

Grants and Sponsorship – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

File No: S117676

Summary

The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city. To achieve the objectives of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision, genuine partnership between government, business and the community is required.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, cultural, economic and environmental policies. Applications are assessed against these policies and against broad City objectives and plans. In this way, the City and the community act collaboratively to achieve the goals of Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision.

The City advertised the following Programs in the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is open all year for applications until the annual budget is exhausted.

Two eligible applications were received meeting the May Committee timeframes. This report recommends one grant to a value of \$28,675 in cash for payment in the 2023/24 financial year.

On 22 August 2022, Council adopted a Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the priorities set out in Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

The grant recipient will be required to sign a contract, meet specific performance outcomes and acquit their grant. All figures in this report exclude GST.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve the cash recommendation for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicant who was not recommended in obtaining a cash grant for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate, execute and administer agreements with any organisation approved for a grant or sponsorship under terms consistent with this resolution and the Grants and Sponsorship Policy; and
- (E) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor errors to the matters set out in this report, noting that the identity of the recipient will not change, and a CEO Update will be provided to Council advising of any changes made in accordance with this resolution.

Attachments

Attachment A. Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program

Attachment B. Not Recommended For Funding - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund Program

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the City.
2. On 30 August 2022, the City announced the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications open all year round, until budget is exhausted.
3. Information about this grant program (such as application dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the grant program through the corporate website, content marketing, e-newsletters, paid and organic social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and AdWords. Email campaigns were utilised to target interested parties who have applied previously for grants at the City or who have expressed an interest in the City's programs.
4. As per the Grants and Sponsorship Program Guidelines, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations and is open to not-for-profit organisations, for-profit organisations, sole traders and individuals or unincorporated community groups auspiced by a not-for-profit or for-profit organisation.

Grants assessment process

5. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program is highly competitive. Applications that are not recommended have either not scored as highly against the assessment criteria as the recommended applications or have incomplete or insufficient information. The City's Grants and Sponsorship team provides feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
6. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined assessment criteria for each grant program as well as the integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, partnerships, contributions and connection to the local community and industry sectors.
7. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund are:
 - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes and relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project;
 - demonstrated connection to and benefit for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
 - how the project will deliver against the funding priorities.
8. The assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program was held on 3 April 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Team, City Business & Safety, People and Culture, Social City and Venue Management Teams.

9. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, a contract is developed which includes conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
10. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
11. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

12. The applications recommended for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is outlined in Attachment A to this report.
13. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2023/24	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	(\$471,325)
Total cash available	\$28,675
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	2
Total cash value requested from applications	\$100,000
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value-in-kind support in this report	1
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in in 2023/24	\$28,675
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2023/24	\$0
Cash amount remaining for payment in 2023/24	\$0

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

14. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This grant is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant in this report contributes to community development and support active participation in civic life. They empower the community to address issues that matter to them and drive projects to create a more inclusive and resilient city.
 - (b) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - the recommended grant in this report will contribute to supporting artistic and creative endeavours in our city, helping foster initiative, experimentation and enterprise by creative workers and providing new opportunities for audiences to engage in the city's cultural life.

Organisational Impact

15. The grants and sponsorships contract management process will involve key staff across the City of Sydney. Identified staff set contract conditions and performance measures for each approved project, and review project acquittals, which include both narrative and financial reports.

Cultural / Economic / Social / Environmental

16. The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program provides the City with a platform to support cultural, economic, environmental and social initiatives from the communities and business, within the local area.

Financial Implications

17. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2023/24 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operating budget for 2023/24 to support the recommended grants. Details and relevant amounts are included in the table above.

Relevant Legislation

18. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 provides that a council may, in accordance with a resolution of the council, contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons for the purpose of exercising its functions.

19. Section 356(3)(a) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
- (a) the funding is part of the following program:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program;
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's operational plan for financial year 2023/24;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2023/24; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

20. The funding period for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program for 2023/24 is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting.

Public Consultation

21. During July 2023, a briefing session took place where stakeholders were notified about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program and how to apply.
22. An in-person information session for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was held at Redfern Community Centre on 27 July 2023. A total of 19 attendees participated in the session.
23. An in-person information session was held at the City's Pitt Street Training Centre on 8 June 2023, for participants at the Connect Sydney workshop. This session was specifically held for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and people. Connect Sydney aims to build the capacity of community and not-for-profit organisations through the provision of free grant writing skills and governance training. A total of 29 attendees participated in the session.

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Director City Life

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