STAFF BRIEF

This document is the staff’s comparison of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, Design Guidelines for Denver Landmark Structures and Districts, the Landmark Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 30, Revised Municipal Code) and other applicable adopted area guidelines as applied to the proposed application. It is intended to provide guidance during the commission’s deliberation of the proposed application. Guidelines are available at www.denvergov.org/preservation

Project: #2021-COA-255
LPC Meeting: June 15, 2021
Address: 100 West 14th Ave Pkwy
Staff: Brittany Bryant
Historic Dist/DLM: Denver Civic Center
Council District: #10- Chris Hinds
Applicant: Fentress Architects | Machado Silvetti | Grundy Construction Management | DAM

Project Scope Under Review:
Site Work – Pergola Shade Structure

Pergola Height: 10’-6”
Pergola Footprint: 24’-6” X 54’-10” X 50’

Materials:
Structure: Steel frame
Louvers: Aluminum airfoil

Staff Summary:
The applicant, Fentress Architects, Machado Silvetti and Grundy Construction, and the Denver Art Museum are requesting approval for a new pergola shade structure, in front of the new Martin Building Welcome Center. The new pergola shade structure will be located along 13th Avenue in Acoma Plaza - to support The Ponti restaurant, a ground floor tenant located on the level one of the Sie Welcome Center.

The pergola shade structure is needed as the concave glass of the Welcome Center reflects a significant amount of sunlight into Acoma Plaza. The DAM first tested shade umbrellas to resolve the problem, however, the sunlight burned through the umbrellas. The outdoor patio is a significant portion of programmatic space for The Ponti restaurant.

Excerpted from Denver’s Civic Center Design Guidelines, October 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>Meets Guideline?</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. Connectivity and Park Composition b1. Activity Nodes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased activity around Civic Center is key to enlivening the Park. Locations within the Area of Influence where heightened activity should be encouraged are</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>The DAM is located in an area identified an activity node. Increased activity is encouraged in these areas to support Civic Center Park is encouraged. An outdoor patio space will enliven the park and create daily activity within the space. The outdoor dining space will encourage public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
represented by orange dots. These are support activity nodes.

Guidelines:
1. Encourage park activity within Civic Center at key activity nodes.
2. Provide physical infrastructure within Civic Center to support and encourage activity.
   - Ensure new improvement are compatible with the Park’s architectural and historical significance.
   - Design and construction of new improvements shall follow applicable sections of these Guidelines.
3. Encourage activities supporting the civic role and park character of Civic Center ensuring they are compatible with its historic character.
   - Create programs and event in Civic Center to encourage daily activity within the Park.
4. Encourage programs, event and related minor improvements at support activity nodes to increase daily activity around Civic Center.
5. Encourage public gathering supporting the Civic Center and reinforcing its importance as Denver’s primary public gathering space.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>c. Architectural Scale</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center’s three-dimensional buildings, structures and features exhibit a distinct neoclassical architectural scale, inspired by the classical architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. Neoclassical structures are typically symmetrical, feature columns rising the full height of the building and are frequently topped by a triangular pediment with a domed roof. The State Capitol, Denver’s City &amp; Country Building and the McNichols Building reflect these principles. The proportions of Civic Center’s historic features provide the Park’s cohesive architectural character and inform its spatial organization. These proportions shall be reflected in the design of New Elements and all modifications proposed for the Park, including existing building, structures or features. Civic Center’s architectural scale is described by a series</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of points, described by the relationship between the height of the structure and its width at the base. The pergola shade structure is human scaled. It is 10’-6” in height and will be located along East 13th Avenue and in Acoma plaza. Portions of the shade structure will be located under the ellipse volume of the new Welcome Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The pergola shade structure reflects the proportions of the new Welcome Center, the alterations made to Acoma Plaza and the alterations made to the site of the DAM, including new restaurant terraces, the elliptical courtyard, the lower courtyard, and the prow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The main entrance of the Welcome Center will remain prominent and the pergola shade structure will only be located in the restaurant terrace for The Ponti restaurant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The new pergola structure is physical infrastructure that is compatible with the existing DAM materials and surrounding historic context. The pergola will have limited to no visibility from the park and the historic Ponti building will remain the primary view from the park.
of distinct vertical heights consistently reflected in the facades of the Park’s building and features. This is illustrated on the diagrams of the Voorhies Memorial and the McNichols Building on page 29, and on the section of the Park on this page.

- a/b - 2 to 4-foot height (human-scale)
- c - 12-foot height (human-scale, McNichols base)
- d - 20-foot height (Park kiosks, bottom of Voorhies cornice)
- e - Top of Voorhies Memorial cornice, bottom of Greek Theater cornice, and bottom of windows on McNichols Building
- f - Top of Voorhies Memorial and Greek Theater and bottom of McNichols Building cornice
- g - Top of City & County Building cornice
- h - Top of City & County Building obelisk

Guidelines:
2. Reflect the proportions of Civic Center’s architectural scale in the design of New Elements.
3. Reflect the proportions of Civic Center’s scale in the design of any improvements or modifications to the Park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>f. Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Guidelines:
2. Allow the use of new, contemporary materials complementing the Park’s original materials and compatible with its neoclassical design.

- Acceptable primary materials for three-dimensional features—such as walls, columns or structures are:
  - Steel or painted steel
  - Bronze, copper, aluminum, or painted aluminum

| Yes |

The new pergola shade structure is steel with aluminum louvers.

The material construction and finished of the pergola structure are compatible with the new Welcome Center, the historic Ponti towers, the historic tube entrance, and the Hamilton building.

Recommendation: Approval

Basis: The DAM is located within an area of Civic Center Park that increased activity and public gathering space is encouraged. The pergola shade structure will help activate the outdoor dining space of The Ponti restaurant. The structure is compatible with the architectural scale of Civic Center and constructed of appropriate materials.
Suggested Motion: I move to APPROVE application #2021-COA-255 for the new pergola shade structure at 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway per Civic Center design guideline B1, C, and F, character-defining features for Denver’s Civic Center historic district, presented testimony, submitted documentation and information provided in the staff report.
1962 (corrected 1967) Sanborn Map of the DAM