



Rendering by Notion Workshop / Welcome Pole by Shaun Peterson



**?á!?al**  
**TOGETHER**

Building Sacred Space in Seattle

**REDESIGN OF**

**FORTSON SQUARE**

**CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT  
WORKING GROUP MEETING #1**



**CHIEF  
SEATTLE  
CLUB**

August 7, 2019

# COAST SALISH TERRITORIES



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}

# sd'id'elfaliv LITTLE CROSSING-OVER PLACE

“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 Si’ahl, 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

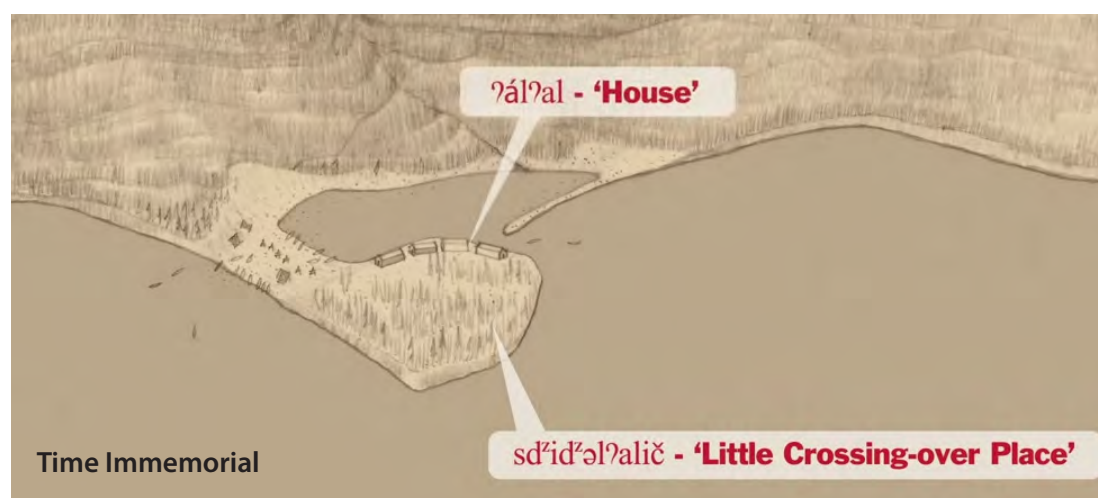
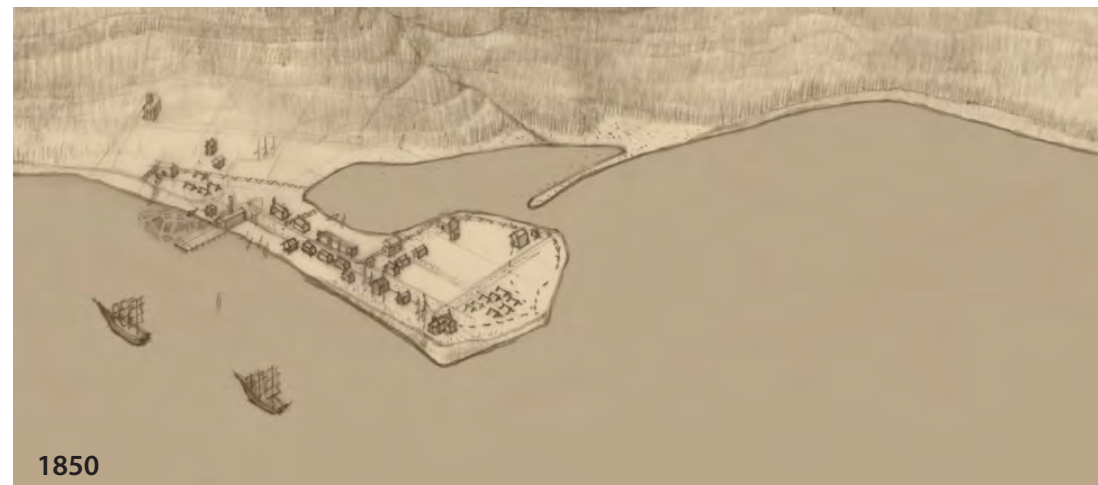
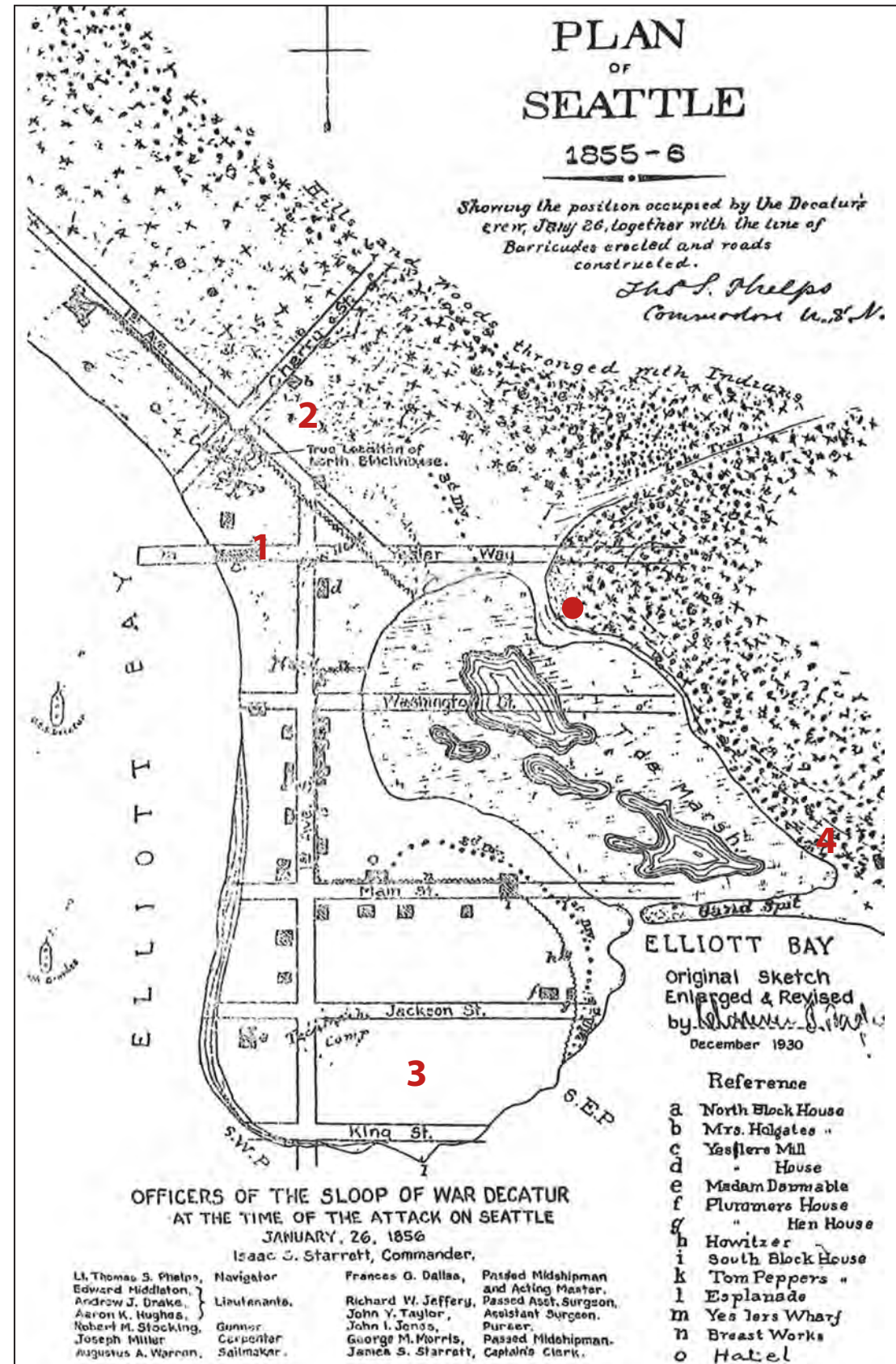


Image & labels from: [Native Village to Metropolis](#), Burke Museum 2012



**KEY:**

- ʔálʔal Together
- 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

LITTLE CROSSING-OVER PLACE | PROJECT AREA



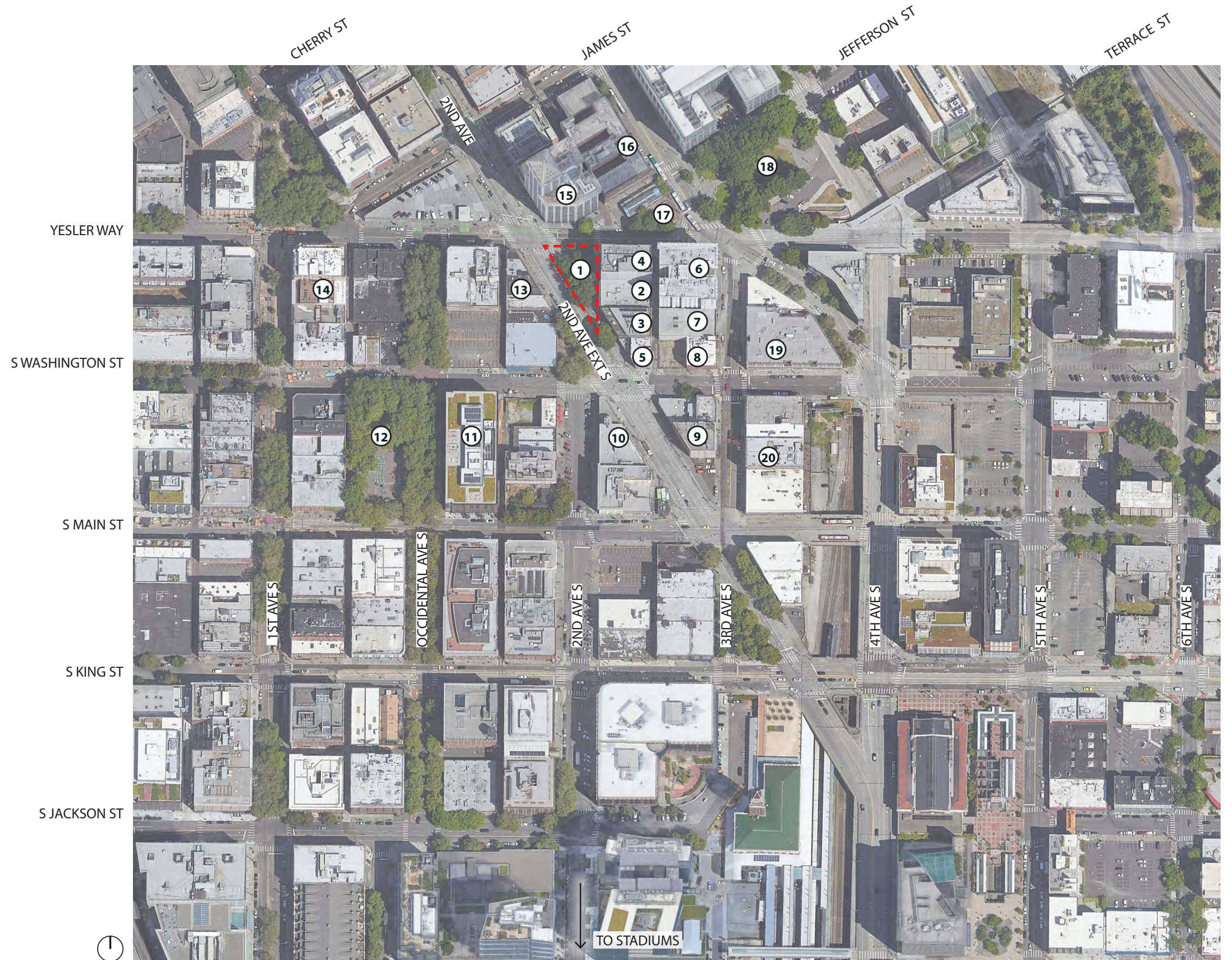
Project Area

From: Native Village to Metropolis, Burke Museum 2012



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

# CONTEXT | CURRENT NEIGHBORHOOD



## Neighborhood Context





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



TO STADIUMS

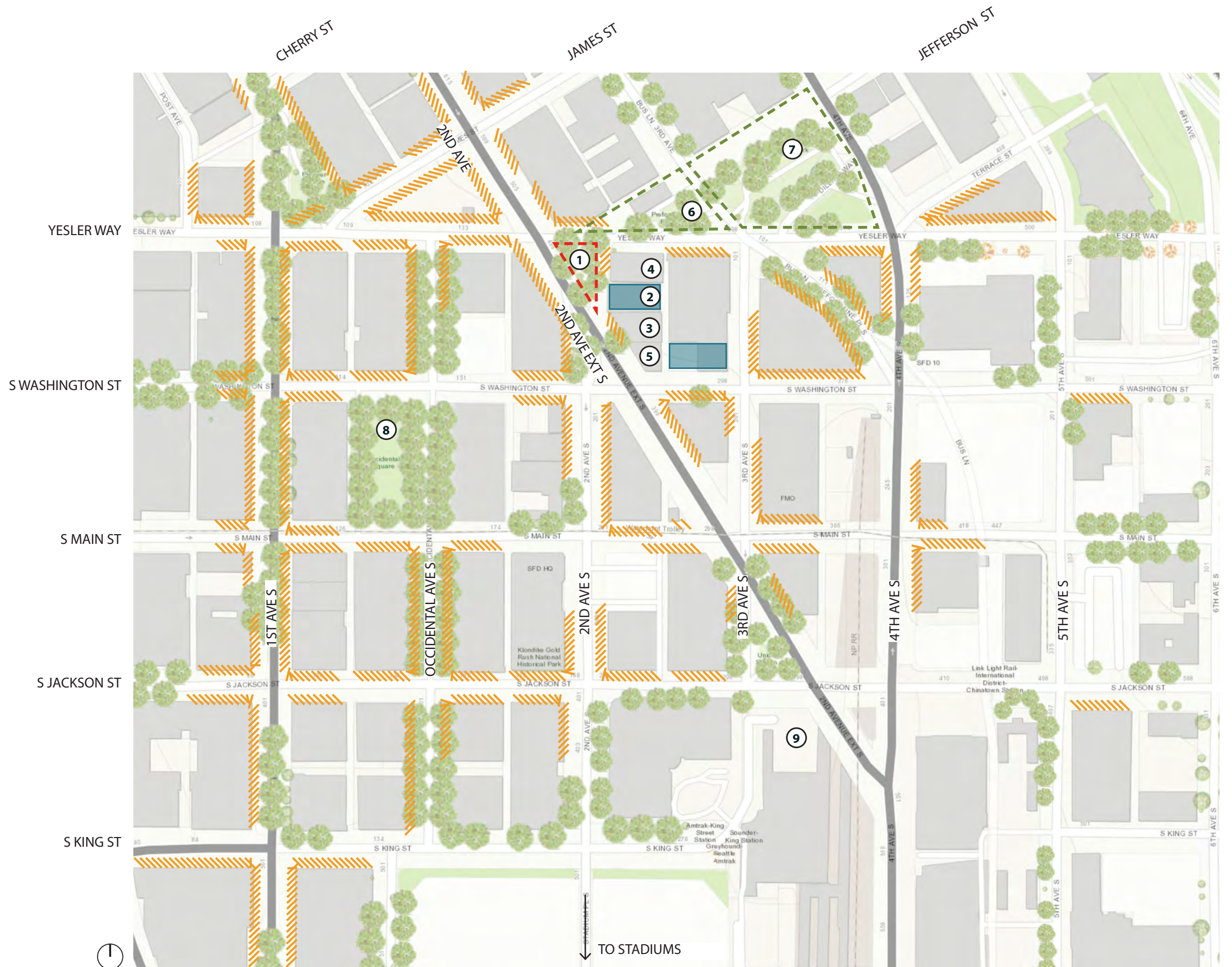


**Legend**

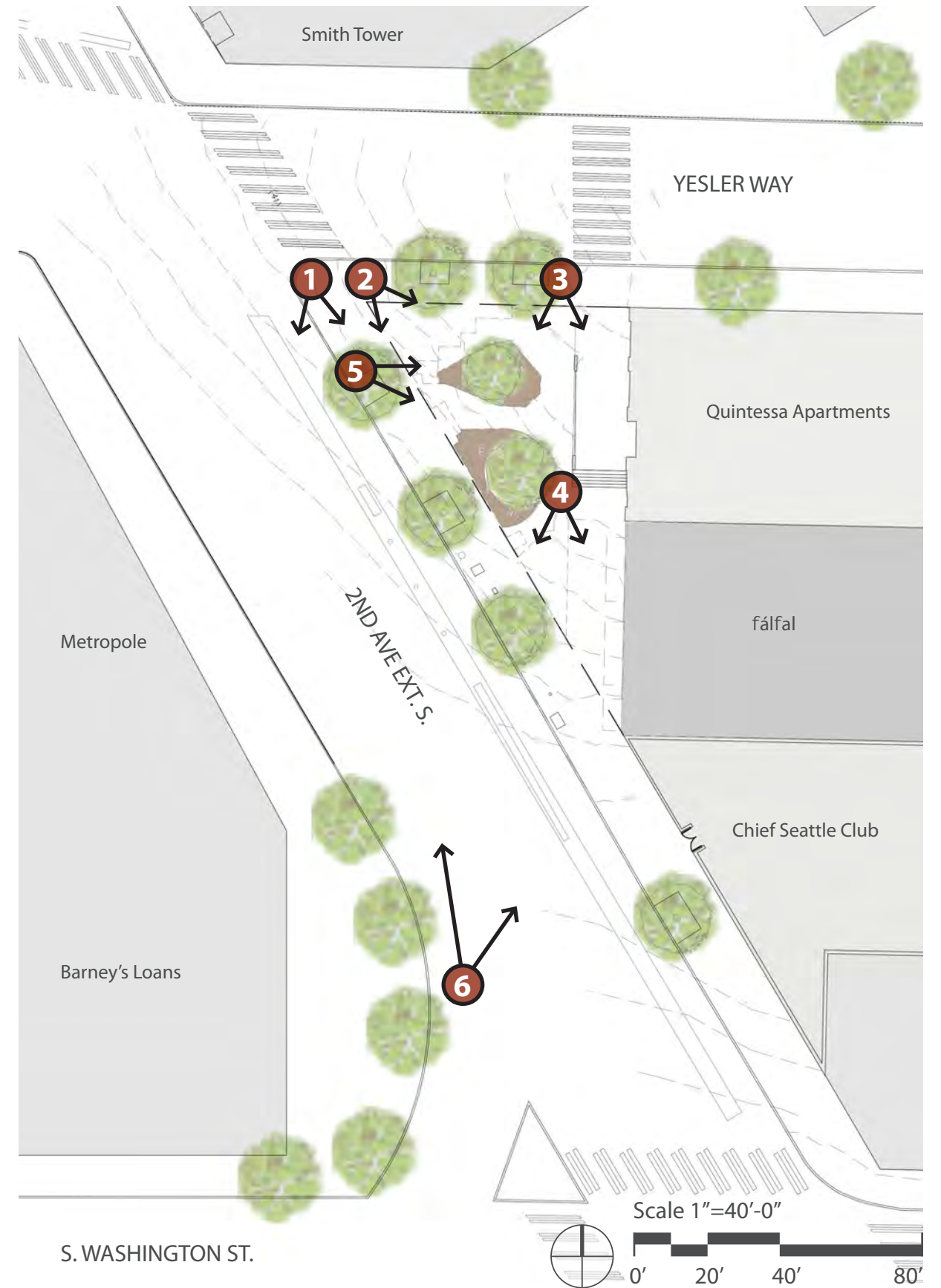
-  Areaway
-  Imminent Construction
-  In Process for Change
-  Tree Canopy Cover

**Neighborhood Context**

1. Fortson Square
2. fálfa! 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



# PHOTO INVENTORY



# SITE GIVENS



## Legend

Fortson Square Redesign Area (4430sf)

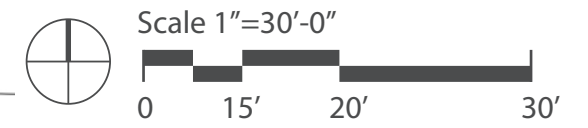
Sidewalk Area - sidewalk grading to be maintained (3300sf)

**Total Area 7730sf**

Building entry

Transit node

Bicycle Lane





# 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:

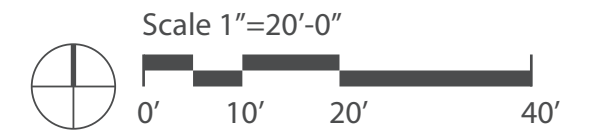
- Cultural performance space to accommodate drumming, singing, and prayer
- Outdoor Cafe space to compliment new Cafe planned for Chief Seattle Club
- Native Works Kiosk



# USABLE SPACE DIAGRAM

## OPPORTUNITY OPTION A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

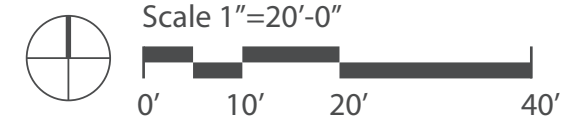
- ± 900sf of Usable Space
- ± 400sf of Spillover Space
- » Total: ±1300sf of Redesign Space



# USABLE SPACE DIAGRAM

## OPPORTUNITY OPTION B: REMOVE SOUTHERN INTERIOR TREE

- ± 3050sf of Usable Space
- ± 1600sf of Spillover Space
- » Total: 4650sf of Redesign Space



**JONES JONES**  
ARCHITECTS  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS  
PLANNERS

# USABLE SPACE DIAGRAM

## OPPORTUNITY OPTION C: REMOVE BOTH INTERIOR TREES

- ± 4075sf of Usable Space
- ± 3375sf of Spillover Space
- » Total: 7450sf of Redesign Space



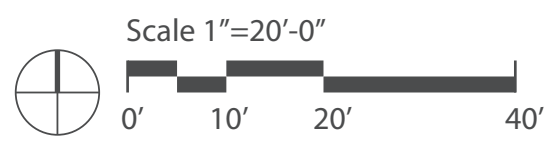
YESLER WAY

2ND AVE EXT. S.

Usable Space ± 4075sf

Tree being replaced as part of building construction for fálfal

Spillover Space ± 3375sf



# 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:
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

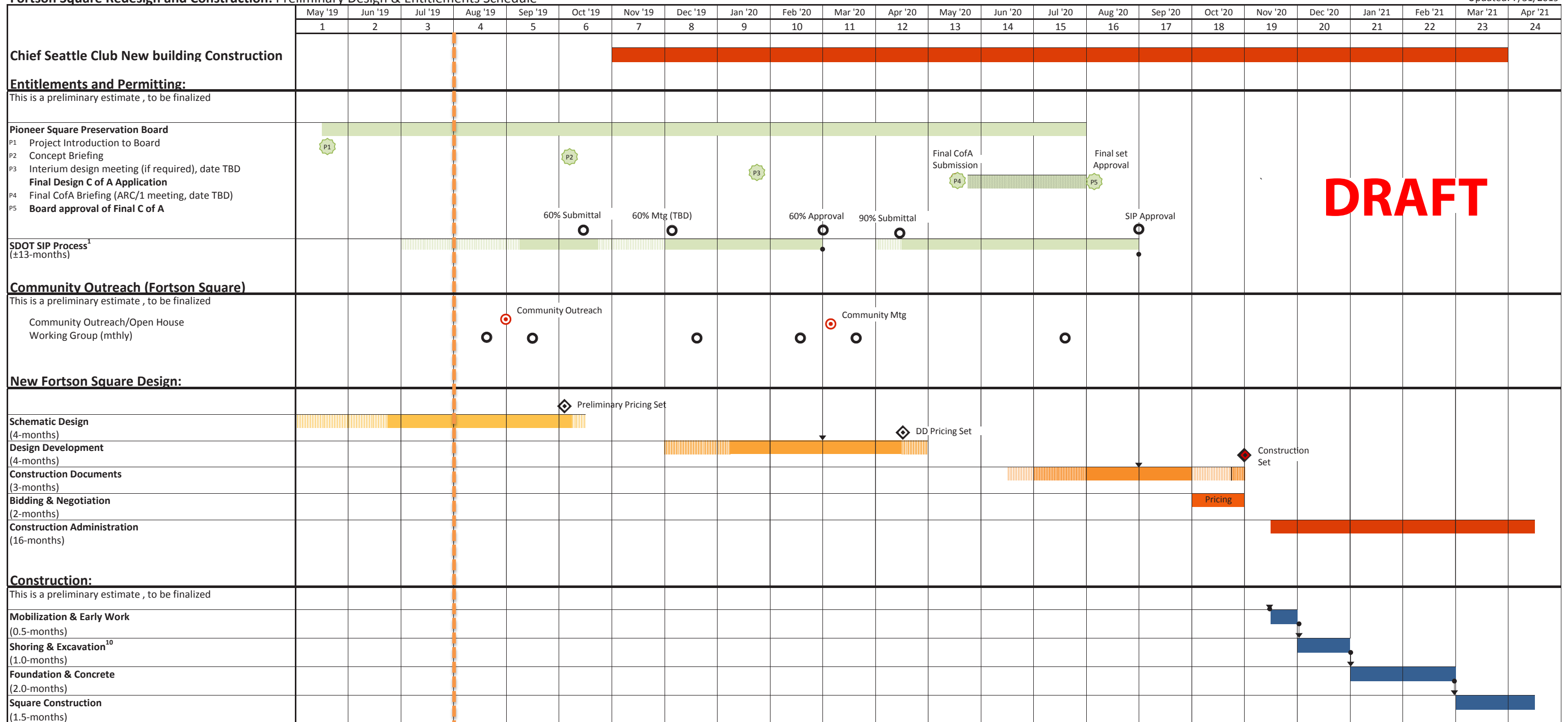
## MAINTENANCE

- Determine who will be responsible for the maintenance for the new Square.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DESIGN SCHEDULE

## Fortson Square Redesign and Construction: Preliminary Design & Entitlements Schedule

Updated: 7/31/2019



**DRAFT**

\* See notes on reverse

**Notes**  
<sup>1</sup> SDOT SIP process should be started before submitting for Preliminary Cof A with PSPB. Any sidewalk improvements are under their purvue and therefore Board needs to be briefed on what SDOT will be allow/require. 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.



rendering by NBBJ for WorkShop  
welcome sign by Sherry Peterson



JONES ■ JONES