

Chapter VIII.

NORTH GATEWAY ELEMENT

1. Vision and Goals

To create an attractive, identifiable entrance or gateway to the adjoining neighborhoods on the triangle of publicly owned land bounded by Eastlake Avenue East, Harvard Avenue E. and Allison Street and almost entirely under the I-5 freeway/Ship Canal bridge.

In this simple vision, there is much complexity. The land is owned by the state, but controlled and used by several different City and County agencies. Along with the vision is the goal of a public art placement in the area. However, communities are far from unanimous about the kind of art that would go there with preferences including a large-scale environmental art work and a walk-through “art garden,” as well as maintaining the space as a community green space and flower garden.

Community opinion about these three ideas was solicited and shaped through numerous public planning meetings, major community-wide fairs and workshops, surveys, and volunteer work parties organized to help landscape the site. The communities have opted to incorporate all three concepts into the North Gateway site, with the focus on a major art work that takes advantage of the marvelous environmental site to make a statement about the entrance to the neighborhoods.

Goal NG-1 Place a major piece of art at the North Gateway to the neighborhood in the triangle of publicly owned land bounded by Eastlake Avenue, Harvard Avenue, and Allison Street that will be large enough to fill the space and make a major statement, but will still be accessible and interactive with the community.

This leaves the community with yet another element of complexity. The neighboring communities have limited capacity to fire a major art work. Therefore, the action plan is phased. The first step would be to seek the use of smaller, available funding sources to inspire models and visions for the area, from which an art project and site concept would be selected. Then, a full-scale funding effort would be initiated to solicit financial contributions from the neighboring communities and City-wide art patrons.

2. Definitions of Terms

No definitions are necessary for this Chapter. See Section 4 of this Chapter for identification of organizations and government agencies that will be involved with the North Gateway project.

3. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan

The City's Comprehensive Plan states the following about art and cultural amenities: Public art is one of the most accessible forms of bringing arts and culture into people's daily lives. In addition, the City's urban village ideals recognize that, in higher density neighborhoods, where space is used much more effectively on a household level, the trade-off is a higher city investment in public replacement for private pleasures, i.e., such things as community garden, parks, gathering places, and public art. In the North Gateway Project, the City would recognize a perfect opportunity to meet those ideals. The project would recapture the space for public use through an interactive approach, provide a sense of pride and identity that are the core of the urban village philosophy, and stand to touch the lives of thousands of people daily.

The following Comprehensive Plan goals and policies support the North Gateway recommendations:

- . Use public projects and activities to help define Seattle's identity, especially civic spaces that provide residents and visitors with strong symbols of the city or neighborhood identity (G4, Cultural Resources Element goal)
- . Involve neighborhoods in public projects, including publicly sponsored art and cultural events, so that the projects reflect the values of, and have relevance and meaning to, the neighborhoods in which they are located. Encourage projects that are challenging and thought provoking, as well as beautiful, fun and entertaining (CR2, Cultural Resources Element policy)

4. Planning Background

The Eastlake Gateways project was identified in an earlier planning phase of Eastlake Tomorrow. The objective of this project was to create identifiable gateway areas at the North, South, and East entrances to the neighborhood. This was envisioned to be accomplished "through the use of public art installations, lake views, landscaping, street design, and architecture."

In September 1995, the South Gateway was established by the installation of a sculpture "Shear Draft" at the intersection of Fairview Avenue N. and Eastlake Avenue. Lynn Street (from Boylston to Eastlake avenues) has also been identified in the Community Design Element of the Eastlake Neighborhood Plan as another gateway yet to receive amenities such as artwork and landscaping to make it more appealing to pedestrian traffic (See recommendation CD-12).

Of all the entry points to the neighborhood, however, none is so intriguing or awe inspiring as the North Gateway site. It is at the confluence of three neighborhoods—University, Eastlake, and Portage Bay/Roanoke Park. It is also the departure point for southbound surface traffic continuing to the Central Area (along Boyer), Capitol Hill (Harvard), and Downtown (Eastlake Avenue), making it a significant crossroads. Overhead on I-5, where the freeway spans Lake Union, roars some of the highest traffic volumes in the state.

Most importantly for the North Gateway project, the site is framed by the gigantic architecture of the freeway support pillars, rising nearly 100 feet in the air and measuring nearly 10 feet square at the base. The volume of space defined by this architecture is enormous, the crossroads of the area are significant, and the visibility to the City as a whole, and particularly to the North-end of Seattle, is truly unequaled in the City.

The key location as an entry to two neighborhoods, as a boundary crossing from North to Central Seattle, and the monumental architecture of the I-5 freeway, call for an important work of art that will make the kind of statement reserved for few public places.

The Site and the Players

Key players or controllers of the site are many-a veritable alphabet soup of government agencies (See Figure VIII. 1). Because each of these entities has some claim or use of the site already established, negotiating approval for art placement is expected to be a key issue. The City's interdepartmental team and their ability to contact their government counterparts in State and County agencies will play a crucial role in implementation. The North Gateway planning team has already established a working relationship and precedent for use and revision to the site through its work with Seattle Public Utilities related to the combined sewer overflow (CSO) project that was "tunneled" underneath Eastlake Avenue, adjacent to the site. The North Gateway site was used a staging area for that project and was re-landscaped, and graced with decorative paving and new sidewalks as mitigation (See Appendix J: North Gateway Landscape Renovation Concept). New lighting conduit was also placed.

The contacts and relationships established for this project could provide an essential model for pursuit of the more ambitious goal of art placement.

**Figure VIII.1
North Gateway Key Players**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Abrev. or Acronym</u>	<u>Use or Stake in property</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Metro Transit:</u>	<u>(METRO)</u>	Bus stops on Harvard/ Eastlake, Sometime staging area	Carol Valenta, executive department, 684-1406 1100 2nd Avenue, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98101	Working on establishing a protocol for mitigation of RTA projects. Suggested that the community write a letter to Bob White describing specific projects for development as mitigation should the RTA choose to proceed with a tunnel under Harvard Avenue.
<u>Regional Transit Authority</u>	<u>RTA</u>	Tunneling under Harvard or using freeway right of way	Bob White, Executive Director, RTA	See above
<u>Seattle Transportation Department</u>	<u>SEATRANS</u>	Owns sidewalks & right of way next to streets	John Zavis 784-5267	Need permit only if the art affects the flow of traffic.
<u>Seattle Public Utilities</u>	<u>SPU</u>	Occasional use as staging area, provide landscaping	Pam Miller, Eastlake Project Construction Manager, 684-5179	Advised us to get copy of the street plans and see if there is a conflict with rights of way or utility routings
<u>Seattle Arts Commission</u>	<u>SAC</u>	Interest in public art placements	Barbara Goldstein, Public Art. 684-7311	Eastlake area has recently received a large grant for public art due to the % for Art Program in conjunction with the CSO construction in the area.
<u>Washington State Department of Transportation</u>	<u>WSDOT or DOT</u>	Underlying owner of property. Must approve any permanent use. High impact freeway and express lanes run above	Bill Sutherland, 440-4000 WSDOT Dayton Avenue N Seattle, WA 98113 Phil George Maintenance Superintendent Northrup Way NE Bellevue, WA 98004	Suggested writing a proposal to both he and Phil George regarding the project and then meeting with Phil to discuss the project. Phil George issues the permits.
<u>Seattle Department of Neighborhoods</u>	<u>DON</u>	Contributor to any neighborhood matching fund project	Jim Diers	Potential small and simple grant for startup. Will grant up to \$50,000. or more for project with matching volunteer sources or funds.
<u>Eastlake Community Council</u>	<u>ECC</u>	Community council for the area where the triangle is located. Spearhead project	Lynn Poser, 323-9257	Will most likely be the key implementers of the project at the local level.
<u>Portage Bay/ Roanoke Park Community Council</u>	<u>PB/RP CC</u>	Adjoining neighborhood group which would partner in the project	Kingsley Joneson, 323-6031	Will share responsibility for project implementation.

5. North Gateway Recommendations

Policy NG-1: *Place a major piece of art at the North Gateway to the neighborhood in the triangle of publicly owned land bounded by Eastlake Avenue, Harvard Avenue, and Allison Street that will be large enough to fill the space and make a major statement, but will still be accessible and interactive with the community.*

NG-1.1. Establish a North Gateway Placement Committee to oversee the process of art selection, fundraising, and eventual placement of art on the site. [Key]

- Recruit from Eastlake and Portage Bay/Roanoke Park neighborhoods, as well as interested art patrons.

. Involve communities as selection and placement proceeds.

NG-1.2. Determine a staged process for developing the funding for a major art placement at the North Gateway site. [Key]

- . Phase I - Apply for Department of Neighborhoods Small and Simple Grant to: 1) develop art selection process and competition; 2) screen potential artists; and 3) select a preferred proposal that meets the goals of the plan and the communities.

. Phase II - Begin fundraising for the project after design selection.

NG-1.3. Standards and criteria will include community preferences established during the neighborhood planning process. [Key]

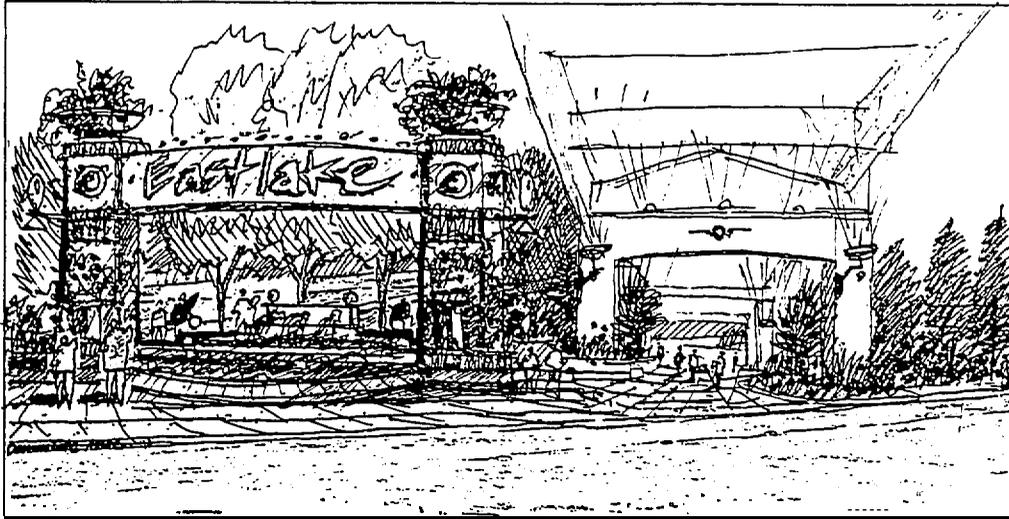
. Primary objective is a large art project that conceptually and visually fills the area.

- Secondary objective is an interactive art area accessible to the community.

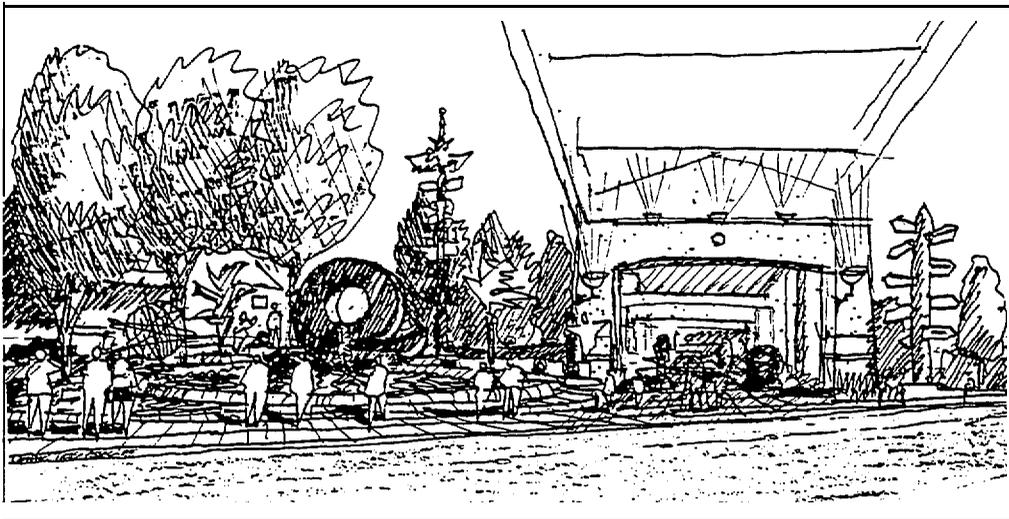
. Third objective is maintaining and enhancing the area for flowers and greenery.

. All proposals will include lighting in the area

NG-1 .4. An off-leash area for dogs is not compatible with the art placement and green space recommendations for the North Gateway. [Near-term]



The Gateway Identifier: The big statement



Community Treasures: A walk-through, human-scaled art garden

6. Key Pending Issues

The complexities of ownership and control of the site, plus the issue of fundraising for a major art installation, make this project more difficult, but by no means impossible. Agreement on a protocol for site control and the parameters for art oversight in the area are still unresolved. In addition, the potential for vastly different budgets for the selected project will make the final stage somewhat harder to determine until the preferred vision has been decided. The result is that it will take a continuing, dedicated volunteer effort into the future to see the project to completion.