

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: May 31, 2011
Contact: Mary Clare Zak
Contact No.: 604.871.6643
RTS No.: RTS 09197
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: June 14, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Deputy General Manager, Community Services Group in consultation with the Deputy City Manager.

SUBJECT: Community Urban Agriculture Fund and Neighbourhood Food Security Grant Allocations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the Community Urban Agriculture and Neighbourhood Food Security Grants for 2011 totalling \$110,000, source of funds to be \$60,000 from the Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund and \$50,000 from the Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The allocation of funds will contribute to advancing the City's greenest city, food policy and urban health goals through these community-led initiatives and capacity. The City Manager recommends approval.

COUNCIL POLICY

On April 23, 2002, Council adopted definitions and principles for environmental, economic and social sustainability to guide City actions and operations.

On July 8, 2003, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver;

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 Social Responsibility Fund.

On February 15, 2007, Council adopted the Vancouver Food Charter.

On May 4, 2010, Council adopted the long-term environmental goals recommended by the Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) in their report, *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future*.

On May 11, 2010, the City of Vancouver accepted a one-time donation from Canon Canada to establish the Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund.

On January 20, 2011 Council adopted Greenest City 2020 targets as amended from the Greenest City Action Team's report *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future*.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

SUMMARY

Council approval is being sought for \$110,000 in grant allocations for 16 projects to facilitate the City's urban health and food policy goals, and the GCAT goal of becoming a world leader in urban food systems and helping to reach our target of increasing Vancouver's food assets by 50% by the year 2020. Food assets include community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture, farmers markets, community composting, and Neighbourhood Food Networks, among others. The tracking table below indicates the number of food assets the Grants will contribute to in reaching the 2020 Local Food goal.

Greenest City Selected Neighbourhood and City-wide Food Infrastructure Assets	November 2010	2011 New Projects*	2011 Sustained Projects*	2020 Goal
Community Kitchens	69		2	100
Farmers Markets	4			22
Community Produce Stands	3		2	15
Community Food Composting facilities	0		1	5
Garden Plots	3,260	110		5,000
Community Orchards	3	1		10
Urban Farms	1			5
Food Hub	0			1
TOTAL	3,340	111	5	5,158

*Source of funds to be Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund / Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The projects described in this report have been identified as priorities for meeting criteria established under either the Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture or Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund.

Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund - 11 projects totalling \$60,000

The purpose of the Community Urban Agriculture Fund is to build capacity and education for individuals involved in urban agriculture activities; provide increased access to fresh and/or local produce to vulnerable populations and others; and develop and build urban agriculture infrastructure.

Out of the 54 Greenest City Neighbourhood Grants applications received (RTS 09192), 29 were Local Food related applications. Of these, only seven projects are recommended for funding given limited funds available. Applications that were highly ranked were re-evaluated with Community Urban Agriculture criteria and priorities. Eight of these projects met the criteria. Three additional projects are being recommended to further the City's local food goals;

including the Copley Commons Community Garden that will serve as a model of community education on food systems, an urban farming forum that will identify how the city can best facilitate urban farming, and Marpole Community Garden that will integrate immigrant and First Nations food systems.

Each of the 11 projects meets fund priorities that include:

- Ability to create partnerships;
- Enhancing capacity/learning opportunities among a range of stakeholders;
- Ability to leverage additional funds from other sources, and;
- Innovation in urban agriculture infrastructure and practices.

Staff recommend allocation of the \$60,000 fund as follows:

Applicant	Project Name	Description	Recommended Allocation
Jewish Family Services Agency	Permeating Culture: Urban Agriculture Diversified	Education on local and urban food systems at youth summer camps.	\$5,000
Other Sights for Artists Projects Association	GROW: Southeast False Creek Urban Agriculture Laboratory	Series of walks, workshops, lectures, and creative experiments in urban agriculture.	\$4,000
Growing Chefs! Chefs for Children's Urban Agriculture	Growing Chefs! Classroom Gardening Program	Education on healthy eating, cooking, local and urban agriculture, land and food systems issues.	\$4,000
VanDusen Botanical Garden Association	SMART, Green and Growing	Gardening and botanical education in growing food at home, in schools, and community gardens.	\$4,000
Urban Diggers Society	Mount Pleasant Park Community Garden	Supplies and materials to construct a 40-plot community garden.	\$4,000
Tupper Integrated Neighbourhood Greenway Association	Tupper Greenway	A small orchard and to expand the number of garden beds.	\$3,000
Pine Street Community Garden Society	Pine Street Community Garden Neighbourhood Growing and Gathering Place	Structure that can be a gathering place, provide educational space and house supplies.	\$3,000
Kerrisdale Community Centre Society	Kerrisdale Community Garden	Supplies and materials to build a garden shed.	\$3,000
Sub Total			\$30,000
Environmental Youth Alliance	Copley Commons Community Garden	Training / capacity building on health and nutrition aspect of urban agriculture.	\$15,000
Vancouver Urban Farming Network	Urban Farming Forum	Facilitate best practices about urban farming.	\$10,000
Marpole Museum and Heritage Society	Marpole Community Garden	Dialogue between immigrant, First Nations, and local neighbourhood on heritage and food systems.	\$5,000
Subtotal			\$30,000
TOTAL			\$60,000

2. Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund - 5 projects totalling \$50,000

The goals of the social responsibility fund are to:

- Build the capacity of targeted and vulnerable populations throughout the city to address and respond to priority issues;
- Enhance a sense of safety and security among residents;
- Create local solutions to local problems in neighbourhoods in proximity to the Edgewater casino.

Neighbourhood Food Networks involve community organizations and residents working together to achieve food system goals, building community capacity, food security, and food 'hubs' within geographic areas of the City. The networks are recognized by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, other government and non-governmental entities as having the expertise and capacity to help identify and address food security issues in Vancouver.

There are five Networks currently operating in Vancouver, partially funded by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. The requested funding will leverage additional initiatives to enable the Networks to build momentum and capacity of neighbourhood food systems.

Staff recommend allocation of \$50,000 as follows: \$10,000 to each of five Neighbourhood Food Networks.

Neighbourhood Food Network	Description	Recommended Allocation
Downtown Eastside Right to Food Network (Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood House)	To create a robust, sustainable and interconnected DTES food system, from seed to compost. The projects are part of 7 total solutions identified in the project by community members.	\$10,000
Grandview Woodlands Food Connection (Britannia Community Centre Association)	To continue the urban food gardening program at Britannia Secondary to further develop food gardens, composting, fruit trees, beekeeping, greenhouse and other garden components.	\$10,000
Renfrew Collingwood Food Security Institute (Collingwood Neighbourhood House)	To increase access to educational workshops, community kitchens, and urban agriculture education among culturally diverse and low income populations in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood.	\$10,000
Trout Lake Cedar Cottage Food Security Network (Farm Folk/City Folk Society)	To bring healthy and affordable food directly to the neighbourhood through a community produce stand, and increase knowledge of healthy eating habits and distribution of healthy recipes/resources.	\$10,000
Westside Food Security Collaborative (Kitsilano Neighbourhood House)	To continue to develop a community produce stand by increasing capacity to support local growers and support the local food economy. Also to provide workshops and training to community members about food security issues on the Westside.	\$10,000
TOTAL		\$50,000

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund**

On May 11, 2010, the City of Vancouver accepted a one-time donation of \$60,000 from Canon Canada to be directed towards achieving the City's urban agriculture goals. The \$60,000 donation was placed in a reserve to be administered by the City of Vancouver. Financial terms and conditions of use were determined solely and in good faith by the City of Vancouver. Council is requested to approve grant funding of \$60,000 from the Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund, leaving a balance of \$0.

Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund

The five identified Neighbourhood Food Networks to be funded through the SRF total \$50,000. As of May 2, 2011, the balance of the Edgewater SRF is \$642,665. Upon the recommended allocation in this report, there will be \$592,665 remaining in the Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund.

	Amount
Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund	\$642,665
Less Recommended Amounts	<u>\$50,000</u>
Remaining Social Responsibility Fund	\$592,665

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The two recommended funding streams will catalyze community action around the City's environmental and food system goals, support urban greening, reducing edible food waste, and creating and sustaining local food production, distribution and access programs.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Through the implementation of projects approved under the proposed allocations, Vancouver's communities will enhance their capacity to maintain and build resources and social networks to address current and future food security issues. The recommended projects also support the City's Urban Health initiative, a partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health which includes strengthening food security and food systems in Vancouver particularly among vulnerable populations.

CONCLUSION

The approval to expend \$60,000 from the Canon Canada Community Urban Agriculture Fund and \$50,000 from the Edgewater Social Responsibility Fund will contribute to advancing the City's greenest city, food policy, and urban health goals through community-led initiatives and capacity.

* * * * *