

New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District Design Guidelines Project



Project Overview

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the Portland Development Commission are developing a set of recommended design guidelines for the New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District. This 10-block historic district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 because of the area's significant history and heritage of Asian culture, industry, commerce and architecture.

The primary objective of this project is to develop and adopt historic design guidelines for the New Chinatown/Japantown historic district through a community process that will encourage development that respects the district's multi-ethnic history, recognizes Portland's relationship to the Pacific Rim, and reflects today's Pan-Asian culture.

Once adopted by City Council, the design guidelines will be used as approval criteria to be met as part of historic resource reviews of both new construction and exterior alterations/additions to existing buildings.

About Design Guidelines

Design guidelines are qualitative statements that address the desired character of development in a certain area (in this case, the existing New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District). Guidelines apply to the exterior appearance and material quality of buildings and other structures. The design guidelines will guide new construction and alterations such as new floor area, awnings, signs, and rooftop equipment.

The guidelines are written to be flexible, yet serve as approval criteria for any design changes within the district. They are not applicable to types of uses within a building or to interiors. The resulting document will include a background and context discussion preceding the actual design guidelines, each of which will be illustrated with photographs (both modern and historic) and options for how each guideline can be met.



- Contributing
- Non-Contributing
- New Construction
- Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Boundary
- New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District Boundary
- Vacant Lots

About the District

The district is bound NW Glisan Street to the north, NW 3rd Avenue to the east, West Burnside Street to the south, and NW 5th Avenue to the west. Primary architectural styles include Italianate, 20th Century Commercial, and Moderne.

Uses in the district include residential uses, office, retail, hotel and parking lots. The Skidmore/Old Town Historic District boundary overlaps the New Chinatown/Japantown; therefore 8 buildings along NW 3rd Avenue between West Burnside and NW Everett are included in both historic districts.

Roles and Responsibilities

A central focus of this process is the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) formed to provide advisory recommendations to the project team based upon their knowledge and expertise related to land use, architecture, history, property development and familiarity with the community. The committee will evaluate information presented by project staff and the consultant team and provide feedback on key elements of the design guidelines. The committee will develop an advisory recommendation regarding the proposed design guidelines which will be forwarded to the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission for additional refinement. The Portland City Council is responsible for making the final decision regarding the adoption of the design guidelines for the New Chinatown/Japantown District following guidance from the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, the project team, the committee and the community.



The Stakeholder Advisory Committee has identified a number of general values, reflected in a set of guiding principles, that will serve as a touchstone for the development of the design guidelines. These values include “telling the district’s story” through:

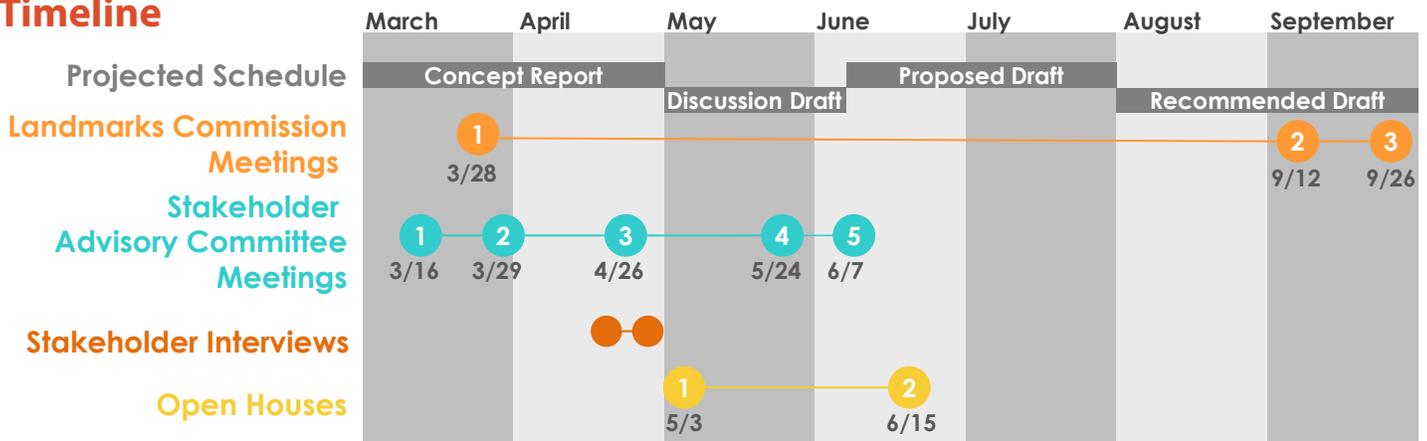
- Sense of place
- Historic character and context
- Cultural respect and authenticity
- Connectivity
- Enduring, quality improvements
- Vibrant, active streetscapes and built environment



How you can provide input

Members of the public can provide input to the project team and the committee through the project website, stakeholder interviews, open houses, and public comment at committee meetings. Join the project mailing list to receive email updates at www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/70480.

Timeline



* Anticipated City Council adoption early 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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