

Peace Portal Alliance Church Affordable Housing Exploration

From Peace Portal Alliance Church on November 28, 2023:

Here is a summary thus far, with attached documents of what has transpired in our exploration of affordable housing on our property.

- 2022 – Began conversation with *The Nest* who helped us get a team off the ground, think through vision and orient ourselves to the conversation
- Jan 2023 – Began reaching out to other churches who had done similar projects, got connected to Terra Housing and were encouraged to apply for a grant from VanCity to help with a pre-feasibility study
- Received the grant from VanCity in August 2023, Terra Housing brought in Francl Architects to complete the pre-feasibility study
- Documents received from Francl and Terra Housing are attached (Pro Forma and Preliminary Development and Massing Study)
- Applications for grants from BC Housing in the 150-160k range are due on November 30, 2023
- This grant, if we were to get it, would go towards architects reaching out to the city, rezoning application, community consultation, offering some sort of open house for church members/neighbors to hear more, other consulting fees

Vision/ Heartbeat

Regarding our vision and the heartbeat, this initiative was born out of a Community Audit that a team at Peace Portal did. Some key volunteers and I spent a year in COVID interviewing mayors, non-profit leaders, RCMP, other community leaders, asking for their assessment of where they felt the community was at and what it needed. We worked with an organization called *WayBase* to do some heat mapping, to determine who was living in our community.

From that, we proposed to the board that we move forward with an internal asset assessment of who makes up Peace Portal, and to do a feasibility study on the possibility of placing affordable housing on our property. In light of the needs in our city, in light of wanting to be good stewards with what God has given us, we have a vision to take a portion of our land and offer affordable housing on that land to a diverse group of people for the sake of flourishing within our community.

