

# Wilson Yee

**#299578 | May 9, 2021**

## Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Recommended Draft**

I am a resident of Sellwood neighborhood. As a 30+ year renter and very recent homeowner, I am very familiar with the specific needs that renters have. Current residential projects focus only on increased density, at the cost of consideration of the diversity of age and income groups that need housing. Existing projects are only designed to attract young, single professionals of higher income brackets. The modern styling and design of these monolithic residential projects have little thought for families, and especially multigenerational families, who may need to stay in rental units for their entire lives. Further, these modern-styled buildings tend to visually dominate areas that already have specific charm and neighborhood character, which takes away from inclusiveness and neighborhood feel. Also, there is a great opportunity in the next decades to encourage Portland's community of local artists and craftspeople to continue to make Portland what it is. Stark, industrial-modern styles are the opposite of what Portland's creatives are known for. I would strongly urge consideration of how these much-needed housing projects can incorporate the work of local arts and crafts to help make buildings reflect the neighborhood feel, and make these places raise the dignity of residents, neighbors, architects, and builders in being part of rebuilding Portland with our own distinctive style. I want the design standards recommended by SMILE added to DOZA so there is better building design in Sellwood-Moreland. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony is presented without formatting.