

## Item 6.

### Grants and Sponsorship - Round One 2021/22 - Social 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 and assist in the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. To achieve the objectives of the Community Recovery Plan and Sustainable Sydney 2030, 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 the Community Recovery Plan and Sustainable Sydney 2030.

The City advertised the following three grant programs in Round One of the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program for 2021/22:

- Community Services Grant Program;
- Festivals and Events Sponsorship Program (Village and Community); and
- Matching Grant Program.

For the Community Services Grant Program, 70 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 15 grants to a total value of \$674,055 in cash and \$108,000 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the 2021/22 financial year, and commitments of \$278,980 in cash and \$55,000 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the 2022/23 financial year and commitments of \$278,980 in cash and \$55,000 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for 2023/24 financial year.

For the Festivals and Events (Village and Community) Program, 34 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 18 grants to a total value of \$528,000 in cash and \$84,387 in revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the 2021/22 financial year, and commitments of \$321,667 in cash and \$83,074 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for future financial year 2022/23.

For the Matching Grant Program 23 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of 14 grants, to a total value of \$112,220 in cash and \$6,760 revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the 2021/22 financial year.

On 22 February 2021, Council adopted a revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy. The Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines that support the Policy were also revised and approved by Executive on 24 February 2021. All grants in this report were assessed in accordance with the Grants and Sponsorship Policy, the Grants and Sponsorship Guidelines, the priorities set out in the Community Recovery Plan and various other relevant City strategies and action plans.

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 and revenue foregone/value-in-kind recommendations for the Community Services Grant Program as per Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant or revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the Community Services Grant Program as per Attachment B to the subject report;
- (C) Council approve the cash and revenue foregone/value-in-kind recommendations for the Festival and Events (Village and Community) Sponsorship Program as per Attachment C to the subject report;
- (D) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant or revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the Festival and Events (Village and Community) Sponsorship Program as per Attachment D to the subject report;
- (E) Council approve the cash and revenue foregone/value-in-kind recommendations for the Matching Grant Program as per Attachment E to the subject report;
- (F) Council note the applicants who were not successful in obtaining a cash grant or revenue foregone/value-in-kind for the Matching Grant Program as per Attachment F to the subject report;
- (G) Council note that all grants amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (H) 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
- (I) 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 - Round One 2021/22 - Community Services Grant Program
- Attachment B.** Not Recommended for Funding – Round One 2021/22 - Community Services Grant Program
- Attachment C.** Recommended for Funding – Round One 2021/22 - Festival and Events (Village and Community) Sponsorship Program
- Attachment D.** Not Recommended for Funding – Round One 2021/22 - Festival and Events (Village and Community) Sponsorship Program
- Attachment E.** Recommended for Funding – Round One 2021/22 - Matching Grant Program
- Attachment F.** Not Recommended for Funding – Round One 2021/22 - Matching Grant 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 25 February 2021, the City announced Round One of the annual grants program for 2021/22 as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 29 March 2021.
3. The three social programs promoted were:
  - (a) Community Services Grant Program;
  - (b) Festivals and Events Sponsorship Program (Village and Community); and
  - (c) Matching Grant Program.
4. Information about these grant programs (such as application dates, guidelines, eligibility criteria and sample applications) was made available on the City's website. The City actively promoted the program through Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, What's On, and ArtsHub. Supply Nation, Multicultural NSW, Digest, Sydney University and Haymarket Chamber of Commerce also promoted the program through their networks. 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.
5. The Community Services Grant Program is open to not-for-profit organisations. Following adoption of the revised Grants and Sponsorship Policy on 22 February 2021, the Festivals and Events Sponsorship Program (Village and Community) are open to appropriately incorporated for-profit organisations and not-for-profit organisations. Eight applications were received this round from for-profit organisations and four were recommended in this report:
  - (a) Archie Rose Distilling Co.;
  - (b) Margot Natoli Project Management Pty Ltd;
  - (c) Sydney Ramen Festival Pty Ltd; and
  - (d) The Conscious Space.
6. The Matching Grants Program is open to appropriately incorporated for-profit and not-for-profit organisations. Fourteen applications were received this round from for-profit organisations and sole traders and seven were recommended in this report:
  - (a) Daniel Bruce Whittle;
  - (b) EJ McGivern & JC Wilson
  - (c) GEM Connect Pty Ltd;
  - (d) John Kitchener Allen;
  - (e) Kevin Bathman;

- (f) Lachlan Rodney Dale;
  - (g) Melissa Louise Woodley.
7. There were a total of 127 grant applications received for social grants. Forty-seven are recommended for funding as detailed in this report.
  8. It is expected that all successful applicants will work co-operatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding. Some applicants will be required to meet with City staff and further define the strategic outcomes of their project prior to receiving the grant and commencing their project.
  9. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant. In the current environment this includes but is not limited to, requirements associated with the service of alcohol or food services, consent from the respective landowner(s), and State Planning Legislation and State Government health requirements. What the City does approve includes Development Approvals and outdoor temporary event activities.
  10. Park hire requests are not listed in the table of 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. For-profit organisations are required to pay park hire fees.
  11. 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.
  12. The assessment process includes advice and recommendations from a suitably qualified assessment panel. The applications are scored against defined 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. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, a contract is developed, which includes conditions that must be adhered to, and acquitted against.
  13. In assessing the grant applications, the assessment panels included in their considerations and recommendations:
    - (a) A City for All – Social Sustainability Policy;
    - (b) Community Recovery Plan 2020;
    - (c) Creative City Cultural Policy and Action Plan;
    - (d) Economic Development Strategy;
    - (e) Environmental Strategy and Action Plan;
    - (f) Grants and Sponsorship Policy;
    - (g) Sustainable Sydney 2030; and

- (h) alignment with other core City strategic policies and action plans.
14. Assessors consider the cash and in-kind contribution from the applicant and other sources in reviewing applications. Applicants are asked to demonstrate a capacity to match the grant investment with other sources of funding or contribute their own cash resources to the project.
  15. Applicants are requested to list their project's community partners, confirmed funding sources and the contribution the organisation is making to the project (cash or in-kind) to demonstrate their contribution.

### Community Services Grant Program

16. Community organisations that work in or for the City of Sydney local government area provide significant benefits to the local community through the development and delivery of activities, projects or resources. The work they undertake helps meet the needs of the diverse local community, in particular the needs of disadvantaged residents.
17. The Community Services Grant Program recognises the value of this work and contributes to it through grants to non-profit organisations based in, or providing events or services of benefit to, the community in the local area.
18. The assessment panel for the Community Services Grant Program consisted of staff from Child and Family Services, Homelessness, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Safe City, Social Policy and Programs, and Social Strategy teams.
19. The applications recommended for the Community Services Grant Program are outlined in Attachment A to this report. The applications that are not recommended are listed in Attachment B to this report
20. The Community Services Grant Program budget is set out below:

Total draft budget for 2021/22	\$1,145,107
Total already committed (multi-year funding approved in previous years)	\$347,974
Total amount available for 2021/22	\$797,133
Total number of eligible applications this round	70
Total cash value requested from applications	\$2,749,049
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$121,135
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support	15

Total amount of cash funding recommended 2021/2022 (Multi-year funding recommended 2022/23 - \$278,980) (Multi-year funding recommended for 2023/24 - \$248,980)	\$674,055
Total amount of value-in-kind support recommended 2021/2022 (Multi-year value-in-kind recommended 2022/23 - \$55,000) (Multi-year value-in-kind recommended for 2023/24 - \$55,000)	\$108,000
Total cash amount remaining in 2021/22	\$123,078

### Centipede at Glebe School Incorporated

21. Centipede at Glebe School Inc is a not-for-profit organisation that operates an Outside School Hours Care service catering for school-aged children aged 4-12 on the school grounds of Glebe Public School. The City has been providing support to the service since 2006. Without this support the service would not be financially viable. However, City staff continue to work closely with Centipede to help them improve their financial planning and ability to work within their budget. As a result of this work, the City is continuing to incrementally reduce the value of the grant to Centipede from \$40,000 provided in 2017/18, to \$35,000 provided in 2018/19, to \$25,000 provided in 2019/20, to \$20,000 provided in 2020/21 and to \$15,000 recommended in 2021/22. It is noted that support for the organisation's core business is outside the Grants and Sponsorship Policy. City staff continue to work with Centipede to ensure their ongoing financial sustainability.

### Stay Kind Limited

22. Stay Kind Limited is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes harm prevention from bullying, violence, hazing, substance abuse, self-harm and suicide. Stay Kind Limited (previously the Thomas Kelly Youth Foundation) has been operating 'Take Kare Safe Spaces' on Friday and Saturday nights to assist young people, including visitors and residents of the City, who are at risk of substance abuse, violence, theft, accidents, sexual assault and misadventure. The City has been providing support to this service since 2014. Without this support the service would not be financially viable. Current funding provided by the City has been extended to 31 December 2021. The City has been working with Stay Kind Limited to investigate future funding sources. It is recommended that the City continues to fund the program to the value of \$50,000, which is within the guidelines of this program. Funding will be provided by the City until 30 June 2022, to allow time for the organisation to secure future funding.

**Access Sydney Community Transport**

- 23. Access Sydney Community Transport is a not-for-profit community organisation that has been operating the City's community bus service since 2016. The Access Sydney 'Village to Village Bus' fills a gap in public transport in the LGA and links community members to essential services such as hospitals, health providers and shops. The City has been providing funding for this service since 2016. Most recently, funding has been provided via an ad hoc community services grant. As support for this project falls outside the funding limits for this grant program, it is recommended that the City funds this program up to 30 June 2022 to the value of \$200,000 to allow time for a review of transport needs in the city.

**Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) Program**

- 24. The Festivals and Events Sponsorship Program aims to support festivals and events that celebrate, develop and engage the City's communities. The City provides support for festivals and events under two categories: Artform or Village and Community.
- 25. Village and Community festivals and events celebrate the spirit of a community and build opportunities to share its cultural characteristics with a wider public. Events may nurture and amplify the unique characteristics of the city and village precincts, meet the City's broader place-making objectives and/or showcase a local community, including local business.
- 26. The assessment panel for Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) consisted of members from the City's Business and Safety, Grants and Sponsorship and Social Programs and Services teams, with specialist input from the City's Business and Safety, City Greening and Leisure, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Office of Lord Mayor, Procurement, Sustainability, Social Programs and Services and Strategy, Urban Analytics and Communications teams.
- 27. The applications recommended for the Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) Program are outlined in Attachment C. The applications that are not recommended are listed in Attachment D.
- 28. The Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) Grant Program budget is set out below:

Total draft budget for 2021/22  (includes additional funding from City Business and Safety operational budget of \$53,000)	\$1,203,000
Total already committed  (multi-year funding approved in previous years)	\$450,000
Total amount available for 2021/22	\$753,000

Total number of eligible applications this round	34
Total cash value requested from applications	\$1,081,398
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$109,852
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value-in-kind support	18
Total amount of cash funding recommended 2021/2022 (Multi-year funding recommended 2022/23 - \$321,667)	\$528,000
Total amount of value-in-kind support recommended 2021/2022 (Multi-year value-in-kind recommended 2022/23 - \$83,074)	\$84,387
Total cash amount remaining in 2021/22	\$225,000

**Matching Grant Program**

- 29. 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.
- 30. 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.
- 31. Assessment panel for Matching Grants applications consisted of members from City Business and Safety, City Greening and Leisure, Cultural Strategy, Culture and Creativity, Grants and Sponsorship, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Property Services and Social Policy and Program teams.
- 32. The applications recommended for the Matching Grant Program are outlined in Attachment E to this report. The applications that are not recommended are listed in Attachment F to this report.

33. The Matching Grant Program budget is set out below:

Total draft budget for 2021/22	\$340,000
Total number of eligible applications this round	23
Total amount available for 2021/22	\$340,000
Total cash value requested from applications	\$214,600
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$6,760
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value-in-kind support	14
Total amount of funding recommended	\$112,220
Total amount of value-in-kind support recommended	\$6,760
Total cash amount remaining in 2021/22	\$227,780

## Key Implications

### Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030

34. 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 report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 2 - A Leading Environmental Performer - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to City's endeavours to work with our business and residential communities to reduce greenhouse emissions and potable water use and encourage diversion of waste from landfill across the local government area.
  - (b) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to fostering strong and sustainable local economies.

- (c) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to a city where opportunities for individual creative expression and participation in all its forms are visible, valued, and accessible, and where business and creative opportunities for local artists, creative workers and cultural organisations are supported.

### **Organisational Impact**

35. 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 / Environmental / Economic**

36. 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.

### **Financial Implications**

37. There are sufficient amounts included in the draft 2021/22 Operating budget and future year forward estimates to fund the value of the recommended grants. A total of \$1,314,275 in cash and \$199,147 in revenue foregone/value-in-kind is recommended from the 2021/22 (draft) budget as follows:
- (a) Community Services Grants – \$674,055 cash in the draft budget of \$1,145,107;
  - (b) Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) – \$528,000 cash in the draft budget of \$1,203,000; and
  - (c) Matching Grant Program – \$112,220 cash in the draft budget of \$340,000.
38. Additionally, this report includes forward commitments of \$849,627 in cash and \$193,074 revenue foregone/value-in-kind.

### **Relevant Legislation**

39. 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.
40. 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 programs:
    - (i) Community Services Grant Program
    - (ii) Festivals and Events Sponsorship Program (Village and Community)
    - (iii) Matching Grant Program

- (b) the details of these programs have been included in Council's draft operation plan for financial year 2021/22;
- (c) the program's proposed budgets do not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2021/22; and
- (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

### **Critical Dates / Time Frames**

41. The funding period for Round One of the Community Services Grants, Festivals and Events Sponsorship (Village and Community) and Matching Grants for 2021/22 is for activity taking place from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting in July.

### **Public Consultation**

42. For all Round One programs open to application, two information sessions were held over Zoom on Wednesday 3 and Friday 5 March 2021. One information session was held at Redfern Community Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants on Thursday 4 March 2021.
- (a) Seventy-seven prospective applicants attended the general information session, followed by individual pillar sessions for advice from City staff about their project proposals and the application process;
  - (b) Five prospective applicants attended the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander information session held in person at Redfern Community Centre;
  - (c) Six prospective applicants attended the information session focusing on business grants with a Mandarin translator; and
  - (d) Seventy-four per cent of these attendees advised they had not applied for a City of Sydney grant previously.

**EMMA RIGNEY**

Director City Life

Tanya Taylor, Grants Officer