



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 234/22

**MINUTES** for Wednesday, October 19, 2022

### **Board Members**

Kianoush Curran  
Maureen Elenga  
Sage Kim  
Jose Lorenzo-Torres  
Karl Mueller  
Lindsay Pflugrath  
Steven Sparks  
Henry Watson

### **Staff**

Genna Nashem  
Melinda Bloom

Chair Maureen Elenga called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**In-person attendance is currently prohibited per Washington State Governor's Proclamation No. 20-28.5. Meeting participation is limited to access by the WebEx meeting link or the telephone call-in line provided on agenda.**

### **Roll Call**

**101922.1 PUBLIC COMMENT**  
There was no public comment.

**101922.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
August 17, 2022

**101922.3 SPECIAL TAX VALUATION**  
Lowman Printing / Washington Park  
68 S Washington Street

Ms. Nashem explained the Special Tax Valuation Program. She said submitted rehabilitation costs were \$8,977,121 and disallowed costs were \$32,913. She said work

was performed in conformance with Certificate of Approval issued by Pioneer Square Preservation Board. Other interior work did not require a Certificate of approval.

Action: I move that the Pioneer Square Preservation Board recommend to the Landmarks Preservation Board to approve the following property for Special Tax Valuation Certification: Western Building, 68 S Washington St; that this action is based upon criteria set forth in Title 84 RCW Chapter 449; and based on the findings at the meeting on October 19, 2022: that the property is a contributing building located in the Pioneer Square Preservation District, and has not been altered in any way that adversely affects those features that identify its significance or contribution to the Pioneer Square Preservation District; and that the property has been issued Certificates of Approval as required in the Pioneer Square Preservation District; and has been substantially improved in the twenty-four month period ending July 31, 2022, that the recommendation is conditioned upon the execution of an agreement between the Local Review Board (Landmarks Preservation Board) as required by Title 84 RCW, Chapter 449.

MM/SC/LP/KC                      5:0:0    Motion carried.

Mr. Lorenzo-Torres joined the meeting.

#### **101922.4**

#### **Fortson Square**

Corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Yesler Way

Aditi Kambuj, SDOT introduced the project. Janel Lotzgesell and Duane Dietz, Jones and Jones presented.

Fortson Square is at a nexus of cultural and civic reawakening. Spurred by the construction of the Chief Seattle Club's *ʔálʔal*, the Square has an opportunity to have its own concurrent revival as a gathering place of peoples since time immemorial. It is important, given the Chief Seattle Club's proximity adjacent to the Square, to honor the Coast Salish people who still call this place home.

As a key crossing point from Downtown into Pioneer Square, Fortson Square offers the opportunity to welcome and celebrate Salish peoples and cultures. Key to creating a culturally resonant sense of place will be the Grandmother Frog Welcome Figure by artist Andrea Wilbur-Sigo. The Welcome Figure will reflect the roots and stories of the Coast Salish people while also bringing a new story as she overlooks Fortson Square and protects the surrounding areas.

In addition to the Welcome Figure, there are number of design challenges at Fortson Square, among them the north-south slope of Second Avenue crossing the and east-west slope of Yesler Way creating a need to improve universal accessibility and clear sightlines across the site. Additionally, root zones of existing trees at sidewalks will need to be considered.

The Coast Salish People are comprised of nearly seventy tribes or bands who speak fourteen languages. The term "Salish" was used by ethnologists to denote their

linguistic ties to a root language. Salish People have been occupying contiguous territories along the Salish Sea in present-day British Columbia and western Washington State. The region was rich with varied food sources—including five types of salmon, shellfish, deer, root, bulb, shoots, berries—that were preserved for use in the winter, the prime time for art-making and spiritual ceremonial activities. Extended families lived in large plank houses in permanent winter villages and married into different villages, thus creating valuable networks of kinship and increasing access to territories and resources. Cooperative work under the guidance of respected leaders solidified the high ranking of certain families. Lush goat wool robes and carved houseposts, rattles, masks, and ritual paraphernalia were expressions of status but also of the power conferred on families and individuals by spirit entities. Despite devastating incursions into Salish lifeways in the modern era, distinctive Salish arts, oral traditions and ceremonies have endured and nurtured a vital sense of Salish identity.

Sd'id'elfaliv (Little crossing over place)

“The southern portion of Occidental Square was once part of a tidal lagoon and island – very likely an island only at high tide. The Duwamish people built a winter village in this area, which included a longhouse used for shelter, celebration, and trade. A southern -flowing stream, now buried under city streets, provided fresh water and emptied into the lagoon near where 3rd Ave S and S Main St intersect today. When early settlers arrived in the 1850’s the tribes welcomed and helped settlers build their city. Chief Si’ahl, or Chief Seattle, after whom the city was named, was the leader of both the Duwamish and neighboring Suquamish Peoples. Chief Seattle sought alliances for the prosperity of his people, but urbanization and city policies eventually pushed the Duwamish from the Pioneer Square area. Today the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center along the Duwamish Rivers demonstrates their ongoing presence and strong connections to this city. “

From: [Trail to Treasure](#), Pioneer Square Historic Walking Tour - Trail2Treasure.org

Fortson Square was dedicated in 1901 in honor of Captain George H. Fortson of the United States Navy and other Seattle war dead, who were killed in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. A plaque in recognition of Captain Fortson is embedded in the pavers toward the northwest corner of the site. The process is underway to rename the Square with an indigenous name, reflecting the important connection the site has to the historic and current connection to the Coast Salish people.

Archival research note that the Square was planted and paved around 1907. The shape of the Square was impacted by the 1928-1929 Second Avenue Extension, likely responsible for ensuring the triangular shape of Fortson Square. In 1968, the same area was again planted and five streetlamps were installed. The last major improvement was completed in 1999 when artist Elizabeth Conner and landscape architect Cliff Willwerth redesigned Fortson Square, adding a “sculptural ruin” of art that referenced the period between 1890 to 1950.

The site is bound to the west and north with healthy street trees in the oak family. Two oaks also currently stand in the interior of the site. These interior oak trees

receive inadequate sunlight due to the shading of the street trees; they limit light to the site during winter and evening hours, and they are sited in planting beds that contribute to challenging grading conditions across the interior of the site.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Fortson Square should be redesigned to optimize usability of the site by neighbors (i.e. Chief Seattle Club and the indigenous peoples of this area), provide safe and legible circulation routes, and to offer provide a compelling space for cultural engagement and positive visitor experience.

Native people in urban areas face unique challenges; by remaking the Square to embrace the diversity of Native cultures, languages, and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives, it recognizes their presence here and gives the “white settlers” a chance to experience and honor the original inhabitants on an important location in their history. Fortson Square will be a place to embrace and honor the indigenous presence here, becoming a place that is resonant of meaning and a source of pride to the Native community as well as our community at large. Design inspiration for the Square will be true to Salish culture: its art, music, story, food, plants, and animals.

#### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Create the first native-focused public space in Pioneer Square.

Honor the site and use water as the theme - it was a marsh on the edge of the Salish Sea. Water is the original medicine and gives life.

Utilize native plantings and native art installation(s).

Review regrading options to create flat area for desired programming

Study the urban tree canopy in immediate area to determine locations for new street trees to improve the canopy of the area

#### PROGRAMMING

Determine neighborhood’s programming desires for the Square

Design a cultural performance space to accommodate for following: Drumming and Singing Space: Fortson Square programming would include drumming and singing, consisting of approximately 4-8 drummers, and 4-10 singers circling them.

Additional space would be needed for singers and audience.

Prayer Ceremonies: Last October the Club conducted a Mayan smudging ceremony with more than 10 members, staff and community circled on the pavement, and were blocking pedestrian space. Additional smudging might occur as well.

Native Works café space (Café at new building would put chairs and tables out on Square)

Native Works Kiosk

Place for eating lunch and possibly Food trucks to park (along Yesler Ave – not in the Square)

#### SECURITY

Improve the public safety of the space.

#### FOREST TO SHORE

Conceptually mimics the transect of a Puget Sound shoreline - from beach to bluff  
Provides visually distinct spaces  
Creates active and passive places  
Existing Street Trees to remain, would be underplanted with native plants  
Existing Below Grade Utilities to remain  
Maintain minimum sidewalk clearances  
Maintain flexibility within Fortson Square for future TBD renovation  
Relatively low slope grade  
Will coordinate final location & base details with artist and design/engineering team  
Will go through SDOT SIP permitting process to finalize location

#### FOREST TO SHORE

The site slopes in two different directions - the Yesler slope to the north and the Second Avenue slope to the west

- These slopes create universal accessibility challenges
- Create spaces that are accessible
- Create accessible transitions to Chief Seattle Club and Monterey Hotel
- Maintain minimum sidewalk clearances
- Use planting areas and low walls to absorb grade changes
- Will go through SDOT SIP permitting process

#### Planting Palette:

Conceptually mimics the transect of a Puget Sound shoreline - from beach to bluff

- Provides visually distinct spaces
- Creates active and passive places
- Existing Street Trees to remain with understory of native plants
- Plantings represent seasonality, texture, durability

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## DESIGN ELEMENTS

Outdoor spaces: gathering, sitting, performance

Paving: patterns, banding, color, materials (seashell aggregate), finishes

Stairs: railing, tread lighting,

Walls: texture, text, patterns, skateboard deterrents

Lighting:

Art: Welcome Figure, paving, walls, stand-alone pieces

Plantings: seasonality, texture, durability

Mr. Dietz noted that existing utilities and vaults will have to be accommodated.

MS. Lotzgesell said there are different approaches to the site both direct and meandering. ADA path is Yesler down to ceremonial space on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Extension. Ground plane to illustrate how water leaves line in the sane via use of undulating paver patterns. Rails will be used at steeper grade change and will have Coast Salish inspired panels. She noted sightlines are being maintained for safety.

Ms. Kim asked if there is a ramp along the street.

Mr. Lotzgesell said there is no ramp there, it is a gathering space that sits a little higher but comes to meet grade.

Ms. Curran commended the team on the incredible thought that has gone into details on project. She supported the project and said it would be a great transformation of the space.

Ms. Elenga agreed and said it is thoughtful. She appreciated the pre-contact natural vegetation proposed. She said the team will come back with lighting.

Mr. Dietz said they will come back with finer detail work.

Ms. Lorenzo-Torres said it is a difficult site and he commended the team on their work.

Mr. Walters said he looks forward to seeing it come together.

**101922.5**

### **BOARD BUSINESS – officer elections**

Ms. Elenga was elected Chair. Ms. Curran was elected to remain as Vice Chair. New Get Engaged member, Maggie introduced herself.

**101922.6**

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR:**

**101922.7**

**STAFF REPORT:** Genna Nashem  
Administrative Review report

Genna Nashem  
Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator  
206.684.0227