



About Katherine Sanford Housing Society

KSHS is a non-profit housing organization founded in 1989 with a mandate “to provide quality supported housing to persons with a mental illness and/or addictions.” Over the past 19 years KSHS has developed 19 supported housing communities, accommodating people of all ages, in typical residential neighbourhoods in Vancouver and Richmond.

The Society provides housing for more than 200 people, living in a range of housing options, from community homes that are staffed 24 hours a day to independent apartments that provide varying levels of support services. KSHS specializes in housing development and property management, while partnering with other non-profits, like MPA, who provide support services. KSHS will manage the housing component on the site.



About MPA - Motivation, Power and Achievement Society

The MPA Society is a non-profit organization, founded in 1971, with a mission “to inspire hope and facilitate recovery for individuals with mental health issues.” MPA operates social, vocational, recreational and housing that support people in their own communities. Over the last 37 years, MPA has developed a variety of supported housing options. Depending on resident needs, staffing levels and support services range from on-site staff, 24 hours a day to supported independent living programs. MPA houses over 400 people in 17 locations throughout Vancouver, and two locations in Maple Ridge.

The MPA Society also operates a Community Resource Centre. Located on West 4th Avenue for the past 21 years, the Centre offers opportunities for social interaction, a meal program, peer counselling and assistance in accessing community resources.

The MPA Society will manage the mental health resource centre on the site and provide support services to all residents, including those living with a mental illness.

Program and Support Services for 1601 West 7th Avenue

A combination of housing and support services will be provided to tenants at 1601 West 7th Avenue (formerly 2265 Fir St.). One third to one half of the apartments will be supportive housing units for people with mental illness referred by Vancouver Coastal Health. Priority will be given to residents of Fairview and Kitsilano, those with families in the area and those who are registered with the area Mental Health Teams.

The remainder of the units will be available to individuals who have low incomes and are homeless, or are at-risk-of-homelessness. These individuals will be referred through BC Housing, again with priority to those in Fairview and Kitsilano.

There are two components to the building. The first two storeys will be dedicated to a day-use Community Resource Centre and the remaining storeys will be independent and supported housing units. The building has been designed to LEED Gold certification standards.¹

¹ *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)*
<http://www.cagbc.org/leed/initiative/index.htm>

Features of the proposed housing development include:

- 62 units of housing (320 to 350 square feet)
- 7 residential floors
- Reception area, two outdoor patios on 3rd floor and 9th floor
- Common lounge, dining and multipurpose areas
- Underground parking and storage area
- A building security and controlled access system, including video cameras

A variety of support services will be provided to residents by MPA staff. Examples include:

- On-site services for residents with a mental illness and referrals to health care resources in the community.
- Staff on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Lifeskills training, cooking, budgeting and finances, home management
- Social and peer support
- Vocational and employment training/access to volunteer programs
- Illness and symptom managements
- Recreation, health and fitness

The Community Resource Centre located on site will include the following features/services:

- Open 7 days a week from approximately 10 am to 7:30 pm
- Assistance to members with lifeskills programs such as: financial assistance, affordable housing, vocational/job skills training opportunities, connections to work and volunteer opportunities.
- Outreach workers, peer counsellors and referrals to other health care facilities/professionals
- Facilities/services such as phones, computers, television, showers, a coffee/meal program, movie nights
- Social interaction opportunities through activities at the Centre, regular membership meetings and outings with friends.

For more information, contact:

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