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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

REPORT

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council
From: Heather Evans, Community Planner
Subject: 2023 ROUND TWO COMMUNITY GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS
Date: November 15, 2023 File No: 5-1850-20-0005/2023

The following is a suggested recommendation only. Refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

PURSUANT to the report of the Community Planner, dated November 15, 2023, entitled “2023 Round Two Community Grant Recommendations”:

THAT the 2023 Community Grants be awarded to the list of organizations as proposed in the report, in the total amount of \$50,696, with funds allocated from the 2023 Community Grants budget;

AND THAT the funded and non-funded grants be listed in the Minutes in full.

ATTACHMENTS

1. North Shore Municipal Community Grant Applications Guidelines (CityDocs [#1732931](#))
2. List of 2023 Round Two Community Grant Applications (CityDocs [#2430429](#))

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with the Social Planning Advisory Committee’s (SPAC) recommendations for the 2023 Round Two Community Grants.

BACKGROUND

Community Grants are among several grant funding opportunities that the City of North Vancouver offers to non-profit organizations and groups to assist with the delivery of services that work to reduce social, economic or physical disadvantage, and/or which improves the quality of life for City residents.

Community grants provide an opportunity for non-profit agencies to gain municipal financial support for projects, programs or general operations that address the objectives of the City's Social Plan and Official Community Plan. The City's annual budget for Community Grants is the sum of two components:

- The City's annual operating budget: \$100,000; and,
- The annual interest accrued from a reserve fund called the Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund ("LLLF"). In the last five years the interest in this fund has fluctuated from approximately \$46,000 to \$86,000.

DISCUSSION

Total Amount of Community Grants

In 2023 the operating budget funding of \$100,000 is combined with interest in the amount of \$87,896 from the Lower Lonsdale Legacy Fund, for a total Community Grants budget of \$187,896. This amount is distributed through two rounds of application intakes:

- Round 1 (January 2023) – \$137,200 was distributed in May 2023; and,
- Round 2 (September 2023) – Includes the remaining \$50,696 for distribution.

This report addresses the second round of grants for 2023.

Application Review Process

SPAC reviews applications in accordance with criteria set out in the Community Grant Guidelines (Attachment 1) and in relation to the City of North Vancouver's Social Plan.

To be eligible for funding, an organization must be not-for-profit, be providing services to residents of the City of North Vancouver, seeking additional other sources of funding, and provide proof of financial responsibility (financial statements).

Eligible not-for-profits are required to offer services in the City of North Vancouver and they must provide a service that directly benefits local residents. The number of residents benefiting from the services must be measured and reported by the receiving agency.

Grant applications that meet the criteria are reviewed by SPAC and prioritized according to the "Procedural Guidelines for the Review of Grant Applications by Sub-Committees" as follows:

- 'A' or top priority
 - evidence of need for the service or project
 - evidence of clear goals and expected outcomes
 - evidence of financial need for a Community Grant
 - relevance to Social Plan

- 'B' or medium priority
 - quality of management
 - uniqueness of service
 - involvement with community partners
 - addressing barriers to services for people with disabilities and for ethno-cultural residents.

- 'C' or lower priority
 - number of local residents served
 - number of local volunteers and their role
 - amount of funding requested from each municipality related to the numbers of residents served.

Most applicants included information in their applications about the impact the pandemic had, and continues to have, on their organization. Many commented on how the demand for their services are increasing (e.g. for mental health and counselling services) and that their waitlists are growing. It was also noted that meeting demand is becoming more difficult as fundraising dollars are diminishing and because fewer grants are available (especially those related to COVID relief). SPAC considered this information in the review process.

Grant Recommendations

For this second round of grants, 32 grant applications were received and reviewed, requesting a total amount of \$170,000 (See Table 1). Of those, 25 were repeat applications for new or existing programs and seven were applications from first-time applicants. A list of grant applications with recommended allocations is included as Attachment 2.

Of the 32 applications received in Round Two, 18 are recommended to receive funding. The Committee's recommendations are to allocate the amount remaining in the 2023 Community Grants budget, which is \$50,696.

Table 1 below lists the applications that SPAC recommends for funding.

Table 1 – Applications Recommended for Funding

Athletics for Kids Financial Assistance (B.C.) Society (Operating)	\$3,000
British Columbia Centre for Ability Association (Operating)	\$1,000
Carson Graham Secondary School (Program – Carson Graham Community Dinner)	\$3,000
Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Centre of BC (Program – North Shore Volunteer Recruitment)	\$2,000
Hollyburn Family Services Society (Program – Life Success)	\$2,000
Hollyburn Family Services Society (Program – North Shore Youth Safe House)	\$4,000
Hollyburn Family Services Society (Program – Seniors Safe House)	\$2,500
Hollyburn Family Services Society (Program – Wired 4 Success)	\$2,000
Hollyburn Family Services Society (Program – Youth Education Navigator)	\$2,000
Living Systems Family Systems Counselling & Education Society (Program – Access Counselling)	\$5,000
North Shore Alliance Church (Program – North Shore Community Christmas Dinner)	\$3,000
North Shore Stroke Recovery Centre (Program – Art Therapy)	\$2,000
North Shore Stroke Recovery Centre (Program – Family Caregiver)	\$2,000
North Shore Stroke Recovery Centre (Program – Speech Language Pathology)	\$3,000
Parkgate Community Services Society (Program – Youth Outreach)	\$3,500
Pathways Serious Mental Illness Society (Program – Family to Family Peer Support Course)	\$2,500
Shelter Movers Vancouver	\$3,000
Spectrum Mothers Support Society (Operating)	\$5,196
TOTAL	\$50,696

Fourteen applications are recommended to not receive funding (Table 2). Given the limited budget for Community Grants, the committee decided not to recommend funding to these applications for the following reasons:

- For organizations that submitted multiple applications, SPAC may not be recommending that all applications be funded.
- Some organizations/programs were proposing to serve a lower amount of City residents than others, or the outcomes are unclear and uncertain.
- The impact from larger (eg. national) organizations with broader funding support would not offer as much of a direct impact in our community than local groups.
- Some applications did not have a strong social focus.

- Some of the proposed programs would not meet a need that was deemed to be as critical as other applications to support the core needs of City residents.

Table 2 – Applications Recommended Not to Receive Funding

The Cinderella Project (Operating)
Ecowaves Community Volunteer Club (Operating)
Elevation Health Foundations (Operating)
Elevation Health Foundations (Program – Physical Literary Program)
(The) Giraffes Art School (Operating)
Iranian Laughter Club (Program HOpe Laughter Program)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program – Centreview Child Care Centre)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program – John Braithwaite Out of School Care)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program - Learning Together Child Care)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program – NSNH Child Care)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program – Queen Mary Out of School Care)
North Shore Neighbourhood House (Program – Ridgeway Out of School Care)
North Shore Polish Association Belweder (Program – Joy Seniors’ Club – Just Older Youth)
SCY Society for Children and Youth of BC (Program – Youth Transit Leaders Program)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2023 annual budget for community grants is calculated and provided in the same manner as previous years.

STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of grant funding is in keeping with the guiding principles of the Official Community Plan, specifically:

Community Supporting Community:

The City will continue to be a compassionate community recognizing that all individuals and/or their families will require support at some point in their lives. The City will assist organizations and individuals that provide community support through the responsible allocation of its resources.

The community grants program supports Council's Strategic Plan priority to be "A City for People". All community grant applications are also reviewed relative to the goals and objectives of the City's existing Social Plan (1998) and the Community Grant Guidelines.

The City is undertaking the development of a *Community Wellbeing Strategy*, updating and replacing the City's Social Plan. A draft of this Strategy was endorsed by Council for engagement in July, and will be refined and brought to Council for finalization in early 2024.

As a part of this work, staff is undertaking a Supportive Funding Review project to align all forms of supportive funding (community grants, core funding, permissive tax exemptions, and multiple other grants) to an outcomes-based approach and to better align with and achieve the City's current priorities and objectives as directed by Council's Strategic Plan, the Corporate Business Plan, and the approved and upcoming *Community Wellbeing, Climate and Environment, Economic, and Mobility Strategies*. The intent is to create a comprehensive and coordinated supportive funding program for the City.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Heather Evans
Community Planner