



Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January, 15, 2009

9:30am – 11:30am

NEW LOCATION!!!

South Lake Union District

Weber Thompson

225 Terry Ave. N, Suite 200

Seattle 98109

<http://www.weberthompson.com/contact.html>

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **PROGRAM:**

Design plans for the new CIVIC SQUARE PROJECT in Seattle.

**The Civic Square Project is the entire block just west of City Hall,
between 3rd and 4th and between Cherry and James.**

**GGLO will offer views of the proposed plans to date
both for the Open Space as well as the retail, office, and condos.**

**The City of Seattle's Fleets & Facilities is managing this development and the
City of Seattle's Department of Planning & Development is managing
the design and permitting.**

**This Program will be your opportunity
to review the design for the Civic Square and offer comments.**

- **Short business meeting will follow the Program**
- **Next Meeting Dates:**

April 16, 2009

July 16, 2009

October 15, 2009

RSVP: maria.langlais@seattle.gov

Meeting Notes for January 15, 2009 Quarterly NWUD Council Meeting

Civic Square Project Presentation

Robert Smith, Associate with Foster & Partners, and Sean Canady, Principle with GGLO, gave a presentation highlighting the universal design elements of the Civic Square Project in downtown Seattle. The architectural team described their efforts to incorporate UD principles into all aspects of the project design, and to ensure that the result is attractive, functional and sustainable. The attention to inclusive design and accessibility was very encouraging. Questions about details such as elevator access and timing, accessible pathways, and the impact of wind tunnels on pedestrians were met with thorough responses.

Project Description (from Foster & Partners website):

“The Seattle Civic Square project, which completes the final phase of a ten-year civic masterplan, provides a vital new focus for Seattle’s civic life, reinvigorating the south downtown area for the whole city’s benefit. Civic Square’s rich mix of residential, commercial, cultural, civic and retail uses will create a lively destination in downtown Seattle for people to live, work and play. The public plaza is sculpted to accommodate a range of activities and scales, from personal conversations, to events of a civic nature. An amphitheatre embeds the Civic Square into the city, forming a visual link between City Hall, 4th Avenue and the new People’s Pavilion diagonally opposite.

At the heart of the scheme is a large public plaza, flanked by a landmark 400ft tower designed to achieve LEED Platinum, which will be an exemplary model of sustainable development for Seattle. The base of the tower meets the ground with a series of permeable urban rooms that contribute to the vibrancy of the district, integrating connections with the surrounding streetscape and the new light rail connection under the site. Here, sustainable strategies will be displayed for the benefit of the entire city, with storm water management measures integrated into Civic Square landscaping. Rivulets, fountains and a dramatic cascade animate the entrance to the square from the light rail below, creating a dynamic focus for this key civic forum.”

Business Meeting

- The Council was grateful to Wolf Saar and the firm of Weber Thompson for hosting the meeting in their wonderful South Lake Union building. Attendees were interested in receiving a tour, however, due to the limited time available, we agreed to include this as an agenda item for the April meeting. The Weber Thompson location will be the site for all scheduled 2009 NWUDC meetings.
- Maria Langlais from the Seattle-King County Area Agency on Aging will be filling in for Margaret Casey through the Spring. Margaret is in Olympia during the legislative session using her lobbying expertise to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities aren’t negatively impacted by the State’s budget crisis.

- Art Mussman reported that the results of the 2008 AARP/NAHB Livable Communities Awards had been announced. One of the four winners is a condominium community on Bainbridge Island - [Vinyard Lane](#).

For a list of all the winners, visit the AARP website:

http://www.aarp.org/family/housing/livable_communities/

Applications for the 2009 contest in the builder, developer and remodel categories are available on the AARP website (see link above). Application deadline is June 5, 2009.

- Website Updates: Prior to leaving for Olympia, Margaret shared her thoughts on an updated NWUDC website with Maria who drafted an overview of key elements (included as attachment to these notes). Rosemary stated that there is a great deal of interest in universal design right now and the council needs a vibrant, informative and attractive website for people to access. Comments from the council on key elements included:
 - ✓ Focus on sustainability: “Why” is UD important? Economic, environmental and social sustainability. Money is at the top of everyone’s agenda. Show people why UD is a good investment.
 - ✓ Marketing: “How” does the council promote UD? Don’t use photos of people in wheelchairs. Get people to embrace the idea that UD does not mean building a home for people with disabilities, but a home for everyone at all stages of life. Sell things to the top and they will trickle down - the example of the “pot filler” on the stove which is a desirable high end home detail but is also a UD feature to help people who might not otherwise be able to carry a big pot of water from the sink to the stove.
 - ✓ Use carrots not sticks. ADA is a stick, whereas UD is a carrot. Make it a moral imperative.
 - ✓ Products - This is one area that the NWUDC has not focused on as much except with regard to items in home design - appliances, kitchen and bath design. More work on this is needed in the future.
 - ✓ Housing Task Force Results: These are almost finalized. Sandra will “dust them off” and develop a check list or set of guidelines for builders to be included on the website.
 - ✓ Tom will send recent presentations to Maria, including the one from Master Builder’s, and a demographic summary report.

A logo was selected at the last meeting, and Maria will follow up with Don Willott to get a copy of it. Rosemary and Maria will research costs associated with professional web development and maintenance. Given the length of time before the next meeting, we will send out an email to see who is interested in working on web site updates.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2009 at Weber Thompson, 225 Terry Ave N, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Northwest Universal Design Council - Web Site Elements (distributed at 1/15/09 Meeting)

<What?>

Environments for All

- Living Spaces - housing
- Landscape - sidewalks, pathways, transportation, mobility, community spaces
- Products - things people use

<Who?>

- NWUDC Members
- Meeting schedule/minutes
- Contacts

<Why?>

- Mission/Purpose
- Benefits - health promotion, quality of life, \$, ?

<How?>

- Policy / Advocacy / Education
- Resources / Research (could also be subset of each element in Environments for All).
- Events (are there any other than the meetings?)

Other Items/Ideas

- Incorporate quotes from current website into design
- How/where to include principles (are these universally agreed upon, or were they created and agreed upon by NWUDC)?
- Is there a need for calendar and/or news section?
- Is there a need for a blog or other interactive tool?
- Available url's include:
 - nwuniversaldesign.org
 - environmentsforall.org