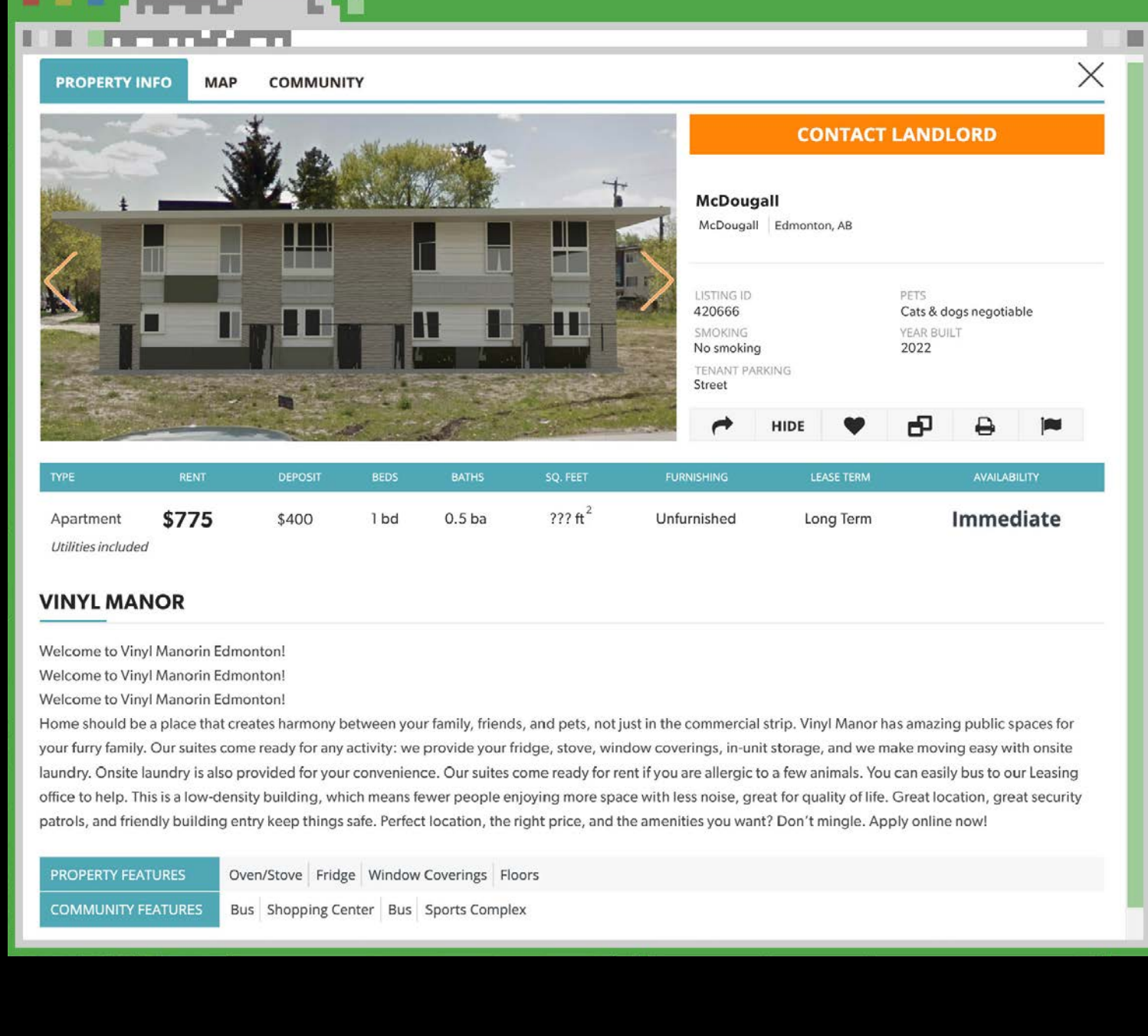


# Welcome to Vinyl Manor! AI generated affordable housing



## What is Vinyl Manor?

Vinyl Manor is my experimental StyleGAN assisted art project. The project aims to draw attention to the lack of affordable housing in Edmonton. Runway ML's StyleGAN 2 was trained with Google Street View images of all the 'affordable' housing I found across ten rental platforms. I knew when I began this project that my dataset would be small. Between firsthand experience and a few preliminary searches of the rental platforms I was expecting to find between 600 and 1,000 unique addresses for structures containing apartments and rooms for rent for less than \$800/month. In the end I was able to find only 392 unique addresses which contained units meeting my criteria in the entire Edmonton area.

## About Vinyl Manor's listings

Vinyl Manor has it's very own fake Rentfaster listing and as of this writing a real Kijiji listing. I wrote the caption by combining sentences thought up by AI trained with snippets of real listing captions I collected while I was searching for addresses. I also saved each unique address in Google Maps as I collected the screenshots, and it seemed like there were a lot of pins in the McDougall area so that's how I chose Vinyl Manor's location.

## Links to more about this project

[Process video \(condensed, 3:35\)](#)

[Process video \(full length, 5:48\)](#)

[Kijiji listing](#)

## Dataset images



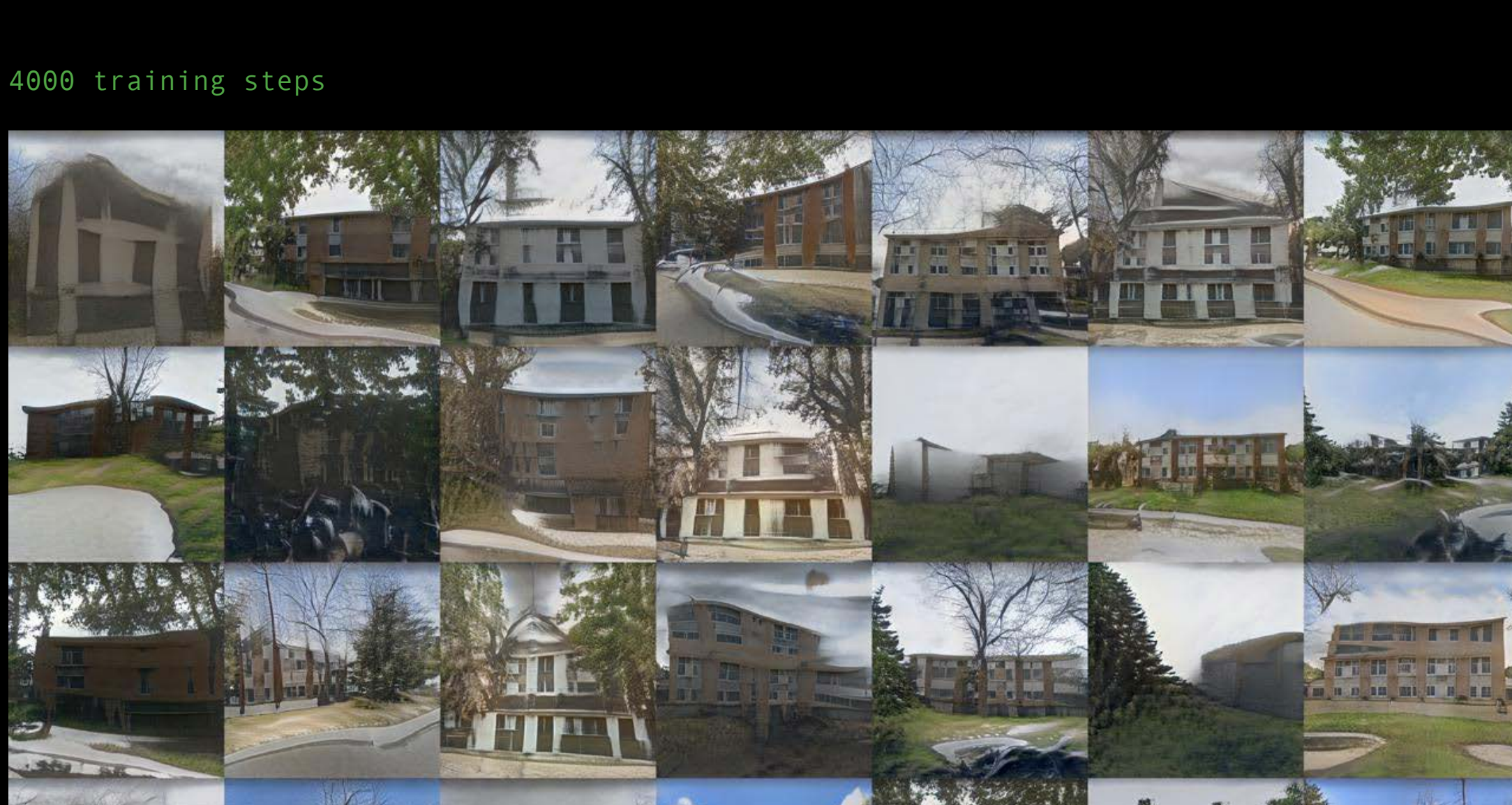
Here is a small sample of the 392 dataset images used to train the AI

## 3000 training steps



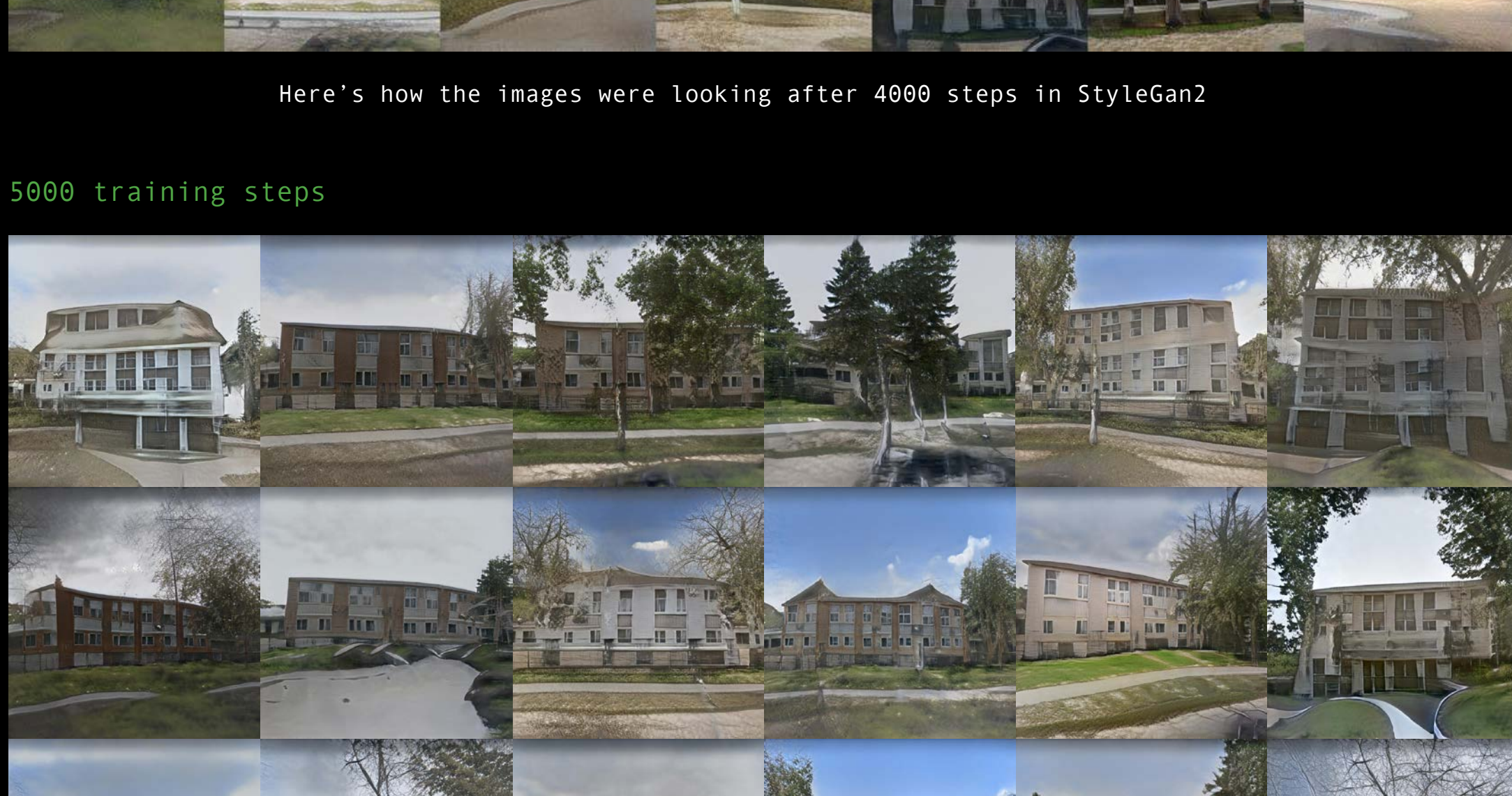
Here's how the images were looking after 3000 steps in StyleGan2

## 4000 training steps



Here's how the images were looking after 4000 steps in StyleGan2

## 5000 training steps



Here's what the AI gave me after 5000 training steps in StyleGan2. I wasn't seeing major improvements between 4000 and 5000 steps so I decided to end the training there. I attribute the difficulty the AI is having with generating realistic structures to the minuscule dataset of only 392 images. The lack of affordable housing in Edmonton is reflected in these images.

## Digital render



Chosen AI generated image

My interpretation

I decided to help the AI make something more realistic by creating a digital render based on one of it's designs.

## About\_me.txt

Hi, My name is Addison, and I'm a third year BFA student at the University of Alberta. My areas of study include media arts, printmaking and sociology. Throughout the past three years my work has become increasingly focused on issues of inequity within society, particularly wealth inequity and access to quality affordable housing. Before starting university at age twenty five I spent over twelve years in the minimum wage workforce both in my hometown of Grande Prairie and after moving to Calgary in 2013. I currently reside in Edmonton and look forward to completing my degree; after which I might consider applying to an MFA program.