



Seattle Light Rail Review Panel

David Cutler
Planning Commission, LRRP Chair

Bernie Alonzo
Design Commission

Brodie Bain
Design Commission

Catherine Benotto
Planning Commission

Jay Deguchi
Public Art Advisory Committee

Shannon Loew
Design Commission

Jerry Garcia
Arts Commission

Megan Groth
Design Commission

Brad Khouri
Planning Commission

Laurel Kunkler
Design Commission

Kevin McDonald
Planning Commission

Tom Nelson
Design Commission

Martin Regge
Design Commission

Osama Quotah
Design Commission

Ellen Sollod
Design Commission/
Public Art Advisory Committee

Michael Jenkins
Design Commission Director

Valerie Kinast
Coordinator

Joan Nieman
Administrative Staff

November 7, 2013

Convened 3:00 pm

Adjourned 4:30 pm

Project Reviewed

Northgate Station 60% (artwork and walls)

Panel Members Present

David Cutler, Co-Chair

Brodie Bain

Jay Deguchi

Jerry Garcia

Megan Groth

Brad Khouri

Laurel Kunkler

Shannon Loew

Kevin McDonald

Tom Nelson

Osama Quotah

Ellen Sollod

Panel Members Excused

Bernie Alonzo

Martin Regge

Laurel Kunkler

Catherine Benotto

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast

November 7, 2013
3:00 – 4:30 pm

Project: Northgate Station
Phase: 60% design (artwork and walls)
Previous reviews: 11/3/11; 11/1/12; 12/20/12; 5/16/13

Presenters:

Robert Nichols	Sound Transit
Barbara Luecke	Sound Transit
Cris Bruch	Artist
MaryAnn Peters	Artist
Barbara Swift	Swift Company
Tanya Wilcox	JA Brennan

Attendees:

Rhonda Dixon	Sound Transit
Jan Peter Ekland	Hewitt
Leah Ephrem	Hewitt
Ron Endlich	Sound Transit
David Hewitt	Hewitt
Jason Huff	Office of Arts and Culture
Kate Thompson	Artist Assistant
Marcia Wagoner	Read/Wagoner
Fred Wilhelm	Sound Transit
Mary Wyllie	Hewitt

Recusals and Disclosures

Osama Quotah was recused. Disclosures were not solicited.

Purpose of Review

The purpose of this meeting was to review the artwork and walls for the Northgate Light Rail Station. At the last review on May 16, 2013, the approval for 60% design was contingent on the artwork and walls of the station and in the public realm returning for LRRP review before the 90% review of the station.

Summary of Proposal

The Northgate Light Rail Station encompasses an elevated station located on a “transit island” with public plazas, art, and rain gardens among other ground level improvements. It also includes a mile and half of guideways and a portal where the tracks enter a tunnel at NE 94th St. The guideway walls and operations facility at the portal are within the scope of the review. Also, Sound Transit continues to negotiate to build a shared-use parking garage on the southwest corner of the Northgate Mall site.

The elevated station will be located east of 1st Avenue NE, spanning NE 103rd St. It will have two entry buildings, one north of NE 103rd St on Northgate Mall property, and one south of NE 103rd St near the current location of the Northgate Transit Center. Each will have escalators and stairs.

Sound Transit is contributing funds toward a pedestrian and bike bridge over I-5, an effort led by SDOT, and designing the station to allow the bridge to connect at the mezzanine level. SDOT is planning a cycle track along 1st Ave, and Sound Transit has adjusted the guideway design to accommodate this.

King County Metro and the City of Seattle are planning Transit Oriented Development in the area just east of the station.

Sound Transit's elevated Northgate Light Rail Station is the northernmost station of the 4.3-mile extension of light rail, and will be the northern interim terminus until light rail is extended further north. The Northgate Station will open in 2021; Link light rail service will be extended to Lynnwood by 2023. Construction of the Northgate Station and elevated tracks will begin in 2016, and construction of the tunnel portal and tunneling to Roosevelt Station will start the end of 2013 and last through the end of 2017.

Summary of Presentation

Robert Nichols of Sound Transit gave the presentation dated November 7, 2013, and posted on the [Design Commission website](#). Mr. Nichols explained the station location, the program, and the design of the building and ground plane.

Cris Bruch, one of the two station artists, presented the proposed artwork on the ground plane. The idea of ebb and flow drove his thinking. He also considered what attracts people and arrived at trees. The plaza was reduced in size over the course of design, and he saw his gesture as an intermediate step between the organic shape of tree and the linearity of station. He explained that the Hewitt team had adjusted the height of the ceiling in the stairway of the station to facilitate better views of the tree sculpture.

MaryAnn Peters described that she decided on the idea of the dragonfly in part because of its quick movement. It was meant to hover and mark a place in the station. She explained that she was working with Franz Meier glass studio in Germany and that the glass was painted, it was not interlay work. The glass is fired three times to achieve intense color.

Barbara Luecke of Sound Transit explained that the art will be further developed. She said Cris' piece would be lit and that Mary Anne and Sound Transit staff are working to maximize the amount of color glass provided.

Tanya Wilcox described the site walls.

Agency Comments

none.

Public Comments

None

Action

The Light Rail Review Panel thanked the team for the presentation of the 60% design of the Northgate Station artwork and walls. The LRRP was delighted with the design especially pleased that the art concepts capitalized on the opportunities for light. Panel members noted how much the team was able to accomplish with the glass art within its budget. They applauded the team that overall the three pieces seem to work together despite being separate. They believed the art would create memorable moments in the station.

The LRRP had previously approved 60% station design under the condition that the art be presented for review before the station reached 90% design.

With a **vote of 9 to 0**, the Light Rail Review Panel approved the 60% design of the Northgate Station artwork and walls. The LRRP provided the following recommendations for the design team moving forward:

Tree sculpture

1. Consider how the structure will scale up and read visually. This has potential to be a special gesture; pay attention to it.
2. Consider how lighting of the tree could be used to highlight certain pieces; a sort of reference to the 1960s.
3. The use of color should be further explored. Think of the surprising color moments people might get looking up at it.

Glass Pieces

4. Minimize the number of mullions, especially the vertical ones, to avoid heaviness.
5. Think about the role of the piece in providing color to the space. Allow it to stand out in contrast to muted colors.

Walls

6. Continue considering the look and feel of the walls, and issues of maintenance.
7. The wall is so long that points of color seem to get lost. Consider eliminating the middle one and adding to the ends.
8. Think of how the walls relates to the cycle track and beyond the site.
9. Consider graffiti and birds.