

Item 6.

Grants and Sponsorship – Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

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.

The City advertised the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program in the annual Grants and Sponsorship Program.

This program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations deliver projects that meet the needs of their community in the local area. The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund is open all year for applications until the annual budget is exhausted. Three applications were received in this funding round.

This report recommends three applications for a total of \$149,722 in cash for payment in the 2024/25 financial year.

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.

The grant recipient 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 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (B) Council note that all grant amounts are exclusive of GST;
- (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; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to correct minor changes 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 - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund 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 1 July 2024, the City announced the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program as being open for application on the City's website, with grant applications open all year round, until budget is exhausted.
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, content marketing, e-newsletters, paid and organic social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) and AdWords. 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 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program is dedicated to local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, groups and organisations and is open to eligible not-for-profit organisations, incorporated associations, corporations, co-operatives, partnerships, sole traders, trustees of a trust and an individual or unincorporated community group auspiced by an eligible not-for-profit organisation or corporation.
5. No eligible applications were received from for-profit organisations or sole traders through the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program.
6. Three oral applications were received for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program meeting the August Committee timeframes and are all recommended in this report:
 - (a) Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation;
 - (b) Redfern All Blacks Rugby League Football Club Incorporated; and
 - (c) The Fact Tree Youth Service Inc as auspice for Waterloo Storm Community NRL team.

Grants assessment process

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The assessment criteria for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund for proposals of between \$20,001 to \$50,000 per year are:
 - Why is there a need for the project and what are the proposed outcomes?

- What is your experience in delivering projects?
 - How have you included the local diverse community and how will they benefit and/or being engaged?
 - How does the project rate against the funding priorities?
10. An assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program was held on 30 July 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Team, Venue Management and City Business and Safety Teams. An additional assessment meeting for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program was held on 1 August 2024. The assessment panel consisted of City staff from the Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Team and Social City Teams.
 11. Once recommended applications are approved by Council, the City will prepare grant agreements to be entered into with the successful applicants, which will include conditions that must be adhered to and acquitted against.
 12. It is expected that all successful applicants will work cooperatively with relevant City staff throughout the project for which they have received funding.
 13. For the two grant applications recommended for multi-year agreements, funding will be available each year for the period of 2024/25 to 2026/27 (three years) with the following conditions for Year 2 and Year 3:
 - (a) Year 1: \$50,000 (or the recommended amount of \$49,722 for the second applicant)
 - (b) Year 2 and Year 3: Up to \$50,000 per applicant based on submission of the following:
 - (i) Proposed program for the upcoming year which demonstrates that the City of Sydney funding will only support local community members to participate in Koori Knockout;
 - (ii) Budget demonstrated clear need for level of request; and
 - (iii) Appropriate level of governance and management of the program.
 - (c) The proposal each year will be assessed before funding is provided for Year 2 and Year 3.
 14. All grants and sponsorships are recommended on the condition that any required approvals, permits and development consents are obtained by the applicant.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund

15. The applications recommended for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program are outlined in Attachment A to this report.
16. The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund budget for 2024/25 is set out below:

Total budget for 2024/25	\$500,000
Less: Total cash committed to previously approved applications	(\$21,325)
Total cash available	\$478,675
Total number of eligible applications this allocation	3
Total cash value requested from applications	\$149,722
Total value-in-kind support requested from applications	\$0
Total number of applications recommended for cash and/or value in-kind support in this report	3
Total amount of cash funding for payment in this report (to be paid in 2024/25) (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2025/26 - \$100,000) (Future-year funding recommended for payment in 2026/27 - \$100,000)	\$149,722
Total amount of value in-kind support recommended for 2024/25 (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2025/26 - \$0) (Future-year value in-kind support recommended in 2026/27 - \$0)	\$0
Remaining cash amount available in 2024/25	\$328,953

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

17. 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 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the recommended grant projects in this report will contribute to strengthening partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and prioritise their cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic aspirations.

Organisational Impact

18. 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.

Cultural / Economic / Social / Environmental

19. 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 business, within the local area.

Financial Implications

20. There are sufficient funds allocated in the 2024/25 grants and sponsorship budget, included in the City's operating budget for 2024/25 to support the recommended grants. Details and relevant amounts are included in the tables above.

Relevant Legislation

21. 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) to (d) is satisfied for the purpose of providing grant funding to for-profit organisations because:
 - (a) the funding is part of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program;
 - (b) the details of the program were included in the Council's adopted operational plan for financial year 2024/25;
 - (c) the program's proposed budget does not exceed five per cent of Council's proposed income from ordinary rates for financial year 2024/25; 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 the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program for 2024/25 is for activities taking place 12 months from the project start date. Grant agreements will be prepared for all successful applicants after Council approval to ensure their funding is released in time for the commencement of projects.

Public Consultation

24. During July 2024, two briefing sessions took place where stakeholders were notified about the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Collaboration Fund program and how to apply.
- (a) An in-person information session for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was held at 119 Redfern in Redfern on 23 July 2024. A total of six attendees participated in the session.
 - (b) A second in-person information session for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community was held at Juanita Nielsen Community Centre at Woolloomooloo on 29 July 2024. A total of one attendee participated in the session.

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