



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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

Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

PSB 185/24

ARC/Staff Report

Board meeting July 10, 2024

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.

071024.33 Scientific Building

126 S Jackson St

Applicant:- Forest through the Trees

Installation of frames for rotating artwork of initial installation of artwork

ARC/ Staff report: The Board has approved similar frames and artwork along the Railspur alley. It was my understanding that the frames would have a spacer leaving a gape for water to run down the wall and for water to evaporate behind the installation. Though the canvas is gaped the frame was installed flush. This appears to be the same installation of a frame flush with the wall. The Board approved the Railspur installation of frames with approval of the initial artwork with staff to review future rotating artwork assure any artwork is not signage. Staff have not received any submission to review a change in artwork since the initial installation until this series.

This location on the Scientific building includes installation on a primary façade. The Board should discuss if the placement or size affects the appearance of the building differently on a primary façade compared to a secondary façade generally and with this building specifically. Also for consideration is that this primary façade location along with other blank wall spaces in the District have been the target of graffiti and the artwork could be a solution to protect the historic materials from further damage.

The applicant has been advised that the original submission of artwork of pool balls on a façade of a pool hall constitutes a sign. The artwork was substituted with a new image.

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.

SMC 23.66.160 Signs

23.84A.036 **Definition of a sign**

"Sign" means any medium, including structural and component parts, that is used or intended to be used to attract attention to the subject matter for advertising, identification, or informative purposes.

"Sign, business" means an on-premise sign directing attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold, or offered on the lot where the sign is located.

Rules for the Pioneer Square Preservation District

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

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.

XX. RULES FOR TRANSPARENCY, SIGNS, AWNINGS AND CANOPIES

The Pioneer Square Preservation Ordinance reflects a policy to focus on structures, individually and collectively, so that they can be seen and appreciated. Sign proliferation or inconsistent paint colors, for example, are incompatible with this focus, and are expressly to be avoided. (8/93)

B. General Signage Regulations

All signs on or hanging from buildings, in windows, or applied to windows, are subject to review and approval by the Pioneer Square Preservation Board. (8/93)
Locations for signs shall be in accordance with all other regulations for signage. (12/94)

The intent of sign regulations is to ensure that signs relate physically and visually to their location; that signs not hide, damage or obscure the architectural elements of the building; that signs be oriented toward and promote a pedestrian environment; and that the products or services offered be the focus, rather than signs. (8/93)

C. Specific Signage Regulations

8. Wall Signs. The Board recommends that wall signs be painted on a wood or metal backing and attached in such a manner that the building surface is not damaged. Colors and graphics of wall signs shall be compatible with the character of the District, and letter sizes shall be appropriately scaled to fit the overall design and dimensions of the sign. (7/99, 7/03)

Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation

3. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

4. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

5. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

6. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator