

Waterfront Kiosks

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Commissioners Present

Shannon Loew, Chair
Brodie Bain
Lee Copeland
Rachel Gleeson
Grant Hromas

Commissioners Excused

Ellen Sollod, Vice Chair
Thaddeus Egging
Martin Regge
John Savo
Ross Tilghman

Project Description

The Office of the Waterfront proposes to construct four kiosks along the waterfront promenade as part of the redevelopment of the Central Waterfront. Located at Spring St, Seneca St, University St, and Union St, the kiosks would be 45 feet high and contain a ground-level space of 16 feet by 16 feet. Each kiosk would have awnings that provide weather protection.

The upper portion of the kiosk is designed and oriented to reflect views of Elliott Bay and buildings along the promenade. The proposed materials include wood, glass, and steel.

Meeting Summary

The Design Commission approved the design development of the kiosks with a vote of 5 to 0. The Commissioners continued to encourage the Office of the Waterfront to think carefully and creatively about programming for the kiosks that provides activities and experiences not currently available along the waterfront.

Recusals and Disclosures

There were no recusals or disclosures.



Figure 1. Looking west at the kiosk at Spring St

Summary of Presentation

Steve Pearce introduced the project and identified the several models that nARCHITECTS provided for the Commissioners to review. Mimi Hoang described how the project team's study of scale and context inspired the kiosk design. Ms. Hoang said the team's goals were 1) to respond to the light and climate of Seattle and 2) connect with the promenade design and the larger context of Seattle. As shown in Figure 2, the kiosks would be located Spring St, Seneca St, University St, and Union St.



Figure 2. Plan view of the four kiosks at Spring St, Seneca St, University St, Union St

Ms. Hoang then introduced the concept of an urban kaleidoscope that would integrate city and water by reflecting views of each for pedestrians along the promenade. A series of images illustrated the extent to which the kiosks would be visible from various perspectives in Downtown. The diagram in Figure 3 explains the orientation of the kiosk. Figure 4 is one of several renderings of the proposed kiosk included in the presentation.

Ms. Hoang said three of the kiosks would have food and beverage service, while programming for the University St kiosk may complement nearby cultural institutions, such as the Seattle Art Museum. Several diagrams showed how the design could accommodate a range of uses.

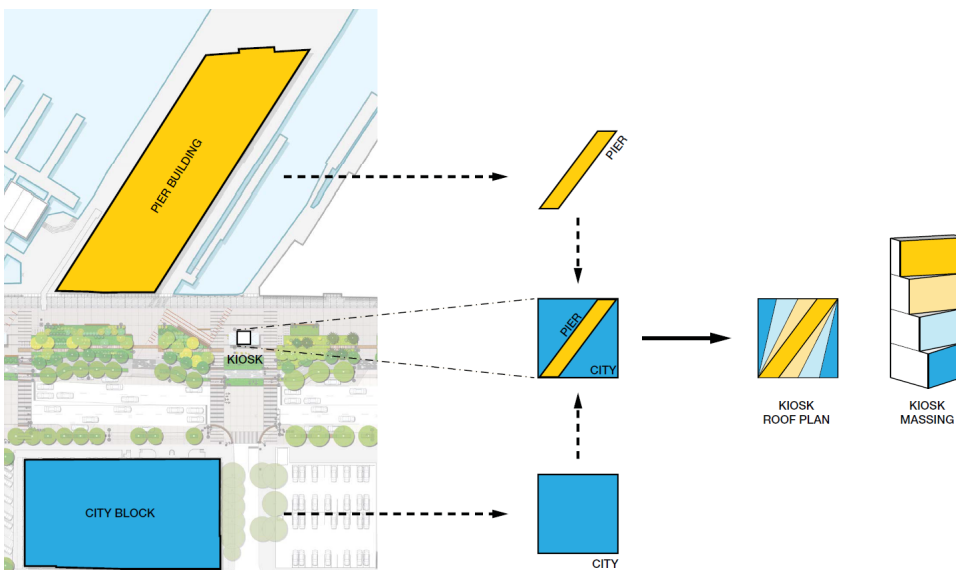


Figure 3. Diagram of the kiosk geometry

June 18, 2015

June 18, 2015

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Type

CIP

Phase

Design Development

Location

Waterfront promenade at Spring St, Seneca St, University St, and Union St

Previous Reviews

10/16/14

Project Team Present

Ethan Bernau

Shiels Oblatz Johnsen

Mike Colyn

Parnons Brinkerhoff

Mimi Hoang

nARCHITECTS

Steve Pearce

Office of the Waterfront

Daniel Katebini-Stengel

nARCHITECTS

Ammr Vandal

nARCHITECTS

Attendees

Jen Syrowitz

Audobon Washington

Eric Fredericksen

Office of the Waterfront



Figure 4. Perspective of Union St kiosk

Finally, Ms. Hoang described how inclusion of [Ornilux UV](#) coating, which is invisible to humans but visible to birds, would help prevent bird strikes.

Agency Comments

none

Public Comments

Jen Syrowitz stated that Audubon Washington is concerned about bird strikes, which is a leading cause of bird deaths. Ms. Syrowitz cited a recent finding that 44% of bird strikes are from buildings under three stories. She recommended Bird-Friendly Building Design by Dr. Christine Sheppard (2011). Ms. Syrowitz said she was encouraged to see the design team considering materials that would help to reduce bird strikes.

Summary of Discussion

The Commission organized their deliberation around the siting, program, form, and materiality of the proposed kiosks. While the Commissioners had previously encouraged careful attention to the specific placement of each kiosk, they recognized that the siting was largely constrained by the location of below-grade utilities. The Commissioners discussed the orientation of the Union St kiosk, which the project team was considering rotating in order to provide reflections of the city.



Figure 5. Looking north along waterfront promenade at the Seneca St kiosk; the University St and Union St kiosks are visible beyond.

The Commission also continued to recommend that the Office of the Waterfront explore options for programming beyond food and beverage service, including performances, educational programming, or a pavilion for gathering space.

Given the detailed analysis of reflections, views, and alternative forms included in the presentation, the Commissioners believed that the kaleidoscope idea had evolved into a compelling design. There was concern that the illustrations did not include trees, preventing the Commissioners from considering the kiosks in context with the proposed Waterfront Seattle landscape design. Nevertheless, the Commissioners agreed that, while scale is subjective, the proposed dimensions seemed appropriate in context with other structures on and around the waterfront.

Action

The Design Commission thanked the Office of the Waterfront for presenting the design development of the Waterfront Kiosks. The Commission was excited to see the development of a bold design for the kiosks. The Commissioners particularly appreciated the level of detail and thoughtful analysis demonstrated in the presentation. They also thanked the team for bringing several physical models of the proposed design.

With a **vote of 5 to 0**, the Design Commission approved the design development of the Waterfront Kiosks with the following comments and recommendations:

1. Further explore all options for a variety of programming with an eye to providing activities or creating spaces not currently available along the Central Waterfront. Pay particular attention to providing experiences for waterfront visitors that private retail does not supply. Ensure the program for each kiosk is appropriate to the individual "social intersection."
2. Consider whether some of the structures could function more as pavilions that primarily provide weather protection and passive gathering space.
3. Verify that the physical design of the kiosk does not preclude or restrict any options for programming.

4. Continue to study the alternative orientation for the Union St kiosk, as shown in Figure 6, and evaluate the extent to which the rotation would increase the variety of reflections visible in the kiosks without obscuring the view west along Union St towards Elliott Bay. The Commission recommends that the program inform the decision whether to rotate the ground-level portion of the Union St kiosk.

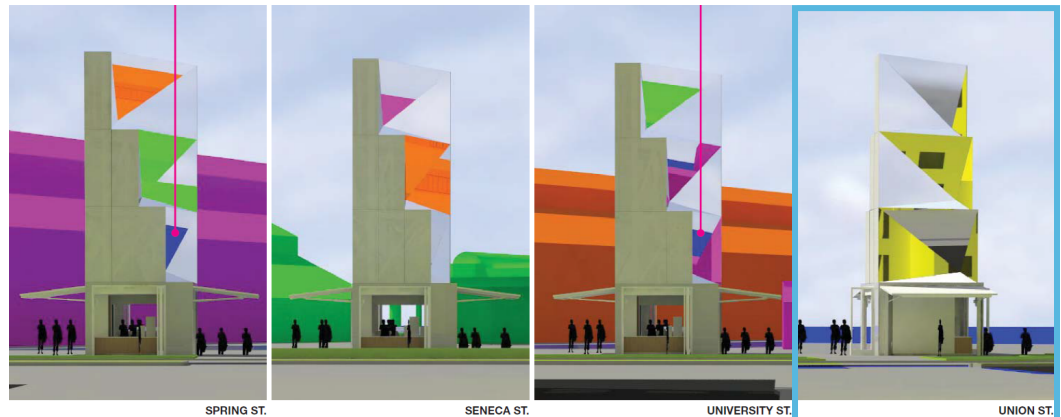


Figure 6. The Commission recommended rotating the Union St kiosk if doing so would support the intended program.

5. Explore warmer materials for the interior of the kiosk at ground level in contrast to the cooler glass and steel of the superstructure.
6. Continue to evaluate how the proposed materials will support bird safety.
7. At the next meeting for this segment of the Waterfront Seattle design, show additional detail for anticipated circulation to, from, and through the kiosk zone.



Figure 7. The Commission encouraged warm materials for the interior of the kiosk in contrast to the cooler exterior.

8. At the next meeting, include the proposed landscaping and trees from the Waterfront Seattle proposal so that the Commission can better understand the kiosk design in context and more accurately appreciate the reflections that the kaleidoscope approach will generate.

While design development is typically the final stage that the Commission reviews a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project, the Commission anticipates seeing the kiosks incorporated into the Main Corridor presentation when that project returns for a design development review.