

PURPOSE

This report presents the 2019 Fall 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 program was developed to support strong, connected neighbourhoods through funding for projects and activities that 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 and up to \$1,000 matching funds for community development activities.

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.

The 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, and a poster campaign. Radio interviews and print media also help promote the program. Throughout both intake periods, staff meet with prospective applicants to help shape their projects and support them in providing a high-quality application.

2019 FALL INTAKE

Applications for the Fall Intake were received from ten of the City's thirteen neighbourhoods.

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. The total amount of matching funds being forwarded for approval is \$52,945 which leaves a balance of \$10,755 for the grant program.

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: Placemaking Grant Applications Recommended for Funding

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Request	Description
1	Sumas St. Lending Library	Burnside Gorge	\$815	Adding a little free library in the Sumas/Manchester pocket park
2	Cecelia Cove Park Lending Library	Burnside Gorge	\$815	Adding a little free library in the Cecelia Cove park
3	Emergency Container Treelane Estates	Burnside Gorge	\$1,000	Installation of a community emergency storage container to be filled with water, food, solar charging station and medical supplies
4	Lights of Wonder	Downtown	\$5,000	Installation of a light show in Centennial Square
5	Lower Johnson Placemaking project	Downtown	\$5,000	Upgrading the overhead lighting at the north end of Waddington Alley to allow for animation and colour changes throughout the year
6	Poetry in Public	Downtown	\$5,000	Four local poets will have one poem each translated in several languages, and printed onto large display boards, to be placed in high visibility spots in the Bay Centre
7	Fairfield Community Pantry	Fairfield	\$1,875	Installation of a free food pantry (based on the little free library idea) at the Fairfield Community Centre
8	Margaret Jenkins School Garden	Fairfield	\$3,930	Building a food garden for the students at Ecole Margaret Jenkins school
9	Grant St Book Exchange	Fernwood	\$630	Adding a little free library on Grant St at Fernwood, on private property
10	Wark St. Commons Improvements	Hillside Quadra	\$2,967	Repaint existing kiosk and add a mosaic and plant map of the garden
11	Village on the Green Emergency Kit	North Park	\$1,500	Creation of a community emergency kit, comprised of supplies to be shared by neighbours, located on private property
12	Franklin Green Bike Loop	North Park	\$2,250	Addition of a child-friendly bike loop to an existing pathway, with standard bicycle pavement markings and child-scale signage. <i>Approve based on design changes provided by Parks</i>
13	Oaklands Park Playbox	Oaklands	\$5,000	Addition of a playbox filled with toys and sports equipment to Oaklands Park
14	Bocce Court for Oaklands	Oaklands	\$3,791	Addition of a bocce court in Oaklands Park
Total Recommended Placemaking Applications			\$39,573	

Table 2: Activity Grant Applications recommended for funding

	Name of Project	Neighbourhood	Request	Description
1	Le Blonde Community Development and Well being	Burnside Gorge	\$1,000	A series of small activities designed to connect and educate residents, with a focus on mental health and nutrition. LeBlonde Community is a CRD Disability housing development
2	Housing Project 101	Downtown	\$1,000	A series of workshops designed to help residents better understand the struggles of our rental housing community
3	Building Capacity for Engagement	Downtown	\$970	Develop a pilot workshop for residents and employees of the downtown, to increase the skillset and decrease the anxiety of those encountering the street-entrenched community
4	Citizens Forum on Climate Crisis	Downtown	\$932	An event with a cross-section of the City's diverse community, to discuss how the climate crisis ought to be dealt with
5	Asset Mapping Project	Fairfield	\$1,000	An asset mapping project for Fairfield neighbourhood
6	Health and Wellness Fair	Fernwood	\$1,000	A health and wellness fair at Ecole George Jay School
7	Nurturing Climate Resistant Communities from the Ground Up	North Park	\$1,000	A free speaker series and community feast showcasing practices of restoration and remediation that support Indigenous rights and mitigate climate change
8	Family Day Picnic Oswald Park	Oaklands	\$1,000	A garden themed family picnic to coincide with May Day, to be held in Oswald Park
9	Clothing Swap and Native Plant Sale	Oaklands	\$1,000	A free community event focused on upcycled clothing and gear swap, combined with a native plant sale, workshops of mending and DIY tailoring and sustainable fashion shopping tips
10	Asquith St. Newsletter	Oaklands	\$270	The development of a newsletter for 2600 block Asquith Street residents, intended to support neighbour connections and the annual block party
11	Clawthorpe Block Party	Oaklands	\$200	The development of the inaugural block party for residents of 1500 block of Clawthorpe Ave
12	Accessible Grad	Oaklands	\$1,000	A collaboration of hair stylists, make-up artists, clothing stores and photographers to offer grad services to Vic High students, with an emphasis on outreach to youth from low income families
13	Spring Block Party Langham Court	Rockland	\$1,000	The development of an Arts Precinct Spring 2020 block party in cooperation with residents, Langham Court Theatre, The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and other arts-focused organizations
14	Holiday Pop-up Parties	Various	\$1,000	Three pop-up theatre performances by Theatre SKAM in three different neighbourhoods, in mid to late December
15	Summer Concert Night	Vic West	\$1,000	A pilot summer concert to be held in Banfield Park
Total Recommended Activity Applications			\$13,372	

Table 3: 2019 Grant Applications Recommended for Decline or Withdrawn by Applicant

1	McNair Stair Lighting and Bike Rail	Hillside Quadra	\$5,000	Installation of lighting and a bike rail along the stairs up into Sumas Park. <i>Decline based on concerns with light impact (safety, wildlife) and durability. The proposed bike rail is incompatible with the configuration of stairs. There are also concerns with impacts to stair usability and liability</i>
2	Community Bike Parking Station	Hillside Quadra	\$5,000	Installation of a covered community bike parking station in the 1300 block of McNair St (near Summit Park). <i>Decline based on concerns with liability associated with proposed overhead structure. Parks may consider installing a bike rack without the structure.</i>
3	Trees Belong in Neighbourhoods	Various	\$4,995	Creation of a series of workshops and an online community tree resource and information hub. <i>This project does not fit the parameters of this grant program. Recommend they apply to Strategic Plan grant program</i>
4	Little Library Kiosk	Fairfield	3,910	Installation of a kiosk and little library in public park. <i>Application was withdrawn by applicant</i>
5	Remembrance Illuminated	Fairfield	\$1,000	An outdoor 20-minute Remembrance Day slideshow honouring Canadian military from WWI through Afghanistan. <i>Activity happened prior to grant approvals received</i>
Recommended applications for decline			\$19,905	

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

A summary of grant distribution by neighbourhood for this intake is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Applications by Neighbourhood 2019 Fall Intake

Neighbourhood	Total Applications
Burnside Gorge	4
Downtown	6
Fairfield Gonzales	5
Fernwood	2
Hillside Quadra	3
James Bay	0
North Jubilee	0
North Park	3
Oaklands	7
Rockland	1
South Jubilee	0
Vic West	1
Various	2
Total	34

As of June 2019, the City has approved \$392,836 funding for 129 projects. If the recommended Fall 2019 applications are approved, the grant program will have initiated 158 placemaking projects and community development activities with \$445,781 of grant funds in four years.

A breakdown by year and by type of grant approved is included in Tables 5 and 6. These numbers include the proposed applications within this report for the 2019 Fall intake.

Table 5 My Great Neighbourhood Approved Grant Applications by Year

	Spring	Fall	Total
2016	n/a	22/ \$97,630	22/ \$97,630
2017	21/ \$69,127	17/ \$46,779	38/ \$115,906
2018	21/ 56,300	22/ \$63,700	43/ \$120,000
2019	26/ 59,300	29/ 52,945	55/ \$112,245
		4-year total	158/ \$445,781

Table 6 My Great Neighbourhood Grants Approved Applications by Type of Grant

	Placemaking	Activity*	Total
2016	22	n/a	22
2017	24	14	38
2018	27	16	43
2019	27	28	55
Total	100	58	158

*activity grants were introduced in the spring of 2017

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – Approve 29 applications in the amount of \$52,945 (Recommended)

An interdepartmental committee made up of staff from Parks, Planning, Arts Culture & Events, and Engineering reviewed the applications and issues which had 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 \$128,000 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,

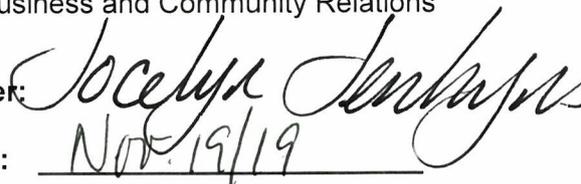


Kimberley Stratford
Neighbourhood Liaison



Kerri Moore
Head of Business and Community Relations

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:



Date:

Nov. 19/19

List of Attachments

- Appendix A: Grant Policy
- Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria and Fall 2019 Intake evaluations
- Appendix C: 2019 Fall intake placemaking applications (attached as pdf)
- Appendix D: 2019 Fall intake activity applications (attached as pdf)