

PH 1 - 4. CD-1 Rezoning: 5490 Ash Street - Oppose

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Author Name	Neighborhood	Attachment
2024-04-09	19:55	PH 1 - 4. CD-1 Rezoning: 5490 Ash Street	Oppose	<p>Every plot of land is either a carbon source or a carbon sink. Land that is allowed to grow plants is a slow carbon sink. Land that is covered in concrete is a carbon source when the concrete is poured and most building materials heat up more than forested areas or grasslands under the sun. The decision to redevelop 5490 Ash street is counter to the survival needs of each and every person present at this council. We need carbon negative land use and we need more housing. Both of these things are essential.</p> <p>Now the council is choosing to make an exception to the Cambie Corridor Plan's stated aim of preserving green space and street trees, as well as cultural space - in order to allow for more housing. As a former resident I can attest to the cultural and ecological value of the Moss Portal and its' associated community. Carbon negative architecture is not the norm in Vancouver, and so the first implementation of it will by its very nature be exceptional.</p> <p>On its own this one location is a drop in the bucket - but a change has to start somewhere. The Moss Portal is a place where this change could start. I would be fully in favour of the development - if the building were constructed in a way that incorporates with the existing, mature trees - with a plan in place that allows the structure to benefit from the future growth of those trees.</p>	Kitty Martens	Oakridge	
2024-04-09	17:27	PH 1 - 4. CD-1 Rezoning: 5490 Ash Street	Oppose	<p>Dear City Counsel. My name is Rory Mills, and I would like to voice my opinion in opposition to the Rezoning Application for 5490 Ash St. I would like to acknowledge & honor the continuing legacy of Indigenous land stewardship celebrated in the Coast Salish Peoples, as I live as an uninvited immigrant settler on the stolen lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. My opinion is my own, and does not represent any current or previous tenants of the 5490 Ash property. I speak as a member of the larger Vancouver community that has often found moments of connection, community, and safety at this specific location. This house has been host to a vibrant artistic community, as well as a community garden, which has nourished my mind, body, and spirit. The garden, and stewardship of the local ecology has created biodiversity, opportunities for pollinators, increased green-space, and food for myself, and the wider Vancouver community. This house has provided many opportunities for low-income community members, including many friends, to get back on their feet, and evade housing insecurity that is so present in the experience of being a Vancouverite. I cannot speak for others, but believe that this beautiful community will be completely disrupted and displaced, should the rezoning application for this location be approved.</p> <p>As the climate & ecological crisis worsens, every opportunity to promote ecological health and integration with municipal life should be taken. The</p>	Rory Mills	Kensington-Cedar Cottage	

community garden oriented around the 5490 Ash property is a perfect example of urban agriculture that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, develops healthy soil, and protects biodiversity through re-introduction of indigenous plants. Due to the ever-increasing cost of living, community gardens where folks have access to nutritious foods become all the more significant. The trees surrounding the property also contribute crucially to the goals of climate resiliency, maintaining a sensible microclimate during heat waves and other extreme weather events. If the City of Vancouver is serious about responding to the threat of the climate and ecological crisis, it should take into account instances of dense community integration with ecology & land stewardship, as seen on the Ash 5490 gardens and surrounding flora.

As a young international city, Vancouver is constantly trying to develop its artistic scene, but I fear rapid development without proper recognition of existing artistic communities is a detriment to our society. Densification is a necessary process, but should reflect beyond a densified physical environment, to celebrate instances of dense culture. The community surrounding Ash 5490 is culturally dense, an example of an integration of accessible housing, and an artistic community. One example are the music jams that occur weekly, or the many mural projects oriented around the property. Through open music jams, many have been able to access a free space of musical and expression, enjoyed by hundreds of Vancouverites throughout the years.

In closing, I would like to say, as a non-resident of the 5490 Ash property, that I have found a sense of love, community, and home at this location that I have been unable to find anywhere else in Vancouver. It is the center of many communities, and should the rezoning application be approved, I fear the shockwaves of cultural and ecological loss would negatively impact the wellbeing of many beings beyond the past, existing, and future residents of this space.