

Grants and Sponsorship - Round Three 2018/19 - Matching Grants

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 requires genuine partnership between government, business and the community.

The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism to further the aims identified in the City's social, 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 bring to life Sustainable Sydney 2030 and the City of Villages it envisions.

The City advertised the following grant programs in Round Three of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2018/19:

- (a) Matching Grant Program
- (b) Environmental Performance Grants Program

For the Matching Grant Program, which pursues social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes, 38 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 19 grants to a total value of \$118,204 and \$110 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the 2018/19 financial year.

On 11 December 2017, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy. All grants in this report were assessed against criteria and guidelines set out in this revised Policy with reference to Sustainable Sydney 2030, the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Creative City Cultural Policy and Action Plan, the Economic Development Strategy, the Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan, the Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan, OPEN Sydney Strategy and Action Plan, and the Social Sustainability Policy.

All grant recipients 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 grant and revenue foregone/value-in-kind recommendations for 2018/19 under the Matching Grant Program as shown in Attachment A to the subject report;
- (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, 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.

Attachments

Attachment A. Recommended 2018/19 Matching Grants Program - Round Three

Attachment B. Not Recommended 2018/19 Matching Grants Program - Round Three

Background

1. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program supports residents, businesses and organisations to undertake initiatives and projects that build the social, cultural, environmental and economic life of the city.
2. On 23 October 2018, the City announced Round Three of the annual grants program for 2018/19 as being open for applications on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 19 November 2018. This included the Matching Grant Program.
3. Information about this grant program, such as application dates, guidelines, eligibility criteria and sample applications, was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the programs through radio live reads, Facebook, Twitter, What's On, and Facebook promotion. Email campaigns were also 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. The Matching Grants Program is open to appropriately incorporated for-profit organisations and partnerships. Eight applications were received this round from for-profit organisations and sole traders, and the following for-profit organisations are recommended in this report:
 - (a) Intersective (trading as Practera);
 - (b) Sugary Rum Productions; and
 - (c) Strata Answers Pty Ltd.
5. Park hire requests are not listed in the table for recommendations, as not-for-profit organisations are eligible for free park hire. However, these organisations must pay the \$100 application fee and other related fees and charges, such as electricity and water. Individuals or unincorporated community groups are required to be auspiced by a not-for-profit organisation to be eligible for free park hire. All park hire is subject to availability.
6. It is expected that all successful applicants will work co-operatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding. Contact details for the relevant City staff are provided to all successful grant recipients.
7. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.
8. 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 and support to unsuccessful applicants.

9. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from the key stakeholders on the assessment panel, depending upon the nature of each submission. The integrity of the proposed budget, project plan, contributions and partnerships are assessed, scored and ranked against defined criteria. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, a contract is developed, which includes conditions that must be adhered to, and acquitted against.
10. In assessing the grant applications, the assessment panels included in their considerations and recommendations:
 - (a) Sustainable Sydney 2030;
 - (b) Grants and Sponsorship Policy;
 - (c) Creative City Cultural Policy and Action Plan;
 - (d) Economic Development Strategy;
 - (e) Environmental Action 2016-2021 Strategy and Action Plan;
 - (f) Inclusion (Disability) Action Plan;
 - (g) OPEN Sydney Strategy and Action Plan; and
 - (h) A City For All Social Sustainability Policy.
11. City staff consider the contribution from the applicant and other sources in reviewing applications. Applicants are asked to demonstrate a capacity to source other types of funding or contribute their own resources (cash or in-kind).

Matching Grant Program (up to \$10,000 for up to 12 months funding)

12. The Matching Grant Program provides matched funding of up to \$10,000 for any projects that improve, enhance, or celebrate the City's Villages. Council approved the development of this program to support identified grassroots community projects by matching with City resources what is contributed in cash or in-kind by the community.
13. To be eligible for funding, applications to the Matching Grant Program must demonstrate a matched cash contribution or value-in-kind contribution to the project at least equal to the amount requested from the City.
14. The assessment panel for this Matching Grant allocation was comprised of the Acting Community Garden and Volunteer Coordinator, Area Manager South - Social Programs and Services, City Historian, Cultural Development Coordinator, Economic Program Manager, Grants Coordinator, Senior Social Programs Officer, three Social Policy Officers, Social Programs Officer (LGBTQI), and Waste Strategy Manager.
15. The applications recommended for the Matching Grant Program are outlined in Attachment A to this report. The applications that are not recommended are listed in Attachment B to this report.

Overview of 2018/19 Matching Grant Program

Total budget for 2018/19	\$378,247
Total already committed (previous rounds)	\$260,043
Total amount available for 2018/19	\$118,204
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	38
Total cash value requested from applications	\$299,732
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$4,721
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value-in-kind support	19
Total amount of funding recommended	\$118,204
Total amount of value-in-kind support recommended	\$110
Amount remaining for subsequent allocation of the program 2018/19	\$0

Key Implications**Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision**

16. This report complies with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy adopted by Council on 12 December 2017. The provision of grants and sponsorships is a mechanism for the City to further the aims identified in its social, economic, environmental and cultural policies. The City of Sydney's Grants and Sponsorship Program is a key element in the delivery of Sustainable Sydney 2030. All applications are considered against the 10 strategic directions and how they can directly deliver, or encourage the further development of the aims and objectives identified in Sustainable Sydney 2030.

Organisational Impact

17. 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.

Social / Cultural / Community

18. 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 community organisations, within the local area.

Budget Implications

19. A total of \$118,204 in cash and \$110 in revenue foregone/value-in-kind from the 2018/19 Matching Grants Program budget.
20. This report includes no forward commitments of cash and revenue foregone/value-in-kind.

Relevant Legislation

21. Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993. 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.
22. 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 following program:
 - (i) Matching Grant Program;
 - (b) the details of this program have been included in Council's draft operational plan for financial year 2018/19;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed 5 per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2018/19; and
 - (d) this program applies to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

23. The funding period for Round Three of the grants and sponsorship annual program for 2018/19 is for activity taking place from 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2020. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting in May.

Public Consultation

24. For all programs open to application in Round Three of the annual grants and sponsorship program for 2018/19, a question and answer session was held in Town Hall House to assist potential applicants with their applications on Wednesday 7 November 2018 from 4pm to 7pm.
25. Twenty-three meetings were held across this question and answer session where prospective applicants sought advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process.
26. Sixty-five per cent of these attendees advised they had not applied for a City of Sydney grant previously.

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Director City Life

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