



The City of Seattle

Pioneer Square Preservation Board

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

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PSB 204/23

Staff REPORT

for Board meeting August 2, 2023

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.

080223.34 **Alley east of 1st Ave, south of S Jackson St**

117 S Jackson St

Record number: DONH-COA- 01000

Alley closure for activation events and everyday use and installation of planters and tables and chairs, lighting and window box planters through October 2023

Staff report: The Nord Alley has been successfully functioning as a "festival street" for several years. The project builds off of that and an new effort started by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) during Covid shutdowns to provide more outdoor options for restaurants, businesses and recreation. SDOT is making some of those Covid policies permanent such as for alley and sidewalk activations. The project need the Board approval but will also have to comply with the SDOT rules and permits for the alley activation. The Board would review the application for the installation of items similar to sidewalk cafes. Similar catenary lighting exists in two allies to the north - Nord alley and Pioneer Passage alley.

Draft Motion: I move to recommend granting a Certificate of Approval for:
Alley closure for activation events and everyday use and installation of planters and tables and chairs, lighting and window box planters through October 2023

The Board directs staff to prepare a written recommendation of approval based on considering the application submittal and Board discussion at the *August 2, 2023* public meeting and forward this written recommendation to the Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Code Citations:

SMC

23.66.030 Certificates of Approval required

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

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- A. 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.

RULES FOR THE PIONEER SQUARE PRESERVATION DISTRICT

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

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.

XI. STREET FURNITURE

The cast iron and wood benches located in Pioneer Place Park and Occidental Park are the standard for the District. Approval to install benches will be determined by need and availability. All other elements of street furniture will be reviewed by the Board as to their specific compatibility within the Preservation District. This review will be extended to all bus shelters, bollards, signal boxes, mailboxes, pay phones, trash receptacles, newspaper stands, and vending carts which are both permanent and mobile. Pay phones, mail boxes, trash receptacles, and newspaper stands shall be located in the sidewalk zone adjacent to the curb, in line with street trees and light standards to reduce impediments to pedestrian flow and to avoid obscuring visibility into street level retail storefronts. (7/99, 7/03)

XIII. SIDEWALK CAFES

Sidewalk cafes may not impede the flow of pedestrian traffic. Movable structural elements that can be brought back against the building wall or elements that can be removed when not in use will generally be required if some structural element is necessary. No walls or roofs of any kind are permitted to enclose sidewalk cafes. Free-standing and table umbrellas are permitted, however, the Board may limit their number and placement to ensure compatibility with transparency and signage regulations. (7/03) Planter boxes are discouraged and will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

Materials for any structural elements on the sidewalk should be of durable, weatherproof, and vandal-proof quality. The Board will consider the compatibility of the color and design of structural elements with the building facade and the character of the District. The maximum allowable height of structural elements, including fencing, is 42". (7/03)

Secretary of Interior's Standards

2. .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.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be taken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Issued: July 27, 2023

Genna Nashem
Pioneer Square Preservation Board Coordinator