

Staff Report

Design Review Board

File Number: 10-C-23-DT

Meeting:	10/18/2023
Project:	Sunsphere Visitor Center
Applicant:	Kathryn Greer McCarty Holsaple McCarty

Property Information

Location: 810 Clinch Ave.

Parcel ID 94 M C 006

Zoning: DK (Downtown Knoxville)

Description:

c.1982 monument to the 1982 World's Fair, featuring six double steel truss columns supporting a seven-story glass sphere.

Description of Work

Level II Addition to an Existing Building/Structure

Exterior rehabilitation and new addition to the Sunsphere. New entry canopy over third-level entry stairs, to feature a steel canopy structure with a transparent roof system and extend to the northeast away from the Sunsphere base. New metal canopy to wrap around walkway on the third level.

New addition at the third level of the Sunsphere's base, projecting to the southwest. The addition will project outward from the base, featuring a flat roof with rooftop solar panels, an exterior of metal wall panels, and a full-light storefront window system facing southwest. To accommodate the new addition and the new canopy, the metal roof and guardrail on the third level will be removed.

A new mural will be painted on the existing CMU cladding on the second and third levels. New signage will be submitted separately.

Applicable Design Guidelines

Downtown Design Guidelines

B. PRIVATE REALM

1a. Maintain a pedestrian-scaled environment from block to block.

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.

1d. Divide larger buildings into 'modules' that are similar in scale to traditional downtown buildings. Buildings should be designed with a recognizable base, middle, and top on all exposed elevations.

1e. Avoid blank walls along street-facing elevations.

3. BUILDING MATERIALS

3a. Use complimentary materials and elements, especially next to historic buildings.

4. ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

4a. Encourage first floor uses that draw walk-in traffic; businesses that do not require pedestrian traffic should be located on other floors.

4b. Enhance pedestrian interest in commercial and office buildings by creating a largely transparent and consistent rhythm of entrances and windows.

4c. Scale first floor signs to pedestrians.

4d. Differentiate the architectural features of ground floors from upper floors with traditional considerations such as show-windows, transoms, friezes, and sign boards.

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.

5d. Consider corner entrances at the ends of blocks.

5e. All windows at the pedestrian level should be clear

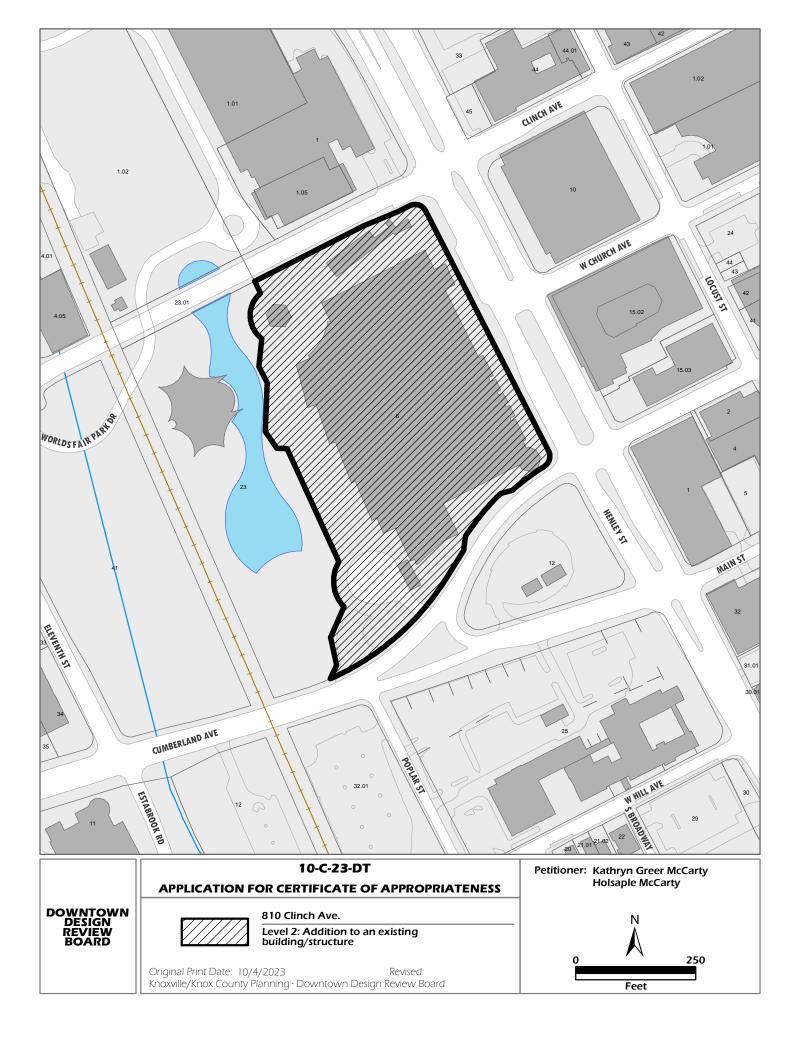
5f. Recess ground floor window frames and doors from the exterior building face to provide depth to the façade

Comments

While the design guidelines are more easily applied to buildings and public improvements such as streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities than a structure such as the Sunsphere, the proposal meets the intent of the design guidelines. The addition will be located at the base of the steel truss structure, close to ground-level, and will not detract from the existing architectural design or shape of the Sunsphere. The addition is modest in size and the proposed metal and glass materials are compatible with the existing structure. New metal canopies will replace the existing metal canopies. The proposal also meets the guidelines by creating easier and more clear pedestrian access to the Sunsphere.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Certificate 10-C-23-DT as submitted.





DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

□ DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK)

□ HISTORIC ZONING (H)

□ INFILL HOUSING (IH)

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Date Filed	Meeting Date (if applicable)	File Number(s)		
CORRESPONDENCE All correspondence related to this applicatio	n should be directed to the approved con	tact listed below.		
] Owner 🔲 Contractor 🗌 Engineer	Architect/Landscape Architect			
Name	Company	Company		
Address	City	State Zip		
Phone	Email			
CURRENT PROPERTY INFO				
Owner Name (if different from applicant)	Owner Address	Owner Phone		
Property Address	Parcel ID			
Neighborhood	Zoning			
AUTHORIZATION				
Lindoay Crockett Staff Signature	Please Print	Date		
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REQUEST

DOWN IOWN 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:
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 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:

	ATTACHMENTS	FEE 1:	TOTAL:
١Ľ	Downtown Design Checklist		
6	Historic Zoning Design Checklist	FEE 2:	
USE	Infill Housing Design Checklist		
STAFF USE ONLY	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS		
STA	Property Owners / Option Holders	FEE 3:	
	Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500		

SUNSPHERE VISITOR CENTER

Downtown Design Review Board 29 September 2023

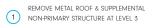


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PHOTOS Existing

LEGEND / KEY NOTES





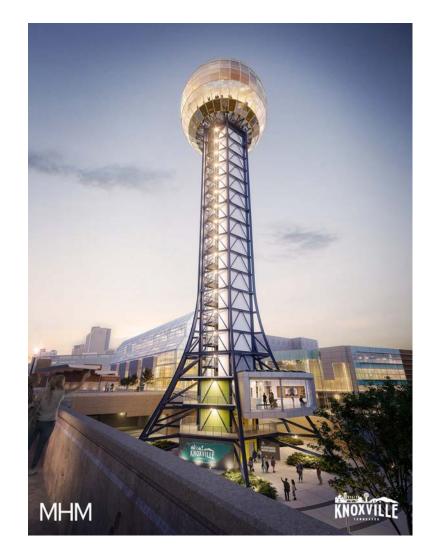


VIEW FROM LEVEL 3 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

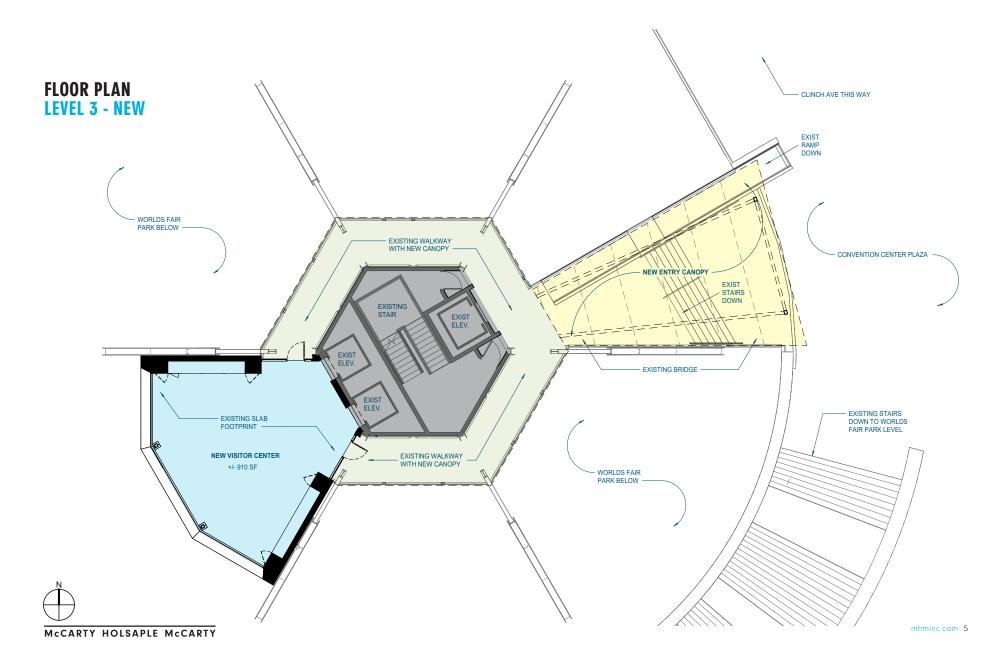
VIEW FROM CONVENTION CENTER PLAZA

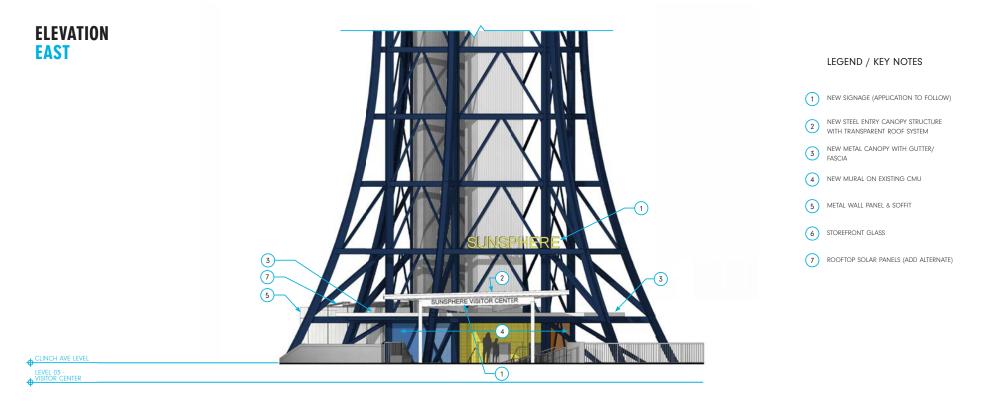
AERIAL VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

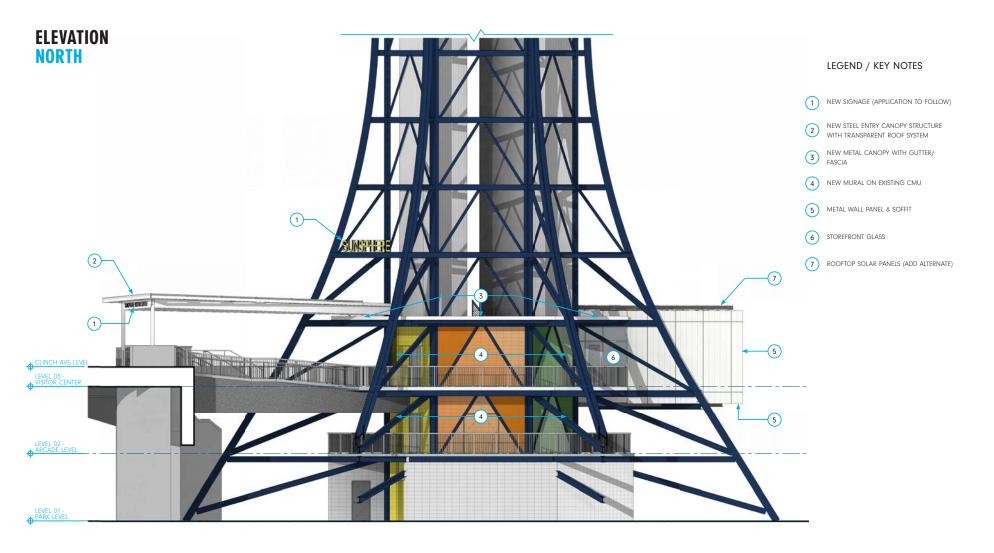


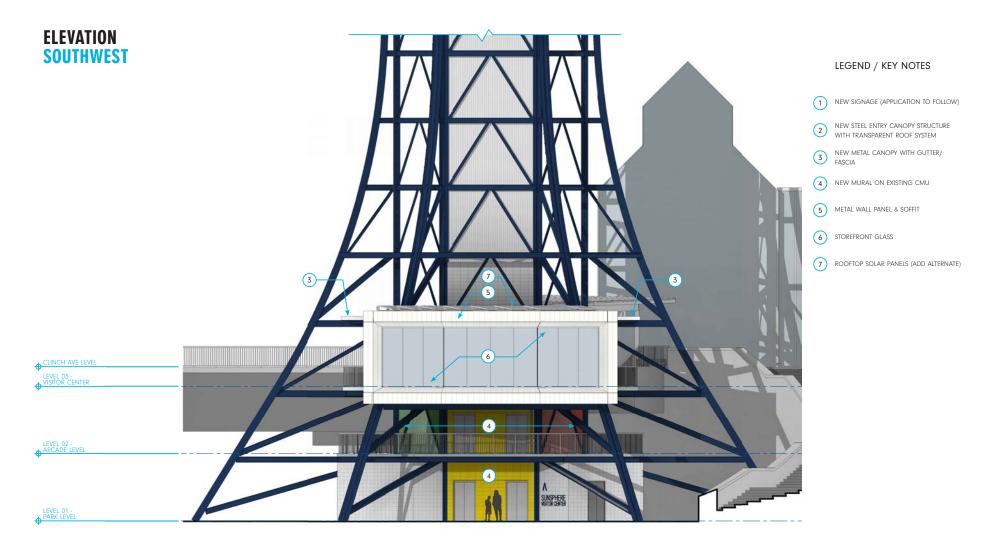


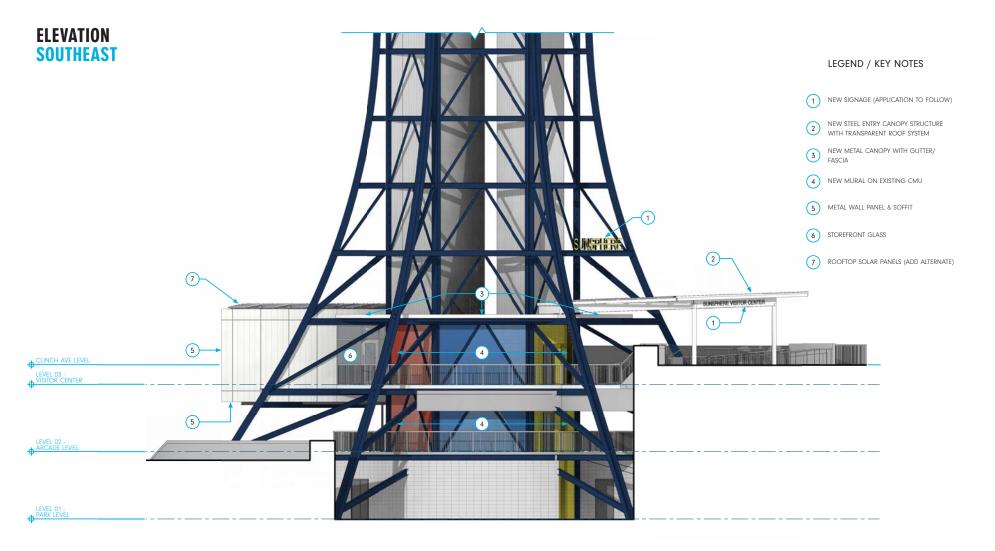






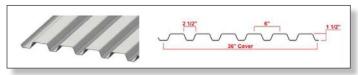






CUT SHEETS METAL CANOPY & GUTTER/FASCIA

TYPE B STEEL DECK



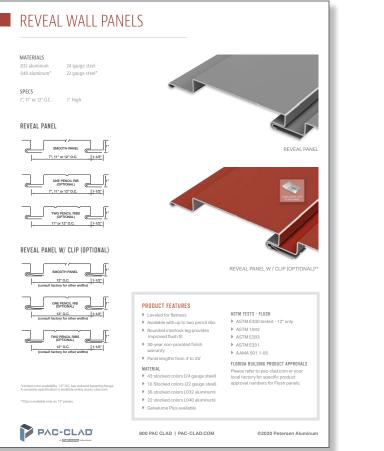
GALVANIZED G-90, SHOP PRIMED, & PAINTED



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CUT SHEETS METAL WALL PANEL & SOFFIT



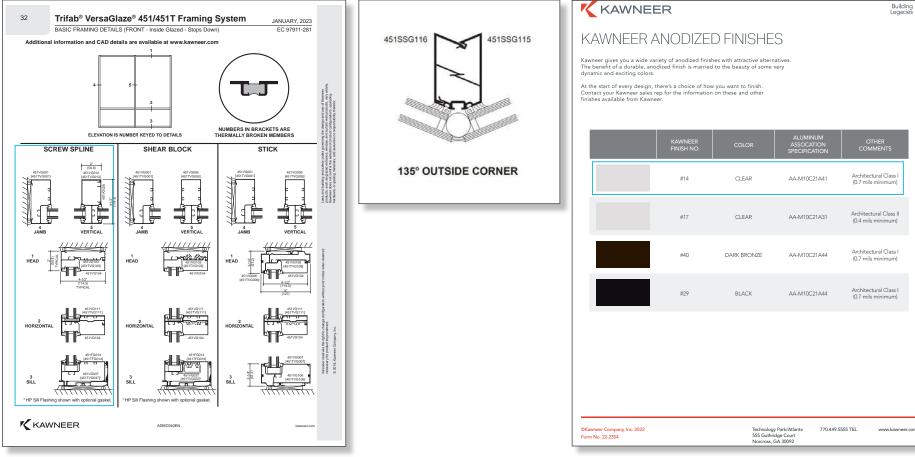




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CUT SHEETS STOREFRONT GLASS



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