



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Land Use Services
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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Briefing

DISCUSSION MEMO

Date: November 7, 2022
To: Historic Landmarks Commission
From: Benjamin Nielsen, Design & Historic Review Team
(503) 865-6519, benjamin.nielsen@portlandoregon.gov
Re: Old Town / Chinatown Lanterns
Briefing – November 14, 2022

This memo is regarding the upcoming Briefing on November 14, 2022, for the Old Town / Chinatown Lanterns project. The following supporting documents are available as follows:

- Slide Deck – accessed here <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/record/15561672>.
- Relevant guidelines:
 - Central City Fundamental Design Guidelines:
https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/central_city_plan_fundamental_dg_2001.pdf
 - New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District Design Guidelines:
https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/ctjt-guidelines-adopted_web.pdf
 - Skidmore/Old Town Historic District Design Guidelines:
https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/skidmore-ot-design-guidelines_adopted-06012016-web.pdf

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PBOT is sponsoring a revitalization effort for portions of Old Town and Chinatown that will string decorative catenary lanterns across several streets. A pilot project aims to install lanterns on one or two blocks ahead of a more complete installation. Proposed lanterns are nonstandard improvements in the right-of-way, and connections to existing buildings within the historic districts will require Historic Resource Review approval (mostly likely to be through the Type I procedure).

II. DEVELOPMENT TEAM BIO

PBOT Representative: Anne Hill
Neighborhood Representative: Jessie Burke, Old Town Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Representative: Tom Clark, Old Town Neighborhood Association

III. POTENTIAL DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Proposed ornamental catenary lights will be strung between buildings, with structural and electrical connections. Consider how connections would best be made to historic structures.

- Some buildings may not be tall enough to accommodate connections into a building façade and may require a support structure to be installed on the building's roof.
- Property owner consent will be required for all attachments to buildings.