

Bailey, Heather

From: Lindsey Lee-CC <cargocoffee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:30 AM
To: PLLCApplications
Cc: Bailey, Heather
Subject: 826 Williamson Street

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Concerning 826 Williamson Street—I agree with the staff report that this proposal satisfies the historic district ordinance and should be allowed to move forward.

What I do object to is the ordinance itself and how it is being applied to Williamson Street (“Willy St.”) by city staff and the Landmarks Commission.

This is just another dull building that is further contributing to the Disneyfication of Willy Street. I can’t fault those who have made this submittal because they are forced to play the game.

The true historic nature of Williamson Street is that it was always eclectic. It was never lined with one style of buildings representing one era. It was always a mishmash. So why are we getting these “Anywhere USA historic-lite” buildings? This is a suburban fake historic esthetic that is being inorganically forced by the Landmarks Commission on our otherwise dynamic urban landscape.

When you ask people throughout the city to describe Williamson Street the first thing they usually say is that “Willy Street is so eclectic.”

If you really wanted to honor historic Williamson Street then you would be encouraging landmark quality contemporary design, not fake historic dullsville.

Interestingly enough, this development team is concurrently working on a separate proposal that will run along the back of the property which is not within the historic district. I will predict that it will be said more than once in the coming years that “it’s too bad that they can not be flipped” and “why is the cooler, more dynamic Willy Street-like building hidden in back?”

I’m sorry I am being critical, but these decisions are the long legacy that our generation will be leaving to future residents and businesses of Williamson Street.

Oh, and let me add, “conformity sucks.”

Lindsey Lee
731 Willy St.

Sent from my mobile phone