

Item 5.**Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship - Healing Our Spirit Worldwide****File No: S117676****Summary**

An application for sponsorship under the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship Program has been received from the University of Sydney to support the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide event at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. The application has been assessed and this report recommends a cash sponsorship of \$10,000 and street banner hire fee waiver to the value of \$10,425 for the 2018/19 financial year.

The event will bring together Indigenous peoples from around the world from 26-29 November 2018. 1,500 local and international delegates are attending with registrations received from Canada, USA, Norway, New Zealand and the South Pacific. It is an opportunity for local and global Indigenous communities to connect, and to celebrate their knowledge and wisdom in the spirit of healing.

The formal program includes panel discussions and workshops focusing on healing and health in connection to family, culture and country. The free component of the program is called The Gathering Place and is open to the general public.

The primary objective of the gathering is to provide healing strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These strategies will draw from thousands of generations of knowledge sharing that has sustained culture, identity, health, and relationships with people, land and spirit. The program will include ceremonial practice to promote a culturally safe environment for truth-telling and healing.

Sponsorship of this event delivers on the outcomes of the Knowledge Exchange Sponsorship program. There will be collaboration and learning between cultures with the exchange of ideas and knowledge on local and global issues faced by Indigenous peoples.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council approve a cash sponsorship of \$10,000 (excluding GST) and street banner hire fee waiver to the value of \$10,425 (excluding GST) to the University of Sydney in support of the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide event 2018;
- (B) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST and all value-in-kind offered is subject to availability; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and enter into a sponsorship agreement with the University of Sydney.

Attachments

Nil.

Background

1. The University of Sydney is hosting the eighth gathering of the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide event in November 2018. In preparation for the gathering, the organisers had a call out for abstracts for community members to present at the event. There have also been a number of open community engagement sessions for people to find out more about the event, its partners and how to be involved.
2. Since beginning in Canada in the 1980s, the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide movement has been driven by Indigenous people for a self-determined approach to address the widespread chronic issues facing Indigenous people around the world. These issues include substance abuse, mental illness, cultural disconnection and isolation. The movement uses cultural practice and knowledge exchange to address these challenges.
3. The program includes diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander keynote speakers from the local community, along with prominent leaders from throughout the country. There are international guest speakers who will contribute to the discussions about culture, healing and Indigenous experiences.
4. The formal program includes panel discussions and workshops focusing on healing and health in connection to family, culture and country. The free component of the program is called The Gathering Place and is open to the general public. This includes networking and business opportunities, a market place featuring Indigenous businesses, and a performance area for music, dance and theatre arts. This will be an authentic display and exchange of culture and ideas for all to participate.
5. The City's Sustainable Sydney 2030 Community Strategic Plan acknowledges the custodianship of the Gadigal people here in Sydney. It recognises Aboriginal culture as the world's oldest living culture. It also recognises the destructive impact that colonisation has had and continues to have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This event will consider shared global experiences of colonialism and how Indigenous people and the systems of knowledge and culture can support the healing and resilience particularly in globalised and urbanised communities.
6. Healing is regarded as an integral part of the reconciliation process and the City is committed to reconciliation. The event is a significant gathering of Indigenous cultures from around the world that will showcase the diversity, resilience and vibrancy of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It will also be a place for the promotion and continuation of cultural practice including healing spaces, traditional healers, yarnning circles and intergenerational knowledge exchange.
7. While the formal program of presentations and workshops is ticketed, the free program called The Gathering Place is expected to attract 15,000 visitors over the four days. This will allow residents, workers, students and visitors to engage with the event.
8. Sponsorship benefits include displaying the City of Sydney logo in the program and promotional material, on the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide website, an exhibition booth at the Gathering Place, and invitations to the opening ceremony.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

9. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This sponsorship is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 5 - A Lively, Engaging City Centre - This event will highlight Sydney as a global city that values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, cultures and heritage. The Gathering Place will provide a vibrant public space that is open for all to support Indigenous business, participate in cultural practice and discussions, and observe diverse and authentic Indigenous cultural performances.
 - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - this will help to increase the visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures in our city. It will demonstrate the cultural innovations that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contribute to this global city.
 - (c) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - this four day event will include a variety of traditional and contemporary expressions of many Indigenous cultures. There will opportunities for deep cultural experiences to exchange knowledge throughout the program and the general will have access to public workshops, Indigenous business enterprise at the markets and engaging performances throughout the week.

Sustainable Sydney 2030 has a strong commitment to the celebration and increased visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and living culture in the city. Supporting this event will help to create a significant, meaningful and valuable platform to engage in knowledge exchange between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Organisational Impact

10. The relationship management between the City and the University of Sydney will be the responsibility of the Strategic Engagement and Community Relations unit.

Risks

11. The primary risk for the event organiser is that it fails to attract ticket sales to cover costs. The University of Sydney is committed to underwrite the event and to cover any losses should this occur.

Social / Cultural / Community

12. There are a range of opportunities and benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally diverse communities to engage with this event as contributors and participants.

Economic

13. Indigenous businesses will feature as part of the market place open to the public. This will showcase Indigenous business operators to new local and global audiences.

Budget Implications

14. The cash amount of \$10,000 will be funded from the Grants and Sponsorship budget.

Relevant Legislation

15. 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.
16. Section 356(3)(a) - (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
- (a) the funding is part of the Knowledge Exchange program;
 - (b) the details of the program have been included in the City's operation plan for financial year 2018/19;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed 5 per cent of the City's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2018/19; and
 - (d) the program applies to a significant group of persons within the Local Government Area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

17. The event is currently scheduled from 26 to 29 November 2018.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

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