Seattle Center Campus Signage and Sign Code Update

SEPA Checklist

March 30, 2021

PREPARED FOR:

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of the proposed project, if applicable:

Seattle Center Campus Signage and Sign Code Update

2. Name of Applicant:

Seattle Center

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Julia Levitt

Seattle Center Redevelopment Office

305 Harrison Street

Seattle, WA 98109

(206) 615-1806

4. Date checklist prepared:

March 30, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Seattle Center

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Construction is expected to occur between June and November 2021. If any signs contemplated in this analysis cannot be installed in 2021 due to schedule or budget constraints, it is possible that their construction would be deferred to a future date.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Seattle Center intends that signage within Seattle Center Campus be evaluated as part of the Signage Plan in this SEPA Checklist. If additional signage is added at a later date that is not included in this plan and it requires SEPA evaluation, it will be evaluated as part of a separate SEPA process. All signs would comply with the proposed amendment to SMC 23.55 that is evaluated in this SEPA Checklist. Additionally, Seattle Center is

updating Seattle Center Century 21: Signage Guidelines (Seattle Center, 2008a) which will be completed in 2021.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- DRAFT Seattle Center Campus Exterior Signage Plan, prepared by Populous, February 19, 2021 (Populous, 2021) (Appendix B)
- Cultural Resources Short Report, prepared by ESA, March 2021
- Light and Glare Memo, prepared by Stantec, March 2021 (included as Appendix C)
- Seattle Center – Evaluation of Potential Effects of Proposed Digital Signs on Distracted Driving Memo, prepared by Fehr & Peers, March 2021 (included as Appendix D)
- Seattle Center Arena Renovation Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), August (City of Seattle, 2018a)
- Addendum to the Seattle Center Arena Renovation Project FEIS, June 6 (City of Seattle, 2019a)

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Projects currently awaiting approvals at Seattle Center including the following.
Submitted for permits, construction not yet started:

- DuPen Fountain renovation
- Mercer Garage painting painting is awaiting street use permits. (review comment by Julia Levitt)
- Seattle Children's Theatre roof replacement
- Cornish Playhouse smoke vent replacement
- Campus sewer reline 3rd Avenue N

Under construction:

- Arena and North Courtyards renovation
- Armory exterior renovation
- Seattle Center Skate Plaza

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:

For the non-project action, the draft ordinance to amend SMC 23.55, Signs (Appendix A), will be submitted for a code amendment request and will require City Council and the City Mayor's approval. For the project action, Seattle Center will coordinate with the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI) and Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) to conduct design review and ensure code compliance for signs and temporary impacts to the right-of-way from construction and installation activities. Permits expected to be required for the project action, include the following:

- Sign Permit (SDCI)
- Electrical Permit (SDCI)
- Clearing and Grading Permit (SDCI)
- ROW Construction Permit (SDOT) with Traffic Control Plan (TCP, where applicable)

A sign implementation agreement will be negotiated between the City of Seattle and ArenaCo to establish terms for construction of the campus sign project.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.

Seattle Center is proposing to modernize its communications, marketing and sponsorship program by installing new signs across the Seattle Center Campus. Seattle Center is a 74-acre arts, educational, tourism and entertainment center owned by the City of Seattle (City) located in the Uptown urban center, generally between Mercer Street and Denny Way in Seattle, Washington (Figure 1). The proposed signs would include replacement signs in similar locations to those already existing on the campus, as well as new signs. Existing signs are shown in Figure 2. New signs would be similar to signage proposed for installation in the plazas at the Climate Pledge Arena (Arena), which is on the Seattle Center Campus. The new campus signs include signs with video display capabilities that would not be allowed under the current Seattle Municipal Code Section 23.55 (SMC 23.55, also referred to as the Sign Code). Seattle Center may use video display methods for signs that would not be visible by drivers. As stated in the Seattle Center Century 21: Signage Guidelines, Seattle Center requires signs that are clearly visible from the right-of-way to be operated in a way that minimizes driver distraction. Signs, such as the Campus Readerboards and Facility Readerboards which would be visible by drivers would be digital changing image and not use video. facing the street.

To support the modernization, Seattle Center is proposing to amend the City's Sign Code to include regulations for the Center Campus Subarea. The proposed changes would also amend the boundary of the Center Campus Subarea to include the City-owned and City-managed area north of the Arena occupied by the Fountain Pavilion, KEXP, The VERA Project, and Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF), referred to as the Northwest

Rooms and Northwest Courtyards; and also to include the Seattle Center Monorail system, City-owned green space fronting Mercer street and the Seattle Center Skate Plaza. The Seattle Center Sign Overlay District and subareas are shown on Figure 2. Key components of the proposed amendments would apply to the Center Campus Subarea only and are presented in Appendix A.

The upgraded signage across the Seattle Center Campus is intended to address operational issues such as safety and wayfinding for the benefit Seattle Center, its resident organizations, and the visiting public, as well as sustainability issues, including energy conservation. Table 1 below lists proposed signs, and Figures 3, 4, and 5 show sign locations. Further details are in Appendix B. All signs with a digital component would require electrical wiring. Where needed, new wiring would be installed underground. A small amount of grading and excavation would be necessary for utility trenching, site preparation, and sign installation. It is anticipated that between 1000-2000 cubic yards of grading required for utility trenching, site preparation and sign installation would occur.

As the Sign Code change is required for the signs described above to be compliant with the Sign Code these two actions are closely tied, and this analysis considers the possible consequences of future signs that would be allowed under the amended Sign Code.

Section B of this SEPA Checklist focuses on the project level SEPA evaluation for the proposed signs, and Section D is completed for the non-project action, the proposed amendments to the Sign Code.

TABLE 1. PROPOSED SIGNS FOR THE CENTER CAMPUS SUBAREA

Type	General Location	Existing Qty	Proposed Qty	Proposed Sign Type[1]	Est. Depth of Disturbance	Est. Excavation	Existing Display	Existing Dimensions (feet)	Proposed Dimensions (feet)
Campus Signs									
Campus Readerboard	• 5th & Mercer • Denny Way • 5th & Harrison	3	3	Digital sign; changing image	5-6 feet	20-25 cy ea.	Digital image and text	• 12'-8 5/8" W x 20'-0" H • 12'-8 5/8" W x 20'-0" H • 7'-9 7/16" W x 20'-0" H x 1' 3 5/8" D	5'-3" W x 22'4" H x 2' D 5'-3" W x 22'4" H x 2' D 5'-3" W x 22'4" H x 2' D
Perimeter Facility Readerboard	• Mercer St. (4 signs) •	4	4	Digital sign; changing image	3 feet	12-15 cy ea.	3 Digital amber text signs and 1 static sign	3'-8" W x 15'-1 7/16" H x 1'-3/4" D	3'-9" W x 12'-6" H x 1'-0 3/4" D
Interior Facility Readerboard	• Fisher Pavilion (1 sign) (vacated 2nd Ave North)	1	1	Digital sign; changing image or video	3 feet	12-15 cy ea.	Static marquis with manually updated letters	11'-0" W x 14'-7 1/2" H x 2' D	3'-9" W x 12'-6" H x 1'-0 3/4" D
Campus Wayfinding signs	• Various - along pedestrian pathways	17	20	Digital sign; changing image (or video on signs not clearly visible from the right-of-way)	2 feet	4-5 cy ea.	Static Text	3'-0" W x 11'-0" H x 0'-8 1/4" D	3' W x 11' H x 2' D
Information Kiosks	• Near Pacific Science Center North Entrance • Near Mural lawn and Children's Garden • Between International Fountain and Memorial Stadium	3	3	Digital sign; changing image or video	2 feet	6 cy ea.	Static Text	Various	2 alternatives: Option 1: 7' 4 1/8" W x 10' 8 1/4" H x 8' D Option 2: 13' 8 3/4" W x 9' 3 5/8" H x 13' D

Type	General Location	Existing Qty	Proposed Qty	Proposed Sign Type[1]	Est. Depth of Disturbance	Est. Excavation	Existing Display	Existing Dimensions (feet)	Proposed Dimensions (feet)
Art Walk Display Signs	• Various - near significant outdoor artworks	0	3	Digital sign; changing image (or video on signs not clearly visible from the right-of-way). Possible integrated lighting or artwork.	2 feet	4-5 cy ea.	n/a	n/a	3' W x 11' H x 3' D
Art Walk Static Identification	• Various - near outdoor artwork	30	50	Static. Sidewalk medallion or small pylon.	1 foot	1 cy ea.	Static Text, primarily plaques	Various	3’ tall 4”x4” pylon
Entry Markers	• Gateway entrances to campus, facing right-of-way	0	5	Static sign. Possible integrated lighting or artwork.	3 feet	8-10 cy ea.	n/a	n/a	11 1/4" D x 11' 2" H
Campus Pole Banners	• Various - throughout campus where large pedestrian volumes typically occur	0	12	Digital sign; changing image (or video on signs not clearly visible from the right-of-way).	6-8 feet, 18-24 inches diameter	12-18 cy ea.	n/a	n/a	5' 1 1/2" W x 19'-2 3/4" H
Digital Theater Poster	• Mercer Street, on exterior concrete retaining wall outside McCaw Hall	3	1	Digital sign; changing image	n/a	n/a	Three printed posters displayed in glass cases	2'-0" W x 4'-2" H	7'-4 1/2" W x 4'-1 1/4" H x 6" D
Garage Signs									
Garage Wayfinding Pylon - 5th Ave N	• 5th Ave and Republican Street	1	1	Digital; changing image	2 feet	4-5 cy ea.	Programmable 1 line LED message at 5th Avenue North Garage	5'-4" H x 3'-2 1/2" tall sign mounted on 13'-4" pole	3'-0" W x 11'-0" H x 2' D
Garage ID Pylon	• Mercer Garage at both entries on 3rd Ave N and 4th Ave N	4	4	Digital; changing image	2 feet	4-5 cy ea.	LED sign "Full" at Mercer Street Garage and programmable 2 line LED message at	Mercer 3rd N: 15'-11" H x 5'-0" W x 1'-0" D	3’-6" W x 12'-0" H x 2' D

Type	General Location	Existing Qty	Proposed Qty	Proposed Sign Type[1]	Est. Depth of Disturbance	Est. Excavation	Existing Display	Existing Dimensions (feet)	Proposed Dimensions (feet)
	• 5th Ave N Garage at both entries						5th Avenue North Garage	Mercer 4th N.: 16'-3" H x 5'-0" W x 1'-0" D 5th Ave. 13' H x 4'-6" W x 9" D	
Entry/Exit ID Sign	• Mercer Street Garage entries and exits--3rd Ave N (2) and 4th Ave N (2) • 5th Ave N Garage entries and exits--Republican St (1) Harrison St (2)	7	7	Digital; changing image	n/a	n/a	Yellow colored aluminum cabinet, internally illuminated each with programmable green LED X's and red LED down arrow's	Mercer: 24'-4" to 26'-4 3/4" W x 1' H x 2" D 5th Ave: 26' to 35" W x 1' H x 6" D	Design Variant 1 (6 proposed signs: 26' W x 2' H x 6" D Design Variant 2 (1 proposed sign): 35' W x 9'11" H
Garage Wayfinding Sign	• Mercer Garage	4	2	Digital; changing image	n/a	n/a	Neon (some working)	49 1/2"W x 24"H x9 1/2 D 50"W x 18"H x 13 1/2" D 85 1/2"W x 75"H X 10" D	6' 6 7/8" W x 3' 3 3/8" H x 6" D
Garage Overhead Entry	• Mercer Garage •	2	4	Internally illuminated sign	n/a	n/a	Non electronic dibond panel sign affixed to concrete façade above yellow painted entry sign	Mercer: 8' W x 2' H x 1" D	26'3" W x 3'9"H x 4" D
Garage Blade	• Mercer Garage	2	2	Digital sign; changing image	n/a	n/a	Neon at Roy St at Nob Hill N Programmable 1 line LED at Mercer and 4th Ave N	75" W x 48" H x 9"D 69" W x 36"H x 9"D	3' 3 1/2" W x 2' 5 1/2" H x 10" D

Type	General Location	Existing Qty	Proposed Qty	Proposed Sign Type[1]	Est. Depth of Disturbance	Est. Excavation	Existing Display	Existing Dimensions (feet)	Proposed Dimensions (feet)
Garage Pedestrian Signs	• Mercer Garage	5	5	Wall sign; not digital; not electrified	n/a	n/a	Non electronic dibond panel sign affixed to concrete façade	3'-0" W x 2'-0" H x 1/8" D	3'-0" W x 2'-0" H x 1/4" D

1. All digital signs would be video capable. Signs that are clearly visible from the right-of-way would be operated in a way that minimizes driver distraction.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Figure 1 shows the project vicinity and Figure 2 shows the existing signage plan and the proposed Center Campus Subarea. The Center Campus Subarea is in Section 30, Township 25N, Range 4 East and includes the following parcels (King County, 2021a):

- **Seattle Center Event Parking Garage**, 300 Mercer Street, Parcel 5457800310
  MERCERS 2ND ADD TO N SEATTLE ALL OF BLKS 25 & 36 & VAC POR NOB HILL AVE LY BTWN SD BLKS LESS POR OF SD BLKS 25 & 36 FOR ST PURPOSES AS PER CITY OF SEATTLE ORD NO 93970
- **Bagley Wright Theater**, 305 Harrison Street, Parcel 1988200250
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD TGW POR VAC STS & VAC ALLEY ADJ
- **Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, Playhouse & Exhibition Hall**, 305 Harrison Street, Parcel 1988200440
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD PCL Y SEATTLE LBA# 3028485 REC# 20170831900002 SD LBA DAF ALL BLOCKS 43-44 & 53 OF SD ADD TGW VAC ALLEYS & STS ADJ
- **KCTS 9**, 401 Mercer St, Parcel 1988200705
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD & VAC ALLEY LESS ST
- **Seattle Center 5th Ave Parking Garage and Gates Visitor Center**, 500 5th Ave N, Parcel 2570400000, LEGAL: NA
- **Memorial Stadium** (Parking), 401 5th Ave, Parcel 1988200775,
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD TGW VAC ALLEY & POR VAC STS ADJ LESS POR VAC RD AS DESC IN DEED #20000718000203
- **Memorial Stadium** (Sport Facility), 401 5th Ave, Parcel 1988200640
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD & ALL BLK 52 & VAC ALLEY & POR OF VAC STS ADJ LESS POR VAC RD AS DESC IN DEED #20000718000203
- **International Fountain**, 305 Harrison St, Parcel 1988200380
  DENNYS D T HOME ADD TGW VAC ALLEY & POR VAC STS ADJ TGW POR VAC RD ADJ AS DESC IN DEED #20000718000203
- **Seattle Center Land** (KEXP, the Vera Project, SIFF Film Center, NW Courtyard, Dupen Fountain, Alki Courtyard, A/NT Gallery), No Address, Parcel 1985200010
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD PARCELS A, B, C, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, SS, TT, UU AND VV CITY OF SEATTLE LOT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT 3032466-LU RECORDING NO 20181011900004 (BEING A PORTION OF NW QTR SW QTR STR 30-25-04)

- **Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion** (and South Fountain Lawn), 305 Harrison St, Parcel 1985200245
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD TGW VAC ALLEY & POR VAC STS ADJ

- **Seattle Center House & Chihuly Garden & Glass** (Armory), 305 Harrison St, Parcel 1985200305
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD TGW VAC ALLEY & POR VAC STS ADJ & TGW POR VAC RD ADJ AS DESC IN DEED REC #20000718000203

- **Seattle Center** (Artists at Play, Center Park, Seattle Center Monorail), 305 Harrison St, Parcel 1985200550
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD TGW VAC ALLEY & POR VAC STS ADJ & TGW POR VAC RD ADJ AS DESC IN DEED REC #20000718000203

- **MoPOP**, 410 Thomas St, Parcel 1991200005
  DENNYS D T PARK ADD PORTION BLK 56 & OF VACATED ALLEY ABUTTING THEREON AS VACATED UNDER CITY OF SEATTLE ORD NO 90267 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT NW CORNER OF EAST 7 FT SD BLK TH N 88-33-27 W 104 FT ALONG NORTH LINE THOF TO BEGINNING OF CURVE CONCAVE SELY RADIUS OF 30 FT TH WLY & SWLY 40.76 FT ALONG SD CURVE THRU C/A OF 77-50-37 TO BEGINNING OF REVERSE CURVE CONCAVE NWLY RADIUS OF 65 FT TH SWLY & WLY 88.32 FT ALONG SD CURVE THRU C/A OF 77-50-50 TH N 88-33-14 W 22.12 FT TO WEST LINE OF EAST 226 FT SD BLK 56 TH S 01-26-46 W 284.91 FT ALONG SD WEST LINE TO SOUTH LINE SD BLK TH S 88-33-22 E 219 FT ALONG SD SOUTH LINE TO WEST LINE OF EAST 7 FT SD BLK 56 (SD EAST 7 FT CONDEMNED IN DISTRICT COURT CAUSE NO 7541 FOR STREET TH N 01-26-46 E 359.91 FT ALONG LAST SD WEST LINE TO BEGINNING -AKA LOT A CITY OF SEATTLE LOT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT NO 9704959 REC NO 9806019012 TGW POR VAC STS ADJ PER VAC ORD #120013

- **Pacific Science Center** (SCT, Mural Amphitheatre, Chihuly Garden and Glass), 305 Harrison St, Parcel 1985200130
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD NLY 27.41 FT OF LOTS 5 & 8 & ALL OF LOTS 9 THRU 12 BLK 40 & NLY 27.41 FT OF LOTS 5 & 8 & ALL OF LOTS 1 THRU 4 & 9 THRU 12 BLK 47 & POR OF LOTS 1, 2 & 8 THRU 12 BLK 49 LY NWLY OF BROAD ST & LOTS 1 & 4 THRU 12 BLK 50 & LOTS 1, 2 & 8 THRU 12 BLK 57 IN DENNYS PARK ADD TGW POR VAC ALLEYS & STS ADJ

- **Seattle Children's Theatre I & II**, 302 Thomas St, Parcel 1985200185
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD NLY 27.41 FT OF LOTS 5 & 8 & ALL OF LOTS 9 THRU 12 BLK 40 & NLY 27.41 FT OF LOTS 5 & 8 & ALL OF LOTS 1 THRU 4 & 9 THRU 12 BLK 47 & POR OF LOTS 1, 2 & 8 THRU 12 BLK 49 LY NWLY OF BROAD ST & LOTS 1 & 4 THRU 12 BLK 50 & LOTS 1, 2 & 8 THRU 12 BLK 57 IN DENNYS PARK ADD TGW POR VAC ALLEYS & STS ADJ

- **Space Needle**, 400 Broad Street, Parcel1985200495
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD TGW POR OF VAC ALLEY ADJ & TGW POR VAC ST ADJ

- **Pacific Science Center** (PACCAR IMAX, Boeing IMAX), 200 2nd Ave N, Parcel 1985200140
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD PCL A SEATTLE BLA #3007559 REC #20070625900011 & CORRECTED BY REC #20071016900014 & AFF OF CORRECTION REC #20071031001462 SD BLA BEING BLOCKS 39 & 48 & POR BLOCKS 40 & 47 OF SD ADD

- **Pacific Science Center Parking Garage**, 200 Denny Way, Parcel 1985200160
  DENNYS D T 3RD ADD PCL B SEATTLE BLA #3007559 REC #20070625900011 & CORRECTED BY REC #20071016900014 & AFF OF CORRECTION REC #20071031001462 SD BLA BEING BLOCKS 39 & 48 & POR BLOCKS 40 & 47 OF SD ADD

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (underline):

Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other: _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

City of Seattle (2021a) maps steep slopes (40% average; SDCI ECA 1) at the corner of Warren Ave N and Mercer Street; within Memorial Stadium; at the northwest portion of the MoPOP parcel; and in close proximity to the corner of 2nd Ave N and Denny Way, in an area overlapping the Pacific Science Center Garage parcel.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soils at the project site have been reworked and disturbed by previous development and are no longer in their native condition. According to the boring logs completed as part of a preliminary geotechnical investigation for the Climate Pledge Arena, the project site is underlain by approximately 10 to 30 feet of artificial fill that consists primarily of poorly graded silty sand. The fill material is underlain by sequences of gravels, sands, and silts with varying sediment sizes that are generally dense or stiff. Below this layer is a unit of very stiff to hard fine-grained deposits at depths of 60 to 80 feet below ground surface (Hart Crowser, 2017 and 2018).

d. Are there any surface indications or a history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No known slides, potential slides, or liquefaction areas are mapped by the City of Seattle (2021a) on or near the project site. According to a liquefaction susceptibility map produced by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the project site is in an area with a very low to low potential for liquefaction (WDNR, 2004).

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities of total affected area of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Most signs shown on Figure 2 and described in Section A.11 would be replaced in the same locations as where they are currently situated; therefore, minimal grading and filling, if any, would be expected. If fill materials are needed it would be sourced by the contractor according City specifications.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

There is potential for erosion during sign installation, replacement, and/or removal activities, if soil exposure would be required. The potential for erosion would be minimized by adhering to required best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures (refer to Question 1.h below). Once construction activities are complete, exposed soil areas would be covered in impervious surfaces and would not be susceptible to erosion.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Sign installations, replacements, and/or removals would occur primarily over existing impervious surfaces or structures. Some signs may be installed in currently landscaped areas. The Center Campus Subarea is estimated to have an impervious surface of approximately 85%, the increase in impervious surfaces would be minimal, less than 1%.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Temporary erosion and sedimentation control BMPs would be installed to minimize erosion during sign installation, replacement, and/or removal activities as needed. BMPs specific to the site and project would be specified in the construction contract documents that the construction contractor would be required to implement. The project is not expected to trigger on-site stormwater management requirements; if triggered, contractors would comply with the City of Seattle's Stormwater Control Manual (City of Seattle, 2016).

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

During the estimated 25-week construction period, there would be a slight increase in exhaust emissions from construction vehicles and equipment, and the potential for a slight temporary increase in fugitive dust if earthwork would be required for the project. Any noticeable increase in emissions and fugitive dust would occur during sign installations, replacements, and/or removals. Exhaust emissions would also be

generated from construction employee and equipment traffic to and from the site. Given the size of the proposed project, the number of vehicle trips would be small (estimated to be approximately 1 to 2 construction vehicle trips per day on average, with an estimated 300 over the duration of construction). Construction-related emissions would be below the federal general conformity *de minimis* thresholds applicable in King County of 100 tons per year of carbon monoxide (CO) or fine particulate matter (PM10). The contractor would be required to comply with applicable Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) regulations (PSCAA, 2021).

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No off-site sources of emissions or odors would affect the project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.

BMPs would be followed to control emissions or reduce fugitive dust emissions (if any) from during sign installation, replacement, and/or removal activities. BMPs may include but are not limited, to establishing a wheel-cleaning station at the site exit, and regularly sweeping streets to remove dust and debris from construction vehicles.

3. Water

a. Surface Water

1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The project site is approximately 0.35 mile from Lake Union (to the northeast) and 0.45 mile from Elliott Bay (to the southwest). There are no surface water bodies on the site, which is located in a highly urbanized area.

2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The project would not require any work over, in, or adjacent to any surface water bodies.

3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

The project would not require any work in or near surface water and would not place any amount of fill or dredge material in surface waters or associated wetlands.

4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities, if known.

The project would not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The project is not within a 100-year floodplain.

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

The project would not involve the discharge of waste materials to any surface waters. All waste materials, if any, would be treated in accordance with the City of Seattle Stormwater Manual (City of Seattle, 2016) prior to discharge.

b. Groundwater

1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No groundwater would be withdrawn as part of the project and no water would be discharged to groundwater. Dewatering is not likely required because the depth of construction is anticipated to be 1 to 8 feet below ground surface depending on the sign, and groundwater levels have not been detected at that depth in borings conducted for the Climate Pledge Arena. According to geotechnical investigations near the site, groundwater is encountered at depths ranging from approximately 60 to 105 feet below ground surface (HartCrowser, 2018).

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material would be discharged into groundwater during sign installation, replacement, and/or removal activities. Signs would be constructed off-site. Operation of the signs would not produce waste materials that would be discharged to groundwater.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater)

1. Describe the source of runoff (including stormwater) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, buildings, and other structures are the main source of water runoff in the project area. There may be minimal increases in impervious surfaces for some signs. Most signs would be replaced where impervious surfaces already exist and most new signs would be installed on existing structures or over existing impervious surfaces, or in landscape beds where new installed footings would cause a minimal change.

Local sewer and stormwater collection service to Seattle Center is provided throughout the campus in lines owned and maintained by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and transported to wastewater treatment facilities owned and operated by King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD). The pipelines surrounding the Seattle Center are combined sewer and storm drainage lines. King County WTD also owns and operates a 72-inch brick sewer, the Lake Union Tunnel constructed in 1894, beneath the southeast portion of the 1st Ave N Garage.

During construction, BMPs would be implemented to ensure that sediment originating from disturbed soils would be retained within the limits of disturbance; see Question 3.d.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Construction activities are unlikely to produce waste materials that would enter groundwater; any chemicals, paints, or materials that are a component of constructing the signs would be applied off-site, leaving assembly and installation as the on-site construction activities. General measures to control potential waste from entering surface waters are described below in response to Question 3.d.

Operation of the signs would not produce waste materials that would enter ground or surface waters.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The project would not alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site. Existing runoff patterns would be replicated following construction activities and would comply with the City of Seattle Stormwater Manual if required (City of Seattle, 2016).

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

During construction activities, BMPs will be implemented to ensure that sediment from disturbed soils, would be retained within the limits of disturbance. If drainage review is required, BMPs may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (meeting the requirements of the City of Seattle Stormwater Manual) and a Construction Stormwater Control Plan will be developed for the site, and implemented and maintained by a certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead.
- All appropriate source control and sediment removal BMPs will be implemented during construction.
- Construction access routes will be swept daily or more frequently as needed.
- Inlet protection will be applied at storm drain inlets.
- All potential pollutants used or stored on-site during construction will have secondary containment. A spill cleanup kit will be available on-site, and contaminated areas will be cleaned immediately following any incident.
- Upon project completion, exposed soils will be planted and provided with erosion control mulch.
- The project will comply with on-site stormwater management and flow control requirements per Sections 22.805.070 and 22.805.080 of the SMC to the maximum extent feasible. The method of compliance will be determined during the design process.
- BMPs specific to the site and project would be specified in the construction contract documents that the construction contractor will be required to implement.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

__X_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other (numerous ornamental trees, such as London Plane, Pin Oak and others)

__X_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other (numerous ornamental varieties)

__X_ shrubs: ornamental

__X_ grass

____ pasture

____ crop or grain

____ orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other

____water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

___ other types of vegetation (see below)

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Tree or vegetation removal is not anticipated because signs to be replaced are in paved areas. Some areas around signs may need to be replanted if a landscaped area is disturbed during construction, such as for running underground electric wires.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species or critical habitat are known to be on or near the site (WDNR, 2021; WDFW, 2021).

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Trees adjacent to construction activities will be protected to the extent possible using tree protection measures, such as the use of tree protection fences. New landscaping would be planted on-site after construction.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

No formal plant surveys were conducted for this checklist. Yellow nutsedge and spotted knapweed (Class B noxious weeds) have been observed on or near the site and giant hogweed was observed near the site (King County, 2021b).

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Animals observed on the site include typical urban birds and other animals.

Fish: Not applicable.

Amphibians: None observed.

Reptiles: None observed.

Birds: Species adapted to urban areas such as gulls, American crow, rock pigeon, black-capped chickadee, American robin, and European starling.

Mammals: Species adapted to urban areas such as Norway rat, eastern gray squirrel, raccoon, opossum, and other species may use the site.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on near the site.

No threatened or endangered species are known to be on or near the site (WDFW, 2021).

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The Puget Sound area is within the Pacific Flyway, which is a flight corridor for migrating waterfowl and other avian fauna. The Pacific Flyway extends south from Alaska to Mexico and South America. No portion of the project would interfere with or alter the Pacific Flyway. The project would include illuminated signs, a light source which could affect migrating birds. However, the project area is highly urbanized and has numerous light sources that would mask the effects of any new illuminated signs.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

The project would not have any negative impacts on animals within or near the project site; therefore, no mitigation is required. Some birds and animals may be disturbed during construction but would likely return following construction because they are adapted to urban areas.

e. List all invasive species known to be on or near the site.

No formal animal surveys were conducted for this checklist. Invasive animal species likely to be in the area include rats and eastern gray squirrel typical of an urban area.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Electricity would be needed for site lighting.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

The signs would not interfere with solar energy by adjacent properties, as shadows from the signs would not likely extend off-site.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The energy requirements for the project are limited to signage lighting, and energy-efficient lighting would be used. Signage design requiring energy would comply with the City's Energy Code requirements to achieve energy savings.

7. Environmental Health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Accidental spills of hazardous materials from equipment and vehicles could occur during construction. However, a Spill Prevention and Control Plan would be developed and implemented to prevent the accidental release of contaminants into the environment during construction. Otherwise, the proposed use of the site would not include the use of any substantive quantities of hazardous materials or wastes.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) maps approximately 83 cleanup sites within 0.5 mile from 370 Thomas Street (the center-most address for the Center Campus Subarea). Any sites listed within the Center Campus Subarea, Arena Subarea, and Bressi Block Subarea are listed below in response to Question B.7.a.1 (Ecology 2021c).

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Regionally, more than 1,000 square miles of the Puget Sound Basin have been affected by arsenic, lead, and other heavy metals that settled on the surface of soils from air pollution from the historic operations of the Asarco Company copper smelter in Tacoma. The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup level for arsenic is 20 parts per million (ppm). Seattle Center is predicted to have arsenic concentrations under 20 ppm (Ecology, 2021a).

Ecology maps the following Facilities/Sites within the Center Campus Subarea (Ecology, 2021c):

- **Pacific Science Center UST Denny & Broad**, 200 2nd Ave N, Cleanup Site ID: 12496, Facility Site ID: 2868852, Cleanup Site Status: Cleanup Started. A leaking underground tank cleanup site under Ecology oversight or review.
- **Pacific Science Center Frol Building**, 204 Denny Way, Cleanup Site ID: 2493, Facility Site ID: 96879757, Cleanup Site Status: No Further Action. This site received a determination of No Further Action from Ecology.

- **Standish Property**, 420 Mercer St., Cleanup Site ID 8486, Facility Site ID 25678675, Cleanup Status: Cleanup Started

Ecology maps listed the following Facility/Site within the Arena Subarea (Ecology, 2021c):

- **Seattle Center**, 305 Harrison St, Cleanup Site ID: 9151, Facility Site ID: 42937592, Cleanup Status: Cleanup Started. This site is listed for containing petroleum-gasoline contamination in soil.

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

There are no existing structures on-site and no hazardous liquid gas transmission pipelines on-site or in the vicinity. A Puget Sound Energy (PSE) natural gas line located below the Skate Plaza (former Broad St) was decommissioned in 2020.

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Chemicals stored and used during construction activities would be limited to gasoline and other petroleum-based products required for the operation of construction equipment and vehicles. Chemicals that could potentially be used on concrete include release agent, curing agent, and possibly sealing products. All support materials of this type will be stored on the Seattle Center campus and transported to the project site for maintenance as needed.

During operation of signs, no chemicals would be stored, used, or produced on-site.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services would be required.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Site-specific Pollution Prevention Plans and Spill Prevention and Control Plans will be developed and implemented to prevent or minimize impacts from hazardous materials during construction.

The construction contractors will be required to prepare Health and Safety Plans that address the specific construction tasks that involve exposure to potential health hazards.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

The project would not be affected by noise that exists in the area.

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

The project would generate noise during construction. Construction activities would result in temporary noise increases during daytime construction hours. Vehicle and equipment operation during construction would be noticeable in the vicinity of the project; however, construction noise levels would be within the City standards, which provide more lenient standards for daytime construction. Construction hours and noise levels would comply with the City of Seattle noise standards.

Maximum permissible sound levels in commercial zones are not to exceed 60 dBA. However, construction activities are permitted to exceed the established maximum level by 15–25 dBA by the Seattle Noise Control Ordinance (SMC 25.08.425). Maximum permissible sound levels established in SMC 25.08.425 may be exceeded by construction activities between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM on weekdays, and between the hours of 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM on weekends.

Operation of campus signage would not generate any noise.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Construction activities would be restricted to hours and levels designated by SMC 25.08.425. If construction activities exceed permitted noise levels, the contractor will implement measures to reduce noise impacts to comply with the Noise Control Ordinance, which could include additional muffling of equipment. While construction noise is permitted during evenings and weekends, construction would generally occur between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM on weekdays.

Operation of campus signage would not emit any noise or sound effects; therefore, no measures to reduce or control noise impacts are proposed.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

The project site is used for recreational purposes, it includes open areas, play features, and buildings used for arts and sport as well as accessory structures (e.g., signage). The current use of adjacent properties includes commercial and residential uses.

The project would not affect land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

The project site has not been used as working farmlands or forest lands for over a century. Maps from the early 1900s show this area as part of the early development of Seattle, after the native forest was logged.

1. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No working farm or forest lands are located near the proposed project, so the project would not affect or be affected by farm or forest land operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Subject structures are the existing Seattle Center Campus signage. This signage is intermixed with buildings and associated structures that comprise the Seattle Center; no structural changes to these buildings would result from the removal, replacement, or addition of signs.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Existing signs would be removed and replaced. No edifice or buildings would be demolished.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The current zoning classification of the Seattle Center Campus is Seattle Mixed Uptown, SM-UP 95(M). Seattle Mixed zoning allows development that includes residential and commercial uses, as well as public open space and recreation uses such as those at Seattle Center (City of Seattle, 2021a, 2021b, and 2021c).

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The City of Seattle Comprehensive Plan designation of the project site is "Commercial/Mixed Use" (City of Seattle, 2018b and 2021c).

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The project site is not within a shoreline jurisdiction; therefore, there is no applicable Shoreline Master Program designation.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

City of Seattle (2021a) maps steep slopes (40% average; SDCI ECA 1) at the corner of Warren Ave N and Mercer Street; within Memorial Stadium; at the northwest portion of the MoPOP parcel; and in close proximity to the corner of 2nd Ave N and Denny Way (in an area overlapping the Pacific Science Center Garage parcel).

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No people would reside in the completed project and people would not work in the completed project.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The completed project would not displace any people.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

No displacement would occur; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed or proposed.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

<u>Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan</u>

The project is compatible with the parks and open space element and the Queen Anne (Uptown) element (City of Seattle, 2018b), specifically:

- QA-P3. "Seek to maintain and establish quality design in the Queen Anne area. Through neighborhood design guidelines and design review, consider unique or particular local design characteristics, and include consideration of signage, adjacent public right-of-ways, and historic boulevards."
- QA-P15. "Seek ways to ensure that Seattle Center remains a vibrant and valuable community resource and a premier regional amenity."
- QA-P19: "Seek to maintain Queen Anne parks and open spaces and replace aging parks facilities used by the public, and seek to ensure no net loss of

parks, park facilities, or open spaces while recognizing the need for a citywide balance in ongoing maintenance and investment."

- QA-P32. "Promote enhanced mobility and mobility options between Queen Anne and other neighborhoods, employment centers, and recreation centers. "
- QA-P40. "Strive to provide urban character-enhancing improvements to Queen Anne's streets such as sidewalk improvements, transit facilities, landscaping, and appropriate lighting."

Seattle Center Master Plan

The project is compatible with the Seattle Center Master Plan (City of Seattle, 2008b), specifically:

- Lighting, signage, a coordinated system of direction and information graphics, and street furniture should reinforce the primary pedestrian corridors and facilitate pedestrian access. Green technology and materials should be emphasized.
- The design of the campus should enhance a sense of personal safety and be sensitive to human scale design elements.
- Legibility – Design, signage and sightlines should work together to create a unified sense of place where visitors can easily find their way to multiple destinations.

Seattle Center is updating the Seattle Center Century 21: Signage Guidelines (Seattle Center, 2008a) along with the project action analyzed in this checklist to reflect the changes in digital technology that have occurred since the Signage Guidelines were first developed. The project would be compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans; therefore, no measures are needed or proposed.

m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The project would not affect any agricultural or forest lands, so no measures to ensure compatibility are required.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be provided as part of the project.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing units would be eliminated.

c. Describe proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.

The project would not cause housing impacts; therefore, mitigation measures to control housing impacts would not be required.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any of the proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Proposed signs are listed in Table 1 and depicted in the Signage Plan (Appendix B), See Figures 3, 4, and 5 for proposed locations. The principal material for the non-digital component of all signs would be metal painted with an anti-graffiti protective coating. There would be faux wood accent material at the top and bottom of signs. Seattle Center is considering both a light (white) and dark (black) color for the non-digital components. Screens would be tempered glass. They will choose a color palette that is consistent with the design of Seattle Center Campus and the new signs of the Climate Pledge Arena. The tallest signs would be the Campus Readerboards, Pole Banners, and the Facility Readerboards. The heights of these 3 sign types are listed below, see also Appendix B for details:

- **Campus Readerboards** (page 4 of Appendix B)

  Existing Height: 20 feet 4 inches
  Proposed Maximum Height: 22 feet, 4 inches
  Screens: 2 LED outdoor displays
  Quantity: 3

- **Pole Banners** (page 7 of Appendix B)

  Existing Height: N/A
  Proposed Maximum Height: 19 feet, 3 inches
  Screen: LED outdoor display
  Quantity: 12

- **Facility Readerboards** (page 5 of Appendix B)

  Existing Height: 15 feet 2 inches
  Proposed Maximum Height: 12 feet, 6 inches
  Screen: LED outdoor display
  Quantity: 5

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

City policy protects views of significant natural and human-made features from identified viewpoints and scenic routes (SMC 25.05.675.P). Identified viewpoints and scenic routes near Seattle Center are views from Kerry Park viewpoint and views from scenic routes along the perimeter of the Seattle Center Campus. Protected views that

are visible from these scenic viewpoints and scenic routes include territorial views of the city and surrounding mountains and water bodies as well as views of designated Landmarks (see Section B.13 for more information about Landmarks).

Both new and replacement signs would be installed. Signs have been designed, with input from the public, to complement the Seattle Center Campus, follow the updated Seattle Center Century 21: Signage Guidelines (Seattle Center, 20008a), and would be similar to signage at the Climate Pledge Arena. All signs are intended to address operational issues such as safety and wayfinding for the benefit Seattle Center, its resident organizations, and the visiting public. Most signs would include a digital changing image display. Digital displays would change the look of the campus, and increase light and glare in some locations. However, extensive illumination currently exists surrounding and within Seattle Center Campus (see Section B.11 and Appendix C). Therefore, scenic views from Kerry viewpoint would not be altered.

Signs are generally for wayfinding and information purposes, with the intent to point to important features on Campus, including Landmarks. Signs are proposed in locations where they would be visible by pedestrians and/or drivers including in front of or near designated Landmarks. Views of Landmarks would change but impacts are not expected to be significant.

Signs proposed along scenic routes are:

- *Mercer Street*: a campus readerboard (located on the corner of 5th Avenue and Mercer Street), 4 facility readerboards, a digital poster, a garage blade, and static text pedestrian garage signs
- *5th Avenue*: 2 campus readerboards (including sign located on the corner of 5th Avenue and Mercer Street), a wayfinding pylon, an art walk display sign, and a garage wayfinding pylon
- *Broad Street*: a campus readerboard (corner of Broad Street and Denny Avenue), an art walk display sign, and a static text entry marker

Campus readerboards would replace existing digital signs; the facility readerboards would replace existing amber text signs with digital displays. The remaining signs would be new or replace static signs. Signs that are clearly visible from the right-of-way would be operated in a way that minimizes driver distraction. The new signs would change the look of the scenic routes, but impacts to protected views would be minor to none. See also Section B.11 and Appendix C regarding light and glare.

c. Proposed measures to control or reduce aesthetic impacts, if any:

Proposed signs have been designed to complement Seattle Center, be sensitive to and minimize impacts on neighbors, and be mindful of a spare and uncluttered design aesthetic for perimeter streets that surround Seattle Center.

In March 2021, the proposed Signage Plan was reviewed by the Seattle Design Commission in a meeting that was open to the public. The Commission supported the overall project and agreed that the proposed signs would be an aesthetic improvement compared to existing signs. Seattle Center will also coordinate with the Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board regarding proposed changes adjacent to designated Seattle Landmarks

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The replacement of the two existing Campus readerboards with new LED displays would not increase glare at these locations. The existing signs produce moderate levels of direct glare and reflected glare. The incorporation of new LED technology and dimming of the new displays would maintain and possibly reduce existing glare.

The replacement of the existing digital amber text displays on the 5th Avenue and Harrison Street sign with LED displays would increase glare at this location. Low amounts of direct glare would be visible into and across the ROW at 5th Avenue North and Harrison Street. Levels of reflected glare from adjacent pavement surfaces and structures surfaces would be minor.

The replacement of three existing amber text facility readerboards and the addition of a fourth facility readerboard with new LED displays along Mercer Street would increase glare at these locations. Low amounts of direct glare would be visible into and across Mercer Street. Levels of reflected glare from adjacent pavement, structure and building surfaces would be minor.

Additionally, no LED displays exist for the existing theater poster on McCaw Hall. Glare from the new theater poster LED displays would be minor as it is located near existing sources of glare and is set back from Mercer Street.

The new LED displays for wayfinding pylons, information kiosks, art walk signs, and pole banners located interior to the Seattle Center Campus would increase glare for individuals at these locations. Levels of direct glare apparent to individuals on site would be low to moderate. Levels of reflected glare from adjacent pavement, structure, and building surfaces would be low. This is because existing ambient light levels within the site are similar to what would be produced by the LED displays. The LED displays also would incorporate dimming to reduce brightness and are designed to not exceed maximum brightness allowed under the SMC. Off-site direct and reflected glare impacts would only be readily apparent from signs around the perimeter of the Campus and would be low.

The addition of the garage ID pylons, entry/exit ID signs, wayfinding signs, and garage blades would increase glare at these locations. The existing garage ID pylons have amber text and no LED displays exist on the other existing garage signs. The additional glare from the garage blades would be low as they are small, located in well lighted areas along Mercer Street and Roy Street. The glare from the garage wayfinding signs at 3rd Avenue North and 4th Avenue North would be low to moderate as these displays are slightly larger with more visual exposure. Moderate levels of glare would affect drivers and pedestrians immediately adjacent to these displays. Low levels of glare would primarily affect the residential buildings that face the signs across 3rd Avenue North and

4th Avenue North respectively. The garage overhead entry and Entry\Exit ID signs would have minimal impacts.

The glare from the Fifth Avenue Garage wayfinding pylon proposed along 5th Avenue North would be low as it is located adjacent to existing high levels of glare associated with the streetlights and building façade. The other new Garage ID Pylon, overhead entry signs, entry/exit signs around the 5th Avenue Garage would have minimal impacts. See Appendix C Light and Glare Memo for more details.

Light and glare would be most visible at night.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Seattle Center evaluated the potential for driver distraction from signs along the perimeter of the Campus. Potential effects on driver distraction would be limited by compliance with existing code and the proposed Sign Code amendment as well as the Signage Guidelines. Seattle Center is updating the Signage Guidelines to require signs that are clearly visible from the right-of-way to be operated in a way that minimizes driver distraction. Similar to some of the existing digital signs, some of the proposed signs may be a source of distraction to some drivers, but would not result in a significant safety hazard. See Appendix D, Driver Distraction for more details.

Light and glare would not interfere with views, potential impacts to views are discussed in Section B.10.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Extensive illumination currently exists on and surrounding the Seattle Center Campus. The most prominent lighting element is the illumination of the Space Needle which is visible within the entirety of the site and from many locations surrounding the campus. The other high levels of illumination and visible lighting consists of the platform lighting located at the Monorail station and the unshielded floodlighting at Memorial Stadium. Most of the other illumination on site are at low to moderate levels. Surrounding the Campus, lighting is used for illuminating surrounding arterial streets, commercial properties, and residential properties. The lighting and illumination levels are typical for the built environment in Seattle. Light and glare produced by lighting on and surrounding the Seattle Center Campus would not negatively affect the proposal, See Appendix C Light and Glare Memo for more details.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Incorporate dimming of the displays under varying ambient background light conditions or hours of low vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Verify programming and brightness of the displays meet SMC requirements.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The Seattle Center is an important recreational resource in the region and considered a "unique urban amenity that offers both open space and a wide variety of cultural activities" (City of Seattle, 2018b). The recreation opportunities at Seattle Center are described in the Seattle Center Arena Renovation Project EIS (City of Seattle, 2018a). Informal recreation in the vicinity includes bike riding and walking.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No recreational opportunities on the site would be displaced. The purpose of the project is, in part, to enhance wayfinding and increase the visibility of recreational facilities and events at Seattle Center.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

There would be no adverse impacts to recreation.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.

The historic built environment resources at the Seattle Center campus have previously been inventoried (Artifacts Architectural Consulting, 2013). To date, there are seven aboveground historic built environment resources within the Project Area that have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) (DAHP 2021). They are:

- Northwest Rooms/International Fountain Pavilion,
- WA National Guard Armory / Century 21 Food Circus,
- Playhouse - Century 21 Exposition,
- Seattle High School - Memorial Stadium,
- Museum of Pop Culture / Experience Music Project,
- Alweg Monorail Office, and the
- Space Needle

There are seven designated Seattle Landmarks (City of Seattle, 2021d):

- Horiuchi Mural,
- Kobe Bell,
- the Northwest Rooms/International Fountain Pavilion,

- Pacific Science Center,
- Seattle Monorail,
- the Space Needle, and
- WA National Guard Armory.

Three of these resources are both NRHP determined-eligible resources and Seattle Landmarks.

b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

ESA prepared a cultural resources literature review for the Project (Wilson and Metz, 2021). No previously recorded archaeological sites, cemeteries, or traditional cultural properties are located within the Project Area. The DAHP's Statewide Archaeological Predictive Model classifies the Project Area as High Risk to Very High Risk for containing precontact-era archaeological resources (DAHP, 2021; Kauhi, 2013). The potential for the presence of historic-era archaeological resources is informed by the review of known past development.

The Seattle Center Campus is located within the ancestral lands of the Southern Coast Salish people. Oral traditions support the presence of Southern Coast Salish people in this portion of Puget Sound since time immemorial and this is also supported by archaeological evidence within the region (Kopperl et al., 2016). The DAHP Tribal Areas of Interest map identifies the following tribes with interest in the Project Area: Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Samish Indian Nation, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes (DAHP, 2020). This layer was developed by DAHP and participating tribes. Additionally, the Project Area is within the ancestral lands of the Duwamish Tribe (Lane, 1975). An Indigenous trail known as *scHákWsHud* ("trail to the beach") passed immediately north of present-day Seattle Center, roughly following the alignment of today's Republican Street (U.S. Surveyor General, 1859). It led from Lake Union to Elliott Bay and provides documentation of the presence of Indigenous people in this location. Further, the Duwamish village of *babáqWab* / *báqWbaqWab* or "little prairie / large prairie" was located along the trail in the vicinity of Belltown (Hilbert et al., 2001; Thrush, 2007; Waterman, 1922). Historical accounts of the village's exact location vary, but it appears to have been within 0.5-mile of today's Seattle Center (Bass, 1937; Lewarch et al., 2004).

Non-Indigenous development of the area began in the early 1890s (Sanborn Map Company, 1893; USGS, 1895). The area became known as the Warren Avenue neighborhood. Density increased in the neighborhood through the 20th century and culminated in the construction of the 1962 World's Fair / Century 21 Exposition (Exposition) (NetrOnline, 2020; Pacific Aerial Surveys, 1937). This development drastically altered the landscape of the area.

The Exposition changed the once residential and small-scale commercial setting into a planned complex of futuristic buildings, structures, and objects (Becker et al., 2011). Residents moved away from the neighborhood and within a few years nearly all existing resources were demolished to make way for the complex. Several pre-Exposition buildings and structures remained, such as the Washington National Guard Armory / Century 21 Food Circus (1939) and Memorial Stadium (1947) and were repurposed for the Exposition.

Two cultural resources assessments have been conducted within the Area. Both were conducted in the late 1990s as part of large planning projects. One assessed the Denny/Lake Union Combined Sewer Overflow Control Project and the other was prepared for the Sound Transit Central Link Light Rail final environmental impact statement. Neither conducted subsurface testing in the vicinity of the Seattle Center.

c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Documents and databases reviewed in order to identify any potential cultural resources in the project vicinity included but were not necessarily limited to: the DAHP, Seattle Landmarks list, historic photographs, geotechnical studies, published ethnographic studies, histories, and historical maps.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Seattle Center will coordinate with the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board regarding proposed changes adjacent to designated Seattle Landmarks in the Project Area. Based on current designs, no signs would be installed on the exterior of any designated Landmarks. One existing sign that would be replaced is located on the edge of the Pacific Science Center property and would be replaced in a similar location. A Certificate of Approval from the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board will be obtained prior to the replacement of this sign.

ESA has prepared an archaeological resources inadvertent discovery plan for Seattle Center to implement prior to construction of the project (Wilson and Metz, 2021). Should any cultural resources be encountered during construction, Seattle Center will follow the procedures outlined in the plan in order to comply with all state laws requiring the protection of cultural resources including RCW 27.44, RCW 27.53, and RCW 68.60.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The Seattle Center can be accessed from Mercer Street, 5th Avenue North, Broad Street, Denny Way, and 1st Avenue N. These streets provide connection to surrounding public streets in every direction; sidewalks along the perimeter and within the Seattle Center also provide pedestrian access. Pedestrian paths facilitate travel between the various recreational areas within the 74-acre campus. The proposed signage would be essential in providing wayfinding content, serve as destination identifiers, and help promote events and activities to visitors and tourists (Figure 2).

State Route (SR) 99 and Interstate 5 (I-5) are the highways serving the site and would provide regional access to the project area. The site is also accessible by bicycle and racks are available throughout the campus.

b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Nine bus stops are located in close proximity to any of the entry points to Seattle Center. This includes stops at Queen Anne Ave N, 1st Ave N, 2nd Ave N, 5th Ave N, and Denny Way.

The Seattle Center Monorail provides service with approximately 10-minute headways from Seattle Center to Westlake Center in Downtown Seattle.

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Signage would not trigger parking requirements; therefore, no parking spaces would be created or eliminated by the project. Several existing parking options are in close proximity to the Seattle Center.

d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities would be required as results of this proposal. If any impervious materials (e.g., asphalt) are impacted during temporary construction activities, these would be restored prior to project completion.

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Water, rail, or air transportation would not be used for this project.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

No additional vehicular trips would be generated by the completed project.

During the estimated 25-week construction period, minor additional traffic would be generated by construction vehicles accessing the site. There would be an estimated 300 construction vehicle trips over the entire construction period.

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

There are no agricultural or forest product uses in the immediate site vicinity, and the project would not interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural or forest products.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Contractors would comply with SDOT regulations, including obtaining permits and implementing a traffic control plan if required, and take measures to maintain access to adjacent businesses and roadways.

After construction, transportation impacts are not anticipated; thus, no mitigation measures are proposed.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Signs would be accessory structures to existing buildings and facilities, with the primary function of supporting navigation throughout the Seattle Center campus. As accessory structures, signs would not increase the need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No increase in public services is expected; therefore, no mitigation to reduce impacts to public services is proposed.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other: Wi-Fi.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Electricity would be needed for lighting the signs. This service would be provided by Seattle City Light, and there is adequate electric supply serving the site. Minor additional and/or upgraded electrical infrastructure is expected to be required.

Where needed, new wiring would be installed underground, requiring a small amount of grading and excavation for utility trenching, site preparation and sign installation, as referenced in the Project Description. With these improvements, the signage proposal could be served without significant adverse impacts to the Center's electrical systems. (Review comment by Julia Levitt)

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:	
Name of signee:	Julia Levitt
Position and Agency/Organization:	Strategic Advisor, Redevelopment, Seattle Center
Date Submitted:	3/30/2021

D. Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

As a non-project action, revising the Sign Code would not directly or indirectly increase discharges to water; emissions to air; production of noise; production, storage, or releases of toxic or hazardous substances. The amendments affect the sizes, locations, and operation of certain signs, and would not change the number of signs that would be constructed.

Discharges to Water: Seattle Center Campus includes large areas of impervious surfaces and is not located near surface water, streams, rivers, and ground water. Drainage patterns, volume and quality of run-off would not be altered by signs allowed as a result of the Sign Code change.

Emissions to Air. Changes to the Sign Code would have a negligible effect on air emissions. Signs allowed under the proposed code changes are not known to produce air emissions.

Production of Noise. Audio is not a component of the Sign Code change and there would be no change to noise as a result of signs allowed as a result of the Sign Code changes.

Production, Storage, or Release of Toxic or Hazardous Substances. There would be no change to the production, storage and release of toxic or hazardous substances as a result of the code change.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

All new signs in the Seattle Center Campus Subarea would be required to be consistent with all City, state and federal laws regarding air, water noise and hazardous waste.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Changes to the Sign Code would not result in any direct or indirect impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life within the Seattle Center Campus Subarea. As noted in Section B above, Seattle Center Campus is not near water or marine habitats and animals on the Seattle Center Campus are adapted to the urban environment. The amendment does not affect the number of trees or other vegetation to be removed as a result of sign construction. Tree trimming and maintenance would continue under Seattle Centers' existing maintenance program.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

New signs in the Seattle Center Campus Subarea would be required to be consistent with all city, state and federal laws protecting plants, animals, fish, and marine life.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The Sign Code changes would allow more digital signage, but the amount of energy consumed by these signs would be very small. New digital signs would be more energy efficient than existing electronic signs. See section B.6 above for a description of energy impacts from sign replacement that would be allowed under the proposed sign upgrades. It is unlikely that this project would result in the depletion of energy or natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

New signs would comply with all applicable City energy conservation regulations.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

There are no known environmentally sensitive areas, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmland in the immediate vicinity of the Seattle Center Campus. Seattle Center is a Civic Center with a number of structures NRHP determined-eligible resources and/or Seattle Landmarks, see Sections B.12 and B.13. There are also identified viewpoints and scenic routes with views of protected features around the Seattle Center Campus. Protected views may change, but would not be significantly impacted. The Sign Code change is intended to address sustainability and operational issues such as safety and wayfinding for the benefit Seattle Center, its resident organizations, and the visiting public. The Sign Code change should complement the Campus and character of Seattle Center.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

No special measures are proposed. The amended Sign Code regulations would apply to the Seattle Center Campus Subarea, which is operated under the Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan (City of Seattle, 2008b) that includes guidelines intended to ensure that all elements of site development are compatible with the Seattle Center Campus.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The Seattle Center Campus Subarea is not located within a designated shoreline. There would be no changes to existing land use as a result of the Sign Code change.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

The Sign Code amendments limit the size and operation of signs to ensure compatibility with surrounding uses.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The proposal would not increase demands on transportation or public services. Some signs authorized by these amendments would be larger and could be visible from roadways, but the regulations and updated Century 21: Signage Guidelines are designed to limit any adverse effects on roadway operation from larger, digital signs. The sign plan changes would allow more digital signage, an increased use of utilities, but overall signs allowed would be more efficient than existing.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

The future installation of new signs would comply with all applicable city, state and federal laws. The Sign Code amendments, and updated Century 21: Signage Guidelines limit the size, location, and operation of signs to ensure compatibility with nearby streets and roadways.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No conflicts are anticipated with any local, state or federal laws or requirements protection the environment.

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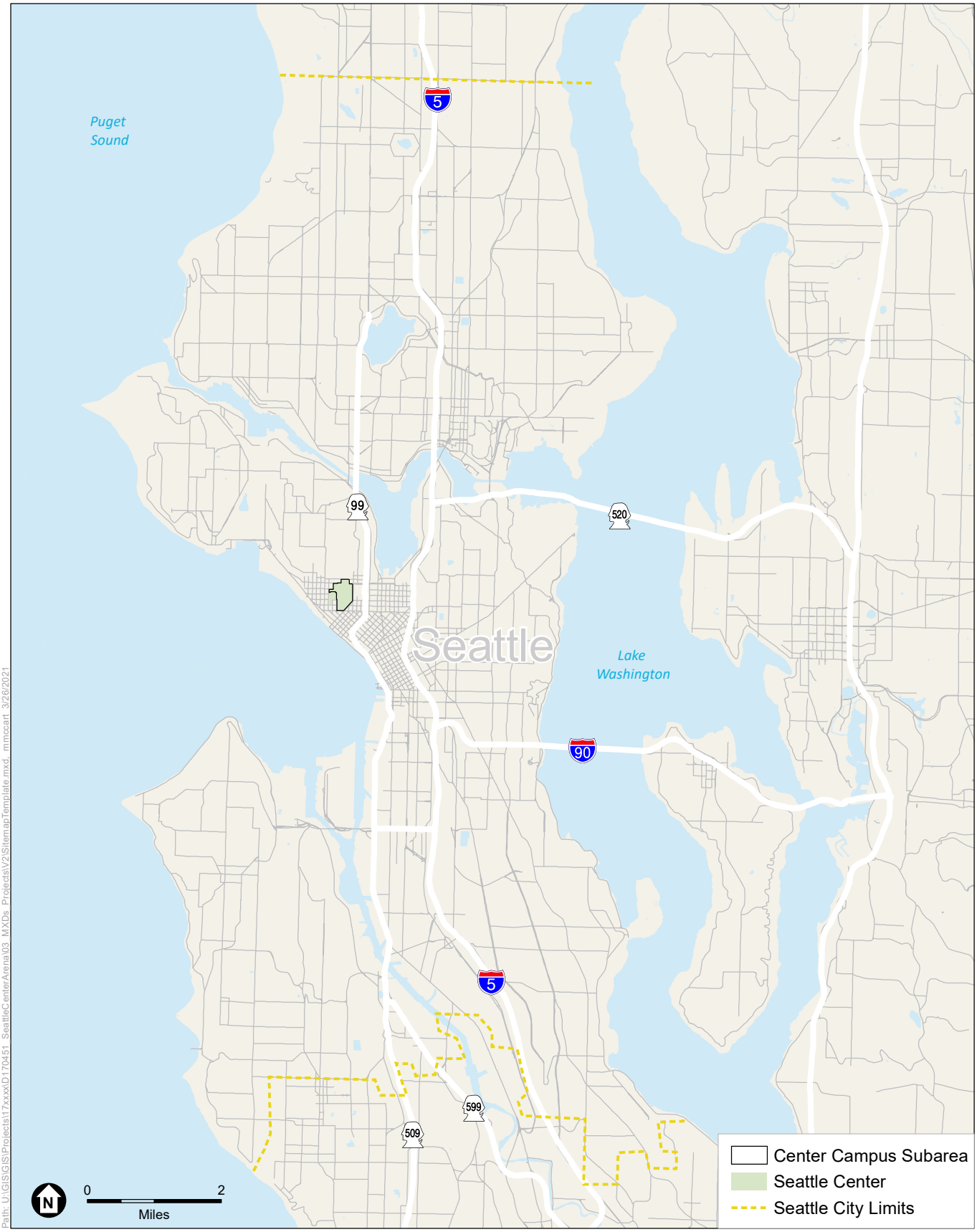
FIGURES



SOURCE: WADOT, 2018; ESA, 2021

Seattle Center Signage SEPA Checklist

Figure 1
Vicinity Map

ESA

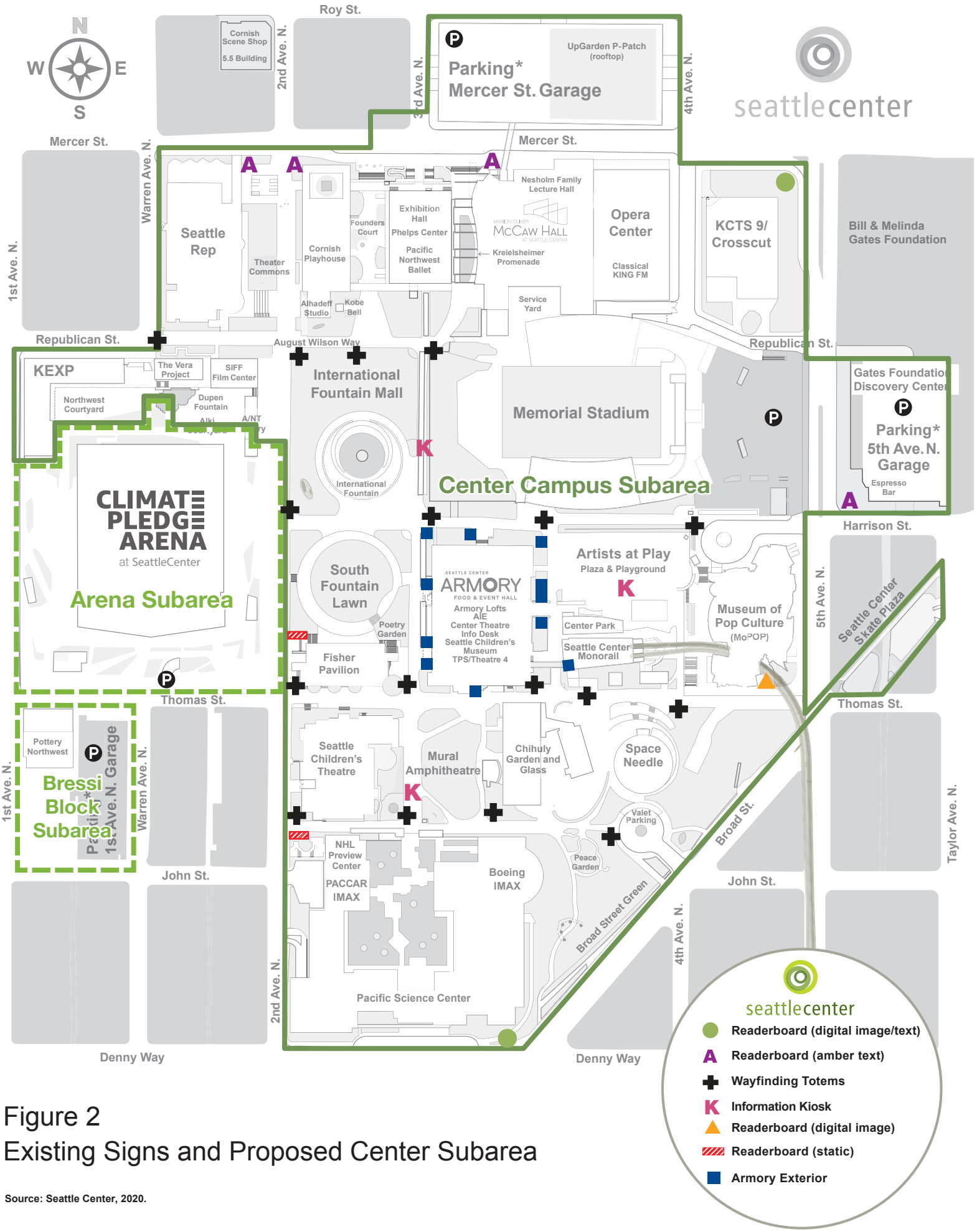
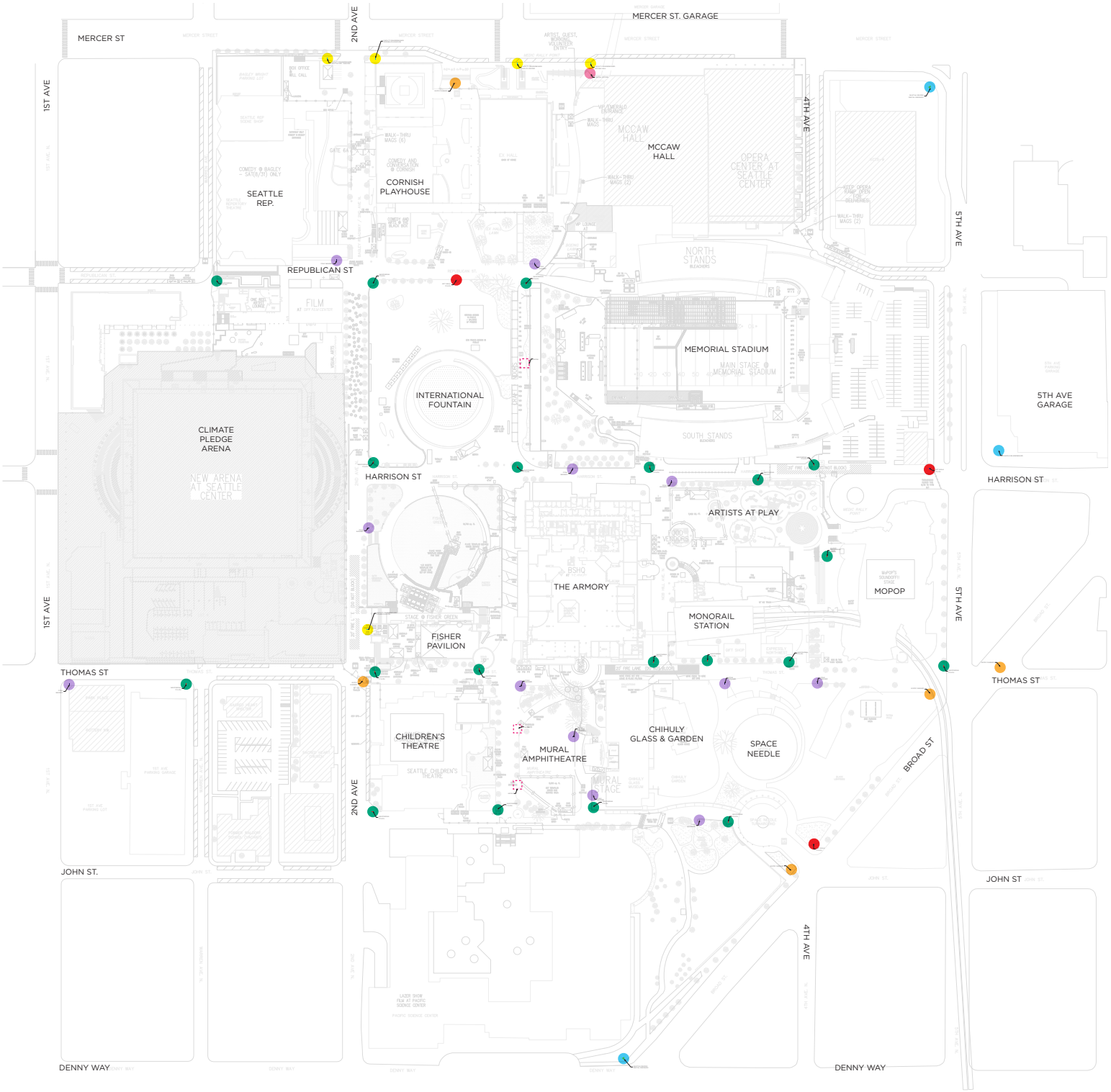


Figure 2
Existing Signs and Proposed Center Subarea

Source: Seattle Center, 2020.

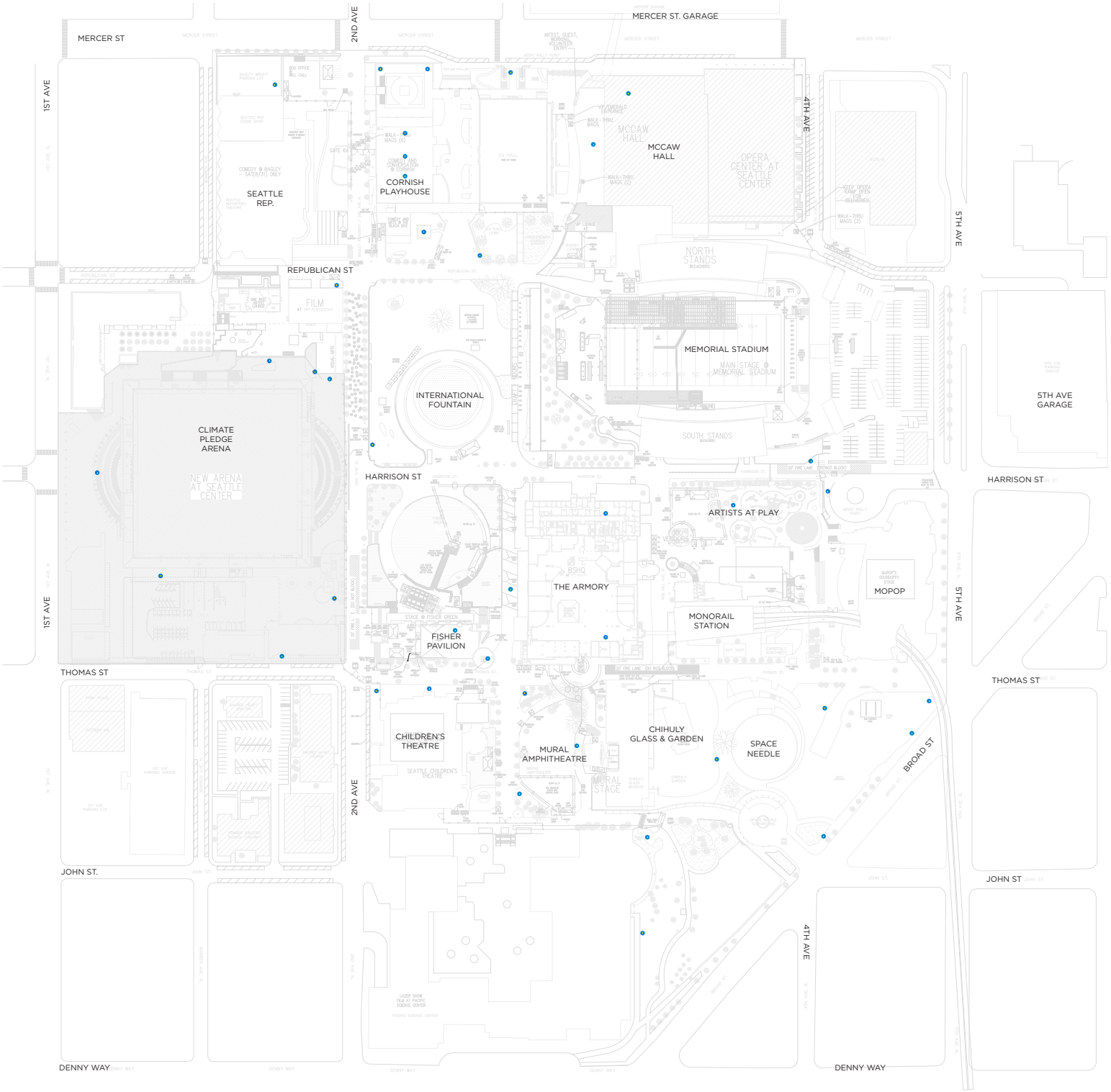


SIGN TYPES AND QUANTITIES

- WAYFINDING PYLON
- ENTRY MARKER
- CAMPUS READERBOARD
- POLE BANNER
- FACILITY READERBOARD
- ART WALK DISPLAY
- INFORMATION KIOSK
- DIGITAL POSTER

Figure 3
Sign Location Plan – Center Campus

Source: Seattle Center, 2020.



SIGN TYPES AND QUANTITIES

● Art Walk Artwork ID Signs (50)

Figure 4
Sign Location Plan – Artwalk

Source: Seattle Center, 2020.

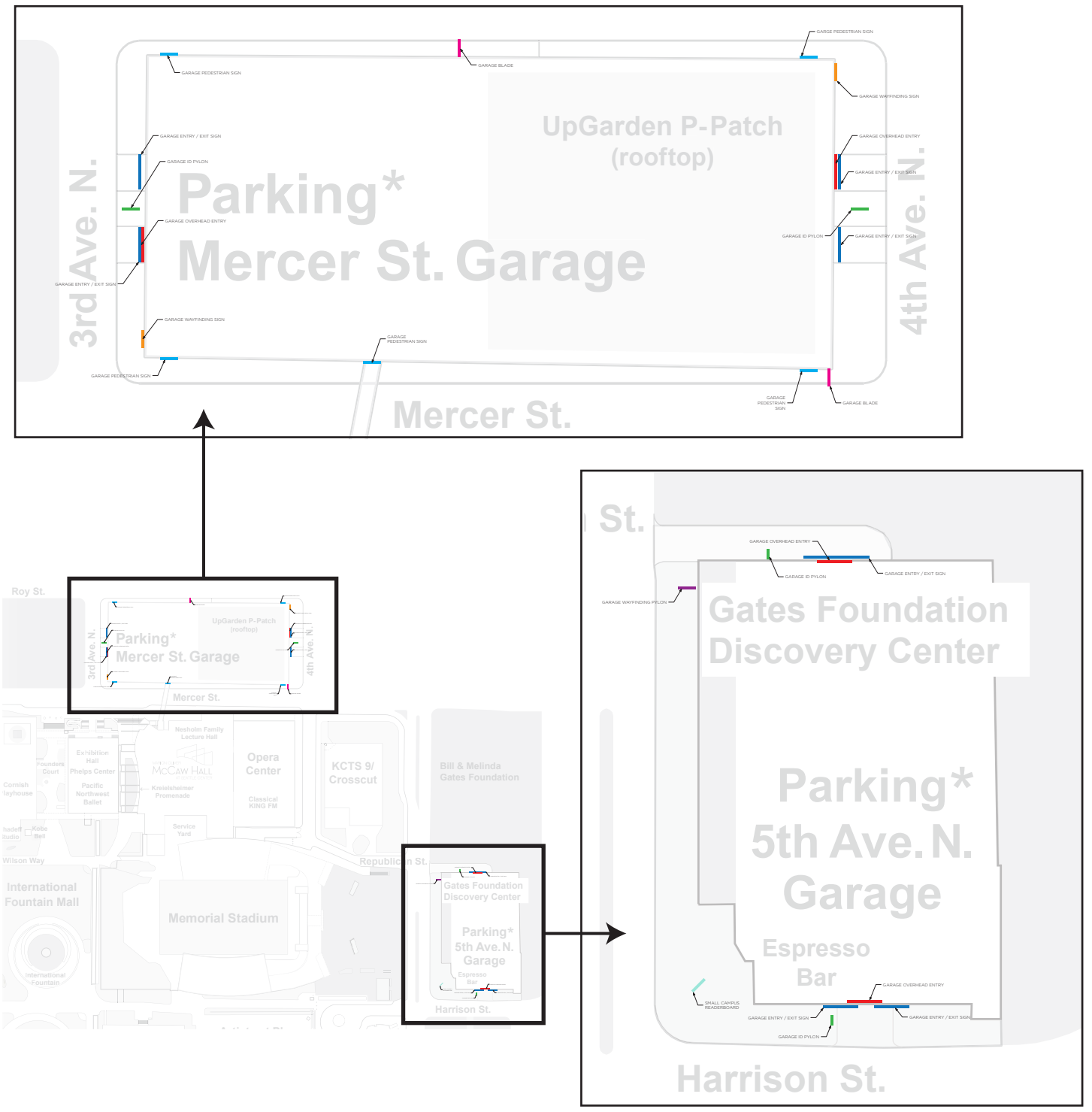


Figure 5
Sign Location Plan – Garages

Source: Seattle Center, 2020.