

Feedback on Proposed Changes to City's Grant Program

Purpose

- Summarize input on proposed changes to grant program aligned with the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan and recommend changes based on the feedback
- Seek approval of 2015 Fee-for-Service grants
- Direct award grants and festival investment grants already approved and to remain unchanged

Original Grant Programs

Five programs with competitive application processes (grant awards range from \$2,000 - \$15,000):

- Festival Investment \$156,000
- Neighbourhood Enhancement \$30,000
- Greenways \$25,000
- Community Arts \$30,000
- Sustainability \$86,000

One program without competitive process (grant awards range from \$2,000 - \$100,000)

- Fee-for-service \$513,000

Implementation

Proposed to phase-in over two years

- **2015:**
 - Fee-for-service grants remain unchanged
 - Festival investment grants remain unchanged
 - Replace neighbourhood enhancement, greenways, community arts and sustainability grants with grant program aligned with Strategic Plan
- **2016:**
 - Festival investment grants remain unchanged
 - Replace fee-for-service grants with new grant program aligned with Strategic Plan
 - Explore options for participatory budgeting

Consultation

- Over 200 groups invited
- Information session attended by 50 people
- Feedback in writing encouraged over a two-week period
- Seven written submissions received

Summary of Feedback

At meeting:

- Support for the proposed changes
- Desire for a simple application and reporting form
- Concern regarding reporting timeline
- Concern regarding resource impact for organizations to present to Council

Summary of Feedback

In writing:

- Support for streamlined and consistent approach
- Support for alignment with the Strategic Plan
- Early grant cycle and award better for organizations to budget
- One year funding commitment can be challenging
- Concern about timing of reporting requirements
- Support for simplified applications and reporting
- Concern that presenting to Council is time consuming
- Concern around the timing of payment for community garden grants

Fee-for Service Grants

- Appendix B
- Requests total \$503,070

Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator

- **\$6,000 for each of the six neighbourhoods that have existing community gardens**
- **Appendix C**

Recommendations

1. **Approve the Grant Policy, including amendments as a result of the feedback**
 - a) **A simple application form with a shorter version for the micro-grants**
 - b) **A streamlined reporting form**
 - c) **An interim report requirement for the 2016 intake**
 - d) **Pay community garden volunteer coordination grants and micro-grants in March**
 - e) **Require presentations to Council only for grant requests over an amount determined by Council**
2. **Direct staff to accept applications for the 2015 Strategic Plan grants until June 26, 2015**

Recommendations

3. Direct staff to report on eligible applications at the July 9, 2015 Council meeting (decisions on awards to be made on July 23 after presentations)
4. Direct staff to schedule two Town Hall meetings for presentations by eligible applicants the week of July 13, 2015
5. Approve the 2015 Fee-for-Service Grants as outlined in Appendix B
6. Approve the terms of reference for the Community Garden Volunteer Coordinator grant as outlined in Appendix C