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Habitat for Humanity plans 58 Columbia City units

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As the DJC first reported early last year, Habitat for Humanity was contemplating an affordable housing project on a Columbia City property that had been foreclosed by its lender. And, last summer, that midblock site at [5022 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S.](#) sold for a bit over \$1.3 million to a Habitat-related LLC. Kidder Mathews represented the lender and seller.

The new five-story, 58-unit plan by JW Architects recently had its permit application accepted by the city. No design review is required, since it's an entirely affordable proposal. It also includes six surface parking stalls, to be accessed from a driveway on the building's south side.



Rendering by JW Architects [\[enlarge\]](#)

The site is a few steps south of the light-rail station.

Habitat's 16,807-square-foot site is a few steps south of Columbia City Station. It now has a vacant old commercial building to be removed. It slopes down to the east, and Habitat has also applied to the city for relief from steep-slope prohibitions.

The slope also allows several units on a daylight basement level. Units range from studios to two-bedrooms. Sizes run from about 404 to 814 square feet. Rents are expected to be affordable to households earning in a range from 60% to 80% of area median income.

The architect's SEPA filings indicate a possible start date this fall, with the goal of completion about a year later. The team also includes Belotti McHugh, general contractor; PanGeo, geotechnical engineer; Terrane, surveyor; DCG, civil engineer; Root of Design, landscape architect; and Sound Structural Solutions

A total project size of 38,147 square feet includes a 2,000-square-foot plaza on the building's east side.

The project will target Built Green Four-Star certification. The budget isn't specified, but the city Office of Housing will evidently contribute.

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