

Item 12.5**Notices of Motion****Increasing the City's Covid-19 Response Grant Amounts**

By Councillor Forster

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) on 30 March 2020, the City proposed an amended grants program at an Extraordinary Meeting in response to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (ii) in the 2019/20 financial year, the City budgeted \$10.4 million for existing grants programs to support cultural, creative, business and community organisations. These existing grants will be honoured, regardless of whether the organisation is able to deliver its program due to the effects of Covid-19, to support the viability of the various sectors supported;
- (iii) the revised budget proposes to increase that figure by \$8.5 million including the establishment of new grant funding initiatives, as well as several donations to support vulnerable communities;
- (iv) the new grant funding initiatives were open for applications in early April and closed on 27 April 2020 with each category in extreme demand;
- (v) the Cultural Sector Resilience Grant Program had a budget of \$2.25 million and approximately \$3.1 million was requested by applicants;
- (vi) the Creative Fellowships Fund had a budget of \$1 million and approximately \$6 million was requested by applicants;
- (vii) the Small Business Grant Program had a budget of \$2 million and approximately \$28 million was requested by applicants;
- (viii) the Community Service Grants had a budget of \$1.5 million and approximately \$8 million was requested by applicants;
- (ix) the Quick Response Grants had a budget of \$500,000 and approximately \$1.4 million was requested by applicants; and
- (x) the State Government has announced that the reopening of the economy will be a slow and phased process meaning that there will be a need for ongoing support for the city's small business and cultural sector for some time to come; and

- (B) Council approve an increase in the aforementioned grant categories from the City's future years' operational contingency budget to reflect the demand for financial support within the community.

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