


CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 4, 2005
Author: Michelle Vernooy
Phone No.: 604.871.6682
RTS No.: 5237
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Meeting Date: October 20, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: Director of Social Planning

SUBJECT: 2005 Community Services Grants - Innovations Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve eight Innovations Grants totalling \$100,000, including any recommended CONDITIONS on the grants, as listed in APPENDIX A-1; the source of funding being the \$100,000 allocated for Innovation Grants within the 2005 Community Services Grants budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

On April 28, 2005, City Council approved the creation of a new Community Services Grants stream, the Innovations Grants program, and allocated \$100,000 from the 2005 Community Services Grants budget to this new grants program.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

PURPOSE

The Innovations Grants Program is intended to provide one-time funding for projects that reinforce the City's social sustainability objectives. This report recommends approval of Innovations Grants to 8 applicants.

BACKGROUND

The Innovations Grants program was approved by City Council on April 28, 2005, as a stream of the Community Services Grants program, with an allocation of \$100,000.

The Innovations Grants were created to fund agencies for short-term, innovative projects that are, by policy, ineligible for funding from the Community Services Grants budget. The priority of the Community Services Grants program has been to provide ongoing funding to organizations providing continuous services.

The Innovations Grants program is intended to fund projects that reinforce the City's social sustainability objectives, particularly with regards to community capacity building and community development. This program is designed to provide support for the development of new and creative strategies for addressing social problems and bringing about positive social change. Funded projects are to build on the visions of inclusiveness, partnership and equity of opportunity and access.

Program criteria are attached as APPENDIX B. The key characteristics of this program are:

- One-time funding for projects that reinforce the City's social sustainability objectives;
- Support for the development of new and creative strategies;
- Maximum grant of \$15,000;
- Project must be completed within one year of the approval of the grant;
- Funding from other sources is encouraged, but not mandatory.

To be considered for an Innovations Grant, applications have to meet all eligibility criteria. Eligible applications are then evaluated against each other, through the review process, which takes into consideration:

- how well the project meets the Innovations Grants program's social sustainability objectives;
- the number of residents and/or organizations that will benefit from the project;
- the beneficial impact on residents and/or organizations.

All applicants receive written notification of staff recommendations and the date of the Council meeting at which the grants will be considered. As noted in the Program Criteria approved by Council, there is no appeal process for this grant stream.

DISCUSSION

Twenty-five applications with requests totalling more than \$347,000 were received. Eight applications which most strongly met the program criteria are being recommended (APPENDIX A-1). Of the remaining applications, 14 were eligible, but are not being recommended for grants (see APPENDIX A-2), and 3 have been deemed ineligible as they did not meet the basic eligibility criteria of the program (see APPENDIX A-3).

The 8 recommended projects will support capacity building for women, youth, homeless people, immigrants and refugees, and multiple barriered Downtown Eastside residents.

As noted in APPENDIX A-1 the recommended grants are to:

Atira Women's Resource Society	to increase women inclusion, participation and skill development through a community-based artisans cooperative	\$10,000
Check Your Head	to support active citizenship among at-risk and street involved youth	\$10,000
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	diversity training for communities working with homelessness	\$15,000
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	to increase women's access to political, economic, cultural and social participation	\$11,000
Inland Refugee Society	to develop a multilingual website on refugee services	\$14,000
Potluck Café	to pilot a skills strategy to improve employment outcomes for people with multiple barriers	\$10,000
SUCCESS	to enhance youth presence and participation in Chinatown	\$15,000
Vancouver Native Health Society	to support capacity building for aboriginal people in the DES through a collective kitchen garden and community kitchen	\$15,000
TOTAL		\$100,000

As this is a new grants stream, all aspects of it will be reviewed after the approval process is completed. Any required changes will be reported to Council prior to implementation of the 2006 Innovations Grants program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total amount recommended for the 2005 Innovations Grants is \$100,000, equal to the total budget of \$100,000 for the Innovations Grants.

CONCLUSION

The Innovations Grants enable the funding of short-term, innovative projects that address social problems, bring about positive social change, and reinforce the City's social sustainability objectives, particularly with regards to community capacity building and community development.

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2005 Innovations Grants
Recommended for Grant

Agency	Project Title	Project Description	Amount Requested	Grant Recomm.	Conditions
Atira Women's Resource Society	Enterprising Women Making Art - Artisan's cooperative	A project to increase women's inclusion, participation and skill development through a community-based artisans cooperative	\$15,000	\$10,000	
Check Your Head: Youth Global Education Network	Youth Speak Out	A project to encourage active citizenship among at-risk and street involved youth (ages 16-30) through a series of workshops, focus-groups, peer-to-peer outreach, youth participants can develop skills to articulate issues, self advocate, affect change in their communities and participate in local level democratic processes.	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Towards an Inclusive Community - Diversity training for communities working with homelessness	A project to increase capacity of volunteers and staff in Renfrew Collingwood in understanding the needs of the mentally ill and people who are homeless in this community.	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	POW@W - Power of Women to Women	Project involves working with women in the Downtown eastside to increase their access to political, economic, cultural and social participation, using participatory popular education methods.	\$15,000	\$11,000	

Inland Refugee Society	Vancouver Refugee Services Alliance (VERSA) - Portal Project	Development of a one-stop website that will provide information in Spanish and Chinese with up-to-date information regarding the refugee claim process and available services.	\$14,257	\$14,000	
Potluck Café	Low Threshold Employee Skills Development Pilot Project	To explore how successful an intensive skills strategy could be for developing better outcomes for Downtown eastside people with multiple barriers to employment and a history of failed employment.	\$10,000	\$10,000	
SUCCESS	Chinatown Youth Initiative	Project will facilitate liaisons between local groups in order to promote better community development, enhance youth presence in Chinatown and to facilitate cross-cultural sharing.	\$15,000	\$15,000	
Vancouver Native Health Society	UBC Farm Aboriginal Community Kitchen Garden Project	The purpose of the project is to provide opportunity and support for aboriginals living in East Vancouver to improve their capacity and create community by collectively growing their own vegetables. The project also involves a community kitchen.	\$15,000	\$15,000	A maximum of 10% of grant may be used for rent or administration.
TOTAL RECOMMENDED				\$100,000	

2005 Innovations Grants
Not Recommended for Grant

Agency	Project Title	Project Description	Amount Requested	Grant Recomm.
Britannia - Grandview/Woodlands Food Connection	Connecting the Dots: Community Capacity Food Initiative	Project will address social concerns of isolation, health and economic well-being through sustainable leadership development and support around grassroots initiatives that address food security issues.	\$15,890	\$0
411 Seniors Centre Society	Building Capacity of Seniors' Communities' Peer Support, Information Referral, Outreach and Advocacy Programs	Project is to involve the seniors' community in examining and proposing strategies to strengthen and enhance the efficacy, effectiveness, cohesiveness, and sustainability of Seniors Peer Support, information and referral, outreach, and advocacy programs in the City of Vancouver.	\$15,000	\$0
Glasshouse Capacity Services Society	A Series of Capacity-Building Workshops for Small to Medium Sized Non-Profits in Vancouver	To provide a series of low-cost capacity building workshops for executive directors, board members and staff of non-profits.	\$10,000	\$0
Information Services Vancouver	Community Information Database Redesign	To develop a web-based system for the Red Book Online that is universally relevant and easy to use.	\$15,000	\$0
Leave Out Violence	Youth Anthology of Writing/Photography	Project to publish a book of youth writing and photography through leadership training to teach youth the skills to develop and design their own book of writing and photography based on anti-violence, media awareness, and youth culture.	\$15,000	\$0
Marpole Oakridge Area Council Society	Breakfast at Marpole	To provide opportunity for communities to come together and share welcoming atmosphere for a low-cost meal.	\$15,000	\$0

Mount Pleasant Community Centre	Celebrate Mount Pleasant Pool	Encourage community to participate in outdoor summer sports by hosting a summer time event at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre pool.	\$6,000	\$0
Multicultural Helping House	College of Public Involvement by Newcomers: Improved public participation by newcomers	To build capacity by newcomers in leading healthy and empowered lives by providing them hands on culturally sensitive training program and citizen involvement.	\$15,000	\$0
Philippine Women Centre	Empowerment and Capacity Building with Single Mothers in the Filipino Community	The purpose of this project is to bring together a group of vulnerable women in the Filipino community -- single mothers to engage in group building, self help, and community empowerment and development processes.	\$15,000	\$0
Strathcona Community Gardeners Society	Tree City Vancouver	The Strathcona Community Gardeners Society, working with the Environmental Youth Alliance as a core partner, to bring people together to unite them in a campaign to improve the liveability of their immediate environment (e.g. to engage in tree planting and tree care programs).	\$15,000	\$0
SUCCESS	Strategies in Working with Youth from China - A Pilot Project	The purpose of the project is to identify effective strategies for engaging youth from China and to experiment with activities that help their successful social integration into Canadian society.	\$15,000	\$0
Vancouver Fruit Tree Project	Community and Fruit Tree Stewardship	The project will improve community members' access to local fruit production by providing knowledge and training about fruit tree stewardship and urban agriculture.	\$15,000	\$0
Vancouver Volunteer Centre	SkillsBank	The SkillsBank program will work to successfully connect skilled professionals with not-for-profit with organizations in meaningful short-term volunteer opportunities that will require their specific expertise (e.g. technology).	\$15,000	\$0

YWCA of Vancouver	Youth Pilot Project	The YWCA in consultation with the Vancouver School Board will deliver a youth pilot project for young girls in grade 7 which will have a consistent theme around a young girl's development and developmental and social challenges that may arise in the transition from elementary school to high school.	\$15,000	\$0
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2005 Innovations Grants
Ineligible for Grant

Agency	Project Title	Project Description	Amount Requested	Grant Recomm.	Comments
Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver	Teen Mentoring - Expanding Our Impact	Teen mentoring program matching elementary school children with teens from a nearby secondary school.	\$15,000	\$0	This project is ineligible because it is an extension of existing work.
Pacific Community Resources Society	BYRC Art Studio Project	A youth art gallery project to provide space for youth art at the Broadway Youth Resource Centre.	\$15,000	\$0	This project is ineligible because it is a capital project.
Positive Women's Network	Alternative Therapies for HIV+/AIDs Women	To develop an alternate therapy program providing HIV+ women access to alternative therapies in conjunction with medically prescribed initiatives.	\$11,000	\$0	This project is ineligible because it is a health service.

2005 COMMUNITY SERVICES GRANTS INNOVATIONS GRANTS PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEETS

The Innovations Grants Program is intended to provide one-time funding for projects that reinforce the City's social sustainability objectives, particularly with regards to community capacity building and community development. This program is designed to provide support for the development of new and creative strategies for addressing social problems and bringing about positive social change. Funded projects will build on the visions of inclusiveness, partnership and equity of opportunity and access, which are so essential to the development of a fair and just society.

General Eligibility Criteria

- The organization must be a registered non-profit society, in good standing with the Registrar of Companies for at least one year. It must have an independent, active governing body composed of volunteers.
- The organization must extend its services to the general public, and shall not exclude anyone by reason of religion, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, language, disability or income; except in instances where it can be proven that exclusion of some group is required for effective targeting of another group to occur.
- The organization must have the demonstrated functional capacity and access to sufficient resources to be able to complete the project for which funding is being sought.
- The organization must be based and active in Vancouver. The project must be primarily carried out in Vancouver, and be of benefit primarily to Vancouver residents and/or community groups.
- Applicants should seek revenue from sources other than the City of Vancouver (e.g. United Way, Vancouver Foundation, Vancity Community Project Grants).

Innovation Grants are NOT for:

- projects which are clearly within the mandates of other governments or departments. This includes projects which are eligible for funding from any other City grant programs, such as Cultural Grants, Childcare Grants, Environmental Grants;
- ongoing programs or services that are eligible for Community Services Grants;
- projects related to the provision or enhancement of health services;
- processing legal or human rights cases;
- payment of City property taxes; capital expenses; operating or capital deficits;
- attendance at or fees for conferences, workshops or other forms of training.

Grant Amount - Limitations

The maximum grant provided under this program is \$15,000.

The Innovations Grants budget is established each year by City Council. In 2005, it is \$100,000. All recommendations are contingent on the available funds; consequently, not all organizations meeting the above criteria will receive a grant.

In deciding which applications to recommend, and for how much, Social Planning staff will take into consideration:

- how well the project meets the Innovations Grants program's social sustainability objectives;
- the number of residents and/or organizations that will benefit from the project;
- the beneficial impact on residents and/or organizations.

Grant Term

The project must be completed, and the City funding spent on the project within one year of City Council's approval of the grant.

Process

In 2005, the Innovations Grant application deadline will be Friday, September 2, 2005. Social Planning Department staff will review the grant applications and may conduct interviews with applicants as appropriate. Following the review process, recommendations will be made by a staff committee. Written notice of these recommendations will be sent to all applicants, together with notice of the City Council meeting date at which the grants will be considered. Under normal circumstances, successful applicants generally receive grant payment within two and a half weeks of Council's approval. There is no appeal process for this Innovations Grants program.

How To Apply

Application forms are available electronically from the Social Planning Department (email: shariffa.esmail@vancouver.ca) or on the City's web site at www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/grants/index.htm. The application form is in Word format. All applicants should discuss their proposal with Social Planning staff before submitting an application.

FOR APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED, APPLICATIONS MUST:

- be received by Social Planning by the deadline of 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2005. Late applications will not be accepted;

- be complete, with responses to each question. Applications that do not have a response to each question will not be considered;
- be signed by two Board members, not staff;
- have all required attachments included.

Please return completed electronic copy of the application form to shariffa.esmail@vancouver.ca and two signed hard copies of the application form to:
City of Vancouver
Social Planning Department
#100 - 515 West 10th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4A8
(604) 871-7487 fax: (604) 871-6048

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Definitions

Community Capacity Building - developing the skills and abilities of members of the community and involving them in collective efforts to meet the needs of individuals and the community as a whole.

Community Development - involves bringing people in a community (geographic, community of interest, defined population sub-group) together, to solve social problems, bring about positive social change, and to extend participatory democracy. The way that the CD work is carried out is as important as the end product - the process stresses the need to develop community awareness, engender group cohesiveness and promote self-reliance and collective action. CD expresses values of fairness, equality, accountability, opportunity, choice, participation, mutuality, reciprocity and continuous learning.

Social Sustainability - In May 2005, City Council adopted the following definition of Social Sustainability, which includes meeting basic needs, community capacity building and community development.

Note: For the purposes of the Innovations Grants, the primary focus of the program is community capacity building and community development; however, the work in this area may also lead to meeting basic needs.

Social Sustainability - a definition

For a community to function and be sustainable, the basic needs of its residents must be met. A socially sustainable community must have the ability to maintain and build on its own resources and have the resiliency to prevent and/or address problems in the future.

There are two types or levels of resources in the community that are available to build social sustainability (and, indeed, economic and environmental sustainability) - individual or human capacity, and social or community capacity.

Individual or human capacity refers to the attributes and resources that individuals can contribute to their own well-being and to the well-being of the community as a whole. Such resources include education, skills, health, values and leadership.

Social or community capacity is defined as the relationships, networks norms and opportunities for democratic participation that facilitate collective action taken to improve upon quality of life and to ensure that such improvements are sustainable.

To be effective and sustainable, both these individual and community resources need to be developed and used within the context of four guiding principles - equity, social inclusion and interaction, security, and adaptability.