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Harbor Properties Breaks Ground on New Apartment Project in West Seattle
136-unit Mural Apartments being developed to complement the pedestrian-oriented Alaska Junction neighborhood; project named as tribute to area's 11 historical murals

SEATTLE (Feb. 20, 2008) — Harbor Properties, Inc., has started construction Mural Apartments, a 136-unit, mixed-use residential real estate project in West Seattle's Alaska Junction neighborhood, on 42nd Ave. SW. Expected to open in Spring 2009, Mural will feature a number of unique elements for renters who embrace today's sustainability-focused, urban lifestyle.

"In Mural, we're looking to provide stylish and unique residential development in the Alaska Junction neighborhood," said Denny Onslow, executive vice president and chief development officer at Harbor. "We're creating a building that is both iconic and engaging that will give our residents an inspiring living environment situated in the heart of a vibrant neighborhood."

The Alaska Junction neighborhood --- defined by the intersection of California Ave. SW and SW Alaska St. --- is the retail and entertainment heart of West Seattle. With a collection of pedestrian-oriented boutique shops, retail offerings, nighttime activities, eclectic restaurants and a farmers market, the Alaska Junction features a myriad of vibrant entertainment and shopping choices. Mural seeks to complement the neighborhood environment by implementing a large-scale landscaping initiative that will bring more than 7,000 square feet of new landscaping around the 7-story building. Harbor will also widen the sidewalks along SW Alaska St, which will be lined with mature carbon sequestering trees and other green-space elements that encourage residents and visitors to walk through this inviting neighborhood.

Harbor is promoting a multi-modal transportation lifestyle at Mural. Three car-share vehicles managed by Zipcar (formerly Flexcar) will be located in Mural's underground parking lot and available to the community and renters seeking to rely less on single-occupancy, daily car transportation. Mural will also include secured bike storage within the building. In addition, the project is located on King County Metro's new West Seattle RapidRide service, which by 2011 will provide upgraded fast, reliable rapid bus service to downtown Seattle from the Alaska Junction. Metro will install new hybrid buses and upgrade passenger-waiting areas, add technology to synchronize traffic signals and operate real-time arrival signs along main neighborhood arterials.

Mural will include studio units and one- and two-bedroom apartments. Select one-bedroom units are designed to be "convertible," allowing for greater space efficiency for the resident. These convertible units will feature translucent sliding walls that allow the resident to maximize space according to their individual lifestyle needs. The project's architect, Hewitt, designed all of Mural's residential spaces to provide for a more efficient, eco-friendly living environment. Seventy percent of the unit kitchens are designed in a linear, European style with cabinets running along a single wall to maximize living space, and all kitchens feature modern energy efficient appliances.

According to Emi Baldwin, marketing director at Harbor, "Our residential spaces are focused on efficient, environmentally conscience urban living. We wanted to appeal to the individuality of our residents. We believe we've created a place that enables personal expression."

To that end, the first two floors at Mural have been designed with an urban minimalist feel featuring polished concrete floor finishes and expansive terraces. Other apartment features include large bay windows, stainless style appliances and walk-in closets. Many units are also graced with expansive Puget Sound and downtown-Seattle views. For the fitness and socially minded urban dweller Mural will boast an exceptional entertainment lounge and fitness center for residents and their guests. The central location of Mural is conveniently close to West Seattle premier attractions, such as Alki Beach and Lincoln Park. In keeping with Mural's artistic theme common spaces throughout the building will showcase the work of several noted West Seattle artists.

Mural is one of several new real estate projects under development in the Alaska Junction neighborhood. BlueStar Management/Development's Fauntleroy Place will combine 178 residential units, a Whole Foods grocery store, and additional street-level retail. Local developer Leon Capelouto is developing a mixed-use residential project that will include 157 residential units and a QFC grocery store. Other residential and commercial real estate projects are being planned throughout the area and are expected to come online in the next several years.

About the Mural Name

As homage to distinctive West Seattle, Mural was named in tribute to the 11 historical murals that celebrate the neighborhood's heritage.

About Harbor Properties

Founded in 1972, Seattle-based Harbor Properties, Inc., is a full service real estate firm that owns, manages and develops a broad spectrum of real estate including office, retail, multifamily residential and resort properties. For more information about Harbor, please visit www.harborproperties.com.

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