

Monica Dhawan

From: Jacqueline George <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 10:23 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

HI,
I've attended workshops at VISA over the last 5 years and I hope to continue to learn with their great faculty and in such a welcoming environment. Thanks for any support council can offer.
Yours, Jacqueline George

Monica Dhawan

From: Les Lane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 5:30 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Mayor and Council

I am writing in support of the Vancouver Island School of Art. I know it has been a real asset to the community and art lovers in Victoria and elsewhere. Wendy and Xane have worked tirelessly at the school and in the community making it an inviting gathering place for residents of Quadra Village and surrounding municipalities.

Sincerely

Kathleen Lane
Central Saanich

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Monica Dhawan

From: STEVEN GORING [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

I fully support this development project. This mixed use space is needed to further anchor Vancouver Island School of Art in the community.

Thank you
Steven Goring

Monica Dhawan

From: beverly brookman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 12:50 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Over 4,323 individuals have taken courses or workshops at VISA in the last 14 years and I am one of them!
VISA is an important part of the Greater Victoria community and its survival depends on obtaining a permanent location.
VISA has been in the Quadra Village for the last 13 years and should remain in this location.
The Rose Terrace project is an unprecedented (in Victoria) collaboration between a private developer and a cultural organization and should be encouraged as it could set a precedent for future projects.
The project provides some much needed rental housing, including affordable housing units, which I know the council recognizes this need!
The project is beautifully designed as two modest four-storey structures to be surrounded by trees and with a garden terrace between the buildings and will add to the aesthetic quality of the architecture of the Quadra Village.
Thank you for your support of the project!
Beverly Brookman

Monica Dhawan

From: strawbalestudios <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 18, 2019 10:17 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Your thoughtful consideration of the matter at hand is most appreciated. The idea of weaving the Vancouver Island School of Art into the fabric of the community has come to light with this unique and timely proposal.

The school (VISA) carries a youthful and universally uplifting spirit. It provides a pulse from the heart of current time through the people who enrol to learn, experiment and succeed in classic and progressive forms of cultural expression.

The Vancouver Island School of Art is an uplifting entity and it is a buoyant energy that is worthy of your support.

The Vancouver Island School of Art needs this new home. Once given, it will become known through time and reputation as one of the finest and most respected art schools in Canada.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Truly,
Bill Noble
402-3111B Havenwood Lane
Victoria, B.C.
V9C0M7

Monica Dhawan

From: Anne Petrie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 10:28 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria

I would like to strongly support the application of the Purdey Group for the construction of Ross Terrace in Quadra Village. This project exemplifies everything that Victoria wants to stand for as we adjust to the new needs of a contemporary urban environment. Ross Terrace will provide much needed affordable and attractive housing in the midst of a vibrant and growing community. The unique addition of the dedication of the ground floor for the future home of Vancouver Island School of Art makes this a truly groundbreaking development.

VISA has already proven itself as an appealing and responsible part of the Quadra community for 13 years. Unfortunately last spring the Victoria School Board terminated its rental agreement with this very successful art school. VISA *does* need a permanent home and the Ross Terrace development is a perfect fit not only for the school itself but for the community as a whole. Students at VISA shop, eat and interact with the local community. Local residents will continue to benefit from the availability of well priced, innovative and exciting learning opportunities with a fit for everyone, from the absolute beginner to the established artist. With a permanent home VISA will be able to expand its community presence with gallery shows and public interactive art events all year round. Finally, the additional availability of 15 affordable studio spaces will be an enormous contribution to a city that acclaims the arts but where working spaces for individual artists are few and far between .

Ross Terrace is a progressive collaboration between developers and the arts, business and the community. Once again I urge the Mayor and Council to embrace a project which will represent the forward thinking vision of our unique city.

I hope that you will vote 'yes' for the Ross Terrace development project.

Anne Petrie
212- Saghalie Road
Victoria, B.C.
V9A 0A1 Anne Petrie
[REDACTED]

Monica Dhawan

From: Anne Petrie [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: Wendy Welch
Subject: Ross Terrace development

To the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria

I would like to strongly support the application of the Purdey Group for the construction of Ross Terrace in Quadra Village. This project exemplifies everything that Victoria wants to stand for as we adjust to the new needs of a contemporary urban environment. Ross Terrace will provide much needed affordable and attractive housing in the midst of a vibrant and growing community. The unique addition of the dedication of the ground floor for the future home of Vancouver Island School of Art makes this a truly groundbreaking development.

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Anne Petrie
212- Saghalie Road
Victoria, B.C.
V9A 0A1

Monica Dhawan

From: Bill Bartlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 3:34 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

I've been involved in the arts in Victoria since moving to Victoria in 1971. Founder of NCIA (which became Victoria Collage of Art), Director of Open Space in the funding, building purchase and renovations, and now an active member of Xchanges, life member of the AGGV, a six year member of the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee, and now working almost full time on my own figurative art. These resources only come from creative and future thinking community support. VISA has proven itself as an important resource. I'm proud those activities I've been involved with are almost 50 years in serving Victoria. Please support VISA and their very important community arts activities. Like me, you'll be proud you did.

Bill Bartlett

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Bill Bartlett

My emails are not connected to a smartphone. Thanks.

Monica Dhawan

From: Karen Malcolm <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 11:23 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Dear Mayor and Council members:

I am writing to offer support for the Ross Terrace Development Project. I have attended several workshops at VISA and want to continue to do so. They have introduced me to art making and serve a vital role in this community. I love that they are in Quadra Village and hope they can remain in this area. This is an exciting collaboration between a private developer and a cultural organization that will provide much needed affordable rental units. Please consider these factors and grant your approval on May 23rd.

Sincerely
Karen Malcolm
James Bay resident

Monica Dhawan

From: Maurice Yacowar [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: director@vancouverislandschoolart.com
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

I'm a retired university Fine Arts professor/administrator, enjoying my fourth year in the adventurous Eden we call Victoria. I wish to throw my enthusiastic support behind the Ross Terrace construction project.

Having reviewed the plans, I must say -- this is a remarkable undertaking. First, it's wonderful that a developer has stepped up to help preserve the remarkable teaching and creation resource, The Vancouver Island School of Art. Second, the project is so efficient in its design. It will bring a considerable multifunctional space, a modern aesthetic and a rare combination of low-cost residence and public use to Quadra Village without imposing the blockage of a high-rise. Its scale will not disrupt the village feeling and yet provide a center for community building through art. This is a rare opportunity to confront the region's housing shortage while enhancing the availability of spaces for artists to use and to share their work.

My dream for Victoria's future would be the proliferation of this model throughout the city: affordable accommodation linked with improved access to the arts and community engagement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maurice Yacowar, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus (English and Film Studies), The University of Calgary
#212-100 saghalie road, Vctoria
[REDACTED]

Monica Dhawan

From: Rhonda Lee Usipiuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 9:55 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Dear Mayor and Council:

I support this project as rental housing such as is being considered for Ross Terrace is genuinely needed in Victoria where it is difficult to find reasonable accommodation. Being a part of the Quadra Village is ideal with its established businesses and transit routes.

Furthermore, having Vancouver Island School of Art (VISA) as a permanent occupant of Ross Terrace is important to the school's stability. It has been in the Quadra Village for 13 years and should remain in the village. I attended VISA in its early years and graduated with a Diploma in Fine Arts in 2009. I believe it to be an art school of high quality and an asset to the community.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Lee Usipiuk

Monica Dhawan

From: Tony Kalla [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 19, 2019 5:32 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 5th Street Rental by Aryze

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are owners of a 22 suite rental apartment building at 2540 Quadra Street. We were made aware of the above referenced project by letter from you the city a few months ago and have been following the progress since. We like the idea of new rental units in the neighbourhood and strongly support this project and design.

We have ongoing demand for our units, especially when we have had the opportunity to upgrade with renovation when long term tenants have chosen to move on. The area is improving constantly; more rental accommodation would be most beneficial.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Tony Kalla, President and Secretary

GRAYSON APARTMENTS LTD.
[Suite 110, 1118 Homer Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6L5](#)
[REDACTED]
E-Mail: tkalla@westbridgecapital.com

Monica Dhawan

From: charlotte bell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 4:50 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art - support Quadra Village economy!

Hello Mayor and Council,

I have taken many courses over the years at the Vancouver Island School of Art (VISA).

I would like to let you know of my support in securing a permanent location for VISA. As you know they are working with the Purdey Group to be part of their new development project, [Ross Terrace](#), on Fifth Street (between Bay and Kings).

More than 4000 individuals have taken courses or workshops at VISA in the last 14 years and is an important part of the Greater Victoria community,

VISA has been in the Quadra Village for the last 13 years and should remain in this location as it is an important part of community life and contributes substantially to nearby commerce.

The survival of the school depends on obtaining a permanent location.

Thank you for your consideration to this issue

Charlotte Bell
1545 Richardson St
Victoria BC

Monica Dhawan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art (VISA) and the Ross Terrace Development Project

To: The Mayor and Council, City of Victoria, BC Canada
RE: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art (VISA) and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Xchanges Gallery and Studios, I am writing to express our strong support for the above project. As one of the oldest existing Artist Run Centres in Canada, we at Xchanges Gallery and Studios recognize the critical role that VISA plays in our arts community and for the well being of Victoria and the region as a whole. The work that VISA has undertaken to establish and mature its mandate as a centre of excellence in cultural programming over the past 14 years positively impacts our community in tangible ways – supporting young people in their educational and creative development as well as adults. The arts provide our communities with positive alternatives in contemporary life that are unavailable elsewhere; VISA plays a central role in this function for all of us and must be supported to grow and develop. Their track record of success in Quadra Village as a pillar in the community and providing programming for thousands of students is evident. They also have proven their ability to tackle challenging situations and rise up in the face of adversity as evidenced in how well they managed the latest situation with the loss of their building. This organization has proven itself strong and enduring. By supporting VISA in this project you will ensure an important legacy of cultural education and development for our community.

Further, this project represents an outstanding collaboration between a non-profit cultural organization and a private sector developer. The city has an important role in encouraging this kind of innovation and in ensuring that this project is able to deliver the many benefits that such a partnership can do for the community at large. The project also supports new housing which is crucial at this time.

Thank you for considering this letter of support during your deliberations on the topic. We look forward to a positive outcome for our communities.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Bergstrom
President

Monica Dhawan

From: Susan McInnis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

To Mayor and Council

I love the design for the proposed Vancouver Island School of Art new location and the fact it includes rental and affordable housing. I sincerely hope you approve this worthwhile project.

Susan McInnis

Sent from my iPad

Monica Dhawan

From: Derek Pym <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: 5th Street Rental by Aryze

Hello,

I'm a resident of Quadra Village and I absolutely love the neighbourhood. I noticed that a building was proposed around the corner from me and after hearing more about the details, I think this would be a wonderful idea. A thoughtful design that would add much needed new housing options to the area, without too much disruption.

It's got my vote!

All the best,

Derek

Monica Dhawan

From: Lynda Gammon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 10:20 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Cc: Wendy Welch
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am sending this e-mail of support for the Purdey Group's new development project Ross Terrace. The plan to have the Vancouver Island School of Art lease the street level area is an excellent and progressive idea. I am very pleased to see developers partnering with our arts organizations in ventures such as this. The classes and activities at the Vancouver Island School of art will be able to continue to bring vibrancy to the Quadra community and beyond in such a public way with ground level windowed spaces. As you know the Vancouver Island School of Art is a Victoria arts phenomenon having operated without any financial support at the municipal, provincial or federal level for over 15 years. VISA offers public art classes, art exhibitions, art lectures and so forth at an accessible yet professional level. VISA is an integral part of the arts community and infrastructure of Victoria. They have struggled over this past year having been evicted from their school space on Quadra street as the school board took back the space for their own needs. They have surely earned a more prominent housing spot in the city. This is a way the City of Victoria can really show support for the arts!

Sincerely Yours,

Lynda Gammon

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Lynda Gammon
Associate Professor Emeritus
Department of Visual Arts
University of Victoria

[REDACTED]

Monica Dhawan

From: Suzanne Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12:42 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Mayor and Council Members

I am writing to urge you to consider allowing the Vancouver Island School of Art permanent space in the new Ross Terrace Development on Fith St. VISA is an extremely unique and important part of the Greater Victoria Community and surrounding districts. I have been attending classes and volunteering at VISA since 2012 and it has made a profound difference in my life and the life of others.

VISA is a unique institution and one that I feel Victoria should be proud of. It is a highly accredited art school that provides an encouraging yet disciplined program for students of all ages, levels, interests and abilities. I have met students from across Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Iran, UK and the United States who have decided that VISA was the school to provide the opportunities they needed. Graduation from the diploma program enables students to qualify for a BFA at either Emily Carr University or the University of Gloucester. These are both well-respected schools in the wider art community and shows that VISA is able to deliver a very high standard of education.

I have attended both the Ontario College of Art and Emily Carr and I can say that VISA equally holds it's own in terms of quality and content. What VISA also provides is a strong sense of community. This is markedly different from other art schools that tend towards the competitive. I have seen students starting at a beginner level in courses with very advanced students and all are supportive and encouraging of each other. The community at VISA is so strong, and the quality of instructors so high that students who have graduated often come back to take courses or volunteer their time.

VISA has provided much needed studio space for many practising artists in Victoria, that also allow them the opportunity to become part of not only the community at the school but a wider art community as well. Affordable studio spaces are in high demand in Victoria. VISA also provides art tours to cities such as New York, available to the public as well as students that provide an opportunity to learn about and experience art from around the world with knowledgeable and passionate instructors and artists.

VISA has been part of the Quadra Village for over 13 years and has greatly contributed to that local community. I believe that the development at Ross Terrace is the best fit for VISA. It is an unprecedented collaboration between a private developer and a cultural organization that I feel will strongly benefit Victoria in the long term. This development will also provide much needed rental housing and is beautifully designed, adding to the aesthetic quality of the neighbourhood.

Victoria is a rich and vibrant city that I am proud to call my home. I feel that Victoria is in a unique position to make positive moves forward in further supporting the art community by giving VISA a permanent home that will allow it to grow and develop and further enrich our beautiful city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Suzanne Hamilton

Monica Dhawan

From: Thomas Winterhoff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Ross Terrace application

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Ross Terrace development (2566/2570/2580 Fifth Street)

My wife and I live about 100 metres from the site of the proposed Ross Terrace development and we are writing to express our support for this project.

We've taken a keen interest in how the Quadra Village neighbourhood has been evolving in the nine years we've lived in our current home, so we attended two of the community information sessions hosted by the Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee. Both times, the proponent was open and forthcoming about the company's plans for the site, provided lots of detailed information, and took the time to answer questions posed by the people who went to these meetings.

We're pleased to see how the project's design has changed over time to address the legitimate concerns of nearby residents. In our view, there are two key components of the project that deserve council's support:

More rental housing for the Quadra Village neighbourhood

- Council is well aware that there is an acute shortage of rental housing in this neighbourhood (and in the City of Victoria generally).
- If approved, the Ross Terrace development would help address this shortage with the inclusion of rental units of various sizes, including some suites that would be designated as affordable housing.
- We feel that the proponent has responded positively with a commitment to help meet the growing demand for rental housing in our neighbourhood.
- The current design is both creative and inclusive. It is refreshing to see a developer who appears to be seriously taking the needs and esthetics of our neighbourhood into account.

Inclusion of the Vancouver Island School of Art

- The Vancouver Island School of Art has been part of the Quadra Village community for over a decade. My wife and I have both participated in the school's programs and have enjoyed numerous exhibitions and open houses organized by the school.
- We appreciate how the school's teachers and students have contributed to the vitality of our neighbourhood and have helped raise awareness of the importance of art in people's lives.
- We are particularly pleased with the proponent's latest design, which now shows the art school fronting on Fifth Street. This change creates a welcome focal point for the facade of the east building that would greatly improve the area's appearance and atmosphere.

At both community information sessions that we attended, several people raised concerns about the impact that this proposed development would have on the availability of on-street parking in the immediate area. Since we live just two blocks away from the site, we are very familiar with the current parking situation. We do not have

a driveway or garage on our property, so we also must park our car on the street. We are therefore sympathetic to the concerns of people who live even closer to the site than we do.

However, this situation is certainly not unusual in Victoria. As our city's population grows, so will the demand for readily available on-street parking. The developer, in our opinion, has made a considerable effort to explore a variety of parking solutions (including a plan to purchase a car-share vehicle for the use of tenants).

The simple fact is that some people will continue to grumble about on-street parking in our neighbourhood, regardless of whether or not this proposal is approved. While it would be great to come up with a solution that would make everyone happy, that is unlikely. As with many such endeavours, the best way forward is a compromise that will benefit the neighbourhood as a whole.

We believe that Ross Terrace is exactly that sort of project and we hope that council approves it.

Best regards,

Thomas Winterhoff and Esther Parker

Monica Dhawan

From: Louise Osborne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2019 9:20 AM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

I support establishing the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development. I have lived in this neighbourhood for 30+ years and have taken many courses at VISA. Wendy Welch has been an unfailing inspiration for our community.

Louise Osborne
1238 Vista Heights
V8T 2H8

Monica Dhawan

From: Ruth Andrews [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:58 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Support for the Vancouver Island School of Art and the Ross Terrace Development Project

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

I'd like to express my support for the Ross Terrace Development Project. There are many wins to be realized through this project, one of which is providing sorely needed affordable rental housing.

While it is good news that the vacancy rate has risen in Victoria due to rental housing starts, to 1.2%, this is still below the 1.4% average for BC (as of November 2018). Meanwhile, rents have continued to increase significantly.

Another benefit of this project is a permanent home for VISA – an important non-profit cultural organization that has been a part of Greater Victoria for the past 14 years, despite not receiving any operational funding from government sources.

As the only independent art school in BC with block transfers to larger institutions in BC and abroad, VISA is a very unique school. With its smaller, welcoming environment and how accessible the courses and workshops are, it is part of what makes Victoria such a special place. As a part-time student of VISA, I feel incredibly grateful to have found this school. Overall, I see it as a vehicle to help me become more involved in my community and to be of service in a way that also brings me joy. Securing a permanent location will allow VISA to focus on continuing to provide a safe container for the soul-nourishing creativity that our community and the world so badly needs.

I sincerely hope that the majority of stakeholders and those involved in the decision-making process see this project for all the good it will do for the well-being of the community, which will surely outweigh the drawbacks, if any. It sets an important example for future developments.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our city.

Sincerely,

Ruth Andrews