



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PROFESSOR Jim Nicholls talks to Mayor Jeri Porter about the welcome sign design developed by this year's Storefront Studio students. Between them is the proposal by EGG Group. He turned the most eye-grabbing around. The sign reads: Roslyn Welcomes You. www.eggroup.com

UW students meet community at first Storefront Studio Open House, April 9

by Lyn Derriek
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When University of Washington architectural student, Stacy Cannon read *Spacen of Coal Dust*, a local history book, she was captivated by the stories.

Those stories and the ethnicity of the community inspired Cannon's patchwork design for the city's new welcome sign. "I thought people could stop and read about little pieces of Roslyn," she explained.

Cannon is one of ten students participating in Storefront Studio's return engagement in Roslyn this year. At the first storefront open house on April 9, she and other students mingled with community members and explained their ideas for a new sign.

The challenge, according to Cannon, was coming up with something that fit the city without knowing "who the real Roslyn is."

So that's what she and her fellow students were here to learn. Community members accommodated the students by sharing memories and impressions of Roslyn.

"One of the neatest things was the diversity," Jim Barich said. "The melting pot of people was something wonderful to grow up in." He showed the audience

his father's documented pay for a year's work in the mines: \$1,585. And talked about working as a coalminer for \$19.95 a day not long after graduating from high school.

Barich went on to explain the job of a machine loader, and a rope rider – one of the most dangerous union jobs. He talked about mining boss, John L. Lewis and what he achieved for miners' safety and welfare.

Mayor Jeri Porter told students, "When you think of Roslyn, think wild west, gold rush and hard work. It's that kind of spirit that was the basis of this town."

"It's like a big family," she smiled and added, "And of course, like in any family the brothers and sisters don't always get along. Yet there's an amazing amount of people here who work toward Roslyn's goals."

Cemetery Commission president, Dick Watts, shared some of the unique qualities of the Roslyn Cemetery, and the challenges it faces in becoming a tourist attraction.

While welcoming visitors he said, "We need to protect it from more footsteps. There's a passion in this community for the cemetery, all local folks feel strongly about it."

Six-year resident, Janine Brodine talked about being a newcomer. "My mother-in-law," she said, "after living here 25 years, asked someone who had lived here 75 years, 'how long does it take to be considered a local?'" "I'll let you know when I

find out," was the reply. Brodine went on to express

her appreciation of the growing arts community, and echoed the mayor's comments on Roslyn being a big family.

Newcomer Mitch Long talked about falling in love with Roslyn and places like Marko's where people come to hang out.

He said the history of the unions and people standing up for what's right was something he valued. "This is a history I feel proud to be a part of," he said.

Storefront Studio director, and College of Architecture and Urban Planning Professor, Jim Nicholls, said this first storefront open house went well. "Roslyn Downtown Association did a great job connecting us with a cross section of the community," he commented. "For the students to hear stories from everyone, including the current mayor, a former coal miner, long time residents and new arrivals, really brought the histories we have been reading to life.

"Roslyn is so much about the people as well as its setting, so an afternoon of walking and photographing the streets, and an evening of listening to local community members, was an excellent introduction. All the speakers gave us their perspectives and together they add up to an evocative collective portrait of Roslyn."

RDA Vice President, Jenny Aurit said having the students return for another round of storefront sessions "was like opening a wonderful present. It was so exciting seeing their

designs on the walls of the storefront. We're thrilled to be able to take some of the projects and move them forward."

But the students don't want to do that without community input. "We want people to point out what they like or what they would change," Cannon said.

"This first meeting was a welcome tour, an introduction to Roslyn's assets and issues," said Nicholls.

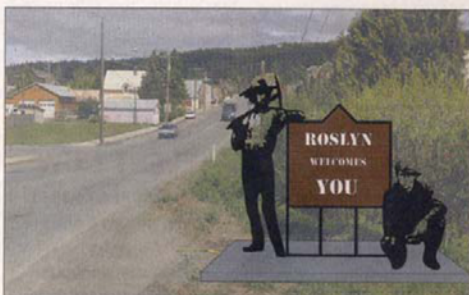
At the second storefront on April 23, 6-8pm, and April 24, 10am-2pm (209 W. Washington St.), students will present a range of projects identified by both their research and the community.

"We'll outline the constraints and opportunities of each site," said Nicholls, "and some possible directions for proposed enhancements. The community can respond to our initial ideas – and their input will refine or redirect them. Then we'll go back to the drawing board and revise them for the following meeting."

On May 14 and 15, the community will have another chance to provide direct input on the projects, followed by the final presentation of projects on June 4.

The end goal for the 2010 Storefront Studio project: helping with Roslyn's efforts to build a thriving economy while preserving its valued history.

At the same time, these architectural students get valuable experience working with a community and incorporating other's ideas into their projects.



FUJI TJHANG welcome sign design. "Inspired by the strong sense of community in Roslyn, I am trying to create a welcome sign that reflects the feeling of being welcomed into a big family - the family of Roslyn. By changing the phrase to "Roslyn Welcomes You," visitors are welcomed not as tourists but as family members. The use of local materials and geometry offers visitors a summary of the unique and unforgettable experience of being in Roslyn." Photo courtesy of Storefront Studio



STACY CANNON'S welcome sign design. "The Beautification Report from the 1950s contained a quote that referred to Roslyn as 'an ethnic patchwork of neighborhoods.' The idea of 'patchwork' became important to me, thinking about Roslyn's diverse ethnicity, histories, cultures, arts and stories. Recalling also the strong quilting tradition, this sign would be composed of smaller pieces, speaking of individuals, businesses, community groups and stories. It would be a visual description of the beautifully complex patchwork, which creates the City of Roslyn." Photo courtesy of Storefront Studio



SASHA JUN'S welcome sign design. "The idea behind the welcome sign is to illustrate the impact the coal mining industry had on the formation of Roslyn. The coal mining figures frame and shape the signage that is basically the leftover space from the steel sign."