

# They're ready to show you what they've got

**UW Storefront Studio students present final proposals, Friday, May 27 - 6:00 pm**

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Imagine the NWI Building bustling with economic activity generated by retail space, an anchor tenant and an energy institution. Or picture a stage/performance area for visiting musicians at the old postmaster's house.

Those are among the final proposals the University of Washington Storefront Studio architectural students are ready to present to the Roslyn community on Friday, May 27, 6:00 pm at the Visitors Center in the NWI Building.

Earlier this spring the students held three open houses where they listened to ideas from the community. Then, based on those ideas and their own research, they came up with renovation and restoration plans for the NWI Building and postmaster's house.

"Two alternate plans were developed for the NWI Building," said Studio Director, UW Professor Jim Nicholls. "One is called the Artisan Arcade. It shows an interior passage through the length of

the building encouraging multiple small tenants and office spaces."

"The second proposed plan shows a mix of retail shops and an anchor tenant," Nicholls added. "Or a collection of tenants in the form of an institution or foundation called the Energy Institute."

The objective driving these plans is to create a community asset and economic incubator in the NWI Building; a space providing for community and pedestrian amenities as well as an enhanced retail presence.

In both plans the large open space in the north section of the NWI Building is left open and flexible for changing community uses.

These plans will be on display at the open house on May 27. They're shown in detail and in a series of before and after views of the interior and exterior of the building.

"All proposals respect the important historical presence and character of the former company store," said Nicholls, "as well as...

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THE PROPOSED NORTH FAÇADE of the Roslyn NWI Building with the existing former loading dock door turned into a covered entry. The canopy is made from weathered steel and designed to compliment the industrial mining character of the building. Wooden entries to the building along the highway sides have been replaced with a hand-capped accessible steel porch and entry roof. Courtesy of Storefront Studio

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...pragmatic issues such as snow build up."

Renovation of the postmaster's house includes establishment of two visiting artist 'live and work' studios. The main floor would house a community center and the backyard would have a small performance staging area.

"There will be two live-work studios on the second floor of the house - each with a sleeping loft in the attic space," Nicholls explained. "The ground floor of the house is where the community center is located. It could be open for community events and classes where visiting artists, writers and musicians would take turns living in the house and offering workshops and performances for the community."

The plan for the old postmaster's house is influenced by Roslyn's growing art community according to Jenny Aurit, vice president of Roslyn Downtown Association, the group responsible for bringing Storefront Studio here.

"To fully appreciate the plans for NWI Building and the postmaster's house you have to see them," Aurit said. "Those plans and the Visitors Map are something I think everyone would like to see."

The Visitors Map she's referring to will be printed full size and in full color at this last Studio open house.

"We want the community to do a last proof reading check before they're made for the side of City Hall and the Visitors Center," said Nicholls.

Other items of interest at the open house include a coal cart-themed visitor information desk, and two larger than life painted and cut out



THIS VIEW SHOWS ONE of the existing rooms (inset) in the NWI Building in Roslyn. It faces east and the morning light. Renovated (above) it would make an ideal location for a cafe.

Courtesy of Storefront Studio

coal miners.

"These historical figures were chosen to portray the start of Roslyn as a community," said Nicholls. "Other design center elements will show Roslyn's natural setting and its Northern Exposure Days."

"The idea is to see these final proposals implemented," said Aurit. "We're pursuing funding to make that possible."

She characterized Storefront Studio's contribution to

Roslyn's future as "immeasurable."

"I know just to commission professionals for the three Studio studies done here would be in the six figures. In addition, the university itself has contributed its vehicles, computers, printers, plotters, studio and shop facilities.

"Their investment and our community's motivation make us want to see these plans become reality."