

# **Staff Report**

# **Design Review Board**

File Number: 4-A-21-DT

Meeting: 4/21/2021

**Project:** 143 S. Gay Street

**Applicant:** Cody Rau

### **Property Information**

Location: 143 S. Gay St. Parcel ID 94 E J 031

**Zoning:** DK (Downtown Knoxville)

**Description:** One-story, brick masonry commercial building with a taller one-story masonry building to the rear. Faç

### **Description of Work**

Level I Minor Alteration of an Existing Building/Structure

Exterior rehabilitation project including alteration to existing façade along Gay Street, to create a new accessible recessed entry door to a renovated tenant space on the first floor; alteration of south elevation fronting Vine Avenue to create two new punch opening windows; and creation of usable roof deck patio space on the second level. Roof deck scope includes the installation of one new door (replacing an existing window), a deck, and a guardrail.

On the Gay Street (northeast) elevation, the left bay featuring an existing recessed storefront entry with a transom window will remain. On the right side of an engaged stuccoed pilaster, a new recessed storefront entry will be installed. The accessible entry will be accompanied by an ADA "push to open" device installed on the existing brick wall.

On the second level (recessed from Gay Street) of the northeast elevation, an existing window will be replaced with a storefront door of a similar size. A 42" tall guardrail will be installed along the proposed roof deck.

On the Vine Avenue (southeast) elevation, two additional window openings will be installed to the left of an existing storefront door. The windows will measure 2'-10" wide and 6'-4" tall, in similar scale and layout to the existing windows.

Scope of work also includes eventual repair to the existing sidewalk along Vine Avenue, to the rear of the building. Curb cut will be removed and sidewalk be repaired to be accessible.

# **Applicable Design Guidelines**

**Downtown Design Guidelines** 

- B. Private Realm
- 1. Building Mass, Scale, and Form
- 1c. Use building materials, cornice lines, signs, and awnings of a human scale in order to reduce the mass of buildings as experienced at the street level.
- 1e. Avoid blank walls along street-facing elevations.

- 4. Architectural Character
- 4b. Enhance pedestrian interest in commercial and office buildings by creating a largely transparent and consistent rhythm of entrances and windows.
- 4e. Design top floors to enhance the skyline of the block through cornices and details that are harmonious with adjacent architecture.
- 4f. Encourage the use of 'green roofs' and other sustainable practices, while minimizing the visual impact from the street.
- 5. Ground Floor Doors and Windows
- 5a. Use consistent rhythm of openings, windows, doorways, and entries.
- 5b. Orient primary front entrances to the main street; secondary entrances should be clearly defined and oriented to streets or alleys, as appropriate.
- 5c. Design entrances according to the proportions of the building's height and width.
- 5e. All windows at the pedestrian level should be clear.
- 5f. Recess ground floor window frames and doors from the exterior building face to provide depth to the façade.
- 6. Residential Buildings
- 6a. Elevate the first floor of townhouses and apartment buildings so that pedestrians cannot look directly into the residence from the sidewalk level.
- 6b. Design entrances to residential buildings so that access is separated from residential flow on the sidewalk.
- 5c. Encourage the development of mixed-use buildings with apartments over lower story commercial uses.

#### **Comments**

The proposed project meets the Downtown Knoxville Design Guidelines as it introduces additional pedestrian access points and transparency to Gay Street and Vine Avenue elevations. The new accessible storefront entry will reflect the proportions and design of the existing storefront entry, and be recessed from the main facade (noted in the guidelines to add depth to the façade).

The addition of two windows to the Vine Avenue elevation assists in avoiding blank walls along street-facing elevations. The new windows proposed for the Vine Avenue elevation are compatible in design, placement, and proportion with the existing windows. Both Gay Street and Vine Avenue elevations will feature a "consistent rhythm of openings, windows, doorways, and entries." No historic materials of the building will be removed or affected to create additional openings.

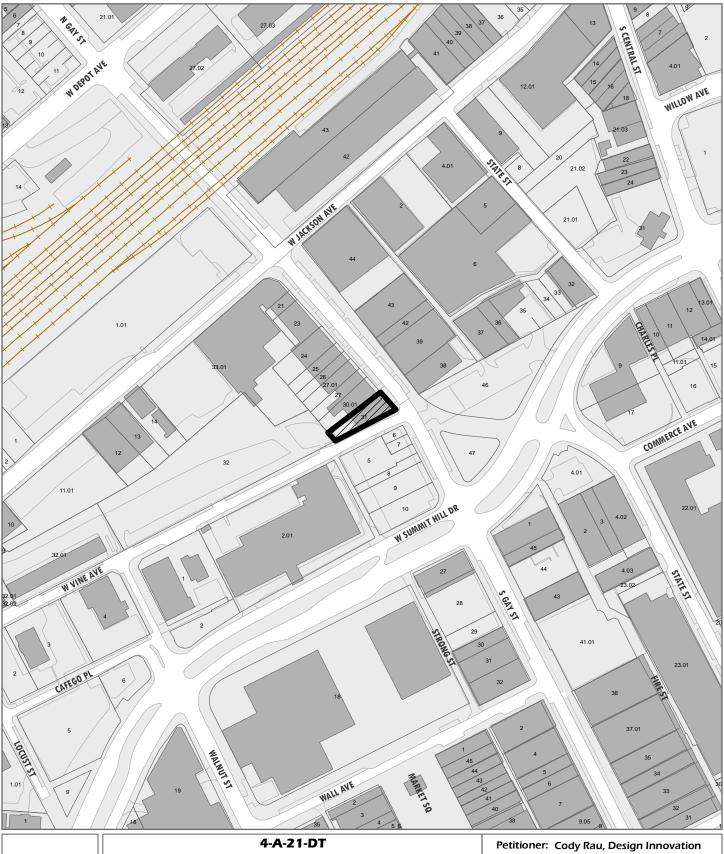
Modifications necessary to create residential space in the upper-level and Vine Avenue elevations meet the design guidelines by separating residential flow on the sidewalk, placing residential space above lower-story commercial uses, and elevating openings into residential space above the sidewalk level.

The proposed rooftop deck is recessed from the primary elevation, modest in design, and minimally visible from the street. The upper-level entry onto the deck is minimally visible from Gay Street. It will not have an effect on any historic materials and will add modest visual interest to the Vine Avenue elevation.

The repairs to existing sidewalk and removal of the curb cut would not change the function or proportions of the existing sidewalk and would make the sidewalk ADA accessible. Work related to residential use of the space may require the applicant/owner to meet City requirements for bike parking.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Certificate 4-A-21-DT as submitted, with the condition that the project meets City requirements for bicycle parking as necessary.



#### DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

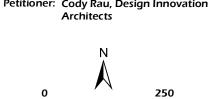
# APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS



143 S. Gay St.

Level 1: Minor alteration of an existing building/structure

Original Print Date: 4/13/2021 Revised: Knoxville/Knox County Planning - Downtown Design Review Board



Feet



Applicant

Date Filed

Cody Rau

402 S Gay Street

865-243-8438

Property Address

Downtown

Neighborhood

Applicant Signature

Name

Address

Phone

2021-04-05

# DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK) HISTORIC ZONING (H) INFILL HOUSING (IH) **Design Innovation Architects** 2021-04-21 4-A-21-DT Meeting Date (if applicable) File Number(s) CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence related to this application should be directed to the approved contact listed below. ☐ Owner ☐ Contractor ☐ Engineer ☐ Architect/Landscape Architect **Design Innovation Architects** Company Knoxville TN 37902 City State Zip crau@dia-arch.com Email CURRENT PROPERTY INFO MKC Properties, LLC 3702 Willow Oak Circle, Cleveland, TN 37312 865-755-7815 Owner Name (if different from applicant) Owner Address Owner Phone 143 - 145 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902 094EJ031 Parcel ID DK-G Zoning AUTHORIZATION indoay Crockett Lindsay Crockett 4.5.21 Please Print Date Cody Rau 2021-04-05

Date

Please Print

# **REQUEST**

DOWNTOWN DESIGN	Level 1: Signs Alteration of an existing building/structure Level 2: Addition to an existing building/structure Level 3: Construction of new building/structure Site design, parking, plazas, landscape See required Downtown Design attachment for more details. Brief description of work: Scope includes alteration to existing front elevation along Gay Street to create a new accessible recessed entry door to renovated tenant space at the first floor, alteration of existing south elevation for two new punch opening windows at the second level along Vine Avenue, and creation of usable roof deck patio space on the second level for renovated private tenant spaces with one new door (replaces window), deck, and railing.		
HISTORIC ZONING	Level 1:  Signs Routine repair of siding, windows, roof, or other features, in-kind; Installation of gutters, storm windows/doors  Level 2:  Major repair, removal, or replacement of architectural elements or materials Additions and accessory structures  Level 3:  Construction of a new primary building  Level 4:  Relocation of a contributing structure Demolition of a contributing structure  See required Historic Zoning attachment for more details.  Brief description of work:		
INFILL HOUSING	Level 1:  □ Driveways, parking pads, access point, garages or similar facilities □ Subdivisions  Level 2: □ Additions visible from the primary street □ Changes to porches visible from the primary street  Level 3: □ New primary structure □ Site built □ Modular □ Multi-Sectional  See required Infill Housing attachment for more details. □ Brief description of work:		
STAFF USE ONLY	ATTACHMENTS  Downtown Design Checklist  Historic Zoning Design Checklist  Infill Housing Design Checklist  ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS  Property Owners / Option Holders  Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500	FEE 1: 50.00 FEE 2: FEE 3:	TOTAL: 50.00



