

June 21, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

I write in support of the bylaw text amendment allowing a permanent liquor license application at 735 Eighth Ave. (Massey Theatre).

I am on the Creative Writing Faculty at Douglas College, a Fulbright Scholar, and award winning, internationally produced playwright and, most recently, in residence at Eighth and Eight as part of their Performing Arts Collaborative Creation Residency Project.

The society is developing their expanded space, Eighth and Eight, into a thriving cultural hub, a community gathering space. Adding a food and beverage program can improve the economic viability of the society and enhance the experiences.

Massey Theatre has successfully and safely held numerous temporary liquor licenses over the years. I feel confident the Massey Theatre Society will be respectful and responsible in their use a permanent liquor license, and use it to make Eighth and Eight an even more engaging destination for residents and visitors alike.

I can personally attest to how well run this organization is, and what a fabulous, vibrant hub they are making with Eighth and Eight. I have been in residence since May, and it has been a wonderful experience to be able to rehearse and workshop my new play in such a welcoming, beautiful setting. I recently participated in their Community Night for all of the performers currently in residence. It is so exciting that the city can now provide rehearsal space for dance, music, theatre, and video artists who come here from all over the world. I work internationally, from China to Panama. Normally I would have to get on a plane to meet such talented, skilled artists with an understanding of international values and aesthetics. As a climate activist, I would prefer to work locally. Eighth and Eight is a treasure. I'm glad to be able to develop my work so close to home. The way this hub supports and inspires artists and community is truly thrilling.

I've seen a permanent liquor license help sustain many arts organizations, notably the Arts Club Theatre, and I hope that you will approve this bylaw text amendment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 604-524-8002.

Sincerely,

Elaine Avila  
(she/her/ella/ela)  
Faculty, Douglas College  
Fulbright Scholar  
Playwright