

From: "Patricia C. Kidd"

Subject: 1201 Fort Street - the Truth Centre Proposal

Date: October 23, 2017 at 9:47:29 AM PDT

To: mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am an historian. As such, I know the importance of growth and development. I've lived in Victoria for 44 years (since I was 15), so I've seen a lot of it. Much of it is good, but a lot of it has been thoughtless. Abstract's plans for 1201 Fort Street fall into that category.

Ask any visitor. Ask any newcomer. What brought you here? You'll find the answers are the same: the charm; the novelty; the clean air; the variety of styles in housing; the individual character of the various neighbourhoods. Abstract is busy destroying that.

The decisions you make will have a serious impact on the future of this city. In the past, a lot of ugliness and over-building has taken place, especially around the exterior of the downtown core. We're beginning to look like Vancouver. We don't want to!

Ask yourself whether this proposed development enhances the experience of life in Victoria, or whether it degrades it. Over-building of the sort that Abstract specializes in diminishes neighbourhoods. Families no longer feel welcome. Units are bought for investment purposes by absentee landlords and often left empty, because wealth from outside the city is the only source that can afford the prices Abstract charges for its units. Victoria will soon become a place people want to get away from, rather than flee to for peace and beauty.

I've always thought that Victoria was the best place to live of all the wonderful places I've seen in the world. Watching my neighbourhood being destroyed by angular, hard, unwelcoming designs like those of the proposed addition to the AGGV and the development at 1201 Fort Street not only saddens me, it causes me great stress and depression. My taxes climb every year, and all that happens is that my neighbourhood is diminished in beauty, comfort, and welcome.

I DO welcome careful development! I'm thrilled by buildings that reflect the character of their neighbours but do so in an artistic, sometimes eccentric and welcoming fashion. It's possible! But it isn't possible where developers are focused solely on maximizing their profits at the cost of care and beauty.

Use the strength you've been given by the electorate. Force a higher standard for this remarkable city. Refuse to be the pawns of greed. Stop the present plans for 1201 Fort Street.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia C. Kidd
M.A. Cultural Historian