



**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION  
NORTHEAST**

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Record Number: 3024151-LU

Address: 5339 Roosevelt Way NE

Applicant: Twist Design, Inc.

Report Date: Friday, October 15, 2021

SDCI Staff: Sean Conrad, Senior Planner

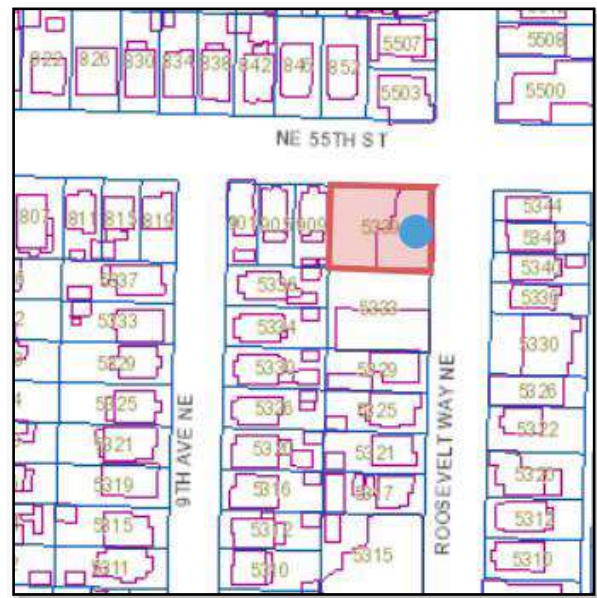
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**SITE & VICINITY**

Site Zone: Neighborhood Commercial 2 –  
40-foot height limit (NC2-40)

Nearby Zones: (North) NC2-40  
(South) NC2-40  
(East) NC2-40  
(West) Single-Family Residential  
(SF5000)

Lot Area: 8,000 square feet



**Current Development:**

The site is developed with a two-story office building, located in the east half of the site, with an associated parking lot west of the building. Access to the parking lot is from NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:**

The site is located within the northern portion of the University District neighborhood along Roosevelt Way NE. Roosevelt Way has long been an important arterial connecting north Seattle with the University District. The site is located along the commercial corridor of Roosevelt Way between NE 55th St. to the north and NE 53rd St. This stretch of Roosevelt Way consists of a variety of commercial establishments including varying automotive services, residential structural used for commercial enterprises, a small number of restaurants and coffee shops along with several single-family residences. West of the site are single-family residences.

**Access:**

Access is provided by Roosevelt Way NE on the site's east side and NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street on the site's north side.

**Environmentally Critical Areas:**

There are no mapped environmentally critical areas on or adjacent to the site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Land Use Application to allow a 4-story, 27-unit apartment building with retail. Parking for 8 vehicles proposed. Existing building to be demolished. Design Review Early Design Guidance done under 3024151-EG.

The design packet includes materials that are available online by entering the  
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>

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

**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)

## ADMINISTRATIVE EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE July 2, 2019

### PUBLIC COMMENT

- The limited amount of on-site parking, number of new residential units, and new commercial space will impact the availability of on-street parking for the residences in the neighborhood.
- The departure request to reduce the setbacks should be denied. The intrusion of the proposed structure into the existing single-family neighborhood should be minimized.
- Suggested relocating the bike storage for the building residents away from the street at a safer location, less noticeable for those looking for a quick theft.
- The proposed location of the trash enclosure makes it the most noticeable piece of the new building at the street level. The location of the enclosure does not provide a friendly transition piece to the adjacent residences. The enclosure is more like a wall, and a wall that spills out on occasion, making it even less welcoming.

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 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/>

### 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, Design & Street Level Activation:

- a. Staff is generally supportive of the preferred massing option (Option C) in terms of the layout of the façade and the large commercial space at the corner of Roosevelt Way and 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff has concerns with the building massing and setbacks on the west side, as discussed in the review of the departure request in this report. (CS2.C, CS2.D)
- b. Staff appreciates the composition of the volumes and how they transition from the full height allowed in the zoning district to a stepped down, two-story massing along 55<sup>th</sup> Street. The step in the building height and mass assists in creating a better transition to the single-family residences west of the building. (CS2.D)

- c. The window bays on the Roosevelt Way façade help to break up the massing of the wall and provide interest by providing a feature where different materials and fenestration patterns can be introduced. Staff supports this approach and recommends this element be included in the final design. (CS3.1)
- d. The proposed canopy, as it wraps around the corner, is a good addition to the project which should be maintained through design development (PL2.C).
- e. Staff supports the applicant's intent to incorporate brick as the ground level material. The introduction of brick will provide a durable street level material and is in keeping with larger brick buildings in the neighborhood. (CS3.A.4, ).

## **2. Residential Entry:**

- a. With the majority of the building being used for residences, staff recommends additional consideration be given to making the residential entry prominent. (PL3.A, PL3.1)
- b. The recommendation packet will need to demonstrate how the residential entry is visually distinct from the commercial entry and include lobby details such as seating and mailbox locations. (PL3.B.4)

## **3. Bike Parking/Storage:**

- a. Staff agrees with the public's comment regarding the location of the bike storage and recommends it be moved to the rear of the garage, with primary access to bikes through the residential lobby. With the relocation of the bike storage, staff recommends the commercial space be expanded into that area, creating a greater commercial presence on the ground floor at the corner. (PL4.B, DC1.A)

## **4. Garage Entrance:**

- a. With no off-street parking required, staff recommends the garage driveway width be minimized to the greatest extent possible (10-11 feet in width) to avoid the negative blank wall condition garage doors introduce along the street. Details of the garage door will need to be included in the recommendation packet. The garage door should incorporate art, interesting material composition or other design elements on the door to avoid a blank wall look. (DC1.C.2, DC2.2.c)
- b. In addition to the garage details, staff requests details of the fencing or other security measures along the remainder of the parking along NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street. The design and materials of the fencing or wall should complement the overall material scheme of the building. (DC1.C.2)

## **5. Trash enclosure:**

- a. Staff does not support the location of the trash enclosure at the northern end of the garage, adjacent to the sidewalk. Staff agrees with the public's comment on the negative aspects locating the enclosure so close to the sidewalks creates such as a pleasant pedestrian experience along the sidewalk. Staff recommends the trash enclosure be moved further into the garage, a minimum distance of 10 feet. (DC1.C.4)

## **6. Landscaping:**

- a. Staff supports the applicant's intent of preserving the existing trees along the west property boundary. These mature trees, at a height of approximately 12-15 feet, will assist in screening the lower portions of the building and soften the appearance of the garage from the neighboring residences. (DC4.D)

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION October 15, 2021</b>
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## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SDCI did not receive public comments on the project.

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.

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/>

<b>PRIORITIES &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and reviewing public comment, Staff provides the following siting and design guidance.

### **1. Design Concept:**

- a. Staff recommends approval of the overall building design concept. The proposal has generally responded to the guidance provided at EDG, however, further detailing and material application changes need to occur on the south and west facades as indicated Administrative Recommendation items 4a and 4b of this report. The brick base and commercial space at the northeast corner of the building appropriately responds to the adjacent buildings and sets a positive context for future development in the immediate area. The upper story massing off-set from the two-story base provides an adequate amount of relief to assist in breaking down the scale of the building along NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street as the street transitions from a Neighborhood Commercial zoning district to Single-Family Residential zoning. (CS2-C, CS2-D)

### **2. Entries**

- a. The residential entry lobby has responded appropriately to the EDG report by

incorporating a seating area just inside the residential entry. This seating area provides views to the street which is advantageous for people waiting at the adjacent bus stop or waiting for a visitor. Overhead weather protection and the building's name are located above the residential entrance. The residential entrance is further defined by a set of double entry doors within an approximately 10-foot wide entry, inset from the sidewalk. However, this entry sequence is similar to the commercial entrance of building, located approximately 45 feet north of the residential entry. To assist in wayfinding to the residential entrance of the building, staff recommends a condition to install colored bricks or pavers from the residential entry doors to the sidewalk. The features of the residential entry, including wayfinding bricks or pavers, should be shown on the building permit drawings. (PL3-A-4, PL1-2-e)

### **3. Materials:**

- a. The applicant has included a description of the materials on page 22 of the packet. The materials are generally of high-quality and staff recommends approval of the material and color palette shown on page 22. The application of brick on the first story along Roosevelt Way NE and the two-story fronting NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street is appropriate for the neighborhood. (DC4-A, DC4-1-b)
- b. The Design Guidelines specify the use of high-quality materials that are attractive when viewed up close, lend themselves to high quality of detailing, have texture, pattern, or integral color, have sufficient thickness to prevent warping or deformations, and demonstrably age well in Seattle's climate. The elevation drawings show a considerable amount of fiber cement panels on all sides of the building. Staff recommends a condition to provide additional information regarding the proposed fiber-cement panel thickness and details. The details needed are based on the following specifications of fiber cement panels: (DC4-A-1, DC4-A-2, DC4-1-a).
  - Where fiber-cement panel siding is indicated, the specification of a material with integral texture and color or with a minimum thickness of 7/16" will meet the intent of these Guidelines.
  - If painted 5/16" fiber-cement panel siding is specified, complete details of the high-quality installation required for this material to appear as it does in the Design Review documents will be required in the building permit plan set.
  - Alternatively, notes specifying minimum acceptable quality standards can be provided, with a caution: on projects approved through the Design Review process, exterior elements of the built work must match the approved drawings, and verification of this condition is the principal work for Land Use staff when conducting inspections. Because the first Land Use inspection does not occur

until the project nears completion, an issue with the appearance of exterior cladding materials could cause significant delay in approval at Final Inspection.

#### **4. Architectural Concept/Materials:**

- a. The east and north facades introduce material plane changes with the bays located on each of these facades. The west façade is comprised of fiber cements panels, all in the same plane, with bays identified by blue fiber cement panels. In keeping with the building's bay concept on the east and north facades, staff recommends a condition that the bays on the west façade include blue horizontal fiber cement siding. In addition to the horizontal siding, the condition will require a plane change that creates a visual depth between the fiber cement panels and horizontal panels of the bays. By incorporating this plane change in material application, the façade is better suited to create visual depth and interest and add scale and texture, which can help mitigate its height and bulk along the zone transition boundary to single-family residential zoning. (CS2-D-3, CS3-A-1)
- b. The south façade, similar to the west façade, is primarily covered with fiber cement panels, except for the first floor base of the building. Three blue colored rectangles are painted on the fiber cement panels to continue the bay concept on the other three sides of the building. The south façade is adjacent to a parking lot with a single-story building just south of the parking lot. The south façade will be visible from the Roosevelt Way NE right-of-way for the foreseeable future. The attempt to address the blank wall is going in the right direction, however, additional materials and plane changes need to occur. Therefore, staff recommends the following condition to address the south façade:
  - Wrap the brick on the east around to the south façade terminating the brick at an obvious material/design feature on the south facade
  - Introduce horizontal fiber cement siding with a material plane change with the panel siding to further the bay concept, similar to the east façade and staff-recommended condition on the west facade. As an alternative the applicant can provide a study of horizontal fiber cement siding that introduces a single bay, with plane change similar to the bay on the upper floors of the north façade.

Similar to the west façade, the introduction of materials and plane changes to the south façade would appropriately create visual depth and interest and add scale to assist in mitigating an otherwise blank wall. (DC2-B, DC2-5-a)

#### **5. Landscaping:**

- a. Staff recommends modifications to the landscape plan. The plan includes retention of trees along the west property boundary. Staff supports this approach as the trees will provide screening and improve the privacy of the neighboring residence. The

landscape plan indicates plantings along the east and north sides of the building. These plantings will be under a canopy within a relatively narrow width of soil. The introduction of a planting strip on the east side of the building also creates a narrowed sidewalk width of four feet adjacent to the existing street tree. Due to the commercial nature of the area and likely lack of sunlight and water due to the overhead canopy, staff recommends a condition to remove the two planting strips on the north and east sides of the building to permit a wider sidewalk. The mix of plantings proposed within the two planting strips could be utilized in the existing landscaping strip along NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street, between the sidewalk and the street. (PL1-B-2)

- b. The materials page (page 22) identifies a solid wood fence, with the site plan and west elevation showing the fencing running the length of the west property boundary, terminating approximately 1 ½ feet from the north property line along NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street. Staff recommends a condition to terminate the fence approximately 8 feet from the north property line. Pulling the fencing back approximately 8 feet will align the fence with the neighboring residence and open the northwest corner of the site and its landscaping to the adjacent street and sidewalk. Providing an uninterrupted landscape area at the sidewalk edge is similar to the residences west and north of the site within the single-family (SF 5000) zone. (CS2-B-3, CS2-D-3)

#### **6. Garage Entrance:**

- a. The early design guidance report requested details of the garage door in the recommendation packet, with the report noting that the garage door should incorporate art, interesting material composition or other design elements on the door to avoid a blank wall look. The recommendation packet has not included the requested details of the garage door. Therefore, staff recommends a condition that garage door details be provided for staff review and approval. The information will need to demonstrate how the garage door incorporates art, an interesting material composition, or other design elements that relate to the building and avoid a blank wall look along the street. (DC1-2-b)

### **DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES**

No departures are requested as part of the Recommendation review.

### **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](#).

<b>CONTEXT &amp; SITE</b>
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**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.

***University Supplemental Guidance:***

**CS1-1 Plan for Daylight & Trees**

**CS1-1-a. Building Massing & Upper Level Step-Backs:** Arrange building massing and use upper-level step-backs to increase solar access into ground floors, shared amenity spaces, streets, and the public realm, especially on narrow rights-of-way such as University Way NE. Use two-story or mezzanine layouts for residential or live-work units at or below-grade to increase daylight access to those units.

**CS1-1-b. Recessed or Sunken Living Space:** Avoid recessed or sunken living space, and minimize the distance that units are located below grade to provide direct access to daylight and air from above-grade windows for each unit.

**CS1-1-c. Trees:** Incorporate new and existing trees. Site the buildings and design building massing to preserve and incorporate existing mature trees, especially on slopes; this is especially relevant in the Ravenna Springs character area. Where removal is unavoidable, configure open space to accommodate large canopy trees that replace those removed.

**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.

#### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **CS2-1 Character Areas & Corridor Character Areas**

**CS2-1-a. Cowen Park Corners:** Use lush landscaping to carry the experience of Cowen Park down the north end of University Way NE. Incorporate generous sidewalks and seating areas.

**CS2-1-b. University Park South & 17th Ave Boulevard:** Reinforce the existing pattern of generous front setbacks. Incorporate occupiable amenity spaces into front setbacks with areas for large shade trees and landscaping. Take cues from the design, scale, and character of historic buildings, including: grand entries; sloped roofs; the use of brick, masonry, and wood; vertical window proportions; and a high degree of architectural detailing.

**CS2-1-c. Ravenna Springs:** Design projects to create and reinforce the quality of a cohesive neighborhood with massing that is broken into multiple buildings, individual unit entries, ground-related housing, highly permeable blocks with walkways and open spaces, and a high degree of landscaping and pedestrian amenities.

**CS2-1-d. University Village & 25th Ave NE:** Prioritize active edges and direct pedestrian connections to 25th Ave NE and the Burke Gilman Trail. Development along 25th Ave NE should create an active, engaging building edge for pedestrians and create protected sidewalks by utilizing planter strips with lush landscaping.

**CS2-1-e. The U District Core & The Ave:** Express an urban character that is distinct to the U District and prioritize the pedestrian experience with human-scaled design and a high degree of visual interest. Foster an eclectic mix of businesses and architectural styles.

1. Reflect historic platting patterns by articulating and/or modulating buildings and design styles at 20-40 foot intervals.
2. Use upper-level step-backs that respond to predominant and historic datums in context.
3. Incorporate balconies or terraces in buildings with residential uses to contribute to passive surveillance and visual interest.
4. Use lush, layered landscaping at street level, especially in residential areas south of NE 43rd St.

#### **CS2-2 Neighborhood Context**

**CS2-2-a. Contribute to Community Character:** To enhance the eclectic character of the University District, plan and include elements that are easily customizable for tenants and businesses to individualize storefronts, kickplates, and streetscapes through paint colors, materials, lighting, signage, awning design, seating, or other pedestrian amenities. Use these features to express 20-40 foot storefront modules.

**CS2-2-b. Provide Zone Transitions:** When a project site abuts a zone with a height limit that is two stories shorter than the project site, provide upper-level setbacks that create a sensitive transition to the less intensive zone.

**CS2-2-c. Activate Parks & Open Space:** In development adjacent to open space and parks, activate the building edges by incorporating active uses, small public plazas or seating areas for ground-floor uses, as well as balconies or terraces at upper floors. Design adjacent projects to act as a deferential backdrop, with refined building facades that help frame the open space, or incorporate artistic features that complement the function of the open space and create an “outdoor room.”

### **CS2-3 Gateways & Placemaking Corners**

**CS2-3-a. Special Site Features:** For new buildings located on a corner, including, but not limited to the corner locations identified in Map 3 of the full Guidelines, consider providing special building elements distinguishable from the rest of the building such as a tower, corner articulation or bay windows. Consider a special site feature such as diagonal orientation and entry, a sculpture, a courtyard, or other device. Corner entries should be set back to allow pedestrian flow and good visibility at the intersection.

**CS2-3-b. Gateways:** Gateways identified on Map A are significant “entry” points in the U District Neighborhood.

1. Express a sense of arrival to a distinct area with distinctive forms, prominent massing, unique design concepts, and the highest attention to design quality.
2. Create pedestrian accommodating entries with wider sidewalks, significant landscaping features, public plazas, active uses, and art.

**CS2-3-c. Placemaking Corners:** Placemaking Corners identified on Map A are key nodes and pedestrian activity areas within the U District Neighborhood.

1. Design projects as part of a composition with the adjacent corner-facing sites to frame the space and balance strong spatial edges with adequate space for movement and activity, including small plazas, seating, and public art.
2. Incorporate special paving and surface treatments; art installations; seating; kiosks.

## **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.

**University Supplemental Guidance:**

**CS3-1 University District Architectural Character**

**CS3-1-a. Architectural Styles:** Foster the eclectic mix of architectural styles and forms on the block and throughout the neighborhood while maintaining articulated base designs that are pedestrian-oriented. Repetition of architectural forms and character, whether visually adjacent or within the U District, is strongly discouraged.

**CS3-1-b. Predominant Styles:** Complement and continue predominant styles or materials when the immediate context of a site is comprised of buildings or a collection of buildings with local significance or identifiable architectural styles or similar materials.

**CS3-1-c. Historic Patterns:** Articulate building forms and facades to respond to historic platting patterns to create compatibility between contemporary architecture and existing development .

**CS3-1-d. Horizontal and Vertical Patterns:** Respond to nearby predominant horizontal and vertical patterns and datum lines, and take cues from design elements in older structures such as campus gothic style, punched windows, texture-rich materials, and thoughtful detailing.

**CS3-2 Adaptive Reuse & Preservation**

**CS3-2-a. Existing Structures & Facades:** Preserve or rehabilitate existing structures or facades, especially those with architectural merit, local significance, and/or quality materials including brick.

**CS3-2-b. Repurpose Materials:** Creatively repurpose materials, signage, and other physical pieces from existing development into new projects to create a connection with the neighborhood's past and contribute to a sense of place.

**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.

#### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **PL1-1 Networks & Connections to Community Open Space**

**PL1-1-a. Engage the Public Realm:** Include open space at grade that physically or visually engages the public realm: Options include plazas, public courtyards, play areas, gardens, and ground level patios.

**PL1-1-b. Green Streets & Green Spines:** Projects located on Green Streets and within the U District Green Spines: Include multiple types of publicly-accessible open spaces and private amenity spaces that address the public realm including: balconies and unit patios, pocket plazas, strategic setbacks at grade for seating areas and play areas, and upper-level setbacks with terraces or patios.

**PL1-1-c. Burke-Gilman Trail:** For projects adjacent to the Burke-Gilman Trail, provide physical and visual connections for pedestrians and cyclists. Design trail-facing facades with active uses, including retail, amenity space, and unit stoops or patios.

**PL1-1-d. Alleyways:** Treat all alleyways as potential pedestrian routes: Incorporate windows, entries, art, lighting, and active uses on alley-facing facades to activate and improve safety in alleys.

##### **PL1-2 Shared Alleys & Mid-Block Pedestrian Connections**

**PL1-2-a. Pedestrian-Priority Network:** Reinforce existing movement patterns and introduce connections that weave a pedestrian-priority network throughout the neighborhood with mid-block pedestrian pathways and shared alleys.

**PL1-2-b. Connect Street to Alley:** East-west mid-block pedestrian connections from the street to alley are strongly encouraged on blocks within the "Mid-block Pedestrian Pathway Priority Area." Projects within the approximate middle third of the block are the preferred location for mid-block pedestrian connections.



**PL1-2-c. Activate Second “Fronts”:** Design facades adjacent to mid-block pedestrian connections and shared alleys as a second “front” with activating uses:

1. Locate active ground-level uses along shared alleys and pedestrian pathways, including secondary entrances for businesses and individual unit entries separated by grade or setbacks for residential uses.
2. Avoid long blank walls. Where unavoidable due to service uses, treat blank walls with artwork, interesting materials, lighting, and/or architectural features.

**PL1-2-d. People-Friendly Spaces:** Create usable, safe, people-friendly spaces:

1. Include upper-level balconies or terraces so that occupiable spaces overlook shared alleys and mid-block connections.
2. Strive for clear sightlines. Where mid-block connections do not cross the right-of-way or do not align across an alley or street, provide a focal point and wayfinding features at the visual terminus.
3. Incorporate secondary spaces for impromptu gatherings, play opportunities, outdoor seating, and bike racks.

**PL1-2-e. Signage & Wayfinding:** Create consistent signage & incorporate wayfinding elements:

1. Install wayfinding elements on street and alley facades to highlight entrances to alleys and midblock crossings including special architectural treatments, creative signage, ground treatments, lighting, and façade design. Strive for continuity of design features throughout the neighborhood.
2. Incorporate street furniture, art installations, creative paving, paint patterns or lighting throughout shared alleys and mid-block connections.

**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.

**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.



### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **PL3-1 Entries**

**PL3-1-a. Prominent Design:** Design prominent, accommodating entries with vertical emphasis and intricate architectural interest at a variety of scales. Use high-quality materials and detailing to create an identifiable entrance and welcoming experience for visitors and users.

**PL3-1-b. Grade Separations:** Avoid grade separations at retail entries: Step building floor plates along sloped sites to avoid raised or below-grade entries for commercial along the sidewalk.

**PL3-1-c. Courtyard Entries:** Courtyard entries should be physically and visually accessible from the street. Units facing the courtyard should have a porch, stoop, or deck associated with the dwelling unit to support community interaction. Any fences or gates should be set back from the sidewalk to incorporate a semi-public transitional space.

#### **PL3-2 Ground-Level Residential Design**

**PL3-2-a. Articulate Units:** Articulate individual dwelling units and provide usable stoops or patios for street-facing residential units. Include architectural detailing that expresses a residential use, such as contrasting trim, hardware, awnings, mailboxes, address numbers, and appropriately scaled materials. Provide opportunities for personalization.

**PL3-2-b. Rowhouse-Style:** Use rowhouse-style units at the base of residential structures to transition to the pedestrian sidewalk and street; they provide large windows, entries, patios and other activating features.

**PL3-2-c. Buffer Space:** Provide adequate buffer space as a transition from the sidewalk to residential uses for visual connection and passive surveillance of the public realm. Raise units slightly above grade or provide an adequate setback. Use buffers of low walls, planters, and layered landscaping; avoid tall fences and patios below grade.

**PL3-2-d. Shared Space:** Where direct-unit entries are challenging due to a site's physical constraints, include a generous main entry with occupiable shared space or forecourt to create a "front porch" for residents. Provide ample space for bicycles, seating, furniture, and planters.

#### **PL3-3 Mixed Use Corridors & Commercial Frontages**

**PL3-3-a. Street Wall:** Maintain a well-defined street wall on mixed-use corridors to create an urban character. Incorporate strategic setbacks at corners and entries for seating, usable open space, and landscaping.

**PL3-3-b. Human-Scaled Experience:** Provide frequent entrances, expressed breaks, and architectural interest at regular intervals of 20-30 feet (regardless of uses/ tenants occupying ground-level spaces) to create a human-scaled experience and accommodate the presence or appearance of small storefronts. Add unique features to long sections of storefront systems.

**PL3-3-c. Residential Entries & Signage:** Residential entries for upper-floor residential uses and residential signage should not dominate the street frontage over commercial uses.

**PL3-3-d. Non-Activating Uses:** Minimize the size and presence of residential lobbies and other non-activating uses to maintain the commercial intensity and viability of mixed-use corridors.

**PL3-3-e. Edge:** Design a porous, engaging edge for all commercial uses at street-level. Include operable windows at all levels of the building and especially at the street level to maximize permeability and activate the streetscape. Design street-level facades that open to or near sidewalk level allowing uses to spill out, and provide areas for outdoor seating.

**PL3-3-f. Adaptability:** Design live-work units and all other non-commercial spaces for conversion to street-accessed commercial uses over the life of a building. Provide a direct path to the entry from the sidewalk, transitional areas that can be used as outdoor seating, awnings, and pavement treatments. Avoid or minimize tall, structural sills that would inhibit future storefront flexibility. Use recessed entries and non-permanent solutions for privacy for residential uses, such as movable planters. Unit layout should separate living spaces from work space, to provide appropriate privacy for living spaces.

**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.

### **University Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **PL4-1 Bicycle Circulation & Parking**

**PL4-1-a. Efficient & Secure Parking:** Design bicycle parking for efficiency and security. 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".

**PL4-1-b. Placemaking:** Integrate design features into bicycle facilities that enhance placemaking, such as having a uniform color for bike racks within the U District or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

**PL4-1-c. Convenient Location:** Locate bicycle parking and bicycle racks in convenient locations for residents and temporary users with easy access, weather protection, and minimal grade changes. Provide direct routes from bicycle lanes to bicycle parking in garages or bicycle racks, and provide signage that directs bicyclists to these facilities. When bicycle parking is located indoors, minimize obstructions, and consider using sliding or automatic doors.

#### **PL4-2 Connections and Facilities for Transit**

**PL4-2-a. Connections to Light-Rail:** Ensure convenient connections to the light-rail station for development near the station or other high-volume transit stops. This might include voluntary setbacks to afford widened sidewalks, chamfered building corners, and/or recessed entries to facilitate higher pedestrian volumes near the stations.

**PL4-2-b. Integrated Waiting Areas:** Integrate waiting areas for transit and vehicle pick-up into the building design, rather than adjacent to the street, where possible and with approval of agencies. Include shelters, large canopies, lean bars, and benches.

## **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.

#### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **DC1-1 Activating Uses**

**DC1-1-a. Street Frontages:** Maximize active uses along street frontages and minimize the amount of frontage dedicated to lobby/lounges, office, and leasing spaces - uses which can be located elsewhere in the building. Provide a high frequency of entries for both commercial and residential uses.

**DC1-1-b. Commercial Spaces:** Group commercial spaces (or live-work) at corners and clusters at street level rather than fragmenting them between lobbies and other ground-floor uses.

**DC1-1-c. Passive Surveillance:** Where residential uses face on-site or public open spaces, parks, or access drive, balance privacy layering with passive surveillance by incorporating stoops, patios, and balconies, lighting. Minimize garage frontages at these locations.

##### **DC1-2 Visual and Safety Impacts**

**DC1-2-a. Service Entries & Trash Receptacles:** Locate service entries and trash receptacles within the building, mid-block along shared alleys and away from pedestrian crossings or gathering spots at mid-block connections.

**DC1-2-b. High-Quality Materials:** Use high quality materials and finishes for all service screening and garage doors with artful treatments and architectural detailing that reinforces the design concept and contributes to visual interest at street level.

**DC1-2-c. Above Grade Parking:** Wrap any above grade parking with active uses to minimize 'dead facades'. Design any above-grade parking with a high degree of architectural detailing consistent with the non-vehicle design, possibly integrating changing displays or community artwork.

##### **DC1-3 Shared Open Spaces**

**DC1-3-a. Access Drives:** If access drives are provided on site, design them as shared space for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to move slowly and safely. Include entries,

windows, landscaping, and opportunities for personalization. Curbless drive aisles are desirable.

**DC2-3-b. Layout:** Design the layout of the open space and surrounding uses intentionally to function as shared community space. Include landscaping, pedestrian amenities, lighting, and paving treatments that clearly delineate paths from gathering areas.

**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.

***University Supplemental Guidance:***

**DC2-1 Massing & Reducing Bulk and Scale**

**DC2-1-a. Response to Context:** Design building massing and form to express an intentional and original response to the context, streetscape and all guidelines, not merely a reflection of the code-allowable building envelope.

**DC2-1-b. Large Buildings:** Reduce the bulk and scale of large buildings: A large building should be legible as a series of discrete forms at multiple scales to reduce perceived bulk, create interest, and help users understand how the building is occupied.

1. Break up larger development into multiple buildings and smaller masses with pass-throughs and pathways
2. Alternatively, give the impression of multiple, smaller-scale buildings by employing different facade treatments at intervals that complement the context by articulating the building at regular intervals
3. Employ purposeful modulation that is meaningful to the overall composition and building proportion, or that expresses individual units or modules. Avoid over-modulation. Changes in color and material should typically be accompanied by a legible change in plane and/or design language.
4. Opt for distinctive and sculptural forms and elements, especially in highly visible locations or corners.

**DC2-1-c. Building Base:** Design the building base to create a solid and “grounded” form that transitions to a human-scale at the street. The height of the base/podium should be proportional to and substantial enough to “anchor” the upper massing.

**DC2-1-d. Upper-Level Step-Backs:** Use upper-level step-backs to maintain a human scale along the street and respond to historic datums.

**DC2-1-e. Addressing the Public Realm:** Ensure that building massing does not dominate the public realm: Setbacks along the sidewalk should be open to the sky. Where overhangs create usable open space at grade, provide an adequate ceiling height—generally at least two stories—with lighting and design detail to create a welcoming space.

**DC2-1-f. Stairs & Elevator Cores:** Locate vertical stair and elevator cores internally to minimize height impacts to the street. Stair cores visible to the street should be designed as a prominent feature with a high degree of transparency.

**DC2-2 Architectural Concept & Façade Composition**

**DC2-2-a. Context-Sensitive Approach:** Embrace contemporary design through distinctive, elegant forms that demonstrate a context-sensitive approach to massing and facade design.

**DC2-2-b. Mix Styles:** Create a finely-grained mix of complementary buildings and architectural styles on a block, taking cues from established patterns such as frequent entries, the use of brick and other highly-articulated materials.

**DC2-2-c. Cohesive Design:** Reinforce the massing and design concept with a deliberate palette that limits the number of materials, colors, and fenestration patterns to achieve design cohesion.

**DC2-2-d. Base Materials:** Use brick, stone or other high-quality, durable, and non-monolithic materials as the predominant base material to reinforce a strong base massing.

**DC2-2-e. Color Application:** Employ a restrained and purposeful application of bold or high-contrast colors and moments of whimsy to contribute to the eclectic character of the University District, without overwhelming the streetscape.

**DC2-2-f. Roof Lines:** Provide architectural interest with legible roof lines or the top of the structure that is clearly distinguishable from the facade walls.

**DC2-2-g. Large Masses:** Avoid expanses of large panels with minimal detailing, and do not rely on the use of colored cladding alone to provide visual interest: Break down large masses or facades by 1) using quality materials that provide relief and interest through shadow lines, depth of fenestration, and detailing, and 2) delineating a base, middle, and top with architectural detailing and massing.

**DC2-2-h. Detailing:** Intentionally detail joints, reveals, and fasteners to articulate and reinforce the design concept.

**DC2-2-i. Depth:** Incorporate depth into building facades, especially those with minimal modulation and boxy massing. Integrate facade depth and shadow casting detail, including projecting elements, setbacks and expression of window reveals, to give visual richness and interest. Recessed windows of 6-8 inches are preferable to window trims or fins applied to flush windows.

### **DC2-3 Pedestrian-Scaled Streetscape Design**

**DC2-3-a. Visual Interest:** Design facades to a human-scaled rhythm and proportion and avoid monotonous repetition of the storefront or module by providing points of interest every 15-30 feet. Layer a hierarchical arrangement of articulation and detailing at a variety of scales to express a high degree of quality and visual interest by including features such as articulated mullions, setbacks, patios, intricate architectural detailing, art, light fixtures, entries, planters, and window groupings.

**DC2-3-b. Retaining Walls:** Limit the height and use of retaining walls along streets, open spaces, and in other areas of the public realm. Use stepped terraces as a preferred solution to resolve grade differences.

### **DC2-4 Service & Mechanical Elements**

**DC2-4-a. Design Concept:** Intentionally design wall venting for commercial uses and other screening for mechanical equipment on the roof or affixed to the building into the overall design concept.

**DC2-4-b. Façade Design:** Integrate building service elements, such as drainage pipes, grilles, screens, vents, louvres, and garage entry doors into the overall facade design, and use these features as opportunities to provide artful or unique applications.

### **DC2-5 Blank Walls**

**DC2-5-a. Materials & Expression:** Finish visible walls and rooftops with quality materials or artistic expressions that reinforce the design concept, avoiding simplistic treatments of cladding with only color changes.

**DC2-5-b. Visual Scale & Interest:** On party walls visible from streets, provide visual scale and interest with murals or other legible artistic or architectural expressions, including joint patterns, plane changes, and/or proportions that break down the scale of large walls.

## **DC2-6 Tall Buildings**

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-b. Tall Form Placement, Spacing & Orientation:** Locate the tall forms to optimize the following: minimize shadow impacts on public parks, plazas and places; maximize 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.

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-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 building base to top.

**DC2-6-e. Shape & Design All Sides:** Because towers 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.

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-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.

**DC2-6-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. Applicants should design and



show how the tall buildings will contribute to the overall skyline profile and variety of forms.

**DC2-6-k. Architectural Presence:** Consider citywide visual appearance when designing tall buildings, both as an individual structure and as a collection with other tall buildings, as these will be visible from many vantage points throughout Seattle.

**DC2-6-l. Landmarks & Wayfinding:** Design tall buildings with memorable massing and forms, to serve as landmarks that enhance a sense of place and contribute to wayfinding in the U District.

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

**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.

***University Supplemental Guidance:***

**DC3-1 Open Space Organization & Site Layout**

**DC3-1-a. Arrangement:** Design outdoor amenity areas, open space, and pedestrian pathways to be a focal point and organizing element within the development, break up large sites, and foster permeability. Arrange buildings on site to consolidate open space

areas into designed, usable shared spaces or places for large trees instead of “leftover” spaces or drive lanes.

**DC3-1-b. Pedestrian Routes:** Extend pedestrian routes from entry courtyards or forecourts all the way through a project site to improve pedestrian walkability.

**DC3-1-c. Street Orientation:** Arrange residential development, especially townhouse and rowhouses, to orient units towards the street. Where units are oriented towards internal pathways or access drives, design these shared pathways that prioritize the pedestrian experience with paving, landscaping, lighting, stoops, and human-scaled design features.

## **DC3-2**

**DC3-2-a. Private Amenity Spaces:** Provide a variety of types of outdoor private amenity space instead of only locating private amenity space on rooftops. Include usable patios, terraces, and balconies; opt for usable projecting or recessed balconies instead of flush railings.

**DC3-2-b. Play Areas:** Design shared play areas for children with sightlines to units.

**DC3-2-c. Privacy:** Design courtyards to incorporate layered planting and trees that provide privacy to units surrounding the courtyard as well as users.

## **DC3-3**

**DC3-3-a. Welcoming Design:** Design open spaces at street-level to be welcoming: Semi-public spaces such as forecourts should engage the street and act as a “front porch” for residents. Minimize the use of gates, or visual and physical barriers, especially those adjacent to the street. Any necessary fences or gates should be set far back from the street to create a semi-public transitional space.

**DC3-3-b. Community Interaction:** Open space design and location should support lively community interaction rather than passive space within a development, as well as the larger University District community.

## **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.

### ***University Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **DC4-1 Durable, High-Quality Exterior Materials**

**DC4-1-a. Durable & Permanent:** Use materials that provide and evoke durability and permanence: Avoid thin materials that do not age well in Seattle's climate, including those that deform or warp, weather quickly, or require paint as a finish. Use materials in locations that have a durability appropriate for an urban application, especially near grade.

**DC4-1-b. Brick & Masonry:** Brick or other masonry units are the preferred materials, especially for podiums and the first 30-50 feet from grade.

**DC4-1-c. Texture & Complexity:** Use materials with inherent texture and complexity: Limit the use of large panels or materials that require few joints, reveals, or minimal detailing. Use materials that provide purposeful transitions and reinforce the design concept and building proportions.

**DC4-1-d. Technology & Innovation:** Utilize emerging technology and innovative materials that inspire inventive forms, applications, and design concepts.

**DC4-1-e. Sustainability:** Consider the life cycle impacts of materials, and choose those that are renewable, recyclable, reusable, responsibly sourced, and have minimal impacts to human and environmental health.

#### **DC4-2 Hardscaping & Landscaping**

**DC4-2-a. Placemaking:** Incorporate artistic, historical, and U District-unique elements into landscape materials to define spaces and contribute to placemaking, including mosaics, wayfinding elements, reused materials, and lighting.

**DC4-2-b. Fine-Grained Texture:** Use hardscape materials that contribute a fine-grained texture through joint patterns, scoring, or inherent material qualities. Avoid areas with minimal texture, especially in areas with pedestrian traffic.

**DC4-2-c. Delineate Uses:** Use pavers and ground treatments to delineate uses, including building entries and seating areas within the public right of way.

**DC4-2-d. Green Walls:** Integrate purposeful green walls into the construction and design of the building and landscape to avoid appearing “tacked on” as an afterthought. To maximize plant survival and potential for success, provide permanent irrigation and choose locations with appropriate growth conditions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis summarized above was based on the design review packet dated June 30, 2021. After considering the site and context, considering public comment, reconsidering the previously identified design priorities and reviewing the materials, the Recommendation phase of the subject design is APPROVED with the following preliminary conditions:

1. Install colored bricks or pavers from the residential entry doors to the sidewalk. (PL3-A-4, PL1-2-e)
2. Provide additional information regarding the proposed fiber-cement panel thickness and details, as follows: (DC4-A-1, DC4-A-2, DC4-1-a)
  - Where fiber-cement panel siding is indicated, the specification of a material with integral texture and color or with a minimum thickness of 7/16" will meet the intent of these Guidelines.
  - If painted 5/16" fiber-cement panel siding is specified, complete details of the high-quality installation required for this material to appear as it does in the Design Review documents will be required in the building permit plan set.
  - Alternatively, notes specifying minimum acceptable quality standards can be provided, with a caution: on projects approved through the Design Review process, exterior elements of the built work must match the approved drawings, and verification of this condition is the principal work for Land Use staff when conducting inspections. Because the first Land Use inspection does not occur until the project nears completion, an issue with the appearance of exterior cladding materials could cause significant delay in approval at Final Inspection.
3. Incorporate blue horizontal fiber cement siding for the bays on the west façade, along with a plane change that creates a visual depth between the fiber cement panels and horizontal panels of the bays. (CS2-D-3, CS3-A-1)
4. Change the materials and their application on the south façade as follows:

- Wrap the brick on the east around to the south façade terminating the brick at an obvious material/design feature on the south facade
  - Introduce horizontal fiber cement siding with a material plane change with the panel siding to further the bay concept, similar to the east façade and staff -recommended condition on the west facade. As an alternative the applicant can provide a study of horizontal fiber cement siding that introduces a single bay, with plane change similar to the bay on the upper floors of the north façade. (DC2-B, DC2-5-a)
5. Remove the planting strips on the north and east sides of the building. (PL1-B-2)  
Note: The mix of plantings proposed within the two planting strips could be utilized in the existing landscaping strip along NE 55<sup>th</sup> Street, between the sidewalk and the street.
  6. Terminate the fence approximately 8 feet from the north property line. (CS2-B-3, CS2-D-3)
  7. Provide garage door details for planning staff to review and approve. The garage door details will need to demonstrate how the garage door incorporates art, a material composition, or other design elements that relate to the building and avoid a blank wall look along the street. (DC1-2-b)

**REC REPORT SENT 10/15/2021 BCC**

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