

USER'S GUIDE TO CHINATOWN DESIGN REVIEW

Review Process

The Chinatown Design Review process includes reviewing building permits, new signage, awnings, new construction, and substantial renovation projects to make sure they contribute to the Chinese and pedestrian character of Chinatown. The Chinatown Design Guide Study provides guidance to applicants on what to consider when preparing their applications.

Projects in the historic district are also reviewed by Historic Preservation Office staff and signs at Gallery Place are also reviewed by the Office of Planning and the Department of Transportation. All building permits for exterior work within Chinatown are required to complete this review.

Contact the DC Office of Planning (OP) to determine scope of design review.

Email a complete Chinatown Design Review application and supporting documentation to OP:

- Chinatown Design Review application;
- Statement describing how the project responds to the Chinatown Design Review objectives defined in the Chinatown Design Guide Study;
- Drawings that include plans, elevations, sections, and graphics showing dimensions, colors, and general description of materials; and,
- Other Information OP identifies as necessary to complete design review.

OP forwards the application to the Chinatown Steering Committee (CSC), Advisory Neighborhood Commission, and any other relevant District agencies for their review. Each party has 30 days to complete their review and send comments to OP. OP has 60 days to complete its review and provide comments to the applicant and may request extensions for up to 180 days.

Reviews are completed when OP determines the project achieves Chinatown Review objectives.

For more information, contact:

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