

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT



CITY OF VANCOUVER

Report Date: May 8, 2008  
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Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: Director of Social Planning  
SUBJECT: Social Responsibility Fund Grants Allocations

**RECOMMENDATION**

- A. THAT Council approve eight Social Responsibility Fund (SRF) grants totalling \$125,000 as listed in Appendix A. Source of funding is the \$125,000 earmarked in 2006 for the Community Grant Program, within the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve.
- B. THAT Council approve a \$17,500 grant to SUCCESS for the implementation of a Chinese web site on gambling issues. Source of funding is the \$25,000 earmarked in 2006 for Local Awareness Initiatives, within the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve.

**CONSIDERATION**

- C. THAT Council approve an additional seven Social Responsibility Fund grants totalling \$122,335 as listed in Appendix B. Source of funding is the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The General Manager RECOMMENDS approval of A and B, and presents C for CONSIDERATION.

## CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager is supportive of the recommendations contained in this report. The recommended grants, as well as the ones presented for Council's consideration, do reflect the one-time only approach for this grant program. In addition, the recommended projects are closely aligned with identified City priorities like: Civil City; Inclusive Olympics; homelessness initiatives; the City's Visioning process; crime prevention, and; sex trade intervention.

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval A and B, and presents C for CONSIDERATION.

## COUNCIL POLICY

Approval of grants recommendations requires 8 affirmative votes.

On July 20, 2004, as part of the rezoning conditions for the Plaza of Nations, Council accepted a public benefit offering from Edgewater Casino that included a donation of \$200,000 annually towards the creation of a Social Responsibility Fund. This funding is now held in the City's Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve. Annual donations of \$200,000 will continue for the duration of the temporary permit to operate a casino at the Plaza of Nations.

On October 3, 2006, Council approved the general guidelines for four different funding categories in the Social Responsibility Fund. Council earmarked the following funds:

- \$25,000 towards the support of a Responsible Gambling Centre at Edgewater Casino
- \$25,000 annually to support local awareness initiatives
- \$25,000 annually to support research, training, and staff development
- \$125,000 annually for a community grants program

The grant program of \$125,000 a year was approved for the duration of the Edgewater Casino permit, to support community capacity building projects in the Downtown, Downtown Eastside, Strathcona, and Mount Pleasant neighbourhoods. Council also instructed staff to report back on specific criteria for this grants program.

On February 28, 2008 Council approved the criteria for the Social Responsibility Fund grants program with a budget of \$125,000 for 2008. At that time, Council also approved the allocation of \$75,000 from the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve to the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

## BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2008 Council approved the criteria for the \$125,000 grants program for the SRF which included the following key program objectives:

- Target populations that reflect the demographic profile of Edgewater Casino patrons.
- Address corporate priorities of public safety issues in Vancouver in partnership with the non-profit sector, private organizations and individuals.

- Focus efforts on increasing community capacity in the neighbourhoods immediately surrounding the Edgewater Casino. City-wide projects may be considered a priority provided there is an emphasis on the targeted neighbourhoods. This will further support the “good neighbour” aspects of the casino which, in part, motivated the original offering of the Social Responsibility Fund.

The approved criteria indicated that Vancouver-based registered non-profit societies were eligible to apply for the grants. The organization would be required to have the demonstrated capacity and resources to complete the project for which funding was being sought. Partnerships with other funders was to be encouraged. The grants were to support one-time, time-limited programs, and not for ongoing programs or organizational core funding. The approved intake date for applications was established for Friday, April 11, 2008.

## DISCUSSION

Information on the Social Responsibility Fund was made available on the Social Planning website on March 3, 2008. In addition, information was forwarded to civic partners, 38 social service agencies in neighbourhoods in the vicinity of the casino, and to a number of public and private funding bodies.

Twenty eight applications totaling \$613,107 in requests were received from 26 organizations that included proposals to address priorities involving the following population groups: youth, seniors, women, immigrant communities, the homeless, and urban Aboriginals.

The demand for funding exceeds the \$125,000 earmarked and as a result the review process was highly competitive. An interdepartmental committee reviewed applications based on criteria outlined in the application form. Eight applications that best meet funding criteria and objectives out of the twenty eight received are being recommended. (Appendix A).

Staff further recommend that the application from SUCCESS, in the amount of \$17,500 for the implementation of a Chinese web site on gambling issues, be supported under the Local Awareness Initiatives category of the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Fund. The purpose of the Local Awareness Initiatives category is to support locally based educational activities related to responsible gambling, and this application meets these objectives.

In addition, staff are presenting for Council’s consideration seven applications which did not meet the criteria to the same high degree as those listed in Appendix A, but also do provide for an enhanced community capacity of the neighbourhoods in the vicinity of the Edgewater Casino and address some city-wide priority issues. These applications total an additional \$122,335. (Appendix B).

Twelve applications were not recommended for funding. One is more suitable for funding through the DTES Capital budget. Some non-recommended projects proposed interesting ideas but responded much less strongly to the funding criteria than other projects; some had unclear activity plans; two were proposals for ongoing services and not appropriate for the SRF fund, and one lacked society status and was therefore ineligible.

A summary of all applications, with a brief project description is provided in Appendix C.

Pending Council approval, grants will be dispersed with a ten per cent hold back released to the organizations upon receipt of a closing financial statement and a final report.

Staff will conduct an evaluation of all categories of the SRF public benefit, including the grants component. Funds previously earmarked in 2006 for research, staff training and development will be accessed to support an outside evaluation process.

Staff will report back in February 2009 with the results of the evaluation and with recommendations on how to use additional accumulated amounts in the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total contribution to the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve to-date is \$700,000, and will continue to grow at a rate of \$200,000 a year until July 2013 totalling \$1.7 million.

Contributions to the Edgewater Casino Social Responsibility Reserve 2005, 2006 and 2007	\$600,000
First instalment for 2008	\$100,000
<b>Total Contributions To-date</b>	<b>\$700,000</b>

Of the \$700,000 received to-date, Council has already earmarked \$275,000 for the following program categories. \$120,000 of the earmarked funds was previously allocated, and a further allocation of \$142,500 is being proposed in this report (Recommendation A &B).

Category	Allocation Guideline	Spent/Previously Allocated	Proposed Allocation	Remaining
Support for a Responsible Gambling Centre at Edgewater Casino	\$25,000	\$25,000		\$0
Local Awareness Initiatives	\$25,000		\$17,500	\$7,500
Research, training and staff development	\$25,000	\$20,000		\$5,000
Social Responsibility Fund community grant program	\$125,000		\$125,000	\$0
Crime Free Multi-Housing Program	\$75,000	\$75,000		\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>	<b>\$142,500</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>

The remaining un-earmarked balance within the Social Responsibility Fund would be \$425,000. If Council approves Consideration C, an additional \$122,335 will be allocated, leaving the balance at \$302,665.

## SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projects that are recommended for SRF funding will enhance community capacity of the neighbourhoods in the vicinity of the Edgewater Casino and address some city-wide priority issues that may have direct or indirect repercussions in the targeted communities.

The recommended projects include initiatives targeted at linking the homeless to services, capacity building for immigrants, promoting healthy lifestyles for Aboriginal families, and crime prevention work for youth. All of these initiatives further enhance the social sustainability of our city, particularly in relation to vulnerable populations, and complement identified City priorities such as Project Civil City, the City's Visioning Process, homelessness initiatives, sex trade interventions, crime prevention, and addictions issues.

## CONCLUSION

The proposed grants allocations will enable SRF grants recipients to implement valuable projects that enhance community capacity in the neighbourhoods surrounding the Edgewater Casino.

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2008 SRF Grant Recommendations

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	REQUEST	RECOMMEND
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver	Kickstart	\$15,000	\$10,000
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Living in Community - Phase II - From Planning to Implementation	\$25,000	\$25,000
Helping Spirit Lodge Society	Homeless Street Soccer - Vancouver Dream Catchers	\$20,000	\$20,000
ISV Information Services Vancouver	Shelter and Street Help Line	\$3,000	\$3,000
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	Leveling the playing field for immigrant families in Mount Pleasant	\$20,000	\$20,000
Vancouver Native Health Society	Red Fox Active Adventures	\$20,000	\$17,000
Watari Research Association (Grandview Woodlands)	Under One Umbrella 2008: A Community Event for People Who Are Homeless	\$5,000	\$5,000
WISH Drop-In Centre Society	WISH Peer Security Project	\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$133,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

Consideration for Grant from Additional Funds

AGENCY	PROJECT NAME	REQUEST	RECOMMEND
Britannia Community Services Centre Society	Girls Club/Boys Club	\$15,000	\$15,000
Environmental Youth Alliance	Vancouver Community Agriculture Network	\$25,000	\$25,000
Gallery Gachet	Out of the Rain Street Artist Initiative	\$18,000	\$18,000
Kids Up Front Foundation	Positive Ticketing Project (Inner City Youth)	\$20,000	\$20,000
Prostitution, Alternatives, Counselling & Education Society (PACE)	BELLE (Beautiful, Experiential, Life Links to Empowerment)	\$10,000	\$10,000
Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre	Circle of Belonging	\$18,500	\$18,500
YWCA	Violence Outreach Summer Project	\$15,835	\$15,835
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$122,335</b>	<b>\$122,335</b>

Summary of 2008 SRF Grant Applicants

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Request	Recommend
<b>Recommendations for \$125,000</b>				
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver	Kickstart	To reduce the involvement of 15-20 high risk youth in criminal activity by providing social, recreational and educational programs during evening hours in Mt Pleasant and engage youth in the design of activities. Expected outcomes include improved self esteem, peer relationships, understanding of substance misuse.	\$15,000	\$10,000
Collingwood Neighbourhood House	Living in Community - Phase II - From Planning to Implementation	Development of implementation plans for key Living in Community recommendations and development of action plans (27 recommendations in total). Living in Community is a partnership of community groups, business, residents, and sex workers to develop strategies to make communities healthier and safer.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Helping Spirit Lodge Society	Homeless Street Soccer - Vancouver Dream Catchers	Creation of a street soccer team for 30 homeless people that includes counselling and other supports. Expected outcomes include increased individual capacity and economic self-reliance of participants, and a team trip to Calgary for the Canadian Finals in August 2008, with one or more Vancouver players being chosen for team Canada to attend the Homeless World Cup event in Melbourne.	\$20,000	\$20,000



Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Request	Recommend
ISV Information Services Vancouver	Shelter and Street Help Line	Assist homeless and street involved by creating database and answering a 24/7 helpline with information about availability of beds, food, addictions treatment, etc. Poster and wallet cards will be produced and distributed to police, security guards, and street workers. The program will transition to 211, the new national abbreviated dialing code for access to health and human services information and referral.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	Leveling the playing field for immigrant families in Mount Pleasant	Phase two of participatory action research for low income Spanish and Vietnamese families. Outcomes include community participation skills, increased cross cultural exchange, sense of safety and security, increased volunteerism to support engagement in civic processes, including the Mount Pleasant planning process.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Vancouver Native Health Society	Red Fox Active Adventures	To increase the activity levels of and connect 4,000 inner-city children, youth and parents to community recreation programs, including community kitchens and leadership training. Outcomes include increasing community cohesion and safety, increasing the skills and access to resources of participants, and increased confidence.	\$20,000	\$17,000

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Request	Recommend
Watari Research Association (Grandview Woodlands)	Under One Umbrella 2008: A Community Event for People Who Are Homeless	Community event during Homelessness Action Week. Outcomes include increased access to service and supports and reduced stigma and increased connection to the broader community. Collaborative effort involving 40 non profit and business organizations.	\$5,000	\$5,000
WISH Drop-In Centre Society	WISH Peer Security Project	Security Project to ensure safety of women in new building and minimize impact of the building for neighbouring residents that involves a peer model of security training and employment of women who use WISH. Outcomes include increased safety for the building, vulnerable women who are trained and meaningfully employed in providing security for the site, and better relationships with the neighbouring community.	\$25,000	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$133,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

Recommended If Additional Funds were Available from SRF				
Britannia Community Services Centre Society	Girls Club/Boys Club	Out-of-school program for vulnerable pre-teens in Downtown Eastside, Strathcona, and Grandview-Woodland. The project involves a summer component and a Out of School program (i.e. Active Adventure Passport, MoreSports activities, etc.).	\$15,000	\$15,000

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Request	Recommend
EYA Environmental Youth Alliance Society	Vancouver Community Agriculture Network	Continuation of community garden development in Downtown Eastside, Strathcona, Mount Pleasant and Trout Lake area. Initiative also supported by VCH and other partners.	\$25,000	\$25,000
Gallery Gachet	Out of the Rain Street Artist Initiative	Intensive support for homeless street artists in the DTES area, providing them with materials, nourishment, counselling and studio space. For 2008, the plan is to involve eight artists.	\$18,000	\$18,000
Kids Up Front Foundation (Vancouver)	Positive Ticketing Project (Inner City Youth)	Rewards youth with event tickets. Partnership with 56 child-serving non-profit agencies and VPD to distribute tickets to reinforce social responsibility in youth by rewarding good citizen deeds.	\$20,000	\$20,000
Prostitution, Alternatives, Counselling & Education Society (PACE)	BELLE (Beautiful, Experiential, Life Links to Empowerment)	Asset Mapping project for 40 vulnerable women, with the development of individual goals, including the provision of supports. Outcomes include completed Asset Maps, progress towards the individual's goals, a reduction in their isolation within the community, active participation by participants in promoting social change in the DTES, and completion of partnerships with other service providers.	\$10,000	\$10,000
Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre	Circle of Belonging	Using Medicine Wheel model to empower participants. Provide monthly workshops on issues such as personal and community safety, food growing, and Aboriginal culture. Project also involves participation in Aboriginal ceremonies, community kitchens, and connection to UBC community garden.	\$18,500	\$18,500

Agency	Project Name	Project Description	Request	Recommend
YWCA	Violence Outreach Summer Project	Raising awareness on issues of abuse in DTES and encourage families to access support services at Crabtree Corner. Outcomes include provision of service to new families through increased awareness, establishing a network of support among professionals who deal with abuse, establishing a selection of library resources related to abuse, and enhancing women's safety and security.	\$15,835	\$15,835
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$122,335</b>	<b>\$122,335</b>

Recommended for funding from Local Awareness allocation of SRF				
SUCCESS	Chinese website on problem gambling	Website as a tool on prevention and education issues related to problem gambling. Content and design will be discussed with focus groups of youth, adult males, and seniors.	\$17,500	\$17,500

Not Recommended for SRF Funding				
Agency	Project Name		Request	Recommend
Aboriginal Front Door Society	Bridging the Gap		\$125,000	\$0
Asian Society for the Intervention of AIDS (ASIA)	Engaging multicultural volunteers in outreach and education		\$16,809	\$0
Association of Neighbourhood House of Greater Vancouver (ANHGV)	Father's Best		\$11,248	\$0
Community Based Research Centre Society	Totally Outright		\$15,215	\$0

Agency	Project Name	Request	Recommend
Community Health Initiatives by University Students (CHIUS)	Vancouver Native Health Youth Initiative (VNHYI)	\$11,000	\$0
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre	Community Safety and Security Liaison	\$25,000	\$0
From Grief to Action Association of Family and Friends of Drug Users	Community Distribution of Coping Kit	\$5,000	\$0
Leave Out Violence, British Columbia (LOVE)	The Vietnamese Diaspora Project (with Broadway Youth Resource Centre)	\$11,000	\$0
Strathcona Community Centre Association	Princess Avenue Interpretive Week	\$40,000	\$0
Urban Crawl Performance Society	Homekeepers: a documentary play	\$20,000	\$0
Watari Research Association	Hard Target Bridging Project	\$45,000	\$0
Watari Research Association	Youth Theatre Action Group Project	\$15,000	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$340,272</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>TOTAL FOR ALL APPLICANTS</b>		<b>\$613,107</b>	
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