



Council

For the Meeting of July 23, 2015

To: Council **Date:** July 16, 2015
From: Susanne Thompson, Director, Finance
Brad Dellebuur, Acting Assistant Director,
Transportation and Parking Services
Thomas Soulliere, Director, Parks and
Recreation
Subject: 2015 Strategic Plan Grant Applications that Impact Public Space

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide further information on the 2015 Strategic Plan Grant applications that are proposed in public space (e.g., parks, right-of-ways, squares).

The 2015 Strategic Plan Grant, Micro Grant and Community Garden Volunteer Coordination Grant applications were brought to Council for consideration on July 9, 2015. The City received 55 grant applications, of which 53 applications were eligible, totalling a request amount of \$511,499. In the 2015 Financial Plan, Council has allocated funding of \$207,674.

Of the eligible applications, six (6) proposals would result in impacts to public space (Appendix A). Over the last few weeks, staff completed an evaluation of these six applications to identify potential financial implications and issues relating to the function of the public space.

Below is a brief summary of the key aspects of each of the six grant applications and key considerations to assist Council with the review.

1. Island Transformations Org Educational Society – Ivy Place Right-of-Way Enhancements

Project Objective

This application proposes to establish a pedestrian pathway at the Ivy Place right-of-way, while enhancing the endangered Garry Oak ecosystem and addressing water considerations.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$3,850 and the amount requested is \$1,900.

Public Space

The location is at the east end of Ivy Place right-of-way, between Ryan and Hamilton Streets (Appendix B).

Considerations

This right-of-way is a potential new active transportation connection but is not presently identified on the City's existing greenway plan or other approved planning documentation. A design plan outlining project details such as plant material and pathway improvements has not yet been

provided. The future maintenance costs of the space cannot be determined at this time.

2. Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee - Quadra Village Community Banners

Project Objective

This application proposes to install street banners and gateway entrance features.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$9,946 and the amount requested is \$5,460.

Public Space

City owned banner poles and gateway banner hardware along Quadra Street (Appendix C).

Considerations

There are 21 poles for banners and two (2) for gateway banners in Quadra Village. Currently, there are no banners at any location.

Condition assessments of the banner poles and gateway banner hardware are required given the recent lack of use. Further evaluation is required to determine the relationship of this project to Council's Village Center Beautification initiative which was identified during the 2015 budget process.

3. Victoria Conservatory of Music – Reader Board

Project Objective

To install a Victoria Conservatory of Music branded, single-sided, 2' x 7', one colour LED message centre sign in front of their designated heritage site.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$13,500 and the amount requested is \$10,000.

Public Space

The sign is proposed to be located on the public right-of-way at the south east corner of the Pandora/Quadra Street intersection (Appendix D).

Considerations

The proposed location for the sign is on the City's right-of-way, and would not comply with the City's Sign Bylaw. However, the applicant can apply for a variance to the Sign Bylaw, by applying for a Development Variance Permit.

Staff have considered the possibility of locating the sign on private property, but the available space appears to be limited on the frontage of the Pandora Avenue property. Power to the sign would require installation of a separate electrical service that likely has not been factored into the project budget.

4. James Bay Neighbourhood Association – Fisherman's Wharf Park Mural

Project Objective

The applicant is proposing to paint a mural along the concrete retaining wall at the north-west end of Fisherman's Wharf Park, to enhance the appearance of this location for residents and visitors.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$1,250 and the amount requested is \$850.

Public Space

Low concrete retaining wall at the north end of Fisherman's Wharf Park (Appendix E).

Considerations

A detailed design has not yet been presented for staff to review. Public art such as this would typically require approval from the Art in Public Places Committee.

5. Fairfield Gonzales Community Association – Margaret Jenkins Greenway

Project Objectives

This project intends to use the Margaret Jenkins Greenway to connect the two existing active transportation corridors; Gonzales-Chandler Pathway and Irving Road.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$27,900 and the amount requested is \$20,700.

Public Space

This property is managed by School District 61 and is not on a public right-of-way (Appendix F).

Considerations

Completing this connection through the school property would bridge the only remaining gap in the greenway from Royal Jubilee Hospital to Crescent Road and Gonzales Beach. This active transportation corridor is yet-to-be-developed all ages and abilities bicycle route.

Through discussions with the applicant, staff have been informed that a verbal approval has been received from the Ecole Margaret Jenkins Elementary School's principal and parent advisory group. The applicant is in the process of obtaining formal, written approval from School District 61 for the project.

6. Cook Street Village Activity Centre Society – Boulevard Enhancement

Project Objective

This project is requesting funding for a community signboard, flower pots, paint and table for the boulevard bus stop outside the Cook Street Village Activity Centre.

Project Cost and Request

The total project cost is \$6,154 and the amount requested is \$3,640.

Public Space

Boulevard outside the Cook Street Village Activity Centre, at 380 Cook Street (Appendix G).

Considerations

Previous to this application, staff have visited the site to assess various hardscape options for the boulevard, at the request of the Activity Centre. In 2014, the City installed a concrete pad with a plan to accommodate a new bench. The proposal does not include a site plan or detailed design for the signboard or planter styles. Staff confirmed there would be no impact to underground utilities for this project. Any potential future maintenance implications to the City cannot be determined at this time.

It is anticipated there will be no significant impacts to the City's operating costs. The recommended actions have been designed for the community to take a leadership role in planning and implementing these initiatives that align with the City's Strategic Plan.

Should Council wish to proceed with an application the following actions are recommended:

Applicant	Actions
Island Transformations Org Educational Society	<p>a) The proponents engage in a public consultation with the neighbourhood residents</p> <p>b) A detailed design and long-term plan be approved by staff prior to investing in pathway improvements and plant material</p> <p>c) An agreement be drafted with Island Transformations Org Educational Society outlining the applicant's responsibility for the maintenance and replacement of the pathway and plants</p>
Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee - Quadra Village Community Banners	<p>a) Staff complete a condition assessment of the banner poles and gateway banner hardware</p> <p>b) An agreement be drafted with the Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee outlining the responsibility for the maintenance and banner replacement</p> <p>c) Applicant obtain City approval on the design of the banners</p>
Victoria Conservatory of Music – Reader Board	<p>a) The proposed sign should comply with the Sign Bylaw</p>
James Bay Neighbourhood Association - Fisherman's Wharf Park Mural	<p>a) An agreement be drafted outlining the James Bay Neighbourhood Association's responsibility for the maintenance for up to 10 years</p> <p>b) That the proponents apply anti-graffiti coating to protect the finished product</p> <p>c) Working with City staff, it is recommended that the final design be vetted by the Art in Public Places Committee</p>
Fairfield Gonzales Community Association – Margaret Jenkins Greenway	<p>a) Before commencement of the project, the applicant provide formal documentation verifying support from Ecole Margaret Jenkins Elementary School and School District 61</p> <p>b) An agreement be drafted outlining that the City does not have the responsibility to cover ongoing maintenance or operating costs</p>

	c) City staff provide input on how the design connects to the public right-of-way
Cook Street Village Activity Centre Society – Boulevard Enhancement	<p>a) An agreement be drafted with Cook Street Village Activity Centre Society outlining the responsibilities for the maintenance and replacement of the boulevard signboard, planters, paint and furnishings</p> <p>b) Staff approval of the final site plan and detailed design of the signboard and furnishings (including the finishing)</p>

Recommendation

1. That Council provide direction to staff on the allocation of the Strategic Plan Grant Application funding.

Respectfully submitted,



Susanne Thompson
Director, Finance



Brad Dellebuur
Acting Assistant Director,
Transportation and Parking
Services



Thomas Soulliere
Director, Parks and
Recreation

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:


July 17, 2015

Attachments:

Appendix A – Strategic Plan Grant Applications that Impact Public Space

Appendix B – Site Plan Details, Island Transformations Org Educational Society, Ivy Place Right-of-Way Enhancements

Appendix C – Site Plan Details, Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee, Quadra Village Community Banners

Appendix D – Site Plan Details, Victoria Conservatory of Music, Reader Board

Appendix E – Site Plan Details, James Bay Neighbourhood Association, Fisherman's Wharf Park Mural

Appendix F – Site Plan Details, Fairfield Gonzales Community Association, Margaret Jenkins Greenway

Appendix G – Site Plan Details, Cook Street Village Centre Society, Boulevard Enhancement