



# A5

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: June 8, 2011  
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Meeting Date: June 14, 2011

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Director of Planning  
SUBJECT: Downtown Eastside Capital Budget Funding Allocation: Green and Creative Community Projects

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

THAT Council approve an allocation of grants totalling \$194,160 that will leverage an additional \$363,915 to support seven community and social economic development initiatives in the Downtown Eastside:

1. \$30,000 - Commercial Recycling Pilot (grant to Strathcona Business Improvement Association);
2. \$25,000 - Hastings Urban Tree Nursery (grant to Strathcona Business Improvement Association), subject to gaining the necessary approvals by Engineering and Park Board;
3. \$3,600 - Farm to Kitchen Project (grant to Save Our Living Environment);
4. \$20,000 - Rooftop Greenhouse Feasibility Study (grant to Save Our Living Environment);
5. \$60,560 - Kitchen Tables Project (grant to Potluck Café Society);
6. \$40,000 - Strathcona Community Centre Food Security Program Enhancements (grant to Strathcona Community Centre Association); and
7. \$15,000 - Firehall Courtyard Renovations (grant to Firehall Theatre Society).

Source of funds is the 2008 Capital Budget for Downtown Eastside Revitalization (Community and Social Economic Development Projects).

### ***GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

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

### ***CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

### ***COUNCIL POLICY***

In July 28, 1998, Council confirmed a set of principles to guide a program of strategic actions in the Downtown Eastside, Chinatown, Gastown and Strathcona, which includes encouraging legitimate commercial activities, improving conditions at the street level, improving existing SROs, reducing crime, and helping community people find allies and seek a common future.

In 2004, Council adopted the Vancouver Agreement Economic Revitalization Plan to guide the City's economic revitalization activities in the Downtown Eastside.

In 2008, Council adopted a new 2008 - 2018 Culture Plan which outlines five strategic themes: innovation; learning; connecting people, ideas and communities; neighbourhoods; and valued and valuable.

On May 5, 2009, Council received a 'Quick Start' report from GCAT with immediate actions the City can take to become the greenest city in the world by 2020. The recommendations included establishing a green grants program.

On May 4, 2010, Council adopted the long-term environmental goals recommended by the Greenest City Action Team (GCAT) in *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future*. Council also directed staff to develop a "Greenest City 2020 Implementation Plan," which includes a grant program.

On January 20, 2011 Council adopted the Greenest City 2020 targets amended from the Greenest City Action Team's report *Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future* that include green economy and green jobs; green communities; and human health, emphasizing clean water, clean air, and local food.

Grants require 8 affirmative votes of Council.

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to allocate grants totalling \$194,160 from the 2008 Downtown Eastside Revitalization Capital Budget for seven community-based social and economic development initiatives that support Council priorities, our DTES Revitalization Program objectives, as well as assisting existing community-based organizations to better serve the community. Approval of these funds will leverage an additional \$363,915 from other sources including community and business contributions to help realize these projects.

### ***BACKGROUND***

#### **DTES Capital Plan**

DTES Capital Plan funds have been used to support a variety of social and economic revitalization and community building objectives in the neighbourhood. Capital funding has been used to further Council priorities, as well as meeting our long-term planning objectives in the area. This program is interdepartmental and intergovernmental in nature, with other levels of government investing in the neighbourhood through strategic funding programs including the Vancouver Agreement and Great Beginnings. Development and delivery of

projects have involved partnerships with community organizations and/or collaboration with various City departments.

### **Principles**

Three principles serve to guide investments made in the neighbourhood - funding has been strategically focused to:

- facilitate community-based and City-led projects that meet Council priorities;
- leverage funding from other sources and bridge funding gaps; and
- support strategic revitalization opportunities.

### **Implementation Approach**

Capital funds are administered by the Planning department (Central Area Division) and funding allocation reports are typically taken to Council twice per year, with specific program or project requests. Project proposals are developed in partnership with community organizations and/or other City departments as opportunities arise. Individual projects are evaluated against a strategic framework of Council approved priorities and objectives for the neighbourhood (see Appendix A) and are reported to Council for approval. Once Council approves an allocation, the project details (specific deliverables, timeframe, payment schedule, holdbacks, reporting requirements etc) are finalized by staff and the community partner in a Terms of Reference or Memorandum of Understanding. For interdepartmental projects, implementation is usually dependant upon the partner department's scheduling considerations (e.g., Engineering crew availability).

### **DTES Capital Budget Allocation**

The source of funds for the projects recommended in this report is the 2008 Capital Budget for Downtown Eastside Revitalization (Community and Social Economic Development Projects). The 2008 DTES Capital Budget's strategic priorities focus on community and social economic development, physical/public realm improvements and community capacity building initiatives. More specifically, the 2008 DTES Capital Budget allocations include funding envelopes for the following programs/initiatives:

1. Hastings Street Renaissance Program
2. Chinatown Society Buildings Planning Grant Program (Phase 1)
3. Community and Social Economic Development Projects
4. Chinatown Public Realm Improvements
5. Gastown Public Realm Improvements
6. Strathcona/Oppenheimer Revitalization

The projects proposed in this report focus on Community and Social Economic Development (3) and will create (green) jobs (see Table I), meet existing community needs, strengthen community partnerships, as well as leverage additional funding.

Appendix A provides an overview of key priorities achieved, as well as funding and partnerships leveraged. Staff are confident the projects will be implemented over the next year.

### **Greenest City 2020:**

The outcomes of the projects proposed in this report would also help fulfill Council's priorities of creating a thriving creative and green economy. Launched in 2009, the Greenest City Action Team was tasked with charting Vancouver's path to becoming the greenest city in the world by 2020. GCAT began with the identification of 44 short-term actions, as well as necessary goals and actions over the next ten years. The long term goals focus on the green economy, greener communities, and human health. In February, 2010, Council directed staff to proceed with the development of a *Greenest City 2020 Implementation Plan* to meet the proposed targets. There is momentum building towards establishing the City as a global leader in climate protection, responsible resource management, and sustainable building and transportation systems.

The DTES is home to an emerging local green economy that can help achieve GCAT goals and targets - especially in the realm of low-barrier green job creation - as well as support revitalization efforts in the area.

### ***DISCUSSION***

Staff are recommending an allocation of Capital Budget funds to support seven community-based, sustainability initiatives, as well as improving outdoor performance space of an important arts and cultural facility in the neighbourhood. Staff are confident the recommended projects can be implemented quickly and funding approval will supplement existing commitments by business and other community partners. If approved, the funding will create a number of important outcomes including:

- employment opportunities for DTES residents in green industries;
- a reduction in the amount of waste produced in the DTES;
- improved food security for seniors and children in the neighbourhood;
- increased access to outdoor arts and cultural performances, as well as opportunities for local artists; and
- green social enterprise development.

The table below provides a summary of projects being recommended for funding. For additional project details, please see Appendix B.

**TABLE I**

Project Name	Organization	Project Description	Recommended Allocation	External Funding (secured/pending)	Total Project Cost	# of Green Jobs created (FTEs)
1. Commercial Recycling Pilot	Strathcona BIA	One year commercial recycling/composting pilot project to reduce materials going to landfill.	\$30,000	\$34,500	\$64,500	6
2. Hastings Tree Nursery	Strathcona BIA	Planters along Hastings, grow trees that are auctioned off. Public realm, greening, green jobs.	\$25,000	\$9,500	\$34,500	5
3. Farm to Kitchen Project	Save Our Living Environment	DTES NH and SOLEfood to build and bridge collective growing and cooking between different cultural groups in the community.	\$3,600	\$700	\$4,300	1
4. Rooftop Greenhouse Feasibility Study	Save Our Living Environment	Feasibility study for rooftop green house on Save On Meats	\$20,000	\$9,000	\$29,000	1
5. Kitchen Tables Project	Potluck Café	DTES Neighbourhood House and Potluck Café - Implement Solution 3 (collective procurement) and 7 (greening kitchens)	\$60,560	\$175,865	\$236,425	20
6. Strathcona CC Food Security Program enhancements	Strathcona Community Centre Association	Capital upgrades to kitchen and creation of edible garden.	\$40,000	\$125,000	\$165,000	N/A
7. Firehall Courtyard renovations	Firehall Theatre Society	Renovations to courtyard to provide opportunity for outdoor performances (accessible to local residents/showcase local artists)	\$15,000	\$9,350	\$24,350	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$194,160</b>	<b>\$363,915</b>	<b>\$558,075</b>	<b>33</b>

***FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS***

Funding of \$194,160 is requested from the 2008 DTES Capital Budget for Community and Social Economic Development to support seven community-based projects to meet the City's overall community revitalization goals. Funding of \$627,665 is currently available in this budget, before the allocation requested in this report. If approved, the City's funds will leverage \$363,915 in investments from private businesses, foundations and other community partners.

Disbursements of grants are contingent on specified terms and conditions being met by the recipients prior to the distribution of funds. The Terms and conditions for each grant will be specified in a detailed Terms of Reference with the recipients.

***CONCLUSION***

This report recommends Council approve \$194,160 for seven projects from the 2008 Capital Budget for DTES Social and Economic Development. The contribution from the DTES Capital Budget will leverage an additional \$363,915. This funding will create a number of important outcomes including employment opportunities for DTES residents; waste reduction; improved food security for seniors and children; increased access to outdoor arts and cultural performances, as well as opportunities for local artists; and finally, green social enterprise development. The proposed projects support Council priorities, DTES revitalization objectives and community needs.

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## 1. Commercial Recycling Pilot Project (Grant to SBIA)

In 2009, the Strathcona Business Improvement Association (SBIA) created a seven-year strategic plan with a goal of becoming widely recognized as Vancouver's Green Zone, a community that celebrates green business, the arts and diversity. In partnership with the City of Vancouver and others, the SBIA created a materials exchange network (known as the Resource Exchange) in 2010. The purpose of the network was to connect business, artist and residents in Strathcona and divert as much commercial waste as possible from the landfill. The connections were made through the SBIA's website, networking events, workshops and a Sustainability Coordinator and a variety of exchanges took place. Within six months, more than two tonnes of material had been diverted from the landfill.

The SBIA also partnered with one of its member organizations, Mission Possible, to create low-threshold employment opportunities. The SBIA hired Mission Possible to send couriers (using a foot-powered gardening cart) to pick up and transport exchanged materials for network members.

In the course of the project, the SBIA also began conducting waste audits of its members' facilities. This has given the SBIA insight into the types of materials that members are discarding and the status of their current waste management programs. While most SBIA members are working hard to reduce their waste, relatively few have formal recycling contracts in place and even fewer have composting programs.

In March 2011, Metro Vancouver approached the SBIA to request its participation as the first business association to take part in the "Zero Waste Challenge" (similar challenges have been done with residents in three Metro neighbourhoods). The challenge will include a baseline analysis of the amount and content of waste produced by a select number of business member participants, as well as identifying opportunities for businesses to reduce their waste through reduction, reuse and recycling. The successful solutions developed through the Challenge, as well as the lessons learned through the Exchange Network, will be carried over to the Recycling/Composting Pilot project being recommended in this report.

The pilot will build on lessons learned and bring more businesses on board, as well as make adjustments to the collection points and waste reductions strategies as required. The overall objective of the pilot is to profile the current waste stream in Strathcona and identifying alternatives methods for commonly disposed materials, as well as educating members to take advantage of these opportunities to both reduce their environmental footprint, as well as save on business costs.

The SBIA will also continue its partnership with Mission Possible to collect from other businesses, and other DTES organizations including Gastown BIA, Hastings Crossing BIA and the Kitchen Tables project to further divert waste from the landfill. This project has a number of important outcomes including the creation of six green jobs, including one project coordinator and five labourers (green economy targets), the establishment of neighbourhood-scale recycling systems (moving towards zero waste targets), as well as small business development in the DTES.

Total Project Cost: \$64,500  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$30,000  
Strathcona Business Improvement Association: \$20,000  
Metro Vancouver (TBC): \$14,500  
Number of green jobs created through this project: 6

## 2. Hastings Corridor Urban Tree Nursery (Grant to Strathcona Business Improvement Association)

This innovative project has been developed in partnership with a number of community organizations, as well as UBC's Department of Forestry. The project would see the establishment of approximately 12 tree planters on a six block stretch along Hastings Street between Carrall Street and Princess Avenue. Staff have had initial discussions with Parks Board, as well as Engineering regarding the location of the planters and will continue to work with these departments to ensure they meet all necessary requirements.

The project has four primary objectives. First, it would create meaningful ongoing, green jobs for DTES residents. Working with Mission Possible, and other local organizations such as Potluck Catering and SOLEFood Farms, six to eight DTES residents would be hired to install and maintain the planters, resulting in four full-time equivalent low barrier jobs, plus an additional project coordinator position. The trees would be grown in the urban nursery for one or two years and then auctioned and transplanted to other areas and replaced by another, younger crop of trees. It is anticipated that revenue generated by auctioning off the trees will provide ongoing funds for the program, ideally leading it to be a self-sustaining program.

Another primary objective is to support on-going community collaboration and partnerships. The Strathcona BIA, Hastings Crossing BIA and others will work collaboratively to implement the project. This collaboration is innovative in that it is the first to unite businesses on the east and west sides of Gore on a project.

The project will also improve the public realm by beautifying the busy Hastings Corridor. It also supports the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) by converting underutilized spaces into incubators for native trees and plants, thereby softening the streetscape and reducing areas that can potentially encourage crime. Finally, the project will directly support Vancouver's Greenest City goal of planting 150,000 trees by 2020.

Total Project Cost: \$34,500  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$25,000  
Strathcona Business Improvement Association: \$2,500  
In-Kind (material, UBC alumni volunteer hours): \$7,000  
Number of green jobs created through this project: 5

### 3. Farm to Community Kitchen Project (Grant to SOLE)

Save Our Living Environment (SOLE) is social enterprise that creates community, income and job opportunities for DTES residents. Successful projects include the United We Can Recycling Depot, Bikeworks (a community bike shop), the Lane Cleaning Project (contracted by the City of Vancouver to do micro-cleaning in the DTES), Bintek (a community computer shop) and the Urban Binning Unit Project. SOLEfood Farm is the most recent initiative and has transformed an underused parking lot at the Astoria Hotel into an urban farm. The SOLEfood farm provides urban agriculture education and employment opportunities for Vancouver's inner-city residents, who are trained and employed to construct, plant, maintain, and harvest the farm. The organically grown food is sold to neighbourhood restaurants and community organizations with similar aims of improving neighbourhood food security, including Potluck Café and the DTES Neighbourhood House.

Since the creation of SOLEfood Farm, community members from culturally diverse backgrounds have expressed interest in growing culturally diverse foods. For example, the DTES Neighbourhood House's Chinese Elders Community Kitchen Program continues to grow and members have expressed interest in teaching culinary methods and sharing traditional recipes of their own cultural heritage. The Farm to Community Kitchen project is a partnership between SOLEfood and the DTES Neighbourhood House to help build and bridge collective growing and cooking between different cultural groups in the community.

Last year, SOLEfood Farm partnered with the DTES Neighbourhood House to foster the education and awareness of food security issues and urban agriculture, introducing programming that brought visitors of the Neighbourhood House to the farm. By building on this partnership, the Farm to Community Kitchen Program will strengthen the education and awareness efforts of both organizations. SOLEfood Farm will provide a growing space where participants can grow food that will be used in the community kitchen. Urban farmers and many other visitors to the farm will learn about the different foods being grown by people in the community. The DTES Neighbourhood House will provide the cooking and gathering space where participants can teach and learn from the different cooking techniques and share recipes from their cultural heritage. Through broad outreach, the project will have a significant impact of health and nutritional outcomes of participants. Coordination of the project will result in one full-time equivalent green job shared between the two partner organisations.

**Total Project Cost: \$4,350**  
**City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$3,650**  
**In-Kind (DTES Neighbourhood House - kitchen space, volunteers): \$500**  
**In-Kind (SOLEfood Farm - 2 planter boxes, farm space, use of tools): \$200**  
**Number of green jobs created through this project: 1**

### 4. SOLEfood Greenhouse Phase 1 (Grant to SOLE)

Save On Meats will soon be re-opened as a local food hub encompassing a new restaurant, butcher shop, food business incubator, and cold storage for SoleFood Farms. Marc Brand group of restaurants and its proprietors have been collaborating with several inner-city non-profits and social enterprises to ensure the Save On Meats will have a positive impact on the

DTES and its residents. Here are a few projects and partners incorporated into the larger Save on Meats project:

- Solefood Urban farms supplying produce and using cold storage in the basement;
- Portland Hotel Society Employment Program supplying staff for the restaurant at street-level;
- Potluck café and DTES Neighbourhood House are exploring options to establish a food business incubator and production space on the second floor;
- Hastings Crossing Business Improvement Area (HXBIA), Mark Brand is a co-founding board member and sharing office space on the third floor;
- Shared production facilities, including biofuel production to power the greenhouse on the rooftop;
- United We Can - Employed by various restaurants to do bottle collection;
- Tradeworks - enlisted to produce materials through their programs; and
- Recycling Alternative - have formulated a 24 month plan to use Save On Meats as a hub for all of Marc Brand's businesses bio-degradables. The goal is to attain 95% across the board.

Staff are recommending funding to conduct a feasibility study on the construction of a greenhouse on the rooftop of the building at 43 W Hastings. This seed funding would allow SOLEfood Farms to hire professional services that will solidify the concept, perform the necessary due diligence, attract sufficient capital investment and rollout construction of the farm. This rooftop farm would address food security, provide employment and model environmentally sound urban farming practises. The produce from that greenhouse would be sold directly to local DTES restaurants, including Boneta, the Diamond, Sea Monster Sushi, Save On Meats and others. The greenhouse, which would include a rainwater irrigation system, would also be powered by a bio-diesel generator already onsite, as well as recycle all emissions from the kitchens and refrigeration. The oil for the generator would be derived from the cooking oil used in those same restaurants. Project coordination for this feasibility study will help to support one green job at Save-On Meats.

Should the construction of a rooftop greenhouse be feasible, a number of important objectives would be met - creation of an additional six green jobs for low threshold employees of SOLEFood (green economy targets), as well as support for DTES small business development.

Total Project Cost: \$29,000  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$20,000  
In-Kind (Mark Brand Inc.): \$2,000  
In-Kind (Corporate partners): \$5,000  
In-Kind (Non-profit partners): \$2,000  
Number of green jobs created through this project: 1

##### 5. DTES Kitchen Tables Project (Grant to Potluck Café)

Many living in the DTES are nutritionally vulnerable, malnourished and many live with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Diabetes and addictions. The DTES Kitchen Tables Project is reforming the quality, nutritional impact, abundance and delivery of food in the DTES using a multiple stakeholder approach in consultation with residents, food provider organizations, non food community organizations, healthcare workers, policy makers, farmers, growers, suppliers, food and beverage industry professionals and researchers. Created in 2009, the

Project is currently in Phase 3 and ready to take action to implement 7 innovative and sustainable Food Solutions from seed, supply chain through to compost, increasing access to fresh, nutritious food for both DTES residents and organizations from local growers, including urban farmers. Phase 1 Community Led Research and Phase 2 Planning are now complete and have greatly informed this action phase.

The Project co-founders Potluck Café Society and DTES Neighbourhood House have each accomplished paradigm shaping work in social enterprise, job creation for people with barriers to employment, community nutrition programming, and food policy. The collaborative, multiple stakeholder strategy and approach of this Project and the unique food solutions it has designed are already being shared with other Canadian communities.

Surveyed throughout Phase 1 and consulted on an ongoing basis, these stakeholder groups identified 7 Food Solution priorities which cover the food system including:

1. No. 1 Nutritional & Food Quality Standards (...think fresh protein, fruits & vegetables)
2. No. 2 Recipes & Menu Development (...think creative, tasty and nutritious meals)
3. No. 3 Effective Food Procurement (...think collective buying from local BC and urban farmers)
4. No. 4 Food Preparation & Processing (...think creating diverse food related 'jobs' in the preparation of food)
5. No. 5 Effective Food Distribution (...think no long lineups and many neighbourhood distribution points)
6. No. 6 Engaging Food Industry Professional Support (...think partnering with creative Chefs with proven kitchen processes)
7. No. 7 Greening DTES Kitchens (...think food composting & recycling through existing DTES social enterprises)

The DTES Kitchen Tables Project:

- Considers the food solution continuum in the DTES from seed to compost.
- Develops food solutions which are sustainable in terms of health benefits, employment and its impact on community economic development and the environment.
- Develops solutions which maximize efficiencies in terms of time and resources, both for organizations which provide food and DTES residents who access food.
- Develops solutions which reduce duplication and redundancy.
- Develops innovative and efficient food distribution methods.
- Develops food solutions which also build community capacity - education, skills, knowledge, jobs and income security.
- Creates quality food standards and guidelines for the DTES neighbourhood.
- Develops solutions which support the local economy - DTES and rural BC, urban and rural growers.
- Implements food solution best practices in the DTES which are transferable, scalable and can be shared with other neighbourhoods and communities anywhere.

Staff are recommending funding to "green" DTES kitchen activities, as well as implement a local collective, food procurement strategy. More specifically, implementing Solution No. 3, Food Procurement, and No. 7, Greening DTES Kitchens will support:

- A Collective Food Procurement Strategy- to carry out group purchases and distribution to a collective DTES procurement group (including up to 12 large and small-scale food providers in the DTES) from local BC rural and urban farmers; and
- Greening DTES Kitchen Tables project - facilitate the greening of DTES kitchens, including food composting, recycling, and energy efficiency strategies for up to 5 participating DTES charitable kitchens involved with this project, including project coordination with LoCo BC.

These projects will create twenty green jobs for DTES residents, including waste diversion collectors, community outreach workers, food delivery staff, and project coordinators. This initiative also supports the jobs of urban and regional farmers and growers through the purchasing power of the DTES Kitchen Tables collective procurement strategy. The project works toward the creation of food security solutions that can be realistically implemented to increase the availability, accessibility, affordability and choice of quality, nutritious food security solutions for residents of the DTES and specifically to ensure affordable access to multiple nutritious meals each day for the most vulnerable of DTES residents.

Total Project Cost: \$236,425  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$60,560  
McConnell Foundation Sustainable Food: \$175,865  
Number of green jobs created through this project: 20

#### 6. Strathcona Community Centre Food Security Program Enhancements (Grant to Strathcona Community Centre)

The Strathcona Community Centre (SCC) is located in one of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods and has been serving the community with recreation and support services for over 35 years. The SCC serves a community with low-average household incomes (\$27,139 compared with \$64,889 in the rest of Vancouver), a large number of vulnerable children (66% have trouble in at least one area of development) and also one of the highest concentration of seniors (make up 24% of the population (average city-wide is 13%).

Currently, SCC provides 17 food related programs serving an average of 250 children daily. The primary goal of all programs is to provide healthy and nutritious food. The SCC has generated both in kind, as well as financial support for their programs. The City (Social Policy Grant program) and Great Beginnings are currently providing funding for the Food Security Program and Coordinator. Programs include a hot lunch breakfast, an after school healthy snack program, back pack program to address transient weekend hunger, "Cooking Fun for the Family" program, "After School Gardens Adventure Club" and "Vic's Kitchen" program that identifies youth at risk and involves them in culinary training that in turn services other activities at the SCC.

Starbucks recently sponsored a community event to kick start their garden landscaping and kitchen renovation project. Staff are recommending funding to complete renovations of the Breakfast room by purchasing new kitchen equipment, as well as to completing landscaping for the edible garden terrace and plots to enhance the Food Security Program. The garden will be constructed by volunteers, and the ongoing coordination of this project will be integrated into Strathcona Community Centre's Food Security Program.

Total Project Cost: \$165,000  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$40,000  
Starbucks: \$35,000  
Strathcona Community Centre Association: \$30,000  
City of Vancouver - Social Policy (already approved): \$25,000  
Great Beginnings (already approved): \$30,000  
In-Kind (volunteer labour): \$5,000  
Number of green jobs created through this project: N/A

7. Firehall Arts Centre Courtyard Renovations (grant to Firehall Theatre Society)

The Firehall Theatre Society/Firehall Arts Centre has an outdoor courtyard and patio area that is very popular with patrons during the summer months and has been used for dance, theatre and music performances in the past. In 2007, vandals entered the courtyard and further damaged the already decaying wooden structure so the Society had to limit use of the area due to safety reasons.

They have begun the process of re-building and in 2009, replaced the top deck, and in 2010 replaced the lower deck. Staff are recommending funding to level the outdoor performance area and put in paving blocks or cover the surface with asphalt to ensure the area is safe for patrons to walk on and for performers to use as a performance area. The exterior fence would also be repaired to deter rodents from entering into the area. The areas of the fence that are wrought iron would be secured by using plexi-glass panels on the Gore Street side to ensure that those walking by can still look into the area.

These repairs will allow the Firehall to hold outdoor performances. A number of community events are already planned for summer and the Firehall provide low-cost tickets to residents, while also supporting local artists through exposure and honorariums. The summer program also includes opportunities for local non-profits to use outdoor space for their events.

Total Project Cost: \$24,350  
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Budget Request: \$15,000  
Dancing on the Edge: \$4,000  
Firehall In Kind: \$3,000  
Box office revenues from two courtyard events: \$1,000  
In Kind (materials and paint): \$1,350  
Number of green jobs created through this project: N/A