Plymouth Housing Celebrates Groundbreaking of 2\textsuperscript{nd} & Mercer Affordable Housing Building

Newest project to deliver 91 permanent housing apartments and arts space

SEATTLE – January 16 – Plymouth Housing today celebrated under a rare but welcome blue winter sky the groundbreaking of an affordable housing development across from Seattle Center, to deliver 91 permanent housing apartments for adults who have previously experienced homelessness. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} & Mercer site is the second of eight new buildings planned by the nonprofit housing developer to meet the need for housing for those experiencing chronic homelessness in King County. Slated to open in 2021, the groundbreaking represents a major milestone in the PROOF Capital Campaign launched by Plymouth Housing in June 2019.

An exchange of land owned by Seattle Center to the city’s Office of Housing enabled the development. Subsequently, the city awarded the land to Plymouth Housing; and the city’s Office of Housing and Office of Arts and Culture made a first-time joint investment in an affordable housing and arts space. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} & Mercer project features a ground-floor space for Path with Art, a local organization that utilizes art as a means to assist people recovering from homelessness, addiction or other trauma.

Emily Alvarado, Seattle Office of Housing Director, said in her remarks, “Without a doubt, homelessness is one of the central challenges facing our city and our region. Far too many people are living unsheltered or without a home and we must take action. Without a doubt, permanent supportive housing is the proven solution to homelessness. It saves lives and it saves public resources. That is why the City is pleased to have made a substantial investment in this project through the commitment of resources from the Seattle Housing Levy and through our contribution of public land.”

Plymouth Housing CEO Paul Lambros touched on the many public and private partners involved in the project: “The realization of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} & Mercer site is a tremendous success story in the struggle against homelessness—it will provide permanent housing for adults, including veterans, who are recovering from life on the streets and create a new arts space in the Seattle Center neighborhood. Even more so, it demonstrates that coordinated efforts at the local, regional and national level matched with commitment from the community brings real results: homes for those without.”
Additional funding for the project came from an expansion to the Affordable Housing Tax Credit program championed by Sen. Maria Cantwell and Rep. Suzan DelBene, allowing the project to move forward on an accelerated timeline.

“Congratulations to Plymouth on breaking ground on this new project to provide 91 new units of permanent, affordable housing for formerly homeless people in Seattle,” said Cantwell. “This project and so many others throughout our state demonstrate the power of the Affordable Housing Tax Credit to help our communities provide resources to help people in our state and across the country.”

“I am so pleased that my work with Senator Cantwell to secure additional funding for affordable housing projects is yielding results in Washington State,” said DelBene. “Congratulations to Plymouth Housing for breaking ground on their new project to open more affordable housing options, which will aid hardworking people throughout the greater Seattle area.”

About Plymouth Housing

Plymouth Housing’s mission is to eliminate homelessness and address its causes by preserving, developing and operating safe, quality, supportive housing and by providing adults experiencing homelessness with opportunities to stabilize and improve their lives. Plymouth follows the “Housing First” philosophy, operating on the principle that people cannot improve their lives until they have a safe, stable place to live. www.plymouthhousing.org

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