

Applicant Outreach Summary



Community Outreach on Planning & Development Applicant-led Outreach Summary

Please complete this form and include with your application submission.

Project name: Blues By Battistella

Did you conduct community outreach on your application? YES or NO

If no, please provide your rationale for why you did not conduct outreach.

Outreach Strategy

Provide an overview of your outreach strategy, summary of tactics and techniques you undertook (Include dates, locations, # of participants and any other relevant details)

We attended a meeting of the planning and development committee on Dec. 5/23. There was one individual present. We reviewed our proposed development and this individual was going to take it to their Board. We will go back once the application has been circulated to them.

On Dec. 12/23 we attended a meeting of the Board of the BIA for Inglewood. There were approx. 10 people present. We presented the project and answered questions. We will go back to them once the DP plans have been circulated. We have let the Councilor know that this application is going to be submitted.

Affected Parties

Who did you connect with in your outreach program? List all groups you connected with. (Please do not include individual names)

Community Association, BIA, City Councilor

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What did you hear?

Provide a summary of main issues and ideas that were raised by participants in your outreach.

Mostly supportive comments overall. The small scale of the proposed development, the provision of commercial at grade and for a mix of small affordable units plus larger 2 bedroom units that could accommodate families was appreciated.

How did input influence decisions?

Provide a summary of how the issues and ideas summarized above influenced project decisions. If they did not, provide a response for why.

We are looking at providing a two door option on one of the CRU's to allow for future demising into smaller CRUs. We are going to apply for the main floor elevation at current grade to keep an even surface between the public sidewalk and the CRUs.

How did you close the loop ?

Provide a summary of how you shared outreach outcomes and final project decisions with those who participated in your outreach. (Please include any reports or supplementary materials as attachments)

We will provide the Community and the BIA hard copies of our DP application and we will attend meetings with them once they have been circulated.

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Project Overview: This development involves the transformation of a site currently hosting the Blues Can, an iconic live music venue in Calgary's Inglewood neighborhood. The existing building is nearing the end of its life, prompting the need for revitalization. In response to the housing crisis in Calgary, our project aims to create a mixed-use building featuring 30 rental apartments and street-level retail space, that will incorporate elements that pay homage to the Blues Can.

Stakeholder Engagement: We understand the significance of community engagement in the development process. To ensure that our project aligns with the aspirations and concerns of the community, we have engaged with the following stakeholders:

Inglewood Community Association (November 20, 2023):

- Appreciated the communication and scale of the proposed development. We were connected to their Planning & Development Committee and hosted at their community General Meeting (below)

ICA Planning and Development Committee Chair (December 5, 2023):

- Appreciation for the building's scale and design.
- Raised inquiries regarding sidewalk width and parking. Acknowledged the underground parkade, 1m setback measures, flood fringe relaxation, public art and the status of the streetscape plan.

Inglewood BIA (December 12, 2023):

- Expressed sadness for the loss of cultural heritage and acknowledged inevitable change
- Offered support and insight to help achieve both project and community goals
- Suggested accommodating smaller retail units for affordability and local business promotion, which has been incorporated
- Supportive of flood mitigation measures and added density
- Appreciation for the building's scale, design and the public art mural

ICA General Meeting (February 12, 2024):

- Featured heartfelt remarks from a musician on the impact of the Blues Can
- Acknowledged the significance of the Blues Can to the music community while expressing appreciation for the scale and design of the new building

Music Mile Society (April 17, 2024):

- Provided background on the Music Mile and its continued growth
- We will participate and support their ongoing efforts to preserving music culture in the area, as the Blues Can represents the East anchor of the Music Mile.
- Appreciated tribute elements in the building and the increase in density along the Music Mile (more people, more culture)

Heritage Calgary (April 18, 2024):

- Discussed the cultural significance of the Blues Can and acquired the specifications for a publicly visible plaque as well as additional contacts within the music community to assist with its verbiage

Common Themes: A recurring sentiment among stakeholders is the sadness associated with the loss of cultural heritage represented by the Blues Can. However, there is an overall appreciation for the planned development and recognition of its potential to contribute positively to the community.

Moving Forward: We are committed to maintaining transparent communication and ongoing engagement with all stakeholders throughout the project. Regular updates will be provided to stakeholders, and we are readily available to address any questions or concerns. Additionally, we will extend our outreach to neighboring businesses as project timelines become more defined. In conclusion, our outreach efforts have been guided by a commitment to inclusivity and collaboration. By working closely with the community and stakeholders, we aim to ensure that our development project enriches the Inglewood neighborhood while honoring its rich cultural heritage.