

Roy McMakin

I am a professional artist and architectural designer. I believe land use is a primary aspect of being alive, therefore how we navigate and negotiate decisions around it reflect who we are as a community. I love new buildings, old buildings, private spaces, and public spaces. I spend much of my time thinking about such things. The goal of those of us who currently reside in Uptown should be to demand a balance of the many factors at play in the evolution of our neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods will and should change, so we must strive to make them even better than they are now.

I strongly believe robust and hearty dialog is key to achieving this. Residents love and understand their neighborhoods and have valuable and unique insights into how they can evolve. Our knowledge should not only be heard but also be respected by others who have roles in this process, (developers, architects and city officials.), such that appropriate community ideas are incorporated in meaningful ways into what is built. I believe in the value of the Uptown Community Plan and feel one responsibility of Uptown Planners is to ensure it is followed.

What I don't believe in is the simplistic binary option represented by the YIMBY/NIMBY debate. I believe that dichotomy is overly simplistic and creates unnecessary polarization. We can add density without forsaking the protection of the public realm. We can add tall buildings where appropriate, and build shorter ones where they make more sense. But again, the best, and perhaps only, way to sort this out is through transparency and open dialog.