CITY OF
VICTORIA

Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of June 13, 2019

To:	Committee of the Whole	**Date:**	June 13, 2019
From:	Kerri Moore, Head of Business and Community Relations		
Subject:	2019 My Great Neighbourhood Grants – Spring Intake		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

Approve 26 applications received for the spring intake of the 2019 My Great Neighbourhood Grant program as outlined in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the 2019 Spring applications for the My Great Neighbourhoods grant program for Council's consideration.

The City received 30 grant applications: 14 in the Activity category and 16 in the Placemaking category, for a total request of $76,300. The My Great Neighbourhood Grant budget is $123,000 for 2019.

The proposed recommendations will expend $59,300 for the Spring intake.

PURPOSE
This report presents the 2019 Spring intake of the My Great Neighbourhoods Grant applications for Council's consideration of approval.

BACKGROUND
In December 2015, Council approved a new grant program aimed at facilitating community-initiated placemaking projects. The initial policy and guidelines were approved on May 12, 2016 and the program was open for applications through the summer. The program was developed to support strong, connected neighbourhoods through funding for projects that would bring neighbours together and empower them to shape their local area.

The City provides up to $5,000 for placemaking projects to match the equivalent contribution from the neighbourhood. The matching contribution can be a combination of volunteer labour, donated services, materials and supplies and other funds raised. A budget of $120,000 was approved in 2016 for this program. In April 2017, the grant policy was amended to create a second stream of funding for community development activity

grants of up to $1,000 (matched funds).

The program is open to all not-for-profit organizations including community and neighbourhood associations and schools. Residents, informal organizations and businesses may also apply for funding by partnering with a local not-for-profit group. The not-for-profit group is required to co-sign the application, receives the funding and is the responsible party for ensuring the project meets agreed conditions.

The projects and activities must be located within the City of Victoria to be eligible for funding.

2019 GRANT PROGRAM

This grant program is open for two 6-week intakes per year, between March 1 and April 15, and September 1 to October 15. Staff actively promote the program through social media posts, email and verbal communications with stakeholders, a poster campaign and a community development event. Radio interviews and print media with also help promote the program. Throughout both intake periods, staff meet with prospective applicants to shape their projects and support them in providing a high-quality application.

Applications for the Spring Intake were received from twelve of the City's thirteen neighbourhoods.

The total amount of matching funds requested is $59,300 which leaves $63,700 available. The interdepartmental committee made up of staff from Parks, Planning, Arts & Culture and Engineering reviewed the applications. Funding recommendations are provided in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Summary tables of the Placemaking and Activity applications are provided below. The evaluation matrix and evaluations have been included in Appendix B. The complete applications for Placemaking are attached in Appendix C and Activities in Appendix D.

Table 1: 2019 Spring Placemaking Grant applications

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Applicant/Sponsor	Request
1	Rock Bay Concrete Canvas Maps	Burnside Gorge	Burnside Gorge Community Association	$4,500
2	Food for Thought	Downtown	FED Restaurant Society	$5,000
3	George Jay mural	Fernwood	George Jay PAC	$1,820
4	Community Centre Garden Revitalization	Fernwood	Fernwood NRG	$5,000
5	Honouring Lekwungen Plant Garden	Fernwood	Mitraniketan Housing COOP	$1,750
6	Little Seed Library	James Bay	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	$1,200
7	Hillside Ave murals	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$5,000
8	Park Signs Project	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$4,985

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Applicant/Sponsor	
9	Walbran Mural	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$5,000
10	Xeriscaping	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$3,105
11	Ryan Street Mural	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$2,000
12	Woodland Pathway	Rockland	Rockland Neighbourhood Association	$2,490
13	Pollinator Garden Enhancement	VicWest	Pollinator Partnership Canada	$5,000

*see Table 3 for explanation

Total Placemaking Applications   **$46,850**

Table 2: 2019 Spring Activity Grant applications

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Applicant/Sponsor	Request
1	Walk on Film Night	Downtown	Victoria Film Festival	$1,000
2	Inner Harbour Interactive Storytelling	Downtown	Downtown Victoria business Association	$1,000
3	Singing in the Streets	Hillside Quadra	Quadra Village Community Centre	$1,000
4	Scare on McNair	Hillside Quadra	Quadra Village Community Centre	$1,000
5	Peoples Apothecary Summer Herbal Workshops	Hillside Quadra	Quadra Village Community Centre	$450
6	Bicycle Champions	Fairfield	Greater Victoria Placemaking Society	$1,000
7	Solstice Party	Fairfield	Fairfield United Church	$1,000
8	Seniors Yoga	Fernwood	Fernwood NRG	$1,000
9	Rock Bay Creek Celebration Tour	Fernwood	Fairfield Community Association	$1,000
10	South Jubilee Community Music Festival	South Jubilee	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	$1,000
11	Basketball Street Party	Oaklands	Oaklands Community Association	$1,000
12	Creekside Concert	Oaklands	Friends of Bowker Creek	$1,000
13	Pear Harvest	Vic West	Vic West Community Association	$1,000

*see Table 3 for explanation

Total Activity Applications   **$12,450**

Table 3: Applications recommended for decline

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Request	Explanatory Notes
1	Wellness First	Fairfield	$1,000	Recommend decline as the same event was funded in the previous year and does not reflect a substantial new element
2	The Wellness Place	Fairfield	$5,000	Recommend decline as proposal does not reflect a placemaking installation
3	Next Steps Childcare Society Playground build	North Park	$5,000	Recommend decline as the proposal does not reflect an installation that is open to the public

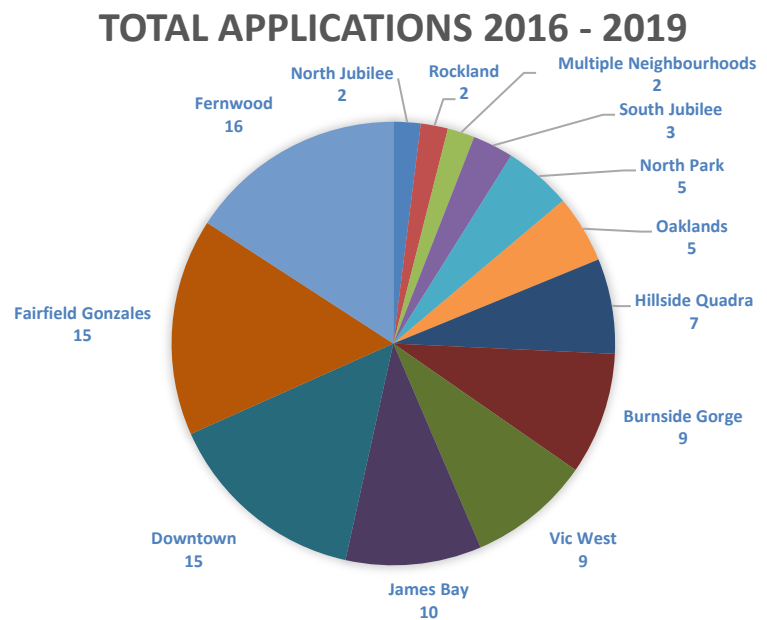|				
4	Rockland Children's Garden and play Space Concept Design	Rockland	$5,000	Recommend decline for now and have staff work with applicant in the coming months to refine application

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

Staff have been tracking grants across neighbourhoods from 2016 to the current intake. A summary of grant distribution by neighbourhood for this intake is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Applications by Neighbourhood 2019 Spring Intake

Neighbourhood	Total Applications	Total Requested Funds	Total Recommended	Recommendation
Burnside Gorge	1	$4,500	1	$4,500
Downtown	3	$7,000	3	$7,000
Fairfield Gonzales	4	$8,000	2	$2,000
Fernwood	5	$11,270	5	$10,570
Hillside Quadra	3	$2,450	3	$2,450
James Bay	1	$1,200	1	$1,200
North Jubilee	0	0	0	0
North Park	1	$5,000	0	0
Oaklands	7	$22,089	7	$22,090
Rockland	2	$7,490	1	$2,490
South Jubilee	1	$1,000	1	$1,000
Vic West	2	$6,000	2	$6,000
Total	**30**	**$76,300**	**26**	**$59,300**

This pie chart shows the distribution of approved grants by neighbourhood up to the Spring 2019 intake.

As of December 2018, the City has approved $329,681 funding for 101 projects. If the recommended Spring 2019 applications are approved, this grant program will have initiated 127 placemaking projects and community development activities with $389,981 of grant funds in three and a half years.

TOTAL APPLICATIONS 2016 - 2019

- North Jubilee 2
- Rockland 2
- Multiple Neighbourhoods 2
- South Jubilee 3
- North Park 5
- Oaklands 5
- Hillside Quadra 7
- Burnside Gorge 9
- Vic West 9
- James Bay 10
- Downtown 15
- Fairfield Gonzales 15
- Fernwood 16

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – Approve 26 applications (Recommended)

An interdepartmental committee made up of staff from Parks, Planning, Arts & Culture and Engineering reviewed the applications and issues which have been noted have been resolved.

Option 2 – Further review grant applications and make alternative decisions for grant awards

This option would involve a further process and Council direction to identify the scope of eligibility.

Accessibility Impact Statement
There are no accessibility concerns related to the proposed recommendations in this report.

2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan
The applications received support the objectives and/or the action and outcome statements of the Strategic Plan specifically:
- Objective 8: Strong Livable Neighbourhoods

Impacts to Financial Plan
The $120,000 for this grant program was approved as part of the 2019 Financial Plan.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement
The My Great Neighbourhoods Grants program supports several of the OCP's broad objectives, including:

Placemaking
- 8 (d) That social vibrancy is fostered and strengthened through human scale and design of buildings, streetscapes and public spaces.
- 8 (g) That a sense of place is developed and enhanced through urban design features.

Community Wellbeing
- 15 (d) That strong partnerships build the capacity of individuals and the community.
- 15 (e) That all citizens have the opportunity to participate in civic affairs.

Arts and Culture
- 16 (a) That Victoria is a creative and vibrant city.
- 16 (f) That art in public places is supported and enabled as a public good and an expression of community identity.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Pemberton
Neighbourhood Advisor

Kerri Moore
Head of Business and Community Relations

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager: *Jocelyn Jenkyns*

Date: *June 7, 2019*

List of Attachments
Appendix A: Great Neighbourhood Grant Policy proposed amendments
Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria and Spring 2019 Intake evaluations
Appendix C: 2019 Spring intake placemaking applications (attached as pdf)
Appendix D: 2019 Spring intake activity applications (attached as pdf)