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.

The shed-style longhouses of this central Coast Salish village are similar, though smaller than those usually built further south, around Puget Sound. 1866  (Royal British Columbia Museum)
"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 S’ähl, 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

KEY:
1 Little Crossing-Over Place
A small portage where the ruins of up to 8 longhouses were found in 1852

2 Grounds of the Leader’s Camp
Also known as “chief place”, the name of the village where Soowalt (Chief Seattle’s brother) was headman.

3 Tecumseh’s Camp

4 Fresh water stream
Land access for Coast Salish people along the Salish Sea/historic Seattle water’s edge.

Dugout Canoes at the Washington St. Boat landing, circa 1896. University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections. NA897

From: Native Village to Metropolis, Burke Museum 2012
Neighborhood Context

1. Fortson Square
2. Chief Seattle Club
3. Quintessa Apartments
4. 405 2nd Ave Ext S
5. Frye Apartments
6. Frye Garage
7. Canton Lofts Project
8. Union Gospel Mission
9. Masins Building
10. Weyerhaeuser Building
11. Occidental Square
12. Metropole Building
13. Interurban Building
14. Smith Tower
15. Morrison Hotel
16. Prefontaine Place
17. City Hall Park
18. Tashiro Kaplan Artist Lofts/Arts Building
19. The Loft
Legend
- Areaway
- Imminent Construction
- In Process for Change
- Tree Canopy Cover

Neighborhood Context
1. Fortson Square
2. fall Together
3. Chief Seattle Club
4. Quintessa Apartments
5. 405 2nd Ave Ext Square
6. Prefontaine Place
7. City Hall Park
8. Occidental Square
9. King Street Station

CONTEXT | AREAWAYS & URBAN FOREST
SITE GIVENS

Legend
- Fortson Square Redesign Area (4430sf)
- Sidewalk Area - sidewalk grading to be maintained (3300sf)

Total Area 7730sf

- Building entry
- Transit node
- Bicycle Lane

Bus Stop:
- 2nd Ave & Yesler

High-volume Pedestrian Crossing
to/from Pioneer Square Transit Station

Cafe & Clinic Entry FFE +38.00
Residential Entry FFE +38.75
Storefront FFE +46.42

Scale 1"=30'-0"
USABLE SPACE & THE POTENTIAL OF FORTSON SQUARE

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF “USABLE SPACE”?
- Gentle topography, no slopes greater than 5%
- Minimal interruptions in the ground plane
- Can be used for a variety of activities
- Conducive to a variety of circulation and resting patterns

WHAT IS “SPILLOVER SPACE”?
As the primary pedestrian routes around Fortson Square, Spillover Space refers to the sidewalk rights-of-way along Yesler Way and 2nd Avenue Extension South that could complement and/or be fluid with Usable Space within Fortson Square; existing grading must be maintained

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES THAT COULD TAKE PLACE IN USABLE SPACE:
- Cultural performance space to accommodate drumming, singing, and prayer
- Outdoor Cafe space to compliment new Cafe planned for Chief Seattle Club
- Native Works Kiosk
USABLE SPACE DIAGRAM
OPPORTUNITY OPTION A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

- ± 900sf of Usable Space
- ± 400sf of Spillover Space
  » Total: ±1300sf of Redesign Space
OPPORTUNITY OPTION B: REMOVE SOUTHERN INTERIOR TREE

- ± 3050sf of Usable Space
- ± 1600sf of Spillover Space

> Total: 4650sf of Redesign Space

Usable Space ± 3050sf
Upper Area 1090sf
Lower Area 1960sf

Spillover Space ± 1600sf

Tree being replaced as part of building construction for falfal
OPPORTUNITY OPTION C: REMOVE BOTH INTERIOR TREES

- ± 4075sf of Usable Space
- ± 3375sf of Spillover Space

Total: 7450sf of Redesign Space
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

FORTSON SQUARE’S CULTURAL CONTEXT AND THE NEED FOR A REDESIGN
Seattle has the unique distinction of being the country’s only major city named for a Native American Chief, yet we have no outdoor public place dedicated to the original inhabitants. As the oldest neighborhood in the city, Pioneer Square has a rich history of indigenous pre-settlement habitation along the tidal flats, stream, and lagoon of this once-wooded coastline of the Salish Sea. With the opportunity for a redesign of Fortson Square, we have a chance to not only remedy our oversight but to also significantly contribute to our public realm in the process.

Fortson Square has a reputation of being a neglected and dangerous place that the community desires to transform into an attractive and safe addition to the neighborhood. Chief Si’ahl and the Duwamish tribe worked hard to welcome and assist the white settlers by providing guides, transportation, and local knowledge. As a key crossing point from Downtown into Pioneer Square, Fortson Square should also be a gateway that honors the history here. The Square can be reconceived as a new “little crossing place” where multiple peoples, cultures and ideas can be shared and enjoyed. With the coming Native presence on the Square and the desire to activate and showcase Native traditions and art, there is an opportunity to recreate the Square into a welcoming place and that is culturally resonant to the Salish peoples and expressive of their art and traditions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Fortson Square should be redesigned to optimize the capacity of the host (Chief Seattle Club and indigenous peoples) to offer maximum 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.

COLLABORATORS & PARTNERS
Overcoming the historic neglect of this space and reimagining it to host a dynamic array of stewards and users will require a multi-faceted approach to planning and design. For this reason, the design process will involve a myriad of community collaborators and partners whose voices, expertise, and needs will contribute to the final vision for the Square:

- CM Sally Bagshaw’s Office
- Alliance for Pioneer Square
- SDOT
- HSD
- Working Group
  - Select group of 10-15 constituents (neighbors and City departments) that will be a continuous part of the design process (see schedule)
  - Alliance for Pioneer Square and Chief Seattle Club to finalize and invite the group
  - Assumed design team will meet monthly with the Working Group during design phases (see schedule)
PRELIMINARY REDESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

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 Food trucks to park (along Yesler Ave – not in the Square)

SECURITY
- Improve the public safety of the space.

MAINTENANCE
- Determine who will be responsible for the maintenance for the new Square.
### Chief Seattle Club New building Construction

**Entitlements and Permitting:**

- Project Introduction to Board
- Concept Briefing
- Interim design meeting (if required), date TBD
- Final Design C of A Application
- Final C of A Briefing (ARC/1 meeting, date TBD)
- Board approval of Final C of A

**SDOT SIP Process** (13-months)

- Community Outreach (Fortson Square)

**New Fortson Square Design:**

- Schematic Design
- Design Development
- Construction Documents
- Bidding & Negotiation
- Construction Administration

**Construction:**

- Mobilization & Early Work
- Shoring & Excavation
- Foundation & Concrete
- Square Construction

Notes:

1. SDOT SIP process should be started before submitting for Preliminary C of A with PSPB. Any sidewalk improvements are under their purview and therefore Board needs to be briefed on what SDOT will be allow/require.
2. SDOT SIP process 60% approval is required before submitting for Construction Permit, we maybe able to have SDOT reviewer approve us for submission without it. Civil will need to track this.

*See notes on reverse*