

420 HAWKS AVENUE

Frequently Asked Questions



Atira Women's Resource Society (AWRS) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the work of ending violence against women through providing direct service, as well as working to increase awareness of and education around the scope and impact on our communities of violence against women and children.

AWRS proposes to rezone 420 Hawks Avenue from M-1 to CD-1 under the Downtown Eastside Plan and the Downtown Eastside Rezoning Policy to allow for a seven-storey nonmarket residential building comprised of 21 self-contained suites. The proposed building superstructure will be constructed re-using upcycled shipping containers.

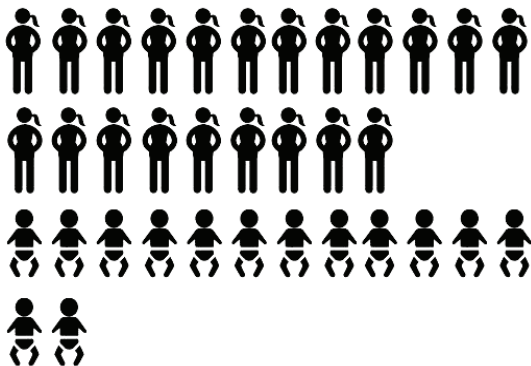


OUR VISION

An intergenerational community of women and children where moms, grandmas, aunts, sisters and cousins can raise their children together

Why is Atira Women's Resource Society building 420 Hawks?

Because study after study shows that safe, affordable and appropriate housing plays a central role in allowing women who are marginalized to re-establish their lives. Stable housing is, in fact, the foundation for positive change in the lives of women and their children. It reduces levels of stress and can change the perspectives of women by providing them the opportunity to empower themselves and therefore generate a positive, healthy and nurturing environment for their children. The 21 units at 420 Hawks will provide a safe, welcoming, affordable home for 21 women and at least 14 children, a home from which hope and possibility can flow.



Who will be housed at 420 Hawks?

The women who live at 420 Hawks will include women who are older, have embodied knowledge and have developed skills and matured resilience, as well as young women, with or without children, who are open to working in partnership with other women in the 420 Hawks and wider community.

In partnership with Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services (VACFSS), Sheway, Watari and other local and community organizations, women will be supported to strengthen their capacity to look after each other and each other's children. Young adult women who are isolated from their families, will also be offered the opportunity to receive the love and support to which they are entitled.

Women and children living at 420 Hawks may have been marginalized by their experiences of violence and abuse, poverty, homelessness, exploitation and isolation from family and community and are ready and able to move into independent second- and third-stage housing. Specifically, housing will be offered to women who are or have been involved with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and or VACFSS and whose care orders have been removed or who are working towards removal of care orders.

21 WOMEN
LIVING IN SAFE,
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

14 CHILDREN
LIVING IN SAFE,
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

Have you consulted with the community?

Yes. We submitted our first proposal in November 2014 and received valuable community feedback, prompting us to make some key changes to the overall building structure:

A REDUCTION IN THE
NUMBER OF UNITS



MORE FAMILY
HOUSING



ACCESSIBLE
AMENITY SPACE AT
STREET LEVEL



REDUCTION IN FLOOR
SPACE RATIO



What does shipping container housing look like?

We're glad you asked! In August 2013, AWRS celebrated the opening of the Oneesan Container Housing Project, which also re-uses upcycled shipping containers as a primary substructure.

Housing built out of shipping containers does not mean substandard housing. In fact, as you can see, our shipping container housing is actually quite contemporary and sleek!

Plus, we are keeping Vancouver "green" by upcycling shipping containers. This supports Vancouver's goal of being the greenest city by 2020!



Pictured here: the transition from shipping containers to shipping container housing (Oneesan Container Housing Project)

Will there be any green space at 420 Hawks?

Yes. In addition to a private interior courtyard which is envisioned as a community garden, the proposed development will also include a roof-top garden and a roof-top playground (two different areas).



How will this benefit the community?

There will be a community amenity room at grade that will be available to residents of 420 Hawks as well as the community.

We are in the planning stages of figuring out how this room will be utilised, but AWRS is familiar with maximizing use of community amenity space. At The Rice Block, nonmarket housing run by AWRS just north of 420 Hawks, there is a community amenity space on the ground floor. In the case of the Rice Block, the amenity space has been used to run Enterprising Women Making Art. Plus, three area strata councils will use the space this spring to hold their AGMs. Moving forward, AWRS is exploring possible allowable uses with the City.

What about small units?

420 Hawks Avenue is listed in the City's Single Room Accommodation Bylaw due to previously existing rooms in a house that burnt down in 2006. All single room accommodations are being replaced and improved, as self-contained studio units.

The proposed suite size for small units is 280 sq. ft. These studio suites meet the minimum unit-size requirement of the Zoning and Development By-law under the Micro Suite Requirements.

Design elements will be incorporated in order to maximize unit livability including sliding walls, wall beds, drop-down dining tables and large windows.

Where do I direct questions or concerns?

To us! We are always here and happy to answer questions and address concerns.

T: 604 681 4437 **E:** 420hawks@atira.bc.ca

W: www.atira.bc.ca/420-hawks

Or send your support directly to the City of Vancouver:
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

For those of your who have called asking about rental applications, we still have a ways to go. Vancouver City Council has referred 420 Hawks to Public Hearing, scheduled for **Tuesday, May 17th at 6pm**. If you would like to speak at the hearing, please call **604 829 4238**. If rezoning is approved then, we will post information about rental applications on our project webpage at <http://www.atira.bc.ca/420-hawks>