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design,



lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

#### **DC4-C Lighting**

**DC4-C-1. Functions:** Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

**DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare:** Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

#### **DC4-D Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials**

**DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials:** Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

**DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials:** Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

**DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning:** Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

**DC4-D-4. Place Making:** Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

#### **DC4-E Project Assembly and Lifespan**

**DC4-E-1. Deconstruction:** When possible, design the project so that it may be deconstructed at the end of its useful lifetime, with connections and assembly techniques that will allow reuse of materials.

### ***South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **DC4-1 Exterior Building Materials**

**DC4-1-a. Transparent Ground Floor Glass:** Avoid the use of tinted or reflective glass on the ground floor for commercial uses or other non-residential uses. Transparency maintains pedestrian visual interest and safety at the street level.

##### **DC4-1-b. Panelized Materials**

1. Sheet products can lower the visual quality of buildings – generally because of warping, poor fastening or detailing, and the manner in which the sheet products abut other materials or fenestration.
2. Panelized exterior cladding should be carefully detailed and of a sufficient thickness to prevent warping. The project applicant should provide visual examples of other applications, material samples, construction details (as requested by the Design Review Board and/or City Staff), and description of how the quality of the materials will be installed and ensured.

**DC4-1-c. Materials at Ground Level:** Use durable materials resistant to vandalism, incidental damage, and wear. Ground floor materials should provide the visual interest and texture as described in Citywide Guideline DC.2.D. Brick, tile, and other highly durable materials are encouraged.

#### **DC4-2 Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials**

**DC4-2-a. Design Standards:** Encourage landscaping that meets LEED criteria, or an equivalent standard. This is a priority in the Cascade neighborhood.

**DC4-2-b. Indigenous Species:** Where appropriate, install indigenous trees and plants to improve aesthetics, capture water, and create habitat.

**DC4-2-c. Mature Vegetation:** Retain existing, non-intrusive mature trees or replace with large caliper trees. Water features are encouraged including natural marsh-like installations.

**DC4-2-d. Reference Materials:** Reference the City of Seattle Street Tree Manual and SDOT's "Streets Illustrated" for appropriate landscaping and lighting options for the area.

**DC4-2-e. Sense of Place:** Consider integrating artwork into publicly accessible areas of a building and landscape that evokes a sense of place related to the previous uses of the area. Neighborhood themes may include service industries such as laundries, auto row, floral businesses, photography district, arts district, maritime, etc.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

At the conclusion of the FINAL RECOMMENDATION meeting, the Board recommended approval of the project with conditions.

The recommendation summarized above was based on the design review packet dated Wednesday, November 17, 2021, and the materials shown and verbally described by the applicant at the Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Design Recommendation meeting. After considering the site and context, hearing public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the five Design Review Board members recommended APPROVAL of the subject design and departures with the following condition:

1. Maintain the architectural composition, materials, details, and lighting as rendered in the Recommendation packet dated November 17, 2021. (CS3, PL3, DC2, DC3, DC4)