



**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION  
CENTRAL AREA**

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Record Number: 3036655-LU

Address: 102 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E

Applicant: Rob Humble, Hybrid Architecture

Report Date: Monday, November 22, 2021

SDCI Staff: David Sachs

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**SITE & VICINITY**

Site Zone: Lowrise 3 (M) [LR3 (M)]

Nearby Zones: (North) Lowrise 3 (M) [LR3 (M)]  
(South) Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M) [NC3P-75 (M)]  
(East) Neighborhood Commercial 3P-75 (M) [NC3P-75 (M)]  
(West) Lowrise 3 (M) [LR3 (M)]

Lot Area: 7,925 sq. ft.



**Current Development:**

The site is currently developed with a two-story office building, which was constructed in 1916. The five-sided site is irregularly shaped and slopes approximately six-feet downward from the northeast to the southwest.

**Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:**

The site is located on the east corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E and E Denny Way in the Madison-Miller Residential Urban Village. Adjacent to the site are two, three-story townhouse structures to the north; a two-story residential duplex structure and a two-story single-family residence to the east; a six-story multifamily residential structure to the southeast; a six-story multifamily residential structure to the southwest; and a four-story residential structure to the west.

The immediate vicinity primarily consists of residential uses, including multifamily residential structures and townhouses, a pattern which continues to the west. Larger scale mixed-use and commercial structures are found along E Madison St, one block to the south. The land use pattern transitions to smaller scale single-family residential further north, east, and south. Miller Playfield, a neighborhood park, is located one block to the northwest.

The area is in transition, with a trend of older lowrise structures being replaced with larger scale, mixed-use and multifamily residential development. As a result, a variety of massing and siting patterns exist throughout the neighborhood. To the south, E Madison St is characterized by both older, single-story commercial developments; as well as newer, mixed-use residential structures up to six stories in height. To the north, structures along 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E maintain a lowrise residential and pedestrian-oriented scale and character. A variety of architectural styles exist. The area was rezoned from Lowrise 3 to Lowrise 3 (M) in April 2019. Multiple projects in the vicinity are currently in review or under construction for proposed development, including 1722 19<sup>th</sup> Ave and 1641 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

**Access:**

Existing vehicular and pedestrian access occurs from E Denny Way. No vehicular access is proposed. Pedestrian access is proposed from E Denny Way and 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E. Service access is proposed from the alley.

**Environmentally Critical Areas:**

There are no known environmentally critical areas on the subject site.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Administrative Design Review for 6-story, 47-unit apartment building. No parking proposed. Existing building to be demolished. Administrative Design Review Early Design Guidance conducted under 3036778-EG.

The design packet includes materials that are 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)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SDCI staff received the following design related comments:

- Recommended increasing the height of the proposed development by 1-2 stories to provide more housing, in keeping with the existing context of residential apartment development.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning parking and housing affordability.

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 (3036778-EG): <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.

### **1. Massing & Architectural Concept**

- a. Staff supports Option 3, the applicant's preferred massing option, as it employs a clear architectural concept and takes advantage of the unique characteristics of the site to create a distinctive architectural form. (CS2, CS2-B-2, DC2, DC2-1-a)
- b. Staff notes that the uniquely configured, corner site will be highly visible from the west as it sits at the visual terminus of E Denny Way. In Option 2, the open stair tower and eroded entry portal serve as a focal point that punctuates this visual terminus. Consider how this effect could be achieved through a special façade treatment, massing modulation, or a break in the external framework at the corner of massing Option 3. Staff specifically prioritizes Design Guidelines CS2-A-2, Architectural Presence, and CS2-C-1, Corner Sites. (CS2, CS2-A-2, CS2-B-1, CS2-C-1)
- c. Staff supports the intent to carve out a "front porch", which the Central Area Design Guidelines pronounce as the "life of the street." Staff, however, notes that the entry portal in Option 2 is more open and spacious, and emphasizes the corner and unique configuration of the site. Further develop the entry portal in Option 3 to achieve these qualities. Minimize the presence of planters and other obstructions. Design the space to promote social interaction. Staff specifically prioritizes Citywide Design Guideline PL3 Street-Level Interaction, and Central Area Design Guideline PL3-2-i, Porches and Stoops. (PL3, PL3-2-i)

- d. Staff notes that the retention of the existing mature tree in the northwest corner contributes to a sensitive massing transition between the more intensive commercial zoning to the south and the less intensive lowrise zoning to the north. (CS1-D-1, CS1-2-d, CS2-D-2)

## **2. Façade Treatment & Secondary Architectural Features**

- a. Staff strongly supports the strong, simple, and well-proportioned composition of secondary architectural features on the street and alley facades. Specifically, the integrated system of balconies and weather protection within an external framework as it creates visual interest through depth, texture, and scaling elements. For these reasons, staff supports the requested departures from front and side setback requirements. Staff specifically prioritizes Central Area Design Guideline DC4-3, Building Details and Elements. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-D, DC4-3)
- b. Demonstrate how the secondary architectural elements of the street-facing facades inform the treatment of the north façade in a manner that creates texture, promotes a residential character, and contributes to a unified architectural expression. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-D, DC4-3)
- c. Staff notes that the deep central courtyard will frequently be in shade/shadow. Explore how the structure of the external corridors and materiality can be used to lighten the space. To maximize daylight, consider eliminating the continuous overhead weather protection at the top level. Staff specifically prioritizes Design Guideline CS1-B-2, Daylight and Shading. (CS1-B-2, DC2-A-1, DC3-B-2, DC4-A)
- d. Staff supports the intent to use richly textured, high quality materials, and generally supports the character described on page 23 and conveyed by the aspirational images on page 44 of the EDG packet. Staff specifically prioritizes Central Area Design Guideline DC4-2, Building Materials. (DC2, DC4, DC4-A, DC4-2)
- e. Staff appreciates the privacy studies provided on page 53 of the EDG packet. Minimize privacy impacts as the design evolves and provide an updated privacy study in the Recommendation packet. Consider the noise and lighting impacts of the north stairwell on the adjacent site. (CS2-D-5)

## **3. Access, Circulation & Open Space**

- a. Staff generally supports the direction of the well-integrated and complementary open space and building design, and encourages continued development in response to Design Guideline DC3, Open Space Concept. (DC3)
- b. Staff supports the proposed open circulation organized around a central courtyard, and notes that the open stairwells help bring light into the interior while also introducing massing breaks. (DC2, DC2-A-1)
- c. Staff acknowledges that the central courtyard has the potential to be an attractive and unique feature, but questions the success of the elevated catwalks over an inaccessible landscape. If this condition is maintained, a stronger design rationale is required. Explore an alternative that designs the central courtyard as a usable space, perhaps an extension of the “front porch.” Staff specifically prioritizes Citywide Design Guidelines DC3-B, Open Space Uses and Activities, and DC3-C-2, Amenities/Features;

and Central Area Design Guideline DC3-1, Common Open Spaces. (DC3, DC3-A-1, DC3-B, DC3-C-2, DC3-1)

- d. Staff directs further study of the relationship between interior and exterior common spaces, and specifically prioritizes Design Guideline DC3-A-1, Interior/Exterior. Consider how the lobby relates to the “front porch,” central courtyard, and public realm. (DC3-A-1)
- e. Staff notes the location and design of the eastern stairwell may encourage pedestrian use of the alley and specifically prioritizes Central Area Design Guideline PL1-3-c, Preserve Alleys for Access and Use. To ensure active usage, provide adequate lighting and a well-designed entry, and reduce the visual impacts of service uses. Provide more information on the adjacent uses, across the alley, in the Recommendation packet. (PL1-3-c, DC1-C-4)

#### **4. Landscape**

- a. Staff specifically prioritizes Design Guideline DC4-D, Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials, and Central Area Design Guidelines CS1-2-b, Provide Vegetation, to be applied to the development of a unified landscape plan. (DC4-D, CS1-2-b)
- b. Staff strongly supports the retention of the existing mature tree in the northwest corner of the site as it contributes to a unified “green” street frontage, which is beneficial to the public realm. For these reasons, staff supports the requested departure from rear setback requirements. (CS1-D-1, CS1-2-d)
- c. Staff recommends designing an attractive and purposeful pedestrian realm that takes advantage of the wide planting strip along 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E and the unique configuration of the site. Staff specifically prioritizes Central Area Design Guidelines CS1-2-d; Unify with Landscaping; CS1-2-e, Protect Sidewalks; PL3-2-e, Activate the Planter Zone; and PL3-2-f, Limit Solid Barriers and Blank Walls. Minimize the visual impact of retaining and planter walls on the pedestrian realm. Consider how the pedestrian realm transitions to the “front porch.” (CS1-2-d, CS1-2-e, PL3-2-e, PL3-2-f)
- d. To minimize visual impacts on the pedestrian realm, buffer residential uses, and maximize privacy for the residents of the basement level unit in the northwest corner, staff directs further study of relocating the window well from the west side to the north side away from the sidewalk edge. (PL3-B-1, PL3-B-2)
- e. Staff is concerned about the impact of alley traffic/use on residents of basement level units. Explore design solutions, such as landscape buffers or material screening, that promote privacy for the residents of the basement level units and buffer alley activity. (PL3-B-1, PL3-B-2, DC1)

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION November 22, 2021</b>
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#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

SDCI staff received the following design related comments:

- Thought building is too tall for the neighborhood.
- Ensure all tree removal regulations, permits, and approvals are obtained prior to any tree removal.

SDCI received non-design related comments concerning parking and housing affordability.

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 (3036655-LU): <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

## **SDCI PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS & CONDITIONS**

SDCI visited the site, considered the analysis of the site and context by the proponents, and considered public comment. SDCI design recommendations are summarized below.

### **1. Massing & Architectural Concept**

- a. Staff recommends approval of the overall massing approach and appreciates how it has evolved since EDG. The massing follows a clear architectural concept and takes advantage of the unique characteristics of the site to create a distinctive architectural form. (CS2, CS2-B-2, DC2, DC2-1-a)
- b. Staff notes that the proposed design deviates from the open courtyard massing approach recommended for further development at EDG, and acknowledges that the condensed massing does not include the open stair tower and open eroded entry portal that served as a focal point to punctuate the visual terminus of E. Denny Way. Staff, however, recommends approval of the massing as proposed since it retains the same massing proportions and maintains the visual hierarchy of this façade, and sufficiently highlights the residential entry. (CS2, CS2-A-2, CS2-B-1, CS2-C-1)
- c. Staff recommends approval of the carving out of the ground floor to allow for a “front porch,” which the Central Area Design Guidelines pronounce as the “life of the street.” The massing move, and the place created, emphasize the corner and unique configuration of the site with a successful composition of planters, open terrace, integrated accessible ramp, and wide and inviting front steps. (PL3, PL3-2-i)
- d. Staff appreciates the retention of the existing mature tree (non-Exceptional) in the northwest corner and how the tree, along with the proposed massing, provide a sensitive transition between the more intensive commercial zoning to the south and the less intensive lowrise zoning to the north. (CS1-D-1, CS1-2-d, CS2-D-2)

## **2. Façade Treatment & Secondary Architectural Features**

- a. Staff recommends approval of the strong, simple, and well-proportioned composition of secondary architectural features on the street and alley facades. Specifically, the integrated system of balconies and weather protection within an external framework create visual interest through depth, texture, and scaling elements. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-D, DC4-3)
- b. Staff recommends approval of the north façade design. The proportion of the massing, vertically oriented fenestration, and simple material application create texture, promote a residential character, and contribute to a unified architectural expression. (DC2-B-1, DC2-C, DC2-D, DC4-3)
- c. Staff recommends approval of the proposed richly textured, high-quality materials shown on the building elevations and on the Material Board image on page 55 of the Recommendation packet. Although the material palette is relatively monotone, Staff appreciates the texture provided by the vertical metal panel, textured fiber-cement panel, warm wood accent at the residential entry, the limited use of accent color on the grating at the balconies, and the crisp white metal armatures on the façade. (DC2, DC4, DC4-A, DC4-2)
- d. Staff recommends approval of the proposed massing and subsequent north façade development which limits the number of units facing the property to the north, significantly reducing the privacy impacts on the adjacent buildings. (CS2-D-5)

## **3. Access, Circulation & Open Space**

- a. Staff recommends approval of the well-integrated and complementary open space, landscape design, and building design, as shown through the Recommendation packet. The clear circulation paths, incorporation of bike racks and seating elements throughout the site, and at-grade and raised planters with varied and interesting landscaping all combine to create a lush and welcoming experience when viewed from the street and the alley. (DC3)
- b. Staff notes that the mail, lobby, common space, and bike parking areas that front the street have been significantly reduced since EDG but acknowledges that the reduced size does not greatly impact the perceived openness of the façade, clarity of entry into the building, or the intended use of the exterior amenity terrace. Staff therefore recommends approval of the relationship between interior and exterior common spaces, and how the lobby relates to the “front porch” and public realm. (DC3-A-1)
- c. Staff recommends approval of the overall design of the main residential entry as shown on page 35 of the Recommendation packet. Staff appreciates the inclusion of various seating opportunities, both internal to the site as well as adjacent to the right-of-way, as well as the metal canopy, cedar siding accent, and well-integrated lighting and signage. (DC2-C, DC2-D, DC4-B, DC4-C)
- d. Staff notes that a reduction in required shared storage space for solid waste is being requested. Staff is in support of the reduced storage area as it allows for more common amenity space at the rear of the project, however, Staff defers to Seattle Public Utilities Solid Waste for approval. (DC3.1.a, DC1.C.4.)

#### 4. Landscape

- a. Staff recommends approval of the unified landscape plan and variety of ground cover, shrubs, and trees shown on pages 42 and 43, and on the renderings provided throughout the Recommendation packet. (DC4-D, CS1-2-b)
- b. Staff recommends approval of the retention of the existing mature tree in the northwest corner of the site as it contributes to a unified “green” street frontage, which is beneficial to the public realm. Retention of this tree relates to the requested departure from setback requirements, which is discussed in the Departure section of this report. (CS1-D-1, CS1-2-d)
- c. Staff recommends approval of the well-designed, attractive, and purposeful pedestrian realm that takes advantage of the wide planting strip along 21<sup>st</sup> Ave E and the unique configuration of the site. The applicant’s sensitive design successfully minimizes the visual impact of retaining and planter walls, while gracefully creating a buffered and layered transition from the public realm to the “front porch.” (CS1-2-d, CS1-2-e, PL3-2-e, PL3-2-f)
- d. Staff recommends approval of the use of varied height planting and ample landscape to buffer residential uses and maximize privacy for the residents of the basement level units on the north and south sides of the building. (PL3-B-1, PL3-B-2)

#### DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

SDCI’s preliminary recommendation on the requested departures are 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 Administrative Recommendation, the following departures were requested.

1. **Permitted Projections in Front Setback (SMC 23.45.518.H.7):** The Code requires a 5-foot minimum setback from the front property line. Unenclosed decks and balconies may project up to 4 feet into the required setback if each one is no closer than 5 feet to any lot line, no more than 20 feet in width, and separated from other decks and balconies on the same façade of the structure by a distance equal to at least ½ of the width of the projection. The applicant proposes balconies and structure within 3’8” of the front property line at the west side.

This departure is partially due to shifting the building away from the northwest corner, to allow retention of a mature tree in that location. Staff recommends approval of this departure as the proposed balconies and structural armatures result in a design that creates visual interest with depth, texture and scaling elements, and the design retains mature vegetation on site, better meeting the intent of Design Guidelines CS1-D, Plants and Habitat; DC2-C, Secondary Architectural Features; and Central Area Design Guideline DC4-3, Building Details and Elements.



- 2. Shared Storage Space for Solid Waste Reduction (SMC23.54.040-Table A):** The code requires that for apartment developments with 26-50 dwelling units, a minimum area of 375 square feet is required for shared storage space / solid waste containers. The applicant proposes a 331 square foot shared solid waste enclosure.

STAFF NOTE: Design Review Departures from the required area for Shared Storage Space for Solid Waste are not allowed per SMC 23.41.012.15. Per SMC 23.54.040.I, a reduction in area is allowed as a Type 1 Decision, in consultation with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Solid Waste.

Staff supports a reduction in required storage area as it allows for more outdoor amenity space at the rear of the building, better meeting the intent of Design Guidelines Common Open Space DC3.1.a and Service Uses DC1.C.4. The decision to allow this solid waste storage area will be made by the SDCI Zoning reviewer in consultation with SPU.

## DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Central Area Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by Staff 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.

#### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **CS1-1 Local Topography**

**CS1-1-a. Respond to Local Topography:** Respond to local topography with terraces, stoops, stepping facades, or similar approaches. Use appropriately scaled rockeries, stairs, and landscaping to transition between the sidewalk, building façade, and entrances in keeping with local topographic conditions, and existing neighboring approaches.

**CS1-1-b. Step Fencing and Screening:** If fencing or screening is included in the design, it should step along with the topography.

#### **CS1-2 Connection to Nature**

**CS1-2-a. Impact on Solar Access:** Be sensitive to the project's impact on solar access to adjacent streets, sidewalks, and buildings. Where possible, consider setting taller buildings back at their upper floors, or pushing buildings back from the street and providing wider sidewalks so sunlight can reach pedestrian level spaces and neighboring properties. Ensure sunlight reaches building entrances whenever possible.

**CS1-2-b. Provide Vegetation:** Provide vegetated spaces throughout the project. Vertical green walls are encouraged in addition to landscape beds.

**CS1-2-c. Gardens and Farming Opportunities:** Incorporate edible gardens and urban farming opportunities within the design, both at grade, and on the roof for larger buildings.

**CS1-2-d. Unify with Landscaping:** Unify streets through street trees and landscaping.

- a. Consider tree species as a unifying feature to provide identifiable character to a street or project.
- b. Incorporate an irrigation plan for the trees and other landscaping proposed to ensure maintainability of the plants, or include low-maintenance, drought-resistant species.

**CS1-2-e. Protect Sidewalks:** Create protected sidewalks by utilizing planter strips with lush landscaping, to help create a "room" between the street and the building.

#### **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.

***Central Area Supplemental Guidance:***

**CS2-1 Transition and Delineation of Zones**

**CS2-1-a. Provide Privacy Layering and Scale:** Where denser zones transition to lower density residential zones, provide privacy layering and scale for ground related entrances, porches, and stoops on façades facing the less dense residential zone.

**CS2-1-b. Transition using Massing and Articulation:** In addition to building height, use building massing and articulation to transition to single-family scaled fabric. Other acceptable

methods include setbacks, building footprint size and placement on the site, building width, façade modulation, and roof line articulation.

**CS2-1-c. Relate to Human Scale:** The use of appropriately scaled residential elements, such as bay windows and balconies, on larger buildings next to single-family zones are encouraged to better relate to the human scale. This is especially important for buildings four stories and lower.

**CS2-1-d. Reduce Building Mass Using Passageways:** Along with smaller building massing, the use of breezeways, portals, and through-block connections help to lessen the mass of the overall building, and add to the existing network of pedestrian pathways.

### **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.

### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **CS3-1 Neighborhood Context**

**CS3-1-a. Retain Neighborhood Character:** Retain and encourage the extension of existing positive attributes of the surrounding neighborhood character.

**CS3-1-b. Continue Existing Neighborhood Fabric:** Where appropriate, encourage the preservation, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and/or addition to existing structures as a way to continue the existing neighborhood fabric.

**CS3-1-c. Include High Ceilings at Ground Level:** Include high ceilings in ground floor spaces of new structures consistent with older character structures in the vicinity. Floor to ceiling heights of at least 15 feet with clerestory windows are encouraged for commercial ground floors.

## 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.

### ***Central Area Supplemental Guidance:***

#### **PL1-1 Accessible Open Space**

**PL1-1-a. Safety & Connectivity:** Provide safe and well connected open spaces. Utilize walkways and linkages to visually and physically connect pedestrian paths with neighboring projects, shared space and public spaces such as streets. Use linkages to create and contribute to an active and well-connected open space network.

**PL1-1-b. Neighborhood Nodes & Business Corridors:** Larger projects around important neighborhood nodes should create generous recessed entries, corner plazas, and more usable open space adjoining the streets. Projects along dense business corridors should maintain a continuous street wall definition contributing to the area's urban feel.

**PL1-1-c. Transparent Indoor Community Spaces:** Incorporate transparent and open indoor community meeting spaces at the ground level of larger projects. Avoid having any window coverings or window film that permanently obscure views into or out of the space.

#### **PL1-2 Connection Back to the Community**

**PL1-2-a. Multi-Purpose Gathering Spaces:** Provide cultural and place-specific open spaces that can be used for a variety of uses including social gathering, festivals, and other larger celebrations.

**PL1-2-b. Weather Protection:** When providing open gathering spaces for the community, include weather protection to ensure the space can remain active all year long.

**PL1-2-c. Lighting, Art and Special Features:** Enhance gathering places with lighting, art and features, so that the scale of the art and special features are commensurate with the scale of the new development.

**PL1-2-d. Common & Accessible Open Spaces:** Ensure exclusive rooftop, private, or gated open spaces are not the only form of open space provided for the project. Prioritize common, accessible, ground level open space at the building street fronts and/or with courtyards that are not restricted or hidden from street views.

**PL1-2-e. Hardscapes:** Not all open spaces need to be landscaped; hardscapes are encouraged when sized and designed to encourage active usage. At these locations, building edges should be inviting while creating well defined open spaces for common use. These spaces are especially important close to prominent intersections, streets, and Cultural Placemaker locations. In areas where it is not feasible to be open to physical pedestrian access, visual openness should be provided.

**PL1-2-f. Rooftop Vegetation:** When providing vegetation at the roof level, consider urban agriculture instead of a passive green roof to provide residents access to fresh produce.

### **PL1-3 Livability for Families and Elderly**

**PL1-3-a. Safe Play Areas:** Provide safe areas for children to play where they can be seen. Incorporate seating areas nearby for parents, guardians, and other community members to congregate.

**PL1-3-b. Rooftop Gathering Spaces:** Consider utilizing building rooftops as an opportunity for family gathering and gardening.

**PL1-3-c. Preserve Alleys for Access and Use:** Where applicable, preserve alleys for pedestrian access and service use. Provide adequate lighting, transparency and entrances to ensure active usage.

**PL1-3-d. Multi-Generational Gathering Spaces:** Provide multi-generational community gathering spaces for young and old to recreate and converse together.

## **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.

#### ***Central Area Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **PL3-1 Frontages**

**PL3-1-a. Design Elements:** Encourage color, material, and signage variation in storefront design.

**PL3-1-b. Emulate Pedestrian-Oriented Context:** Design ground floor frontages in commercial and mixed-use areas that emulate or improve upon the surrounding pedestrian-oriented context, while acknowledging the pedestrian patterns that exist.

**PL3-1-c. Promote Transparency:** Promote transparency and “eyes on the street.” No reflective or obscure glass should be used. Discourage retailers from putting display cases or window film up against windows to maintain transparency into commercial spaces.

**PL3-1-d. Step Storefronts Along the Grade:** Avoid grade separations at retail. Storefronts should step along with the grade (ex: 30’ max length of any floor level on a sloping frontage) with a focus on accessibility.

**PL3-1-e. Frequent Entrances and Expressed Breaks:** In pedestrian-oriented commercial areas, provide frequent entrances and expressed breaks along storefronts through columns or pilasters at regular intervals of 25 to 30 feet, to accommodate and encourage smaller retailers and community-oriented businesses.

**PL3-1-f. Live/Work Spaces:** Live/work spaces should be designed to activate street frontage, maintain transparent windows, and arrange the interior to place work space at the street windows.

**PL3-1-g. Couple Entries:** At residential projects, provide coupled entries where possible to foster a sense of community and visual interest in building entryways. Provide generous porches at these entries to encourage sitting and watching the street.

**PL3-1-h. Exterior Access at Ground Level:** Provide exterior access to ground floor residential units. This interior/exterior connection should occur frequently with entrances placed at a regular interval.

##### **PL3-2 Streetscape Treatment**

**PL3-2-a. Emphasize Building Relationship to the Street:** Emphasize the relationship between buildings and their entrances to the street, pedestrians, and neighboring buildings both adjacent and across the street. Provide special treatment through paving or building materials to highlight each business’s presence along the street.

**PL3-2-b. Recessed Business Entries:** Provide recessed business entries to encourage a slower pedestrian pace where people have sheltered space to stop and gather.

**PL3-2-c. Overhead Weather Protection:** To protect pedestrians along the sidewalk, provide awnings or overhead weather protection at all non-residential frontages, neighborhood nodes, and on west-facing facades with a minimum depth of 6’. Larger commercial projects should have deeper coverage, with a minimum depth of 8’ at all street frontages, especially street corners.



**PL3-2-d. Pedestrian Environment:** Encourage a quality pedestrian environment that provides safe, comfortable routes for pedestrians that reflect the existing character of the building fabric.

**PL3-2-e. Activate the Planter Zone:** Encourage activation of the planter zone to include community gardens, as well as street trees and pedestrian furniture (with SDOT concurrence).

**PL3-2-f. Limit Solid Barriers and Blank Walls:** Limit the placement of solid barriers or blank walls next to the sidewalk. Consider using landscape buffers instead.

**PL3-2-g. Voluntary Spaces:** Provide voluntary space abutting the sidewalk right-of-way for businesses to utilize (ex: cafes, produce markets, street markets, fish vendors, buskers, pop-up shops, etc.).

**PL3-2-h. Complete Streets:** Encourage a safe, comfortable environment for pedestrians with components of complete streets (ex: wide planter zones, wide sidewalks, and/or building setbacks to allow for usable porches, stoops, and outdoor seating).

**PL3-2-i. Porches and Stoops:** Porches and stoops are the life of the street. Encourage human activity by providing opportunities for neighbors to connect, walk, and talk together on the sidewalk.

**PL3-2-j. Buffer Private Outdoor Spaces:** To facilitate usable stoops and patios, and to encourage pedestrian-to-resident interaction, buffer private outdoor spaces from the public sidewalk with low walls, planters and landscape layering that defines the private space yet allows for face to face conversations. Tall 'privacy walls' or fences are not acceptable.

**PL3-2-k. Raise Private Stoops Above Sidewalk Grade:** If floor levels and site grading allows, the private stoop at residential units should be raised above sidewalk grade, using 30" as an average height, with universal access to the unit included elsewhere.

**PL3-2-l. Discourage Recessed Residential Patios:** Residential patio levels recessed more than 18" below the adjacent sidewalk grades are discouraged and should be used discerningly, as they can hinder interaction, and may create safety and maintenance issues.

#### **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.

## 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.

#### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

##### **DC2-1 Building Layout and Massing**

**DC2-1-a. Clarify Concepts:** Project concepts should be intelligible and clear. Clarity makes knowledge of the design accessible, thus a larger portion of the community will be able to participate in the planning and design process.

**DC2-1-b. Engage the Ground Plane:** Building design should relate to the earth, using building forms and massing that engage the ground plane, rather than 'float above'. Ground level transparency should still occur on major pedestrian and commercial streets.

**DC2-1-c. Encourage Smaller and Varied Building Forms:** Smaller and varied building forms are encouraged. Larger building forms should divide their mass up so that it does not appear as

one, monolithic building. These breaks in massing and differentiation should take cues from the surrounding fabric. Vertical and horizontal datums and patterns can help provide a guide for how to articulate and break down the overall massing. Modulated façades for large buildings keep the building inviting and consistent with the finer-grain fabric found in the Central Area neighborhood. As such, projects should use 50' – 75' massing widths as a guide for modulation.

**DC2-1-d. Relate Scale and Form to the Adjacent Public Realm:** Appropriately scale buildings so that they relate to the scale and form of the adjacent public realm (i.e. the width of the streets and/or affronting open spaces and adjacent smaller scale zones).

**DC2-1-e. Façade Impacts:** Consider all sides of the building and the impacts each façade has on its immediate neighboring context. If building on a slope, consider the project's roofscape as well.

**DC2-1-f. Consider Climate:** Consider how each façade may respond to climate conditions such as solar shading and prevailing winds.

**DC2-1-g. Upper Floor Setbacks:** Consider upper floor setbacks along secondary retail zones. In these less dense areas, tall does not always mean urban. Walkable urban places can be achieved at a smaller scale with buildings that have visual texture through their retail frontage, pedestrian scaled signage, tile details, and accented knee walls, as demonstrated by the businesses along Union St, west of 23rd Avenue.

**DC2-1-h. Encourage Family-Sized, Ground-Level units:** Where compatible with the surrounding streetscape, family sized, ground related apartment units (2 and 3 bedrooms) with usable adjacent open spaces are encouraged.

**DC2-1-i. Cluster Small Businesses:** Encourage clusters of small and local businesses together.

1. Reduce the scale of commercial façades so that they are conducive to small business tenants.
2. Include commercial spaces with smaller footprints to promote and accommodate local establishments at street level.
3. Set the maximum length of street frontage for individual businesses to be consistent with the existing business character of the area.
4. Where there is not a strong existing character for the area, follow guidance provided in frontage section (PL3-I).

**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.

#### ***Central Area Supplemental Guidance:***

##### **DC3-1 Common Open Spaces**

**DC3-1-a. Visible and Accessible Common Courtyards:** Where possible, provide common courtyards and yards that are publicly visible and accessible. These spaces should be activated and layered, so that there is a graduation from private outdoor space, to the fully shared realm.

**DC3-1-b. Delineate Between Shared and Private Spaces:** Encourage courtyard housing and bungalow courts which use landscaping as the delineation between shared and private spaces, instead of fencing.

**DC3-1-c. Extend the Public Realm:** Provide generous common, open space, including shared courtyards and plazas that serve as extensions of the adjacent public realm.

#### **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.

#### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

##### **DC4-1 Screening**

**DC4-1-a. Artistic Opportunity:** When screening or fencing is used, it should be designed as an artistic opportunity.

**DC4-1-b. Allow for Views:** Design screening height, porosity, and materials to allow for views in and out of the site, and visual interaction with the public realm.

##### **DC4-2 Building Materials**

**DC4-2-a. Reinforce Local Cultural References:** Consider vibrant and bold uses of color, materials, texture, and light to reinforce local cultural references.

**DC4-2-b. Variation and High-Quality Materials:** Encourage variation in building materials and employ high quality materials.

**DC4-2-c. Reuse Building Materials:** Salvage building materials from the site when possible. If reusable materials, such as brick, are removed from demolished buildings, use them in the new development as visible building components.

##### **DC4-3 Building Details and Elements**

**DC4-3-a. Natural Ventilation:** Provide operable windows in a way that promotes natural ventilation.

**DC4-3-b. Reflect Human Scale and Craftsmanship:** Incorporate building materials and details that reflect human scale and the craftsmanship of the building process (ex: use of brick or wood for exterior cladding).

**DC4-3-c. Add Human Scale and Façade Texture:** Incorporate elements such as bay windows, columns, and deep awnings which add human scale and façade texture.

**DC4-3-d. Exhibit Rhythm and Transparency:** Façades should exhibit a rhythm of fenestration, and transparency of the inside program out to the public realm.



### **Central Area Supplemental Guidance:**

#### **A.1-1 History and Heritage**

**A.1-1-a. Express African and Black American Presence:** Provide design features to express the African and Black American presence within the neighborhood. Create 'pockets of culture' to represent both the Black American identity within the Central Area, as well as other heritages that have had a large impact on the Central Area's past.

**A.1-1-b. Include Visual Arts in the Design Concept:** Consider including visual arts as an integral part of the design concept along main street building façades, within highly trafficked pedestrian areas, and within open spaces.

**A.1-1-c. Cover Blank Walls with Art:** Use any resulting blank walls and surfaces for the visible expression of art that references the history, heritage, and culture of the community.

**A.1-1-d. Interpretive Storytelling:** Include interpretive opportunities (through visual art, signage, markers, etc.) that tell the story of the neighborhood's history in engaging ways.

**A.1-1-e. Reflect Racial, Economical and Multi-Generational Character:** Encourage the building design to reflect the racial, economical, and multi-generational character of the community.

**A.1-1-f. Support the Black Veteran Community:** Developments are encouraged to provide housing and/or amenities for the Black Veteran community.

**A.1-1-g. Local Activities and Interests:** Provide amenities appropriate to the activities and interests of the local community, such as basketball hoops, chess boards, tot lots and other family oriented activities.

**A.1-1-h. Encourage Bicycle Use and Parking:** 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 the Central District or having distinctive place-names designed into the racks.

#### **A.1-2 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Union Character Area**

**A.1-2-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. A cohesive neighborhood grain with historic character that establishes the area as a destination for the surrounding community.
2. An established, pedestrian-scaled neighborhood-commercial area, with a mix of both commercial and residential uses, grounded by locally-owned businesses and institutions.
3. Hub of the African and Black American community.
4. Diverse range of shops, restaurants, entertainment, and places of worship. Specific buildings to note are the Central Cinema (1411 21<sup>st</sup> Ave) and Katy's Cafe (2000 E Union St).

**A.1-2-b. Provide Accessible Open Space and Community Gathering Opportunities:** In this area it is especially important to provide additional accessible open space and community gathering opportunities, for example plazas adjacent to the public sidewalks.

#### **A.1-3 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Cherry Character Area**

**A.1-3-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. Smaller-scaled fabric with many culturally specific restaurants, as well as community and youth-centered resources.
2. Specific places to note are Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave), Garfield Community Center (2323 E Cherry St), Quincy Jones Performing Arts Center (400 23rd Ave), Medgar Evers Pool (500 23rd Ave), and Eritrean Community Center (2402 E Spruce St).

**A.1-4 For 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson Character Area**

**A.1-4-a. Community Characteristics:** Community characteristics that are unique to this area include:

1. Larger-scale, mixed-use commercial district with opportunities for startups, and both large and small scaled businesses.
2. Both a local and regional destination due to its commercial developments, social services, community assets, and shops for daily household needs.
3. Specific places to note are the Pratt Fine Arts Center (1902 S Main St), Wood Technology Center (2310 S Lane St), Seattle Vocational Institute (2120 S Jackson St), Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute (104 17th Ave S), and Douglass Truth Library (2300 E Yesler Way).

***Central Area Supplemental Guidance:***

**A.2-1 Cultural Placemakers**

**A.2-1-a. Emphasize Cultural Placemakers:** Emphasize Cultural Placemakers within the community. The Cultural Placemaker map identifies several key intersections in the Central Area that serve as cultural anchors for their surrounding areas. Projects at these corner locations should stimulate activities and create visual interest to enhance the Central Area's identity and a sense of arrival, such as:

1. Providing street furniture, public art, landscape elements, pedestrian lighting, mosaics, varied paving patterns, etc.
2. Creating façade enhancements at prominent building corners.
3. Creating a building layout and setbacks that provide opportunities for open space that expand the usable space beyond the width of the sidewalks.
4. Providing larger landscape buffers at placemakers along heavier trafficked streets.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The analysis summarized above was based on the design review packet uploaded on Thursday, November 04, 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 no conditions.



**REC REPORT SENT 11-22-2021 BCC**

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