

Re: Application for a Zoning Code Text Amendment

ZTR16-002

I am so excited about having a Cultural Arts Center on Mercer Island. When I lived in New Haven Conn, our whole family engaged with their Cultural Center. My son went to a music preschool; my daughter to visual arts class; my other daughter to a dance program -jointly supported by the school. The whole family attended all sorts of demonstrations, lectures and performances.

However I have some concerns about people living off-island and how will they get from the light rail to a cultural center located more than a half mile away at Mercerdale Park. As an alternative, I was delighted when I saw that the King Property was coming available (June 22nd Reporter) because it is less than a half mile walk from the light rail - a more doable journey.

There is no Island only transportation that moves people from the Light Rail to shops and eateries already located on Mercer Island. This lack of island only transportation greatly reduces the number of off-island children and families who would be able to participate in the offerings of the Cultural Center. Light Rail brings more opportunities for people of all ages to come to Mercer Island, enjoying the amenities found here. We want to be sure we can welcome them to all activities of the Center. The Cultural Arts Center needs to make a clear plan for how people, both on and off island will get to the Center.

Re: Notice of Application.

Item: Traffic and Parking. In this printed document, there is no Plan for transpiration or parking, so those issues remain an uncertainty. The poster which mentions this application states that ""all required parking is to be located off-site." I am imagining that attendance at a performance could bring between 100-200 to view the performance. What would be the impact on neighborhoods and businesses located near the center? Once parked, would the walking distance be feasible for all persons wanting to attend? such as elders handicapped?

The necessity of parking, I am assuming, would be for Island residents only, since the Light Rail would be the optimal way for persons in nearby communities to come to Mercer Island. The center mentions the offering of theatre, lectures, classrooms, gathering and eating spaces. I hope young people are expected to attend these offerings. If the Center expects children whose parents can drive them to the center will be the only ones able to participate, then I object to that discrimination. If young people are able to get to classes, rehearsals, and performances via light rail, then all will be welcome. A feasible plan for movement between Light Rail and the center needs to be included in the Center plan.

With my experience in New Haven, Connecticut, I can clearly anticipate many cultural riches to be an offer for Mercer Island and surrounding communities. It is important for these riches to be universally available for all who wish to benefit. The transportation and parking issues are big concerns of mine in making the cultural Center truly available to all who wish to participate.

Please delay approval of this Zoning code Text Amendment until these issues have been solved.

Susan Morrisson

3453 74th Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Aug. 22, 2016

susanmorrison@earthlink.net

206-232-3453

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2016

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICE GROUP