

# Organize Your Building

Belvedere Residents



Photograph by Rebecca Brewer

The following pages have been collected from the residents of the Belvedere Court. The Belvedere is a historic Vancouver apartment building that sits at the corner of Main and 10th in Vancouver's Mount Pleasant. Now, threatened with its demise as affordable housing, residents have formed an intricate effort to remain housed in a rapidly changing neighbourhood.



Photograph by Joshua Wright

In 2016, we began to organize through a mass email thread, initiating a building-wide conversation regarding the ongoing issues we were experiencing, and which many of us see as an increasingly aggressive campaign of dislocation by building management. We began inviting all residents to document their experiences living in the building, with text and images uploaded into a shared Google drive folder.

Dear Residents:

Re: In suite floorplan measuring

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Friday, April 21, 2017 9:00am to 3:30pm

Tuesday, April 25, 2017 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Friday, April 28, 2017 9:00am to 3:30pm

Please be advised that we are performing a building sur-

Notices as documented by various residents in the building

**NOTICE OF ENTRY**

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ (the Landlord)

SUITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ - 2543 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C., V5T 3E5 BC \_\_\_\_\_

Please be informed that it will be necessary for us to enter your suite on APR 16/18 indicated:

Routine building/suite inspection  
 Showing suite to prospective tenant or purchaser  
 Property appraisal  
 Inspection by the Authority such as Fire or Building Inspector  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be entering the suite at \_\_\_\_\_  
Or  
I will be entering the suite between the hours of 10:00AM and 3:00PM.  
Or  
I will be showing the suite to prospective tenants or purchasers on the following days/dates:  
\_\_\_\_ (days/dates) between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ (days/dates) between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ (days/dates) between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

If it is not possible to mutually agree on a date, please contact the Landlord.

Thank you in advance.

Date: APR 16  
Section 29 of the Residential Tenancy Act

(1) A landlord following approval of the Landlord  
(a) the tenant  
(b) at least 14 days before the date of entry  
(c) the tenant  
(d) an entry notice  
(2) A landlord following approval of the Landlord

Note to landlord

Dear Tenant:

Our company policy has changed, we are no longer accepting post dated rent cheques.

As a result we are returning all your rent cheques we have on file.

Please deposit your rent cheque into the mail slot on the 2nd floor on or before the 1st of every month.

Manager

August 6, 2015

Notice to all tenants of Belvedere Courts Apartments:

Effective immediately, the building is under new management, please contact the phone number below if you have any issues regarding, tenancy, repairs, maintenance.

Text message is ok

Numerous tenants report feeling intimidated and harassed; they describe experiencing stress as a result of visits made by property management to their homes in what they see as a series of attempts to negotiate the termination of their tenancies.



Photograph by a Belvedere resident

Ongoing construction and renovation work in the building over the past year has resulted in what many tenants describe as numerous and repeated violations of the Residential Tenancy Act. A tarp has been left obstructing the window of several units for over a year. Ladders, tools, and construction debris have obstructed the common areas of the building.

The tenants of the Belvedere with the support of the Vancouver Tenant Union would like to collectively show their solidarity with Steve W. We appreciate and value Steve's presence in our building and are angered by the news of his impending eviction.

Belvedere tenants are calling on the city to strengthen its Tenant Protection and Relocation policy to require landlords who renovate apartments to allow former tenants to return at the same rent.

We call upon our governments to stand by their commitments to the federal Aging in Place mandate.

We call upon the province of BC to:

- create eviction protections for seniors

- create eviction protections for tenants facing homelessness

- create rent control, tying rent to the unit rather than the tenant,

- disincentivize renovations

- eliminate the redundant 3 strike law for late payment of rent

Excerpt from a letter written by the Belvedere Residents Organization, December 28, 2017

# Proposal for Belvy Art Project!

Hi Everyone,

*The Capilano Review* is open to a submission from us here in the building on their current theme of Place and Displacement. Vivienne and I got together to discuss a possible project and I was inspired by her comment regarding the growing acoustic soundscape of the building.

As a submission, I was thinking we could create a graphic score for a series of sound events in the Belvy. The events could be simple like vacuum or blender sounds and the score could take form around the concept of the ‘sonic genome’ developed by Anthony Braxton. It would look something like this:

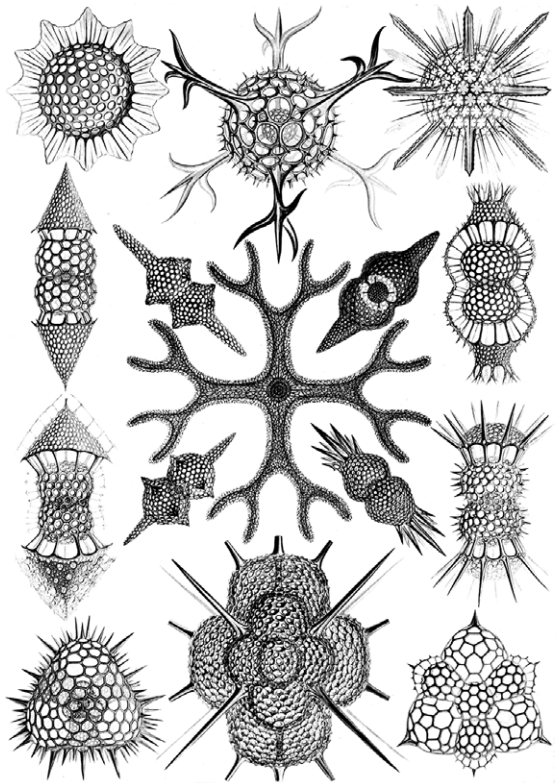
- 1) We draw a blueprint for each floor and surrounding areas—fire escapes, court-yard, stairwells—deciding whether to include the street level and alleyway or not
- 2) We draw pictures or symbols on the score to represent the location and time of each sound event.

The blueprint would also show empty rooms, as these are a symbol of our predicament. The score should make a relevant comment on how the building is part of our lives and how this is threatened.

—*Alice Hamilton*

**BELVEDERE**

# X-MAS PARTY



December 19th  
7pm  
suite 203  
bring thy friends