PROJECT REVIEW

1. CASE 20.139, 319 BROADWAY, Commercial Building, post 1950 (BROADWAY)

Commercial Building mid-20th C, one-story; flat; brick commercial building with corner storefront entry. NON-CONTRIBUTING to Broadway/Armory National Register Historic District.



Arrow indicates 319 Broadway.



Arrow indicates project location, looking north.

Applicant: Joyce Kutty, 17 Friendship Street, North Providence, RI 02904

Owner: 319 Broadway LLC, NE Health Care Employees Union, District 1199 NE SEIU, 319 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909

Proposal: The scope of work proposed consists of Major Alterations and includes:

The applicant is requesting the painting of the east masonry wall for the installation of a mural.

Issues: The following issues are relevant to this application:

- Staff received a call that a mural was being painted at the subject property. Staff contacted the artist and owners and work was stopped so that they could submit an application. The property has been subject to recurring graffiti on the proposed area of the mural, which is on the side (east) elevation along Vinton Street. The owner decided that placing a mural on the elevation would stop the graffiti from recurring and commissioned the applicant. The City's Graffiti Task Force had been "cleaning" the graffiti off and the owner became concerned that the process was causing damage to the mortar and masonry. The owner did not realize that the proposal would need Commission approval, as it was paint and could be removed in the future;
- Graffiti is a recurring problem on masonry buildings, many of them historic. In various discussion Staff has been included in with
 the department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, the Providence Preservation Society and others, murals are often discussed as a way
 to limit graffiti and often the creation of murals involves enlisting graffiti artist themselves. Staff has received inquiries from
 other owners of property within historic districts discussing the possibility of having murals commissioned to alleviate this
 problem and the Commission should consider codifying into the Standards & Guidelines additional guidance related to murals,
 similar to what the Commission created for solar panels;
- 319 Broadway is a non-contributing structure to the Broadway/Armory National Historic Landmarks District within the
 Broadway local historic district. The building is a 1950s commercial storefront and the proposed area for the mural is a
 secondary elevation, peripherally visible from the Broadway local historic district. The mural is reversible and could be removed
 in the future;
- At the Nov 23rd meeting the application was continued with the owner's consent. The Commission commented that the painting of the mural on the unpainted masonry wall could be appropriate, the concern that was expressed was that the "canvas" of the mural extended to the south and stopped directly adjoining to the storefront and also partially encompasses the sign above the storefront. Members asked if it would be possible to have the canvas stop before this with a few feet between the storefront/sign and the mural? Mr. Quinn (owner's representative) said that this was possible, but he would like to confer with the artist (applicant) to see if this could be accomplished before committing to this. It was suggested that the item be continued with the applicants to return to the Commission at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Quinn agreed; and,
- Renderings, streetscapes and photos have been submitted.

Recommendations: The staff recommends the PHDC make the following findings of fact:

- a) 319 Broadway is a non-contributing structure to the Broadway/Armory National Historic Landmarks District within the Broadway local historic district;
- b) The application for Major Alterations is considered complete for approval; and,
- c) The work as proposed is in accord with PHDC Standard 8 as follows: as the proposed construction is appropriate having determined that the proposed construction is architecturally and historically compatible with the property and district, is reversible, that will not have an adverse effect on the property or district.

Staff recommends a motion be made stating that: The application is considered complete. 319 Broadway is a non-contributing structure to the Broadway/Armory National Historic Landmarks District within the Broadway local historic district. The Commission grants Final Approval of the proposal as submitted as the proposed alteration is appropriate having determined that the proposal is architecturally and historically compatible with the property and district, is reversible, and will not have an adverse effect on the property or district (Standard 8), citing and agreeing to the recommendations in the staff report, with Staff to review any additional details.

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EDUCATION

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Master of Design Interior Architecture Exhibitions + Narrative Environments

2008-2014

2017-2019

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Bachelor of Fine Arts Metalsmithing + Jewelry Design

1998-2008

THE MUSIC SCHOOL

Violin Performance + Music Theory

SKILLS



Indesign
Photoshop
Illustrator
Microsoft Office
Rhino
Sketchup
AutoCAD



Violin Music Theory Music Production Composition Instrument Making



Hand Drafting Fabrication Woodworking Metalsmithing Casting

Model Making

LANGUAGES: English, Tamil, Malayalam

WORK EXPERIENCE

EXHIBITION DESIGNER

Providence Biennial Providence, RI, 2019

Lead designer for Providence's Biennial at the Rhode Island State House. Responsibilities include graphic design and exhibition design. Collaborated with curator, Brown University's Watson Institute, and local artists. Created digital and physical models, floor plans, detailing construction, and wayfinding materials. Produced and directed final exhibition installation.

MAHARAM STEAM FELLOW

TENAGANITA Selangor, Malaysia, 2019 Collaborated with Human Rights NGO in Malaysia using art and design to create community and healing. Created solutions with legal team, councilors, and NGO directors to implement public policy awareness through art and design. Worked directly with 15 women who were survivors of human trafficking/domestic labor exploitation. Facilitated creative workshops and designed final exhibition for artists and designers who participated.

EXHIBITION DESIGN ASSISTANT

Rhode Island School of Design Providence, RI, 2017 - 2019 Assisted the designing and curation of all departmental exhibitions within Interior Architecture from proposal to installation. Tasks included developing and fabricating installations, curation, and designing/fabrication for display fixtures.

FREELANCE ARTIST + DESIGNER

Providence, RI 2013 - Present Designed events locally and internationally (i.e. Rhode Island, NYC + Bangkok, Thailand). Designed custom made jewelry. Successfully performed leadership roles as head designer and project manager. Led creative workshops. Managed designs from proposal to productions. Event designs include weddings, art installations, and cultural exhibitions.

PRODUCTION JEWELER

Tiffany & Company Cumberland, RI, 2014- 2015 Collaborated with management, model makers, and process engineers to qualify floor production for new products. Conducted time studies, quality analysis, and process development for manufacturing.

DESIGN INTERN

Institution of Human Centered Design Boston, MA, 2018

Surveyed accessibility for several public spaces within and around New England. Assisted accessibility analysis for MBTA Design Guide for Access. Led contextual inquiry fieldwork.

LUTHIER APPRENTICE

Moroccan Ministry of Handicraft Fez, Morocco, 2017 - 2018 Observed and hand-crafted stringed instruments, specifically the oud. Created a long-lasting partnership between Artisan Center and Rhode Island School of Design as part of a pilot program with the Moroccan Ministry of Handicraft.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Rhode Island School of Design Providence, RI, 2017 - 2019 Assisted faculty member with research and development of studio practice within RISD academia. Implemented problem solving skills along with technical skills through critical analysis of topics focused on adaptive reuse.

AWARDS & GRANTS

Maharam STEAM Fellowship, 2019
RISD Interior Architecture Most Creative Thesis, 2019
RISD Graduate Materials Grant, 2019
International Precious Metals Institute Honorary Mention, 2014







