



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of August 3, 2017**

To: Committee of the Whole
From: Jocelyn Jenkyns, Deputy City Manager
Subject: 2017 My Great Neighbourhood Grants

Date: July 27, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the 21 applications received for Spring intake of the 2017 My Great Neighbourhood Grant program

That Council direct staff to undertake a second grant intake in the fall of 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the 2017 My Great Neighbourhoods grant applications for Council's consideration.

The City received 21 grant applications - 7 in the new Activity category and 14 in the Placemaking category.

Four applications were received in Fairfield Gonzales, three from Fernwood and two from Vic West and Burnside Gorge. Single applications were also received from Oaklands, Downtown and Hillside Quadra. There were no applications received from Rockland, James Bay or North Jubilee for this intake. The general project themes were community art installations, community gardens and lighting installations. The Activity applications feature community gatherings, art and placemaking workshops and building community connections.

The total amount requested was \$69,127, leaving a balance of \$50,873. Staff therefore recommend Council direct staff to undertake a second intake in the fall.

PURPOSE

This report presents the 2017 My Great Neighbourhoods Grant applications for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

In December, 2015, Council approved a new grant program aimed at facilitating

community-initiated placemaking projects. The policy and guidelines were approved on May 12, 2016 and program was open for applications from May 24 to July 24, 2016.

The program was developed to support strong, connected neighbourhoods through funding for projects and activities that would bring neighbours together and empower them to shape their local area. The City provided up to \$5,000 for placemaking projects to match the equivalent contribution from the neighbourhood. The matching contribution could be a combination of volunteer labour, donated services, materials and supplies and other funds raised. A budget of \$120,000 was approved in 2016 for this program.

Applications were received for projects that included community garden improvements, murals and artwork and historical markers. The 2016 grant program projects are to be complete within one year (November, 2017). The current status of the projects is as is provided in Appendix A.

During the 2016 grant intake period, staff received feedback from applicants on the program. In conjunction with a review of practices in other cities, meetings were held with neighbourhood organizations, applicants and staff to discuss prospective improvements to the program. Some of the suggested changes were administrative, such as improving the application and budget form for greater clarity and making it clear if any permit fees would be applicable.

Community organizations also expressed an interest in broader qualifying criteria that would allow activities to be funded. Given that activities can contribute to building community and that the budget was not fully allocated, staff recommended this change.

Staff preferred to have greater consideration for project lifecycle maintenance and decommissioning at the agreed end of project life. It was also suggested that there be clearer guidelines for community art projects (see Appendix B). Staff recognized a benefit to having mandatory meetings with applicants to ensure that they would meet grant criteria before submission. Staff also sought to improve the number of applications through greater promotion efforts and conceived of a Neighbourhood Ideas Fair to share information and ideas.

These recommended program improvements were presented and approved by Council on April 1, 2017 and the grant policy was amended accordingly (see Appendix C).

The program remains open to all not-for-profit organizations including community and neighbourhood associations and schools. Individuals, 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 submit the application and, if approved, receives the funding and is the responsible party for ensuring the project meets agreed conditions.

The projects must be located within the city of Victoria to be eligible for funding.

2017 GRANT PROGRAM

The Neighbourhood Ideas Fair was held prior to the 2017 grant intake period (April 24 – June 4). It was held at City Hall and included a range of demonstration materials and speakers from City staff to community development organizations (e.g. Building Resilient

Communities, Victoria Foundation) and trades people (e.g. Fineline Road Markings, Festilights). During the remainder of the intake period, staff encouraged neighbourhood associations to consider projects and promote the opportunity within their neighbourhoods. Staff worked closely with prospective applicants to shape their projects and gather required information.

The City received 21 grant applications - 7 in the new Activity category and 14 in the Placemaking category. Four were received for projects in Fairfield Gonzales, three in Fernwood and two in Vic West and Burnside Gorge. Single applications were also received from Oaklands, Downtown and Hillside Quadra and no applications were received from Rockland, James Bay or North Jubilee during this intake.

The total amount of matching funds requested is \$69,197, or approximately 58% of the funds allocated for this program (\$120,000).

Summary tables of the Placemaking and Activity applications are listed below. The complete applications for Placemaking are attached in Appendix D and for Activities in Appendix E.

Placemaking				
Applicant			Request	Project
1	Resident group sponsored by Fairfield Gonzales Community Assn.	Fairfield Gonzales	\$2,765	Collinson Street Road Mural
2	Business Group sponsored by Cook St Village Business Assn		\$4,000	"Charging Cyclists" Renewable Energy Art Installation
3	Resident group sponsored by Fairfield Gonzales Community Assn		\$5,000	Five Points Corner Placemaking Project
4	Resident group sponsored by Fairfield Gonzales Community Assn.		\$4,757	Pemberton Park Social Hub
5	Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group	Fernwood	\$3,300	Catenary Lighting over Fernwood Road
6	Fernwood Community Association		\$5,000	Rock Bay Creek Revival Phase II
7	North Park Neighbourhood Association	North Park	\$3,000	North Park Green Community Garden
8	Oaklands Community Association	Oaklands	\$5,000	Oaklands Community Courtyard Enhancements
9	Burnside Gorge Community Centre	Burnside Gorge	\$5,000	Interactive Light Bloom Installation
10	Victoria Downtown Residents' Association	Downtown	\$4,400	Yates Street Community Garden II Planters and Gathering Space
11	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Multiple	\$5,000	Cycle Trailerable Community Meeting Table
12	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	South Jubilee	\$5,000	Leighton Creative Corridor
13	Resident group sponsored by Vic West Community Association	Vic West	\$5,000	Street Mural
14	Greater Victoria Placemaking Network	Multiple	\$4,975	Pocket Places
			\$62,197	

Activity				
Applicant			Request	Project
1	1Up Single Parent Resource Centre	Multiple	\$1,000	Urban Food Garden Tour
2	Open Space Arts Society	Downtown	\$1,000	Creative Placemaking Workshops for the Public
3	Burnside Gorge Community Association	Burnside Gorge	\$1,000	Sumas/Manchester/Dunedin Block Party
4	Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition	Hillside Quadra	\$930	Biking Clinics for Children in Topaz Park
5	Pandora Arts Collective	Fernwood	\$1,000	Inside-Out: Workshops and Art Event
6	Vic West Community Association	Vic West	\$1,000	Community Zucchini Racing Event
7	South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association	South Jubilee	\$1,000	Building Community Connections in South Jubilee
			\$6,930	

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

An interdepartmental team worked collaboratively to review the applications and provide comments and feedback. As well, a sub-committee of the Art in Public Places committee reviewed the art applications consistent with the guidelines. Due to the mandatory pre-application meetings, the quality of applications was much higher and the review period by staff was substantially reduced.

Although a similar number of applications to 2016 were received this year, \$50,873 remains in the allocated funding for the program. Many prospective applicants indicated that they were interested in proposing projects but were not prepared to apply during the grant intake period. Staff are confident that scheduling a fall intake period will be successful in attracting a sufficient number of applications to distribute the remainder of the funds in the grant program. Should the grant program be undersubscribed in future years, a fall intake would similarly be recommended to Council.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

2015 - 2018 Strategic Plan

The applications received support the objectives and/or the action and outcome statements of the Strategic Plan specifically:

- Objective 2: Engage and Empower the Community
- Objective 3: Strive for Excellence in Planning and Land Use
- Objective 7: Facilitate Social Inclusion and Community Wellness;
- Objective 8: Enhance and Steward Public Spaces, Green Spaces and Food Systems; and
- Objective 10: Nurture Our Arts, Culture and Learning Capital.

Impacts to Financial Plan

The \$120,000 for this grant program was approved as part of the 2017 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.

Accessibility Impact Statement

There are no accessibility concerns related to the proposed recommendations in this report.

Respectfully submitted,



Jocelyn Jenkyns
Deputy City Manager

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:



July 27, 2017

List of Attachments

- Appendix A: 2016 Grants Status Report
- Appendix B: City of Victoria 2017 Great Neighbourhood Grant Policy
- Appendix C: Community Art Project Guidelines
- Appendix D: Eligible Applications – Placemaking
- Appendix E: Eligible Applications - Activities