

CD-1 Rezoning: 1551-1581 West 7th Avenue - Support

Date Received	Time Created	Subject	Position	Content	Author Name	Neighborhood	Attachment
2025-04-22	14:44	CD-1 Rezoning: 1551-1581 West 7th Avenue	Support	Can't wait to see a refreshed community space at this location. This proposal is long overdue! Love to visit the theatre on 7th Avenue.	Ally MP	Fairview	
2025-04-22	15:15	CD-1 Rezoning: 1551-1581 West 7th Avenue	Support	<p>☑ Thank you to Mayor and Council, and to the staff who have prepared this report.</p> <p>☑ My name is Sabrina Lau Texier, and I am here today as a frequent visitor to La Maison de la Francophonie, as a board member of the Federation of Francophones of British Columbia, and as a resident of Vancouver.</p> <p>☑ I would like to voice my strong support for the rezoning application before you.</p> <p>☑ This development will add 125 much-needed homes to the area, and integrating residential spaces with the proposed cultural and community facilities will create stronger social interactions for all ages and abilities.</p> <p>☑ I was pleased to see that, unlike my neighbourhood of Mount Pleasant, there may be some capacity in local schools by the time the future children of this development reach school age, however I urge Council, for all developments along the Broadway corridor, to consider the impact of new residents on all city services, be they schools, parks, or community centres, and to work proactively with the VSB and the Parks Board, because these are real quality of life impacts that make it challenging to accept these big increases in density.</p> <p>☑ For years, La Maison has been a community hub for all walks of life in Vancouver. It's a space where families, artists, and local organizations come together to celebrate arts and culture. However, the facilities are aging and no longer working well to serve our city's growing population. This project offers a unique opportunity to renew and expand this vital space—creating a modern, welcoming multipurpose facility with a theatre, office space, retail and community programming areas.</p> <p>☑ I'd like to expand on one point, that La Maison currently manages office space for 15 non-profits organizations that sustain the artistic, cultural, social, educational, economic, immigration, and recreational heart of BC's francophone community.</p> <p>☑ 6.6% of BC's population can converse in French, and the organizations housed at La Maison are actively involved in collaboration with municipal, provincial, and federal partners to ensure that this group can not only survive, but to also thrive in a predominantly anglophone environment.</p>	Sabrina Lau Texier	Mount Pleasant	

				<p>☑ This includes organizations devoted to: Francophone legal services, language courses, French summer camp, a summer concert block party, economic development for small businesses, youth parliament, vocational guidance, journalism, the provision of daycares, preschools, and parent associations throughout the province, womens' empowerment, a historic society, the promotion of BC in international markets, and last but not least, a professional theatre company</p> <p>☑ Many of these organizations offer events open to the public and surrounding community, and I can personally attest to their warm welcome, commitment to reconciliation and making space for equity-denied groups.</p> <p>☑ An expanded cultural center would include affordable, equitable and accessible community use, with priority given to underserved communities.</p> <p>☑ I know how essential it is to have accessible spaces where culture and language can thrive. This redevelopment and expansion will ensure that La Maison de la Francophonie remains a pillar of our community for generations to come.</p> <p>☑ I urge you to approve this rezoning application and support a project that brings housing, culture, and community together.</p> <p>☑ Thank you for your time.</p>			
2025-04-22	15:21	CD-1 Rezoning: 1551-1581 West 7th Avenue	Support	<p>Hello Mayor and Council, I work as a contract technical director with La Maison de la Francophonie and Theatre la Seizieme, and my remarks today are informed by that, but I do not speak here on behalf of anyone except myself.</p> <p>Studio 16 is special to me and has been a place that has nurtured my career in the performing arts since I was in school. It is the place where UBC Theatre kids are able to come in and self-produce our first works, where independent companies like Aenigma Theatre, Mitch and Murray Productions, Zee Zee Theatre, and Theatre in the Raw have produced shows year after year, a stalwart venue for the Fringe Festival, and it is home to Theatre la Seizieme, Le Centre Culturel and a vibrant community of francophone and francophile artists and audiences.</p> <p>Having worked extensively with all these companies - times are getting tougher. Government grants are getting harder and harder to come by, and it has been harder and harder to find space around town. A lot of spaces that previously used to welcome small theatre have stopped - the Havana's new management moved away from having theatre in its space, SFU got rid of its cultural programming and partnerships, Redgate left the Revue Stage on Granville Island and now CMHC lists it as "unavailable to rent at this time." At the same time, it's not that there is a lack of audiences. Theatre la Seizieme</p>	Chengyan Boon	West End	

			<p>has been selling out show after show, but with a capacity of 80, there just isn't that much money to be made. Without grants, donations or cross subsidies from other activities, every show would need to sell out at \$200 a ticket in order to cover the costs of producing a mainstage theatre show from scratch and paying the actors, creative, and production teams an industry standard wage.</p> <p>This is why the new space is so exciting. All these organizations know they have the capacity to build bigger audiences, and the doubled capacity allows more revenue even at reasonable ticket prices, and that potential revenue helps companies find matching dollars from funding bodies. The new space will allow us to replace decades old lighting and sound equipment and upgrade to new, more creative and environmentally sustainable options that would be available to burgeoning artists in the community like me 10 years ago. The planned sprung floor will provide a new safe space for dance performance, a rarity in Vancouver. There is so much to be excited about, and I am so privileged to be privy to what has been planned - but every time I speak to friends in the industry about the new upcoming theatre, I have this huge caveat:</p> <p>All this will only happen IF La Maison gets the rezoning passed. IF a development permit is issued. IF all this happens in the small window of time where the development is financially viable enough to fund the construction of the theatre. Every month and year that passes in this already extensive process will result in more and more cuts to the final version of this theatre. New equipment will be slashed in favour of reusing the current obsolete lighting instruments from manufacturers who are out of business. Instead of accessing the grid with a new motorized lift, I'll be back to climbing up and down a ladder a hundred times in a day. Exciting possible uses for the space will be extinguished one by one. Assuming it even moves forward at all. We've seen other spaces that were also due for renovation and renewal that have seemingly stalled out forever due to delays upon delays. So please move forward with this rezoning. We need the housing, we need the new cultural space, and further delay will jeopardize both.</p>			
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