

# Proposed Alignment of Grants Program with 2015–2018 Strategic Plan

## Purpose

Propose new grant program aligned  
with the 2015–2018 Strategic Plan,  
with a two-phased implementation

## Council Direction

- Streamline grant process for implementation in 2015
- Two new categories approved: direct award grants and grants aligned with 2015–2018 Strategic Plan
- Direct award grants and Festival Investment grants approved for 2015

## New Program Objectives

**Based on research of other municipalities and taking public input into account:**

- **Flexibility**
  - Broader scope
  - One funding envelope
- **Consistency and opportunity**
  - Same application and evaluation process
  - New applicants
- **Council involvement and oversight in the award of grants**
  - Applicants present requests to Council; Council determines merit
  - Formal reporting back before following year's grant awards

## Original Grant Programs

### Five programs with competitive application processes:

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

### One program without competitive process

- Fee-for-service \$513,000

## Community Garden Grants

### Micro Grants:

- Volunteer coordination of commons and community gardens
- \$500 maximum

### Community garden volunteer coordinators:

- \$6,000 direct award grant to each of the six neighbourhoods with community gardens

## 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

## Support to Organizations

- Assistance in putting applications together
- Information session

## Recommendations

### That Council:

1. Approve the proposed grant program and process incorporated into the *Grant Policy* as outlined Appendix A
2. Implement a phased-in approach as outlined in this report:
  - a. In 2015, fee-for service grant process will remain unchanged and neighbourhood enhancement, greenways, community arts and sustainability programs will be replaced with the new grant program aligned with the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan
  - b. In 2016, fee-for service grant process will be replaced with the grant program aligned with the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

## Recommendations

3. Direct staff to accept applications until May 24 and schedule two special Governance and Priorities Committee meetings the week of June 14 for presentation by eligible applicants
4. Direct staff to launch the intake for 2016 grants in September 2015 for approval by Council in November 2015 in alignment with the 2016 financial planning process
5. Direct staff to explore, as part of developing options for participatory budgeting, participatory budget opportunities for a portion of the strategic grant budget, prior to the 2016 grant process