

PRC

From: dropped petals <droppedpetals@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:11 PM
To: PRC
Subject: Project #3033991-LU: 8-story, 180unit apartment building

CAUTION: External Email

I live at 2217 3rd Avenue. I love Belltown and the bars on Second Avenue are integral to this community.

My deepest personal concern with this "Proposed 8-Story Building" is that it will eclipse the entire west-facing side of the Emmons on 3rd (2217 3rd Avenue) apartment building. This building would completely block the view of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains visible from our building. This does not only affect the view of residents that live on the west side of the building, but a view that is shared by the entire building community on our rooftop common area, which is situated at the 7th story as a 'modular cutout' of sorts (the 8th story of the building is associated with 2-story loft apartment units; each loft unit has its own staircase). The rooftop area would no longer have a view of these cherished resources. To even have the smallest glimpse of the water / mountains without having to leave your apartment building is such a gift - I recognize that. But it is valued immensely by every resident. To have that completely stripped away from an entire community (our building was built only in 2014), in a way that feels almost pointed ("well, we can build this one block closer to the water - this is our view now, sorry losers") does not feel right. We might just be one building, but this building houses members of this Belltown community, and these members of the community will be adversely impacted by this project directly - both during and after construction. And multiply that adverse impact for the residents of the Belltown Funky Studios that will be displaced entirely. And if that's not enough - more broadly, consider the adverse ripple effects that would be had on the community by displacing the cultural center of Belltown.

What will happen to our 2nd Avenue bars, and to the hardworking owners, bartenders, and staff we know and love? What will happen to Neon Boots, Lava Lounge, Rocco's, Rabbit Hole, and Mr. Darcy's? We've already lost Tula's, and Shorty's moved down the street knowing some wealthy entity was scoping this spot out. Can these bars survive that change, and also then be able to afford the inevitable rent hikes (if they would even be able to withstand construction disturbance/displacement...)? Does that factor into the decision at all?

This project would gut arguably the most culturally vital block in Belltown (Neon Boots, Lava Lounge, Rocco's, Rabbit Hole, Mr. Darcy's, Tula's [RIP...], Crocodile at 2nd/Blanchard...), and likely just extend the already-monotonous stretch of 2nd Ave north of Bell St south to Blanchard. That stretch of block below the apartment building at 2nd/Bell is already bleak, and the large retail space where Belltown Brewing was has been vacant for nearly a year, if not longer already. It's not contributing the vitality of the neighborhood to say the least, and it seems probable that this project would not either, after displacing our favorite bars. With all the glass-front skyscraping Mixed Use/Luxury Apartment buildings cropping up near Virginia St to the south among other brand new apartment buildings elsewhere throughout Belltown, it feels like the walls are closing in and we are at risk of going over the edge of losing all the unique and eclectic spaces that give this neighborhood its character and vitality.

Adding vehicle traffic to the alleyway via parking/during construction would also pose an elevated safety hazard to pedestrians and dog owners accessing the Bell St Dog Park.

General comment: Isn't a 14-day comment period (effectively 9 when the notice arrives 5 days after the letter date) a bit hurried, especially during a pandemic? It feels particularly predatory to the existing businesses considering bars and nightlife industries are among the hardest hit by the economic effects of COVID-19.