

Tobacco Influences in the LGBT Community

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This picture shows the open and affirming church in Capitol Hill. The huge rainbow banner in front beckons all to join in worship. Feeling welcomed by a church may be like a coming home to some people in the LGBT community, as some may have been cast out from religious circles because of their sexual orientation or gender expression.



This picture shows a similar church, but in West Seattle. If the LGBT community in West Seattle wanted to attend church, they might not know if it was a place to worship safely and openly. This building may even represent a closed door for some. Driving by this church might remind a person in the LGBT community that they are not encouraged to “be themselves.” This may cause more stress which in turn promotes “stress relieving” habits, like smoking.



Meet Mr. Clover! Only through awesome photography skills can this plant look good. Up close and in person it looks horrible. You can even see the poisonous nicotine stains. The marking of death is evident.



Say hello to Mr. Lavender and Mr. Acuba! They have something to say! They look awesome in the picture AND in person, and they want to keep it that way. Their modeling agents know what they're doing to keep their clients looking great and taken care of. Mr. Clover, it looks like you need to fire your agent!



Both of these alleys lead to a parking lot for businesses. However, one is unappealing and littered with disgusting garbage and the other is nicely decorated and inviting. Most people would assume the mural is outside a private business to entice the community to shop there and profit the owner. Instead, the artwork decorates the post office, where it provides a pretty sight and not just profit.



This is a typical storefront on Broadway. The restaurant on the corner has nice flowers and a small outdoor seating area, but is right next to a smoke shop where people purchase tobacco and then stand outside smoking. Then the people eating have to breathe the smoke. It also promotes the act of smoking after eating.



The coffee shop is a positive influence in West Seattle. There is a little seating area out on the street that is inviting to passers-by as well as an outdoor patio. The grounds are clean, inviting, and the environment feels relaxed and friendly. No one is smoking so it feels nice, and is ok for families.



These display the lack of care and apathy in the Capitol Hill community in comparison to the West Seattle community. The garbage bin is literally several centimeters away from the edge of the can, and the cigarette butts could have easily been tossed into the opening. In West Seattle, no cigarette butts are shown on the garbage can, and the neighborhood also offers a recycling bin for appropriate disposal of waste.



This picture is a close-up of some of the litter in the alley behind Neighbors on Capitol Hill (from the alley picture shown in an earlier slide). Neighbors is a bar, but it is one of the main gathering places for LGBT people in Seattle, which makes it an important location for the community. On Saturday nights, Neighbors offers "The Underground," dancing for 18-21 year olds, who enter the facility through the alley. Not only do the young people see lots of folks standing in the alley smoking, but they also see garbage on the ground, cigarette butts on the ground AND....

A BIOHAZARD BAG!?! This is unsafe and makes LGBT youth feel bad or unsafe about the larger LGBT community.

The area providing this couple with an appealing, inviting, and CLEAN environment to sit and enjoy a meal on a sunny afternoon. This is a common sight along a main street in West Seattle. Behind the couple is a large, handicap-accessible crosswalk. The area is decorated by both professional and amateur artists of the community to remind the people of the care going into their surroundings.



THANK YOU!