

Nihonmachi/Japantown Banner Project Project Overview & Site Plan

(Updated 10.30.23)

Nihonmachi/Japantown Banner Project

OVERVIEW

Overview

Japantown Neighbors is directing a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods grant funded project to develop pole banners to strengthen the identity of Japantown and celebrate its unique history and community. This project will strengthen the Japantown community, support local businesses, and highlight Japantown as an important cultural asset to greater Seattle. Japantown Neighbors is a group of business owners and community members engaging in projects to support the neighborhood. Over 40 supporters sent in letters in support of this project, including local businesses, property owners, and community members at large.

Purpose

Japantown Neighbors seeks to create banners which will have artwork that will honor the legacy of Japantown - past, present, and future. The purpose of the Japantown banner project is to honor and preserve the Japanese American history of the area, to help develop the neighborhood's identity, and to geographically define the current Japantown area.

Details

Banners would be installed on South Jackson, South Main, and South Washington Streets, and on 5th, 6th, Maynard, and 7th Avenues, and Yesler Way. These banners will be installed on existing red lantern poles in the neighborhood, as well as selected cobra street light poles, and one wooden Seattle City Light pole.

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ROLES

Japantown Neighbors (Department of Neighborhoods Grant Applicant)*:

- Binko Chiong-Bisbee (Banner Project Lead)
- Paul Murakami (Banner Project Lead)
- Christa Thomas (Other Projects Lead)
- George Sommerrock (Grant Manager)

*Japantown Neighbors Roles as of July 1, 2023

Japantown Banners Project Team:

- Binko Chiong-Bisbee (Banner Project Lead)
- Paul Murakami (Banner Project Lead)
- Aya Chiong-Bisbee (JBAC Facilitator and Project Coordinator)
- Erin Shigaki (Art Advisor)
- Michelle Kumata (Cultural, Community, and Art Consultant)

Fiscal Sponsor:

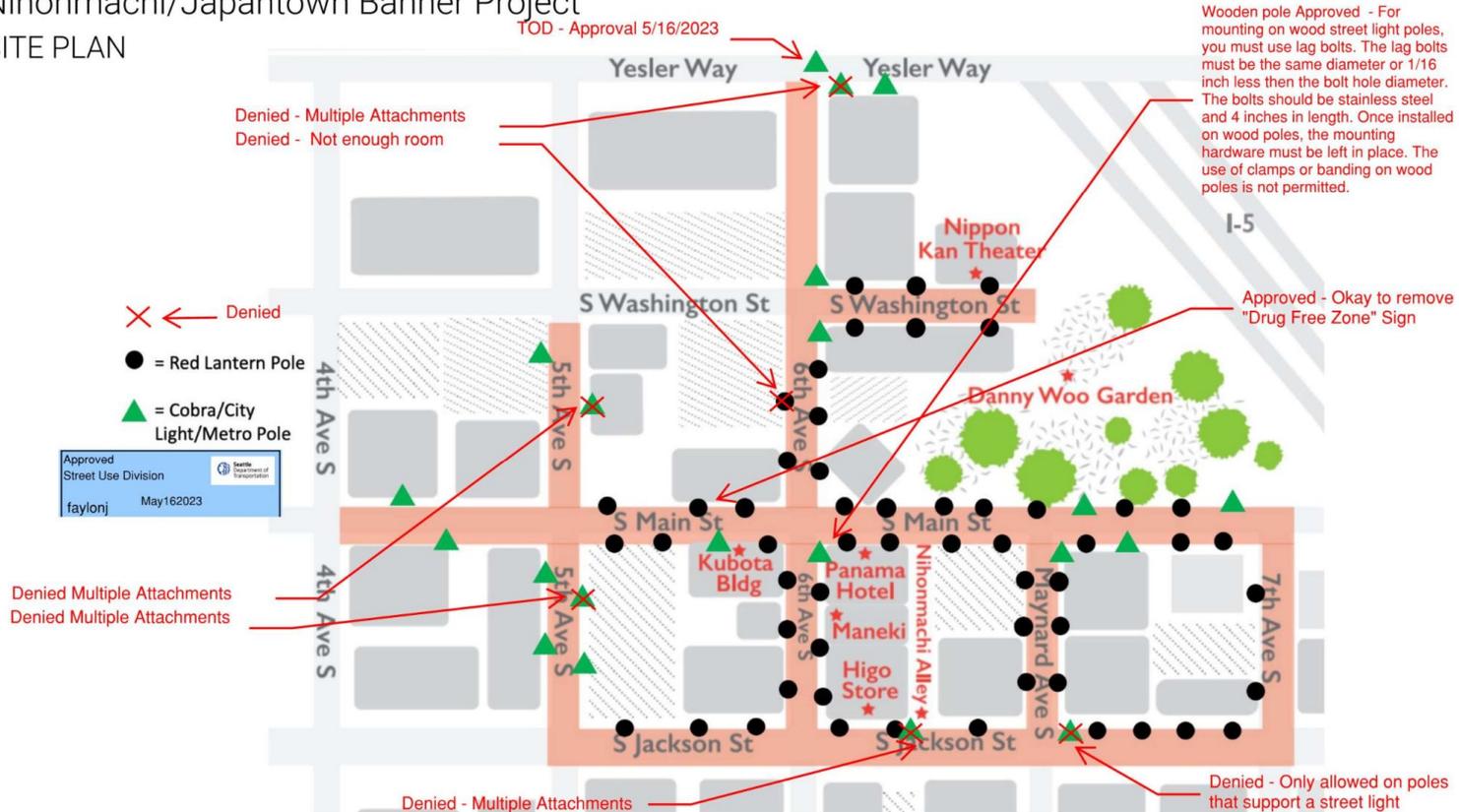
- InterIm CDA (Tom Im, Deputy Director)

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SDOT APPROVED POLE SITE MAP (SDOT Approved 5.16.23)

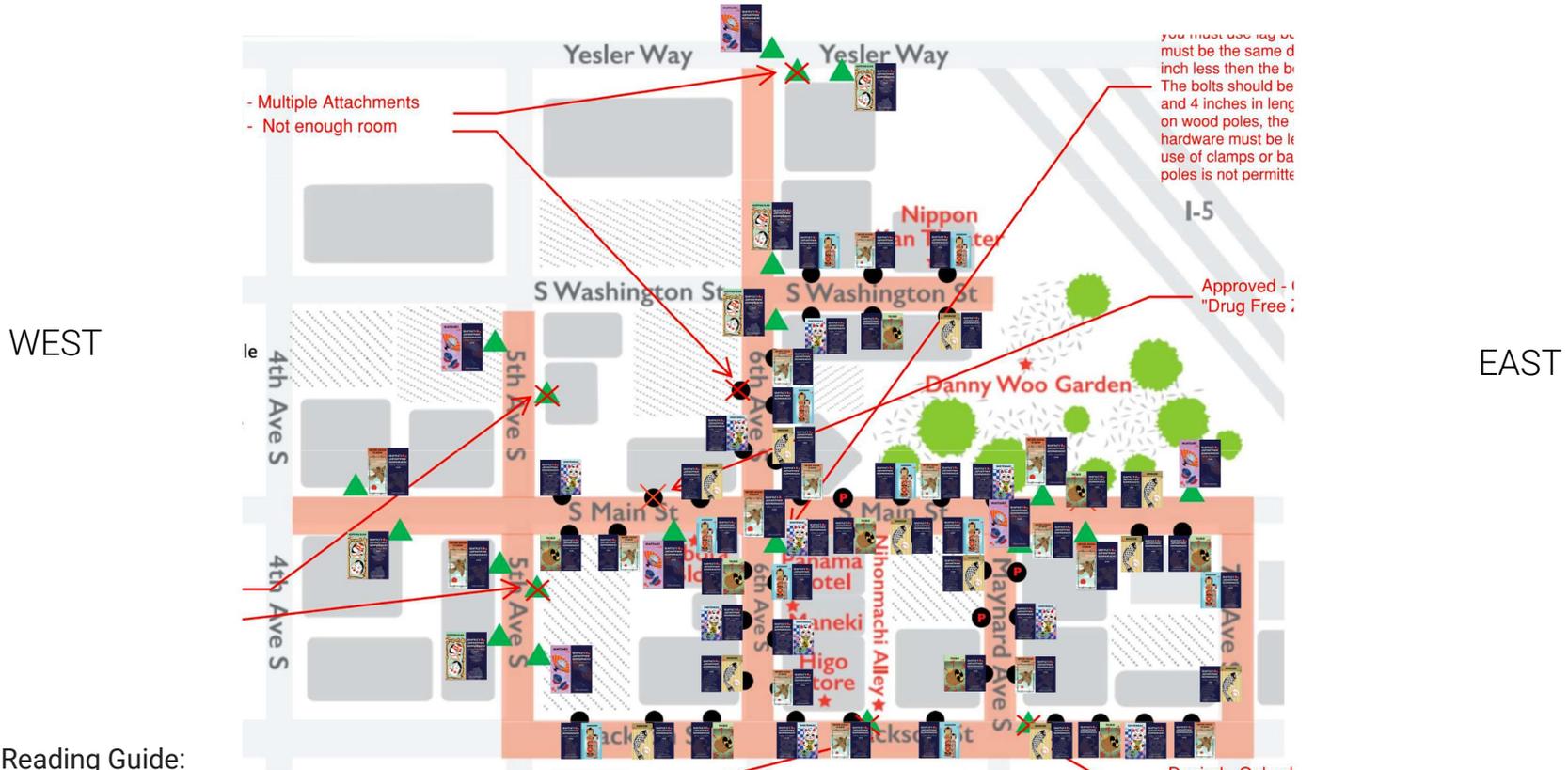
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SITE PLAN



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BANNER LOCATION SITE PLAN (Updated 10.30.23)



Map Reading Guide:

If you are walking or driving west, the banner you will see is on the right. If you are walking or driving east, the banner you will see is on the left.

If you are walking or driving north, the banner you will see is on the left. If you are walking or driving south, the banner you will see is on the right.

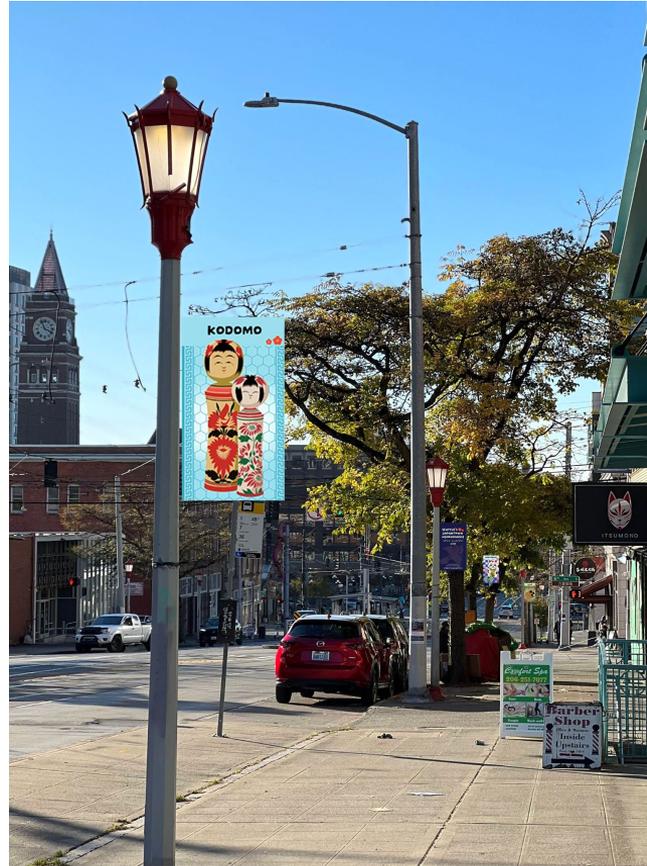
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BANNER MOCK-UP (6TH AVE S & S MAIN ST)



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BANNER MOCK-UP (S JACKSON ST)



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RED LANTERN POLE SPECIFICATIONS



Pole banner bracket seen in this image is pre-existing and is not related to this project. Removal of pre-existing brackets was approved by SDOT 10/23/23 (see Appendix B: SDOT Approval Pre-Existing Bracket Removal).

Proposed Banner Dimensions: **18" x 32" (sidewalk side)**

Diagram depicts a 8' vertical setback from the sidewalk and a 1' vertical setback from the luminary feature on the red lantern pole. Please note that due to the proposed banner dimensions, this project requires an exception to the typical 3' setback requirement from the luminary feature. Exception was approved by SDOT 4/13/23 (see Appendix A: SDOT Setback Exception Letter).

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COBRA LIGHT POLE SPECIFICATIONS



Proposed Banner Dimensions: **30" x 72" (street and sidewalk side banners)**

Bottom of banner required to be at least 14' above parking lane and 16.5' above a travel lane.

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WOODEN LIGHT POLE SPECIFICATIONS

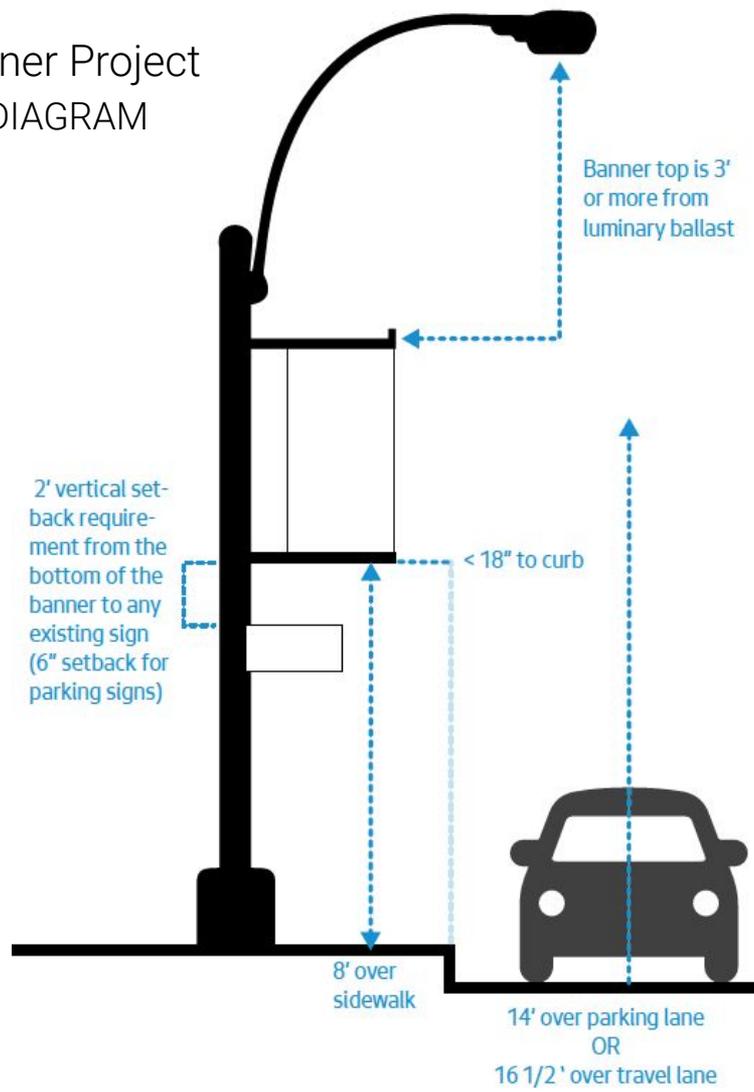


Proposed Banner Dimensions: **30" x 72" (street and sidewalk side banners)**

Bottom of banner required to be at least 14' above parking lane and 16.5' above a travel lane.

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SDOT POLE BANNER SETBACK DIAGRAM



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COMMUNITY PROCESS OVERVIEW

Japantown Banners Advisory Committee (March '22 - January '23)

- Committee made up of local community members and leaders representing different backgrounds and generations from our Japanese American and Japantown communities
- Developed messages and themes of the banners, guided artist selection, and provided feedback on draft designs

Hai! Japantown Community Outreach (August '22)

- Introduced the Japantown Neighborhood Banner Project to the community
- [Informational poster display](#)
- [Informational flyers distributed](#)
- Physical email sign up sheet (emails contacted during community outreach December '22)

Public Comment and Community Outreach Period (December '22- January '23)

- [Banner project feedback form](#) shared with greater community – open for comment through January 15, 2023
- Project team outreached to property owners, business owners, residents (via property managers), greater CID community (through local organizations WLM, PDA, InterIm, CIDBIA, IE, etc.), and greater Japanese American community (through local organizations JCCCW, NA Post, NVC, Densho, Nikkei Manor, etc.) for input on designs.
 - [Japantown Banner Project Outreach - North American Post](#) (December 2022)
- Received over 100 survey responses with feedback which was reviewed, synthesized, and shared with artist

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JAPANTOWN BANNERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JBAC)

Purpose of JBAC

The purpose of JBAC is to bring in community voices into the Japantown Banner Project. By working with this committee, Japantown Neighbors can ensure more community voices are included in this project, while also increasing community reach and engaging a larger audience.

Role of JBAC

- Define the central messages to convey through the Japantown banners as well as key themes to highlight
- Guide artist selection process
- Provide feedback on three rounds of design concepts

Japantown Banners Advisory Committee (JBAC) members:

- Paul Murakami (Property owner, Jackson Building)
- Erin Shigaki (Purple Gate Design, project art advisor, Minidoka Pilgrimage)
- Nin Truong (DaDaDa Gallery)
- Stan Shikuma (Seattle JACL, Tule Lake Pilgrimage)
- Karen Yoshitomi (Executive Director of Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington)
- Blake Nakatsu (Neighborhood resident, Wing Luke Museum Exhibit Developer)
- Maya Hayashi (Wing Luke Museum Education Specialist)
- Ken Mochizuki (Author of "Meet Me at Higo")

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ARTIST SELECTION

May - June 2023

- [Request for Qualifications \(RFQ\)](#) shared with 15 artists selected by JBAC and Japantown Neighbors
- JBAC reviewed submissions, deliberated, and selected Kenji Hamai Stoll
- Japantown Neighbors confirmed Kenji Hamai Stoll

About the Artist:

Kenji Hamai Stoll (he/him) is a visual artist based in Tacoma, Washington. He has an interest and focus in public art, large scale murals, design, and community development. See more of his work on instagram (@_yokenji), or at www.yokenji.net

Selected Recent Projects:

- [Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington Mural](#)
- [Danny Woo Garden Retaining Wall Mural](#)



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PROJECT TIMELINE

2022

- March** - Initial meetings with Japantown Neighbors to establish budget and timeline
- April** - JBAC Meeting #1
- JBAC Meeting #2
- May** - JBAC Meeting #3 (Main Messages and Themes Finalized)
- RFQ shared with artist shortlist (15 artists)
- JBAC Meeting #4 (Artist Selected)
- June** - Japantown Neighbors confirmed artist
- August** - JBAC shared feedback on Round 1 Designs
- Community outreach at Hai! Japantown events
- October** - JBAC shared feedback on Round 2 Designs
- December** - Artist submitted Round 3 Designs
- SDOT Review
- Community outreach to receive public feedback from broader community (received over 100 survey responses)

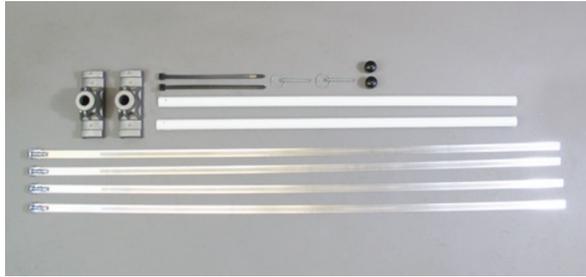
2023

- January** - JBAC Final Meeting (Reviewed Public Feedback)
- Feedback shared with Kenji
- September** - Kenji submitted Round 4 Designs
- October** - Design refinement
- December** - Banner production and installation

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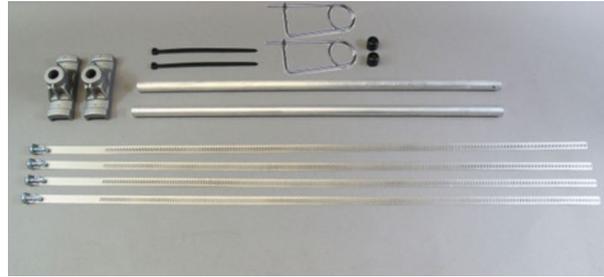
POLE ATTACHMENT DETAILS (APPROVED BY SDOT 10.18.23)

RED LANTERN POLE



[Banner Bracket Hardware Kit for Round Poles \(Fiberglass\)](#)

COBRA POLE



[Banner Bracket Hardware Kit for Round Poles \(Aluminum\)](#)

WOODEN POLE



[Banner Bracket Hardware Kit Flat Mount](#)

Banner attachment details approved by SDOT 10.18.23 (see Appendix C: SDOT Banner Hardware Approval).

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MATERIAL SAMPLE

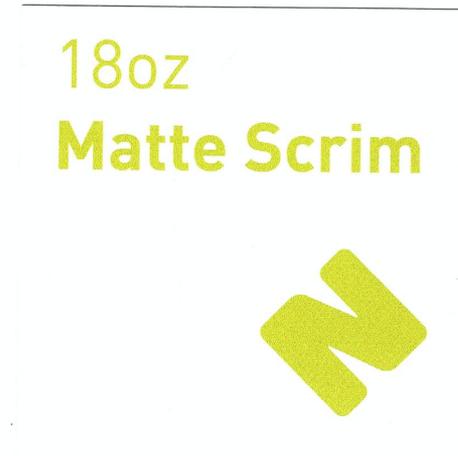


Image of banner material sample (18oz Matte Scrim). Physical sample can be shown to Rebecca Frestedt.

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DESIGNS (COBRA POLES & WOODEN POLE)

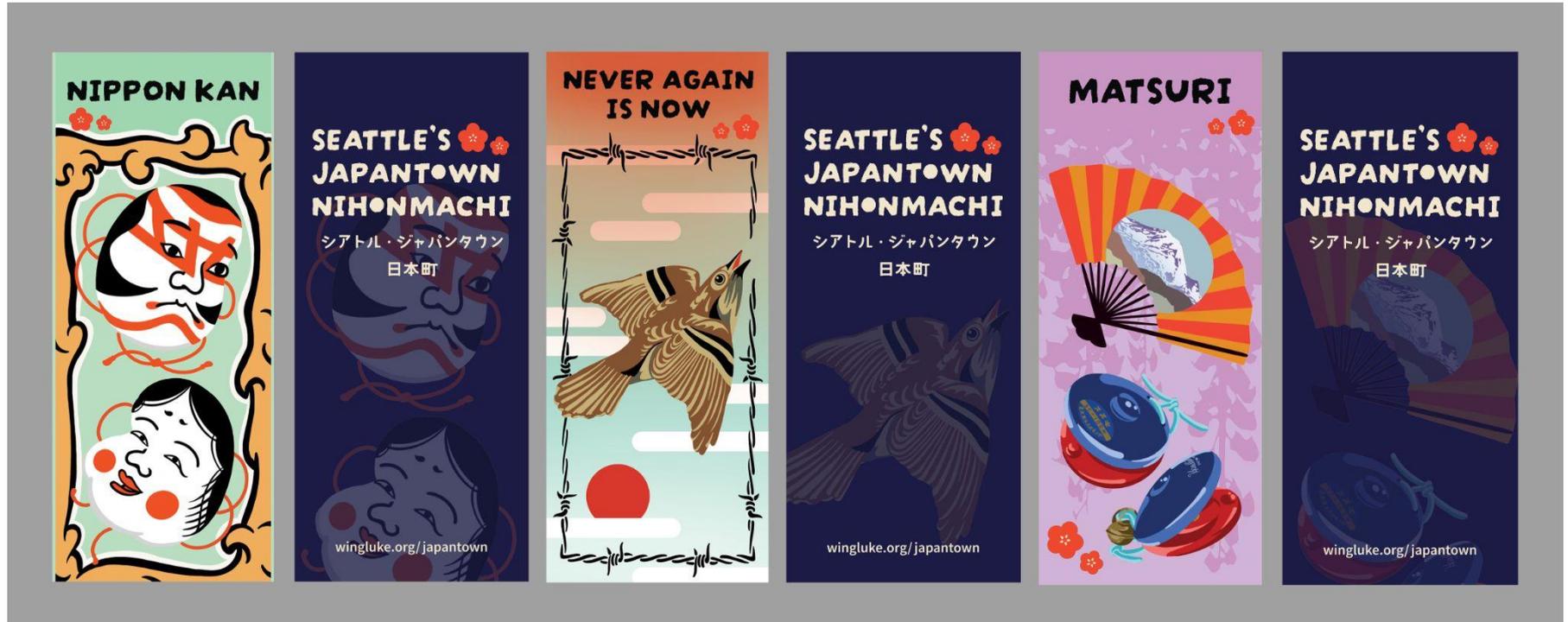


Image shows the front and back sides of the three banner designs which will be installed on the taller cobra poles, as well as one wooden pole (corner of 6th Ave and S Main St).

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DESIGNS (RED LANTERN POLES)

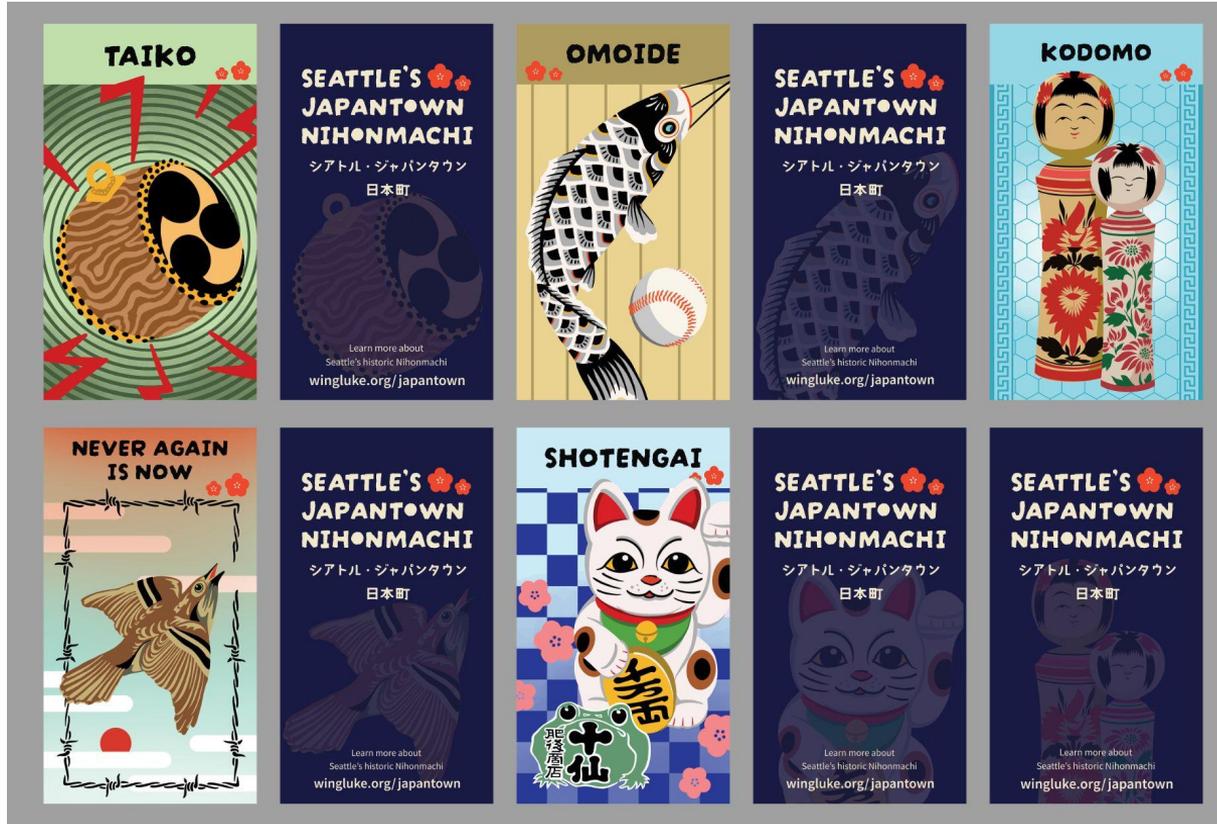


Image shows the front and back sides of the five banner designs which will be installed on the red lantern poles.

Appendix A: SDOT Setback Exception Letter



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

April 13th, 2023

A memo regarding record number SUPSM0008273:

A request for an exception has been made on record number SUPSM0008273 regarding the setback requirement from the luminary ballast which is allowed under pole banner guideline '13.0 Request for exception'.

<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SDOT/PublicSpaceManagement/SDOTPoleBannerGuidelines.pdf>

Reviewer Recommendation:

I recommend that we grant an exception from the normal 3' setback requirement from the luminary ballast to 1' specifically on these red lantern poles in the International District. The red lantern poles are not standard poles, and therefore there isn't room to attach the banners and meet our clearance to the light. Seattle City Light is supportive and has deferred the decision to SDOT.

SDOT Decision:

- We can approve these red lantern poles only on the side that faces the pedestrian clear zone.
 - If there are any banners that can meet the 18" setback from the distance to the curb the applicant can call that out on their plan
- The banners must be at least 8' over the sidewalk.
- The banners top must be at least 1' or more from the luminary ballast.
- Due to the type of pole, the brackets must be using fiberglass pole arms.
- SDOT has the right to re-consider the approved plan after observing the effect on lightning performance.

See Image Below:



Sincerely,

Isaac Conlen

Isaac Conlen (Apr 13, 2023 11:47 PDT)

Isaac Conlen
Program Management Supervisor
SDOT, Public Space Management

**Appendix B: SDOT Approval Pre-Existing Bracket Removal**

Aya Chiong-Bisbee <ayabisbee@gmail.com>

FW: Japantown Banner Project SDOT permit and ISRD requirements - corrected Isaac Conlen's email address

3 messages

Binko Bisbee <kobo@seanet.com>
To: ayabisbee@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 23, 2023 at 7:07 PM

From: Frestedt, Rebecca <Rebecca.Frestedt@seattle.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 6:20 PM
To: Faylona, Justin <Justin.Faylona@seattle.gov>; Kobo Capitol Hill <kobo@seanet.com>
Cc: Conlen, Isaac <Isaac.Conlen@seattle.gov>
Subject: RE: Japantown Banner Project SDOT permit and ISRD requirements - corrected Isaac Conlen's email address

Thank you, Justin. This is helpful.

I wonder if the school is reference could be the Seattle Chinese Language School at Chong Wa Benevolent Association – at Lane and 7th?

The CIDBIA previously placed banners on poles, but I'd have to go back into our archives to figure out which poles. I don't know what arrangements they had with SDOT or SCL at the time. This would have been in the 2000s.

Rebecca

From: Faylona, Justin <Justin.Faylona@seattle.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 3:16 PM
To: Kobo Capitol Hill <kobo@seanet.com>; Frestedt, Rebecca <Rebecca.Frestedt@seattle.gov>
Cc: Conlen, Isaac <Isaac.Conlen@seattle.gov>
Subject: RE: Japantown Banner Project SDOT permit and ISRD requirements - corrected Isaac Conlen's email address

Hi Binko and Rebecca,

My response to your questions are in Red.

1. From ISRD: "Although not privately owned, confirmation of consent to install brackets/banners on poles is still required. Email confirmation from SDOT and SCL to confirm their support for installing brackets on poles would be sufficient, in place of a signed property owner consent form. SDOT and SCL will need to approve of mounting location and equipment, for instance. It appears that they would also need to consent to the setback exception for the luminaire." -- Could you please provide email confirmation from SDOT & SCL?

- We've checked with Seattle City Light, and they are okay with the pole banners being no less than 1' setback from the luminary ballast. Please see attached email an exception memo.
2. When will the permit you mentioned in your email of 10.18.23 be issued for this project?
- Your permit can be issued on our end once we receive Preservation Board District approval. My apologies Rebecca, this was requested so long ago that I had assumed this was already completed
3. From ISRD: "I see the notation about the existing pole banner and bracket not being used. I believe that the CIDBIA is the permit holder for those brackets. Have you been in touch with them to see if they intend to use them again in the near future? This is one of the benefits of coordinating with the pole owner. I think there may be limitations on how many brackets and other elements can be on a single pole." -- You mentioned in our first walk through of the project area on 8.23.22 that the brackets left on the red lantern poles should be removed. Can you write something addressing this question that ISRD is asking about?
- SDOT is okay with you removing the brackets as here is what our rules and regulations say regarding the brackets that are left:
 - I. SDOTPoleBannerGuidelines.pdf (seattle.gov) - Permittees are responsible for removing installation brackets at the time the permit expires. Brackets may remain on city poles for others to use, however the original permittee vests no rights to their use. However if there is a current permit, this may conflict with those specific poles.
 1. **Rebecca – Do you have any information on that CIDBIA owning the poles? I had looked for a permit, but it didn't come up during our search.**
4. From ISRD: "In some cases there are already signs on the poles. Please confirm where these will be relocated." -- As far as we know there is only one instance where there is a sign that has to be removed. You wrote on the approved site plan dated 5.16.23 "okay to remove drug free zone sign" Does this have to be relocated somewhere else? I checked with Seattle City Light and they are okay with you removing the sign as SDOT installed them in 1990 for SPD. They indicate schools within 1000 feet and punishment is doubled if you're caught dealing. Since they did not see a school within 1000 feet. It can be removed.

Salamat!

Justin Faylona



Justin Faylona,

Public Space Reviewer, Street Use Public Space Management

City of Seattle, Department of Transportation

M: 206-430-2636 | justin.faylona@seattle.gov

Blog | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram | YouTube | Flickr | Customer Service

He/him/his

From: Binko Bisbee <kobo@seanet.com>

Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 6:47 AM

To: Faylona, Justin <Justin.Faylona@seattle.gov>

Cc: Conlen, Isaac <Isaac.Conlen@seattle.gov>; Frestedt, Rebecca <Rebecca.Frestedt@seattle.gov>

Subject: Japantown Banner Project SDOT permit and ISRD requirements - corrected Isaac Conlen's email address

Binko Bisbee

From: Faylona, Justin <Justin.Faylona@seattle.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Kobo Capitol Hill
Cc: 'Tyler McLain-Watkins'
Subject: RE: Japantown banner designs and armature/hardware

Hi Binko!

Sorry for missing your phone call, I'm in the middle of a training. These brackets look great! I'll go ahead and move your permit forward. I'm so excited to see these banners!

Salamat!
Justin Faylona



Justin Faylona,
Public Space Reviewer, Street Use Public Space Management
City of Seattle, [Department of Transportation](#)
M: 206-430-2636 | justin.faylona@seattle.gov
[Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Customer Service](#)
He/him/his

From: Binko Bisbee <kobo@seanet.com>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 2:29 PM
To: Faylona, Justin <Justin.Faylona@seattle.gov>
Cc: 'Tyler McLain-Watkins' <tylerm@printnw.net>
Subject: Japantown banner designs and armature/hardware

CAUTION: External Email

Hi Justin. I know today is a holiday so you are off. I wanted to get this information you requested regarding the pole attachments.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions about this and feel free to reach out to Tyler McLain-Watkins with more technical questions. Tyler is our contact with PrintNW.

His contact information is below.

Best, Binko

From: Tyler McLain-Watkins <tylerm@printnw.net>
Sent: Monday, October 9, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Binko Bisbee <kobo@seanet.com>
Subject: RE: Japantown banner designs and armature/hardware question.

Hello Binko,

Here are the links for the banner kits.

<https://metalcraftindustries.net/banner-bracket-hardware-kit-for-round-poles-choose-options/>
<https://metalcraftindustries.net/banner-bracket-hardware-kit-flat-mount-choose-options/>

Thank you!

Tyler McLain-Watkins
Account Executive
PRINT NW

9914 32nd Ave S | Lakewood | WA | 98499
6528 Capitol Blvd SE Suite D | Tumwater | WA | 98501
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tylerm@printnw.net | www.printnw.net | [Upload Files Here](#)

