



The City of Seattle

International Special Review District

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649, Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor

ISRD 138/22

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TUESDAY, September 27, 2022

Time: 4:30pm

Place: Hybrid Meeting (in person and WebEx)

Board Members Present

Nella Kwan

Adrian Lam

Michael Le

Ming Zhang

Andy Yip

Staff

Rebecca Frestedt

Melinda Bloom

Absent

Lizzy Baskerville

Ryan Gilbert

Chair Andy Yip called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

092722.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 10, 2022, and May 24, 2022 Tabled.

092722.2 PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

092722.3 CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

092722.31 714 S. King St. – Uncle Bob’s Place
Applicant: Leslie Morishita and Rie Shinanti, InterimCDA

Ms. Frestedt explained the proposed application of an applied vinyl mural on the north façade of the building. She read from the staff report and said the site is located within the Asian Design Character District. A Certificate of Approval for a mural painted onto the west façade was approved August 9, 2022. A Certificate of Approval for balcony perforation design was approved in April 2022. Final Design of the building was issued in January 2020. Building signage, artwork, and the perforation design for a gate along S. King Street were

**Administered by The Historic Preservation Program
The Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**

“Printed on Recycled Paper”

not included with the Final Design application. The location and general proportions of the proposed mural was identified during the Final Design review. She said when reviewing artwork, the Board considers placement, materials, colors, scale, and method of attachment.

She said the size of the mural is consistent with the placeholder the applicants presented with their Final Design application. At the time the content of the mural was no known. Reading from the staff report she said Staff was concerned about the potential impact of applying the mural to the surface of the building with adhesive. Staff expressed some concern that the content of the mural may be difficult to make out due to scale of individual design elements. The applicants responded to these concerns within their application submittal.

Leslie Morishita, InterimCDA, and Pei Pei Sung, a visual designer and community member, presented (materials in DON file).

Ms. Morishita went over the location, on the north wall of the building. She said the location was presented during CofA process for Uncle Bob's Place. The mural covers what would be a large blank wall that extends above the neighboring 1-story House of Hong building. She said the material would be a vinyl wrap. Dimensions: 22'-10" wide x 50'-0" tall.

She said it is anticipated that the House of Hong, which is 19" away, would likely be redeveloped some day and they didn't want to paint a mural only to have it covered up.

Uncle Bob's Place Art & Aesthetic Integration Committee selected the artists and devised the mural design concept of having diverse BIPOC artists who work in different mediums and with diverse aesthetic styles collaborate on the mural. They took inspiration from the boarded up storefronts throughout the neighborhood that were painted by artists –an expression of community and collective action.

Ms. Sung provided an overview of the artists: Akira Ohiso, Jac Trautman, Lawrence Pitre, Travis Suzaka

Artists worked through a facilitated collaborative process that included responding to feedback from the Art Committee.

Artists decided together on the theme of cultural diversity, the use of red as a unifying color, and a split in half layout to tie their pieces together into a unified whole. Group chose the historic Humbows, Not Hot Dogs photo to amplify the spirit of the mural and to ground it in the history of the CID and Uncle Bob.

Each artist's design will be permanently installed inside the building, reproduced at a smaller scale and installed individually, one for each elevator lobby of the residential Ms. Morishita said the mural will be applied with adhesive to Hardi Panel; the film is removable and won't damage the panel.

The proposed material will be durable and environmentally friendly, PVC free, 3M Envision adhesive vinyl. Luster lamination will be applied over the 3M Envision product to

minimize fading and increase longevity. Pei Pei explained that vinyl wrap allows for using a digital reproduction of the art on this otherwise large blank wall -- advantageous because the neighboring 1-story building will one day be developed into an 8-story building, completely blocking visual access to the mural.

Mr. Zhang asked why they chose the proposed location, given the mural will eventually be obscured if the adjacent site is redeveloped.

Ms. Morishita said they want to make the wall beautiful until House of Hong is developed. She said it is an opportunity to do something beautiful in the interim. She said other locations weren't really feasible for this project.

Ms. Sung said it helps celebrates the artists – strangers who came together to paint wood boards for storefronts.

Ms. Zhang said it is beautiful work, but so temporary.

Ms. Morishita said they consider it a temporary mural. She said the individual artworks will be inside; they have been digitally saved so they can be moved elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Mr. Lam admired the project and noted it is an investment. He said it adds a lot to the blank façade. He hoped the narrative is promoted and said consideration of others is a beautiful message.

Ms. Morishita said it has been a wonderful process with all being gracious and generous. She said the design was altered to meet specs.

Ms. Frestedt said House of Hong site plans have not been received yet for review so it will be some time that the mural will be visible at this site.

Mr. Yip noted the time and resources invested in this project. He said they could have had a more permanent installation. He said it is Interim's prerogative to put it where they want, and he noted the original works are displayed inside. He asked about the material durability and maintenance.

Ms. Morishita said it should last 9 – 11 years. She said it would be removed when at the end of its lifespan and it can be easily removed.

Ms. Frestedt said the Board could conditional approval to include that the wall be restored if the vinyl is removed.

Board members had no problem with scale or attachment and noted that the placeholder was approved as part of final design. All board members supported the project.

Mr. Zhang said it is a great example of architecture and artists working together. He said it is a beautiful piece but it should have better placement.

Action: I move that the International Special Review District Board recommend approval of a Certificate of Approval for exterior alterations – artwork on the north façade of the building, at 714 S. King St.

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval, based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the September 27, 2022 public meeting, and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

This action is based on the **following applicable sections of the International Special Review District Ordinance:**

SMC 23.66.336 – Exterior Building Finishes

A. General Requirements

B. Asian Design Character District

Secretary of the Interior Standard #9

MM/SC/ML/AL 5:0:0 Motion carried.

092722.4 STAFF SUMMARY and BOARD BUSINESS

Administrative approvals since August 23, 2022

Ms. Frestedt provided summary of administrative reviews issued or pending as of August 23, 2022.

Ms. Frestedt explained the notice of election was issued this week and director’s rule has been published for this election only. Election date moved to third Tuesday of November. She said there would be two in-person election registration drives one at Little Saigon Creative and another at Hing Hay Park.

Adjourn

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