



THIS RENDERING from Roslyn, WA Storefront Studio (a book produced outlining the 2009 recommendations made by the University of Washington students) illustrates how outdoor entertainment could become a feature in the downtown. Courtesy of Storefront Studio

Univ. of Washington's Storefront Studio returns

by Lyn Derrick
tribune@nkcitribune.com

ROSLYN – One year after their initial introduction to the community, the University of Washington's Storefront Studio program is back for a return engagement in Roslyn, starting with another series of open houses beginning on Friday, April 2, 6-8:00 pm.

The return to Roslyn is unprecedented in the seven years of Storefront Studio's operation.

"We are returning because the last Storefront Studio was such a positive experience, for both the local community and the university students," said Professor Jim Nicholls of the University of Washington's College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

"Roslyn is an exciting community with a wealth of potential assets, it's scenic, historic, natural, and civically engaged. We want to support and enhance that."

"They're returning because of the rich physical assets and opportunities of this historic town," said Roslyn Downtown Association (RDA) vice president, Jenny Aurit. "As well as the deep engagement and respect the community displayed."

Nicholls and Aurit would like to see the community's engagement repeated in this new round of open houses, which is slated to take some of the previous project recommendations beyond the planning stage.

Nicholls will lead a new crop of architectural students. Their first task is to become familiar with the town and the work done by the previous year's students.

Then it's on to carrying out some of the 2009 project recommendations.

"We have an opportunity to carry some of last year's ideas forward, and to explore some new ideas – building on the previous work," said Nicholls.

"We'll be working on a series of projects, some from the previous year and some new. The list will be developed in the first few weeks. It'll be based on the input of the community and the new students."

Some of the projects discussed so far are the Welcome Sign, a Visitor's Center, a Mine Site Memorial, Design Guidelines for Artisan Industry, Seating for Runje Field, and a "Nighttime Illumination Festival" celebrating Roslyn's unique history and location.

"Some projects will be built, some will be used to apply for funding," Nicholls said. "And some will be design studies to assist in visioning and planning. I invite people to attend the open houses to find out more, and to help influence and direct these projects and others."

This year, the "storefront" chosen for the project is off the main streets at 209 W. Washington Avenue.

"It's one of our commercial/residential zoned streets," said Aurit. "We hope this will showcase our downtown's potential with its cottage industrial setting."

Interaction with the community is as essential to the success of this Studio, as it was last year, Aurit reiterated.

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Interaction with the community is as essential to the success of this Studio, as it was last year, Aurit reiterated.

"RDA would love to see a strong show of support," she said, "to both welcome and share with the university students what is great about this community."

After the initial open house weekend on April 2-3, students will be available at the Washington Avenue location on April 23-24, May 14-15, and June 4.

The 2009 Storefront Studio Project produced a book outlining the proposals mentioned by Nicholls as well as several others. To purchase a book or for more information visit roslyndowntown.com or contact jenny@roslyndowntown.com

All of this meets with the Studio's mission to invest the "academic capital" of the university with the "social capital" of local communities. The goal is to strengthen connections between community members and the town, and provide a foundation for economic growth.



Storefront Studio Open Houses

209 W. Washington Ave., Roslyn

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

6 - 8 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

10 AM - 2 PM

JIM NICHOLLS SAID growing up in such a diverse community as Roslyn was a wonderful experience. He talked about working the mines, and here shows his father's documented pay for one year: \$1,585.