

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE 126831
COUNCIL BILL 120566

AN ORDINANCE relating to historic preservation; imposing controls upon West Seattle High School, a landmark designated by the Landmarks Preservation Board under Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and adding it to the Table of Historical Landmarks contained in Chapter 25.32 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC), establishes a procedure for the designation and preservation of sites, improvements, and objects having historical, cultural, architectural, engineering, or geographic significance; and

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”), after a public meeting on May 6, 1981, voted to approve the nomination of the improvement located at 4075 SW Stevens Street and the site on which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as “West Seattle High School”) for designation as a landmark under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, after a public meeting on June 17, 1981, the Board voted to approve the designation of West Seattle High School under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2022, the Board and West Seattle High School’s owner agreed to controls and incentives to be applied to specific features or characteristics of the designated landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Board recommends that the City Council enact a designating ordinance approving the controls and incentives; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Designation. Under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.12.660, the designation
2 by the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”) of the improvement located at 4075 SW Stevens
3 Street and the site on which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as
4 “West Seattle High School”) is acknowledged.

5 A. Legal Description. West Seattle High School is located on the property legally
6 described as:

7 The area of land bounded by the south property line of Hiawatha Playfield on the north
8 side, the west edge of the Walnut Avenue SW right-of-way on the east side, the
9 centerline of SW Winthrop Street on the south side (extended westward to the east edge
10 of the California Avenue SW right-of-way), and the east edge of the California Avenue
11 SW right-of-way on the west side.

12 B. Specific Features or Characteristics Designated. Under SMC 25.12.660.A.2, the Board
13 designated the following specific features or characteristics of West Seattle High School:

- 14 1. The site as illustrated in Attachment A to this ordinance.
- 15 2. The exteriors of the buildings located on the designated site.

16 C. Basis of Designation. The designation was made because West Seattle High School is
17 more than 25 years old; has significant character, interest, or value as a part of the development,
18 heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation; has integrity or the ability to
19 convey its significance; and satisfies the following SMC 25.12.350 provisions:

- 20 1. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or
21 period, or of a method of construction (SMC 25.12.350.D).

22 Section 2. Controls. The following controls are imposed on the features or characteristics
23 of West Seattle High School that were designated by the Board for preservation:

24 A. Certificate of Approval Process.

- 25 1. Except as provided in subsection 2.A.2 or subsection 2.B of this ordinance, the
26 owner must obtain a Certificate of Approval issued by the Board according to SMC Chapter

1 25.12, or the time for denying a Certificate of Approval must have expired, before the owner
2 may make alterations or significant changes to the features or characteristics of West Seattle
3 High School that were designated by the Board for preservation.

4 2. No Certificate of Approval is required for the following:

5 a. Any in-kind maintenance or repairs of the features or characteristics of
6 West Seattle High School that were designated by the Board for preservation.

7 b. Removal of trees less than 6 inches in diameter measured 4-1/2 feet
8 above ground.

9 c. Removal of mature trees that are not included in any of the following
10 categories:

11 1) Significant to the property's history or design, as outlined in the
12 nomination application.

13 2) A designated Heritage Tree on the City of Seattle/Plant
14 Amnesty list.

15 3) An Exceptional Tree per City of Seattle regulations.

16 d. Planting of new trees in locations that will never obscure the view of
17 designated features of the landmark, or physically undermine a built feature of the landmark.

18 e. Planting or removal of shrubs, perennials, or annuals, in locations that
19 will never obscure the view of designated features of the landmark, or physically undermine a
20 built feature of the landmark.

21 f. Installation, removal, or alteration of the following site furnishings:
22 benches, chairs, tables, swings, movable planters, trash/recycling receptacles, and bike racks.

1 g. Installation, removal, or alteration (including repair) of underground
2 irrigation and underground utilities, provided that the site is restored in kind.

3 h. Repaving and restriping of existing asphalt paved areas.

4 i. Installation, removal, or alteration of signage for accessibility
5 compliance, school safety, and other signage as required by City code or Seattle Public Schools
6 safety signage for playgrounds; e.g., “No Guns” or “No Trespassing”.

7 j. Installation, removal, or alteration of a building identification sign
8 defined by the following criteria:

9 1) The sign shall be freestanding on the site.

10 2) The sign shall not be attached to built historic features.

11 3) The sign location shall not obscure the view of designated
12 features of the buildings or site.

13 4) The sign’s content may include the building name, street
14 address, and logo associated with the school’s identity.

15 5) The sign shall not be internally illuminated.

16 6) The sign shall be no more than 30 square feet in area, and the
17 top of the sign shall not exceed 4 feet above grade.

18 k. Removal of portable classroom buildings.

19 l. Installation or removal of interior, temporary window shading devices
20 that are operable and do not obscure the glazing when in the open position.

21 m. Installation, removal, or alteration of curbs, bollards, or wheelstops in
22 parking areas.

1 n. Demolition of non-historic building additions, provided associated
2 alterations or changes to the Landmark are addressed per subsection 2.B.3.n of this ordinance.

3 o. Minor alterations or changes to non-historic building additions located
4 on the designated portion of the site, provided they do not increase the footprint or height of that
5 portion of the building. Art installations shall be addressed under subsection 2.B.3.i of this
6 ordinance.

7 p. Installation of new single-story portable classrooms or a storage shed,
8 when located within the area illustrated in Attachment A to this ordinance.

9 B. City Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO) Approval Process.

10 1. The CHPO may review and approve alterations or significant changes to the
11 features or characteristics listed in subsection 2.B.3 of this ordinance according to the following
12 procedure:

13 a. The owner shall submit to the CHPO a written request for the alterations
14 or significant changes, including applicable drawings or specifications.

15 b. If the CHPO, upon examination of submitted plans and specifications,
16 determines that the alterations or significant changes are consistent with the purposes of SMC
17 Chapter 25.12, the CHPO shall approve the alterations or significant changes without further
18 action by the Board.

19 2. If the CHPO does not approve the alterations or significant changes, the owner
20 may submit revised materials to the CHPO, or apply to the Board for a Certificate of Approval
21 under SMC Chapter 25.12. The CHPO shall transmit a written decision on the owner's request to
22 the owner within 14 days of receipt of the request. Failure of the CHPO to timely transmit a
23 written decision constitutes approval of the request.

1 3. CHPO approval of alterations or significant changes to the features or
2 characteristics of West Seattle High School that were designated by the Board for preservation is
3 available for the following:

4 a. The installation, removal, or alteration of ducts, conduits, HVAC vents,
5 grills, pipes, panels, weatherheads, wiring, meters, utility connections, downspouts and gutters,
6 and/or other similar mechanical, electrical, and telecommunication elements necessary for the
7 normal operation of the buildings or site.

8 b. Installation, removal, or alteration of exterior light fixtures, exterior
9 security lighting, and security system equipment.

10 c. Installation of a new storage shed when located outside of the area
11 approved in subsection 2.A.2.p of this ordinance.

12 d. Removal of trees more than 6 inches in diameter measured 4-1/2 feet
13 above ground, when identified as a hazard by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
14 Certified Arborist, and not already excluded from review in subsection 2.A.2.c of this ordinance.

15 e. Installation, removal, or alterations to fences, gates, and barriers.

16 f. Signage other than signage excluded in subsections 2.A.2.i and 2.A.2.j
17 of this ordinance.

18 g. Installation, removal, or alteration of improvements for safety, or
19 accessibility compliance.

20 h. Installation, removal, or alteration of fire and life safety equipment.

21 i. Installation, removal, or alteration of painted murals and other art
22 installations located on the site or building exteriors.

23 j. Installation, removal, or alteration of minor landscape features.

1 k. Installation of photovoltaic panels on a low slope building rooftop.

2 l. Changes to paint colors for any of the features or characteristics of the
3 landmark that were designated by the Board for preservation.

4 m. Replacement of non-historic doors and windows within original
5 openings, when the staff determines that the design intent is consistent with the *Secretary of*
6 *Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

7 n. Alterations or changes to designated features of the landmark when
8 associated with demolition of adjacent non-historic building additions.

9 o. Emergency repairs or measures (including immediate action to secure
10 the area, install temporary equipment, and employ stabilization methods as necessary to protect
11 the public's safety, health, and welfare) to address hazardous conditions with adverse impacts to
12 the building or site as related to a seismic or other unforeseen event. Following such an
13 emergency, the owner shall adhere to the following:

14 1) The owner shall immediately notify the City Historic
15 Preservation Officer and document the conditions and actions the owner took.

16 2) If temporary structural supports are necessary, the owner shall
17 make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage to historic resources.

18 3) The owner shall not remove historic building materials from the
19 site as part of the emergency response.

20 4) In consultation with the City Historic Preservation Officer and
21 staff, the owner shall adopt and implement a long-term plan to address any damage through
22 appropriate solutions.

1 Section 3. Incentives. The following incentives are granted on the features or
2 characteristics of West Seattle High School that were designated by the Board for preservation:

3 A. Uses not otherwise permitted in a zone may be authorized in a designated landmark by
4 means of an administrative conditional use permit issued under SMC Title 23.

5 B. Exceptions to certain of the requirements of the Seattle Building Code and the Seattle
6 Energy Code, adopted by SMC Chapter 22.101, may be authorized according to the applicable
7 provisions.

8 C. Special tax valuation for historic preservation may be available under chapter 84.26
9 RCW upon application and compliance with the requirements of that statute.

10 D. Reduction or waiver, under certain conditions, of minimum accessory off-street
11 parking requirements for uses permitted in a designated landmark structure may be permitted
12 under SMC Title 23.

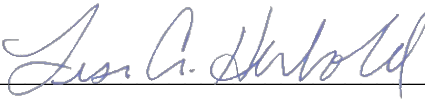
13 Section 4. Enforcement of this ordinance and penalties for its violation are as provided in
14 SMC 25.12.910.

15 Section 5. West Seattle High School is added alphabetically to Section IV, Schools, of the
16 Table of Historical Landmarks contained in SMC Chapter 25.32.

17 Section 6. The City Clerk is directed to record a certified copy of this ordinance with the
18 King County Recorder's Office, deliver two certified copies to the CHPO, and deliver one copy
19 to the Director of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. The CHPO is directed
20 to provide a certified copy of this ordinance to West Seattle High School's owner.

1 Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 23rd day of May, 2023,
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 23rd day of
6 May, 2023.

7 
8 President Pro Tem of the City Council

9 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this 1st day of June, 2023.

10 
11 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 1st day of June, 2023.

13 
14 Anne Frantilla, Interim City Clerk

15 (Seal)

16 Attachments (if any):
17 Attachment A – West Seattle High School Site Plan

West Seattle High School Site Plan

