

Item 3.

Grants and Sponsorship - Environmental 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 the 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 Green Building Grant in the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program.

For the Green Building Grant program, 17 eligible applications were received. This report recommends a total of eight grants to a total value of \$70,750 in cash for payment in the 2022/23 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.

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 recommendations for the Green Building Grant program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note the applicants who were not recommended in obtaining a cash grant for the Green Building Grant 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 - Green Building Grant Program

Attachment B. Not Recommended For Funding - Green Building 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 30 August 2022, the City announced the Green Building Grant program as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications closing on 27 September 2022.
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, e-newsletters, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, AdWords, ArtsHub, Google display ads and Koori Radio. 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 Green Building Grant program is open to not-for-profit organisations, for-profit organisations and owners' corporations.
5. A total of five eligible applications were received from for-profit organisations through the Green Building Grant program and no for-profit organisations are recommended for funding.

Grants assessment process

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The assessment criteria for the Green Building Grant program are:
 - evidence of the need for the project and proposed outcomes
 - capacity and experience of the applicant to deliver the project
 - demonstrated connection and benefit to the local area and community
 - evidence of diversity, inclusion and equity in the planning and delivery of the project
 - how the project delivers against the funding priorities.
9. The assessment meeting for the Green Building Grant program was held on 12 October 2022. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Sustainability Programs Team.

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

Green Building Grant Program

13. The applications recommended for the Green Building Grant program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
14. The Green Building Grant program budget is set out below:

Total budget for 2022/23	\$200,000
Less: Total cash committed to applications approved by Council in June 2022	(\$2,513)
Total cash available	\$197,487
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	17
Total cash value requested from applications	\$180,690
Total number of applications recommended for cash support	8
Total amount of cash funding recommended for payment in 2022/23	\$70,750
Total cash underspend to be made available for Festivals and Events Sponsorship and Innovation and Ideas grant programs, with recommended overspend currently being considered by Council	\$126,767

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

15. 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 2 - A leading environmental performer - the recommended grant projects in this report contribute to City's endeavours in improving environmental performance of our residents and businesses by supporting new and innovative approaches to delivering sustainability outcomes and strengthening community resilience.

Organisational Impact

16. 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.

Environmental

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

Financial Implications

18. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2022/23 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operating budget for 2022/23 to support the recommended grants. Details and total values are provided in the table above.
19. The remaining \$126,767 in savings from the Green Building Grants program as a result of this report will be made available for the following grant programs currently being considered by Council:
 - (a) Festivals and Events Sponsorship - \$100,000
 - (b) Innovation and Ideas - \$26,767.

Relevant Legislation

20. 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.
21. 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:
 - (i) Green Building grant;
 - (b) the details of the programs were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2022/23;
 - (c) the program's proposed budgets do not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2022/23; and
 - (d) these programs apply to a significant group of persons within the local government area.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

22. The funding period for the Green Building Grant program for financial year 2022/23 is for activity taking place from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023. Contracts will be developed for all successful applications after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for projects starting in January 2023.

Public Consultation

23. During September 2022, a briefing session took place where stakeholders were notified about the grants and how to apply:
24. An online briefing session for general grants enquires was held on 6 September 2022. A total of 53 attendees participated in the session.
25. Q&A sessions were held for those grant applicants wanting more assistance with their grant applications on 12, 14 and 16 September 2022. A total of 21 attendees participated in these sessions.

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Director City Life

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