

Graham St block party	Dance Victoria	Block party	\$950
Post Pandemic Party	Atomic Vaudeville	Art event celebrating post pandemic	\$1,000
Oaklands School Totem Raising	SD61	Raising of the totem pole and ceremony	\$1,000
Clawthorpe St block party	Oaklands Community Assoc	Block party	\$1,000
Myrtle Block Party	Oaklands Community Assoc	Block party	\$1,000
Human Library project	Oaklands Community Assoc	Creation of a human library	\$1,000
11 Activity Grants			\$10,600

Table 3: 2021 My Great Neighbourhood Grants Approved Community Recovery & Resiliency Applications

Project	Applicant (Sponsor)	Brief Description of Community Recovery & Resiliency Proposals	Grant received
Community Fridge	Capital Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	Installation of a community fridge	\$5,000
Comedy Festival	Downtown Residents Association	Street comedy night	\$1,500
Our Place COVID response	Our Place Society	Additional cleaning protocol for COVID	\$5,000
Vimy Place Emergency Preparedness	Building Resilient Neighbourhoods	Emergency planning for Vimy Place residents	\$4,300
Get Growing Fernwood	Fernwood NRG	Support of the Get Growing program for Fernwood	\$4,250
Get Growing Plus	Quadra Village Community Centre	Seedling distribution, gardening resources and education	\$2,000
JBNA Recycle Saturday	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Monthly recycling depot for items not taken in the Blue Box program	\$4,100
Parents 4 Climate Tree planting	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Planting native and fruit trees in Jubilee	\$3,000
Supply Creative Re-use Pop Up Shop	Victoria Supply Creative Reuse Society	Launch a pop-up shop to provide the community access to free second-hand art supplies	\$4,946
Harvest and Share food relief operation	Harvest and Share Food Relief Society	Indoor food production for local food banks	\$5,000
10 Community Resiliency Grants			\$39,096

Table 4: 2021 My Great Neighbourhood Grants Approved Placemaking Applications

Project	Applicant (Sponsor)	Brief Description of Placemaking Proposals	Grant received
Chown Pl. Outdoor Gathering Space	The Gorge View Society	Bench seating, community notice board, little library pocket space (11 Chown Pl.)	\$5,000
Lexington Park Mural	Lexington Park Strata	Mural installation on southeast corner of Government and Bay Streets	\$5,000
Yates St Pollinator Garden	Pollinator Partnership Canada	Boulevard pollinator garden at 1031 Yates St	\$4,860
Francophone Patio Project	Francophone Society of Victoria	BBV patio space furnished in Boomerang Court (Bastion Square) over summer season.	\$5,000
Reclaiming Clare St	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Traffic calming on 1000 block of Clare St	\$4,000
Vining St mural and boulevard garden	Fernwood NRG	Mural and boulevard garden in the Vining Street laneway	\$2,000
Pandora Arts Little Gallery	Pandora Arts Collective	Little art gallery (1923 Fernwood Road)	\$328
Rise Health Mural	Fernwood NRG	Mural on Rise Health building (Fernwood and Bay Streets)	\$2,850
Harris Green placemaking	Fernwood NRG	Installation of a picnic bench, little library and birdhouse in 1000 block of Harris Green	\$5,000
Wark Community library	Quadra Village Community Centre	Installation of little free library in Wark St community garden	\$600
Alter Arts Society Mural Fest	Alter Arts Society	Mural festival	\$5,000
Birdcage Community Corner	James Bay Neighbourhood Association	Boulevard enhancement project on Michigan @ Government	\$5,000
SJ Rebellion mural	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	Mural on commercial wall (Pandora at Oak Bay Junction)	\$3,000
Tiny Homes Village Mural	Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness	Installation of a mural at the Tiny Homes Village facility (RAP parking lot)	\$5,000
Our WorkPlace Mural	Fernwood NRG	Installation of mural at Balmoral and Quadra Streets	\$2,750
Eden Barbershop Mural	Fernwood NRG	Mural installed on east facing commercial wall in Haultain Village	\$3,400
Gosworth St. Community mural	Oaklands Community Association	Community mural on a small neighbourhood business wall on Gosworth St	\$2,000
Oakland Rise bench	Kiwanis Pavilion, Oak Bay Kiwanis Health Care Society	Creation of original, live-edge oak benches for installation along the Kings Rd. greenway	\$5,000

St Matthias Placemaking	St Matthias Anglican Church	Placemaking on corner of Richmond and Richardson on St. Matthias property	\$5,000
Vic West Elem Children's Garden	Vic West Elementary School	Create a children's garden at Victoria West Elementary School (750 Front Street)	\$5,000
20 Placemaking Grants			\$75,788

Table 5: 2021 Distribution by Neighbourhood and Totals by Neighbourhood since 2016

Neighbourhood	2021 Grants	2021 \$ Allocations by neighbourhood	Total Grants*	Total \$ Investment by neighbourhood
Burnside Gorge	5	\$17,000	25	\$70,616
Downtown	6	\$18,010	32	\$110,124
Fairfield Gonzales	2	\$8,300	27	\$98,892
Fernwood	6	\$15,428	34	\$92,077
Hillside Quadra	4	\$8,550	19	\$55,108
James Bay	3	\$10,100	17	\$51,906
Jubilee	2	\$6,000	9	\$29,000
North Park	3	\$12,696	14	\$42,416
Oaklands	7	\$14,400	28	\$75,661
Rockland	2	\$10,000	7	\$28,490
Vic West	1	\$5,000	15	\$49,505
City-wide	0	0	9	\$35,770

*totals based on fulfilled projects and not on total approved

Table 6: Total My Great Neighbourhood Approved Grant Applications by Year

	Grants x year	Total \$ Approved
2016	22	\$97,630
2017	38	\$115,906
2018	43	\$120,000
2019	55	\$112,245
2020	51	\$184,205*
2021	41	\$125,484
6 years	250 grants	\$755,470

*in 2020, Council provided a one-time additional \$100,000 to address COVID.

Table 7: My Great Neighbourhood Approved Grants from 2016 to current year

	Placemaking	Activity	Community Recovery & Resiliency	Total
2016	22	n/a	n/a	22
2017	24	14	n/a	38
2018	27	16	n/a	43
2019	27	28	n/a	55
2020	18	9	24	51
2021	20	11	10	41
Total	138	78	34	250

In 2016, this grant program was introduced with placemaking as a focus. In 2017, staff heard from residents that they needed a second category that allowed for community development activities. In 2020, a temporary category was introduced to respond to the pandemic and support building resiliency in the neighbourhoods. There were 24 applications in the first year of this temporary category and in 2021, 10 applications were received. Projects in 2021 focused on community food systems, climate change activities and emergency planning. Staff are recommending that this temporary category become permanent, and the name of the category be shortened to *Community Resiliency*.

Moving to a monthly approval process has allowed this grant fund to get money into the community more efficiently, making ongoing and immediate positive impacts to residents. Staff are recommending that Council approve as permanent, an ongoing monthly intake and City Manager approval process. Staff will provide an annual summary of the grant program to Council at the end of each year.

In addition to managing the intake of the 2021 program, staff have been designing a new online application form which will be introduced for the 2022 program. The online form is intended to

make applying for this fund more accessible, reduce technical issues faced by fillable pdfs, and meet best practices requirements on the City's website.

Updates to the Neighbourhood Program

Community Virtuals

As COVID continued to prevent large community building events, the Neighbourhood Team launched Season 2 of the Community Virtuals Lunch & Learn in September 2021. Three events took place in the fall covering topics of tackling graffiti in the neighbourhoods, profiling the *Local Champions* program and highlighting the City's Zero Waste goals. The winter program will include traffic calming in neighbourhoods, the introduction of the *Neighbourhood-Led Action Plan Guide* and just prior to the April launch of the 2022 program, a session on the *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* program.

New Resource for Residents

Staff will be completing the *Neighbourhood-Led Action Plan Guide* as part of the Neighbourhood Team T3 activities. This guide is designed to empower residents to achieve their neighbourhood improvement goals. The guide is broken into nine steps that take residents through a process of identifying and prioritizing projects they can undertake to establish a resident-led plan for community development. The guide will be rolled out in T1 2022 to all the neighbourhoods.

Combatting Graffiti

Through the VTAG program (Victoria Together Against Graffiti) the Neighbourhood Team has been working with residents to tackle graffiti in the neighbourhoods. Staff provide paint-out kits and have been identifying and supporting neighbourhood coordinators who in turn manage teams of volunteers. There has been a very positive uptake on this program and staff are working on securing more funding from external partners to continue to expand this program.

Neighbourhood Coordinators

In March, 2021, Council approved the additional funding of \$20,000 for neighbourhood coordinators for North Park, Downtown, Rockland, Jubilee and James Bay. The Neighbourhood Liaisons invited proposals from these neighbourhoods, which were to outline how these funds would be used. To date, North Park, Downtown and James Bay have received these grants, however Rockland and Jubilee indicated they lacked the capacity to take advantage of this program for this year. Staff will be bringing forward a report to Council in early 2022 outlining a draft policy, sharing the successes and challenges faced by the neighbourhoods in taking advantage of this grant and providing recommendations for this program.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 (Recommended):

For the future intakes of the *My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program*, that Council approves the following:

1. The permanent addition of the temporary category "Community Recovery & Resiliency" renamed as *Community Resiliency* to the *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* program, and
2. Make permanent the monthly intake and City Manager approval process, with staff providing Council an annual summary of the grant program.

Option 2:

Council to provide alternative direction to staff.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The *My Great Neighbourhood Grant* program provides an opportunity to support accessibility objectives through community building projects and activities. Grants are available to all non-profit organizations in Victoria including accessibility-focused groups. Applicants are required to identify ways in which their proposed project supports equity and inclusion in the community and how it contributes to reducing barriers or improving accessibility for all people. City staff are available to provide support through the application process. As the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion was established in 2021, the City continues to seek out new ways to promote and encourage applications which support equity and diversity goals.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

The *My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program* supports the objective and/or the action and outcome statements of the Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Objective 8: Strong Livable Neighbourhoods

Impacts to Financial Plan

As part of the 2022 Financial Plan, \$ 136,480, which is comprised of \$131,330 for the actual grants and \$5,150 for the community development activity to promote the *My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program* is included for consideration of approval by Council.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

The *My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program* supports the following OCP objective:

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

CONCLUSIONS

Many of the City's neighbourhood organizations, community and seniors' centres and residents continue to work with the City to improve their neighbourhoods. Permanently adding the new category of *Community Resiliency* to the *My Great Neighbourhoods Grant Program* will assist residents and organizations in furthering their community building efforts. The expedited approval process allows for funds to be dispersed in an efficient and timely manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Stratford
Neighbourhood Liaison

Kerri Moore
Head of Business & Community Relations

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager