



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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PSB 68/23

Staff REPORT

for ARC meeting March 23, 2023

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.

032923.31 **City Hall Park**
450 3rd Ave

Briefing regarding proposed new benches

ARC report: ARC reviewed the proposal on March 29. ARC thought that the Dumor and Plainwell proposed benches have a historical character that were appropriate in design for the site. Many of the members preferred the Dumor bench but suggested bringing both options to the full Board. The applicant explained that the Dumor benches have been successful in another park and are their preferred option. The ARC agreed that the benches do not appear to have any historical significance and their removal is supported. ARC recommended approval.

Staff report: City Hall Park does not currently have the benches that are referred to in the current guidelines, in fact those benches only exist in Pioneer Park. The mentioned benches were approved to be removed from Occidental Park several years ago, possibly in 2006 and replaced with moveable table and chairs. Some bench removals and replacement with movable table and chairs was approved for City Hall Park in 2019. City Hall Park has been altered in design several times since its original design. Though I did not know when these benches were installed in City Hall Park they do not appear to be historic in design.

SMC 23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

- A. 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,

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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

XI. STREET FURNITURE

The cast iron and wood benches located in Pioneer Place Park and Occidental Park are the standard for the District. Approval to install benches will be determined by need and availability. All other elements of street furniture will be reviewed by the Board as to their specific compatibility within the Preservation District. This review will be extended to all bus shelters, bollards, signal boxes, mailboxes, pay phones, trash receptacles, newspaper stands, and vending carts which are both permanent and mobile. Pay phones, mail boxes, trash receptacles, and newspaper stands shall be located in the sidewalk zone adjacent to the curb, in line with street trees and light standards to reduce impediments to pedestrian flow and to avoid obscuring visibility into street level retail storefronts. (7/99, 7/03)

Secretary of Interior's Standards

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be taken 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.

Guidelines for Setting (Historic District)

To meet the Standards for Rehabilitation, new site elements should:

- Be compatible with the historic character of the property.

Basic guidance for new site features that will meet the Standards is:

- New site features should be compatible with the building(s) and the significant landscape features on the site. Additionally, new site features should be consistent with the historic use of the property.
- New site features should be as unobtrusive as possible in both location and design.
- New site features should preserve the historic relationship between the building(s) and the significant landscape features.

Issued: March 30, 2023

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Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator