



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 4th 2022

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** July 25 2022
From: Mayor Helps and Councillor Dubow
Subject: International Decade of People of African Descent Youth Grant Program

BACKGROUND

In order to address anti-black racism in Victoria and to make Victoria a more welcoming and safe city for all residents, in June 2020, Council adopted the United Nations International Decade of People of African Descent, 2015-2024. To put this into action, Council appointed an International Decade of People of African Descent Advisory Committee to support the Decade's three themes:

- **Recognition:** Support efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Black Victorians as part of the City's contributions to mark the decade.
- **Justice:** Support efforts to promote equitable outcomes for Black Victorians on issues relating to policing. Designing, implementing and enforcing effective measures to eliminate the phenomenon popularly known as "racial profiling" and eliminating institutionalized stereotypes concerning people of African descent.
- **Development:** Support efforts for positive outcomes for Black Victorians in area of housing, employment and entrepreneurship

The purpose of the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) Advisory Committee is to provide Council with recommendations on the following:

- The recommended approach to implementing the IDPAD proclamation within the City of Victoria and community at large, including the development of a three-year action plan
- Receive and communicate out City activities and updates related to the IDPAD implementation to "parent" organizations the member represents, where applicable
- Best practices to raise awareness in the general public about the heritage and culture of people of African descent and around the IDPAD broader goals and actions
- Advise Council on emerging issues and trends of significance to Black communities as they relate to City services and programs through semi-annual reports
- How to ensure the interests and needs of Black communities are reflected in City programs and service delivery.

To help deliver this work and to empower youth of African descent, in January 2021, Council approved an annual budget allocation of \$25,000 for a grant program to “support Black children and youth leadership opportunities by providing grant funding to Black-led organizations, with the grant program to be co-designed by the IDPAD advisory committee.”

In the fall of 2021, the IDPAD Advisory Committee was established. One of the first priorities of the advisory committee is the development of the youth grant program, which is the subject of this report. The IDPAD Committee has undertaken community engagement to receive community input on the creation of the grant program including holding a very well-attended townhall on Saturday June 18th at City Hall.

The proposed grant program reflects the input from the community, including the proposed delegation of the granting process and decision making to the IDPAD committee. We also recommend that the IDPAD report to Council on the program with a list and description of projects funded, lessons learned in year one of the program and any suggested improvements for future years.

GRANT PROGRAM

Purpose

The purpose of the IDPAD youth grants is to support youth of African descent in Victoria.

Criteria

The grant program is to create opportunities for youth of African descent including but not limited to:

- Creating safe spaces for youth of African descent to gather
- Delivering youth-led programs or programs that benefit youth of African descent
- Delivering programs that build confidence and self-empowerment, including navigating systemic racism
- Creating a black youth council
- Learning about educational, scholarship and career opportunities

Eligible applicants

Individuals of African descent and informal community groups and non-profit organizations led by people of African descent, serving youth of African descent. Individuals and informal community groups will need to complete a section of the application form that demonstrates they are representative of and supported by their community.

Ineligible applicants

The City is prohibited from making grants to businesses, therefore businesses are ineligible to apply.

Eligible costs

Program materials

Insurance and permit fees

Equipment rentals

Professional facilitation costs

Honorarium for participants and facilitators

Ineligible costs

Purchase of capital assets or paying off a debt.

Program space

The City's NeighbourHub on Douglas Street can be available at no cost for booking for programs hosted by grant recipients.

Timeframe

The grant funding must be used, and project or program completed within one year of receipt.

Award amounts

Grants of up to \$8,000 can be awarded. This funding must be used to the benefit of the wider community of youth of African descent as per the criteria above.

Evaluation

The grant applications will be evaluated by members of the IDPAD Advisory Committee, or a subcommittee of members. The IDPAD Advisory Committee as a whole will be the final decision-making body. The grant applications will be evaluated based on the criteria laid out above and on the capacity of the individual or organization to carry out the project or program, based on information provided in the grant application form.

Timeline

The 2022 grant process will open September 1st. Grant applications are due September 21st. Grant recipients will be notified by October 14th 2022.

For future years, the grant process will open on March 31st. Grant applications will be due April 21st. Grant recipients will be notified by May 15th.

Reporting requirements

All recipients must submit a short report to the City's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion office within 30 days of project or program completion.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

As laid out above, the IDPAD Committee will administer the grant process with the assistance of city staff.

City staff will:

- Place the application form on the IDPAD page of the City's website
- Issue a press release when the grant process opens
- Promote the grants on the City's social media channels
- Collect the grant applications and collate them for the IDPAD Committee
- Notify successful and unsuccessful applicants
- Issue a press release to announce the grant recipients
- Send out the final report forms to all recipients and collate them for the IDPAD Committee's review

The IDPAD Advisory Committee will:

- Host a webinar for interested grant applicants
- Promote the grant program in their networks
- Evaluate the grant applications based on the criteria laid out above and on the capacity of the individual or organization to carry out the project or program, based on information provided in the grant application form.
- Make a final decision on successful and unsuccessful applicants in the timeframe laid out above
- Work with City staff on the two press releases, including providing a media contact for the press release
- Review the final reports submitted by grant recipients
- Make an annual presentation and/or provide a report to City Council to share grant program outcomes, including making any proposed changes to the grant criteria or process, which will be considered for approval by Council

CONCLUSION

The IDPAD Advisory Committee has put a lot of thought and work into the creation of this grant program and has sought the input of community members of African descent to do so. They very much look forward to getting this grant program underway and to supporting and empowering youth of African descent in our community. They also look forward to reporting to Council at the conclusion of the first year of the grant program to share the projects and programs funded and any lessons learned going forward for future years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council delegate the grant process including decision making to the IDPAD Committee based on the criteria presented in this report.
2. That Council request a report and/or presentation from the IDPAD Committee on year one of the program including a list of projects funded, lessons learned in year one of the program and any suggested improvements for future years.
3. That Council forward these recommendations forward for consideration at the daytime Council meeting of August 4th.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Helps



Councillor Dubow