

Pamela Martin

Attachments: Letter of Support from Pacific Opera Victoria-DP Application-Parking Variance-1001
Blanshard.pdf

From: Maureen Woodall [<mailto:mwoodall@pov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 1:27 PM
To: Leanne Taylor
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of Support re 1001 Blanshard St and 804 & 812 Broughton St, DPV00002 -

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Please find attached a letter of support from Pacific Opera Victoria regarding the development permit application for 1001 Blanshard Street.

Sincerely,
Maureen Woodall
Executive Associate, Pacific Opera Victoria

On behalf of Patrick Corrigan, Executive Director.

mwoodall@pov.bc.ca
Phone: 250-382-1641
Fax: 250-382-4944
Box Office: 250-385-0222
www.pov.bc.ca

NEW OFFICE ADDRESS

925 Balmoral Rd | Victoria, BC | V8T 1A7

MAINSTAGE PERFORMANCES

The Royal Theatre | 805 Broughton Street | Victoria

Planning & Land Use Standing Committee
JAN 28 2016
Late Item# <u>10</u>
Page# <u> </u>



Atomique Productions • 1280 Douglas St., Victoria, BC • V8W 2E5 Canada • Office: 778.433.4743

January 26, 2016
City of Victoria
No 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6

Attn.: Mayor and Council
Re: 1001 Blanshard Street Development Permit Application

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to express my support for the development permit application of 1001 Blanshard. This site is located downtown across from the Royal Theatre, but we understand that from a zoning standpoint, it is considered part of Fairfield and thus is subject to suburban parking requirements. In our opinion, this site should conform to the norms of other downtown zones rather than those of Fairfield, and in this spirit we support the applicant's request for a parking variance. Unlike many suburban neighborhoods, our downtown is well serviced by buses, parkades, street parking and soon, by bike lanes. Visitors to downtown Victoria will increasingly have many transportation options, and urban centers do not thrive when planned around stringent parking requirements.

Having had the pleasure of utilizing the adjoining Fort Common Courtyard several times now, we can speak first hand on its importance within our downtown community. What was once an overlooked parking lot has been transformed into a unique gathering place, capable of hosting relevant and leading community events. With upgrades to the existing building façade, landscaping, increased bike parking, piazza-like patio areas, and a new pedestrian walkway into the Fort Common Courtyard, bringing the 1001 space to completion would amplify the potential for continued vibrancy in this district of town. This type of development is positioned to improve urban walkability, vibrancy and the potential for "20 minutes living" valued by so many people today.

The variance requested in this DP Application will bring the use of this prominent corner location in line with the City of Victoria's strategic vision for an urban core characterized by urban villages, enlivened spaces, citizen-led place making initiatives, and excellence in home grown entrepreneurship.

Sincerely,
Nick Blasko

Founder, Director
Atomique Productions Ltd.

925 BALMORAL ROAD
VICTORIA, BC V8T 1A7

ADMINISTRATION 250.382.1641
FAX 250.382.4944
BOX OFFICE 250.385.0222

WWW.POV.BC.CA



January 26, 2016

City of Victoria
No 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6

Attn.: Mayor and Council
Re: 1001 Blanshard Street Development Permit Application

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to support the development permit application of 1001 Blanshard. This site is located downtown across from the Royal Theatre, but we understand that from a zoning standpoint, it is considered part of Fairfield and thus is subject to suburban parking requirements. In our opinion, this site should conform to the norms of other downtown zones rather than those of Fairfield, and in this spirit we support the applicant's request for a parking variance. Unlike many suburban neighborhoods, our downtown is well serviced by buses, parkades, street parking and soon, by bike lanes. Visitors to downtown Victoria will increasingly have many transportation options, and urban centres do not thrive when planned around stringent parking requirements.

The Royal Theatre and its surroundings are such a superb opportunity for developing vitality and engagement with the City of Victoria and its excellent performing arts organizations. We at Pacific Opera Victoria feel that these plans would be beneficial to this endeavor.

We also feel strongly that this significant downtown corner has been vacant for long enough, and we look forward to seeing it occupied by vibrant local businesses capable of making a dynamic contribution to the downtown residential community and the Royal Theatre District. We also welcome the upgrades to the existing building in terms of façade treatment, landscaping, increased bike parking, piazza-like patio areas, and a new pedestrian walkway into the Fort Common Courtyard. This type of development is positioned to improve urban walkability, vibrancy and the potential for "20 minutes living" valued by so many people today.

The variance requested in this DP Application will bring the use of this prominent corner location in line with the City of Victoria's strategic vision for an urban core characterized by urban villages, enlivened spaces, citizen-led place making initiatives, and excellence in home grown entrepreneurship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Corrigan".

Patrick Corrigan
Executive Director

February 3, 2016

City of Victoria
No 1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1P6

Attn.: Mayor and Council
Re: 1001 Blanshard Street Development Permit Application

Dear Mayor and Council:

I am writing to support the development permit application of 1001 Blanshard Street. As a neighbour and property owner at 818 & 838 Broughton Street, we would look forward to seeing commercial vibrancy at this important intersection. The applicant has done a wonderful job with the revitalization and merchandizing of their property to the North and we are very supportive to see this property enhanced for this sector of the downtown. In our opinion, this site should conform to the norms of other downtown zones rather than those of Fairfield, and in this spirit we support the applicant's request for a parking variance. Unlike many suburban neighbourhoods, our downtown is well serviced by buses, parkades, street parking and soon, by bike lanes. Visitors to downtown Victoria will increasingly have many transportation options. We would suggest that urban centers do not thrive when planned around stringent parking requirements.

We fully support the initiative and do not believe parking requirements should prohibit the addition of new exciting retail and the evolution of retail/restaurants on Blanshard. This is an important downtown corner which has been vacant for a very long time. We would look forward to seeing it occupied by vibrant businesses that are prepared to spend money to enhance their operations to meet the local market demands of the downtown residential community and the Royal Theatre District. We also welcome the upgrades to the existing building in terms of façade treatment, landscaping, increased bike parking, piazza-like patio areas, and a new pedestrian walkway into the Fort Common Courtyard. This type of development is positioned to improve urban walkability and downtown vibrancy.

The variance requested in this DP Application will bring the use of this prominent corner location in line with the City of Victoria's strategic vision for an urban core characterized by urban villages, enlivened spaces, citizen-led place making initiatives, and excellence in home grown entrepreneurship.

Please support this application, especially for an applicant that has already done so much to return life and vibrancy to this block of downtown Victoria.

Sincerely
CHARD DEVELOPMENT LTD.


David Chard