



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

ISRD 102/23

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, July 25, 2023

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Remote Meeting

Board Members Present

Heather Hargesheimer

Nella Kwan

Adrian Lam

Ming Zhang

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt

Melinda Bloom

Absent

Ryan Gilbert

Michael Le

Andy Yip

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

072523.1 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

072523.2 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

072523.31 657 S. Weller St. – New Central Building

Applicant: Julie Yuan and An Huynh, SCIDpda

Design - artwork: Proposed installation of four painted murals on the east facade of the building, along the alley.

Ms. Frestedt provided the staff report. She noted that the New Central Hotel was constructed in 1909 and is a contributing building within the National Register District. The site is located within the Asian Design Character District and Retail

**Administered by The Historic Preservation Program
The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

"Printed on Recycled Paper"

Core. She referred to the staff report, which states “when reviewing artwork, the Board considers placement, materials, colors, scale, and method of attachment.” Julie Yuan, SCIDpda, proposed installation of murals in Maynard Alley attached to wall at New Central Apartments. She said they will work with Pioneer Masonry on attachment, which will be into mortar. She provided context of the site and area and noted there was community support for the project including SCIDPDA, Historic South Downtown, among others. She said community engagement was done via surveys due to the Covid lockdown. She proposed August installation of the four murals. SCIDpda will be providing maintenance. She said the murals have been stored in the storefronts in the alley for the past two years.

Mr. Lam appreciated the presentation and the artwork.

Ms. Hargesheimer asked about decision-making process on placement of the murals on the building.

Ms. Yuan said the bright colors are proposed near the street to draw people in. The darkest mural will be in the middle and one on the end will pull all together.

Ms. Hargesheimer said it makes sense.

Ms. Yuan hoped the placement would prevent tagging and damage by waste trucks.

Mr. Zhang suggested increasing the distance between the murals with movement toward the corner.

Ms. Kwan appreciated the sharing of culture and suggested including an interpretive plaque about the red thread and connection between pieces.

Ms. Yuan said there is no funding at this time but perhaps that could happen in the future.

Ms. Frestedt noted the Nagomi Tea Room did that to add context there; it could be added to the motion.

Mr. Lam said he agreed with Mr. Zhang and asked what kind of studies were done to come up with the proposed geometry / placement of the murals. He suggested a shift closer to Weller and center the rest on the windows above.

Public Comment:

Gabi Herkert suggested providing background story and include a QR code for depth.

Ms. Hargesheimer suggested holding the plywood off the building. She asked if a graffiti coating is included.

Mr. Yuan said graffiti coating is included.

Ms. Frestedt asked about use of spacers between wall and art to allow for water flow behind mural so not trapping water behind it; it will allow for air flow as well.

Ms. Yuan said she will check that with Pioneer Masonry.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for exterior alterations – artwork, at 657 S. Weller St.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the July 25, 2023 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Discussion ensued about adding verbiage to motion about spacing murals further apart and relate to windows; add spaces behind murals to give relief for brick and shadow lines to improve viewing; attachment detail; and with staff review, applicant can add plaque and QR code to explain artwork.

This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance:**

SMC 23.66.336 – Exterior Building Finishes

- **A. General Requirements**
- **B. Asian Design Character District**

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/HH/NK 4:0:0 Motion carried as amended

072523.4

STAFF SUMMARY and BOARD BUSINESS

Administrative approvals since June 27, 2023

Ms. Frestedt provided updated information on administrative approvals.

Ms. Frestedt said a fire at 10th and King, the old Rising Produce site. In 2019, a Certificate of Approval for Preliminary Design and Demolition was reviewed and approved. She said that permitting and issuance of the decision is still in process,

pending submission of additional code-required information from the building owners. She said one of the two adjoining buildings will be torn down as it is a safety hazard. She said it is not an expedited process, but she is working with SDCI on issuing an Emergency Certificate of Approval. She noted the unique circumstances.

Ms. Frestedt said she is starting to plan for this year's election and has reached out to community organizations to gain input about making mail in voting permanent. She said there have been no complaints or concerns noted the past two years. She said the turnout is the same. She said mail in is more equitable for those who can't get in to vote but she has heard varied opinions. She said she has received feedback about the registration process, verification and in-person validation. She said there is more resistance about photo ID and meeting in person. She said there have been questions about who can serve but can't vote as with associations or volunteers and said review of that part of the process is needed.

Adjourn

Rebecca Frestedt, Board Coordinator
206-684-0226 * rebecca.frestedt@seattle.gov