



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649

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PSB126/26

Staff Report

Board meeting May 6, 2026

Board Members Please Note: The citations from the District Ordinance, Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and Secretary of the Interior's Standards listed below are for your consideration in addition to any other citations you find relevant in considering each application.

050626.44 **Occidental Mall**

117 S Washington St

DONH- COA-02124

Applicant: Pricilla Chavez-Mendoza, SPU

Proposed: Water Bottle Filler graphic wrap

Staff report: The Board approved the temporary installation of water bottle fillers to be removed on July 10 to replace the historic water fountains. The graphic appears to be SPU branding being it includes images of garbage and recycling services that SPU also provides. Regardless the Board should also discuss if the decals on a water bottle filler that is temporarily replacing a historic fountain, help the water bottle filler to be more or less compatible with the District or the site, is there a relationship to the district or the site or if it makes the water bottle filler a distraction from other features in the mall and the park or the District generally.

Draft Motion to approve:

I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for Installation of a graphic wrap on the temporary water bottle fillers which will be removed by July 10.

All per the applicant's submittal.

Draft Motion to deny:

I move to recommend denial of a Certificate of Approval for installation of a graphic wrap on the temporary water bottle filler because adding graphics to

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The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

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the water bottle filler further removes the design from being compatible with the character of the district graphic does not relate to the district or the site. The original water fountains where a solid color green with no graphics applied. (The Board should add any other reasons for the denial)

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the May 6, 2026 public meeting and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Code Citations:

Seattle Municipal Code

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

Certificate of approval required. No person shall alter, demolish, construct, reconstruct, restore, remodel, make any visible change to the exterior appearance of any structure, or to the public rights-of-way or other public spaces in a special review district, and no one shall remove or substantially alter any existing sign or erect or place any new sign or change the principal use of any building, or any portion of a building, structure or lot in a special review district, and no permit for such activity shall be issued unless a certificate of approval has been issued by the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Pioneer Square Preservation District Rules

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION (to the extent that this applies to the water bottle filler)

In addition to the Pioneer Square Preservation District Ordinance and Rules, The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation with Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, and the complete series of Historic Buildings Preservation Briefs developed by the National Park Service shall serve as guidelines for proposed exterior alterations and treatments, rehabilitation projects, and new construction. (7/99)

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. (7/99) In considering rehabilitation projects, what is critical is the stabilization of significant historical detailing, respect for the original architectural style, and compatibility of scale and materials.

New construction must be visually compatible with the predominant architectural styles, building materials and inherent historic character of the District. (7/99) Although new projects need not attempt to duplicate original

facades, the design process ought to involve serious consideration of the typical historic building character and detail within the District.

Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Issued: April 29, 2026

Genna Nashem

Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator