



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: November 28, 2013
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Meeting Date: December 18, 2013

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services
SUBJECT: 2014 Street Cleaning Grants

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve 2014 Street Cleaning Grants totalling \$460,000 for supplementary cleaning of sidewalks, lanes and public spaces in Vancouver as follows:

- a. \$320,000 to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can, with funding of \$310,000 from the 2013 Street Cleaning Operating Budget and \$10,000 from the 2014 Street Operations Maintenance Budget;
- b. \$80,000 to Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program, with funding from the 2014 Street Cleaning Operating Budget;
- c. \$35,000 to Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action, with funding from the 2014 Street Cleaning Operating Budget; and
- d. \$25,000 to The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program, with funding from the 2014 Street Cleaning Operating Budget.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report recommends grants to four non-profit organizations totalling \$460,000 for supplementary street cleaning services in 2014. The provision of these services results in job support and life skills training opportunities for youth and adults with employment barriers, assists the recipients with leveraging additional funding, and results in cleaner streets and lanes for communities where there is the greatest need.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On April 23, 2002 Council adopted a definition of Sustainability as a basis for City actions and operations. Among other things, that definition describes sustainability as being achieved

through community participation. Further, on May 24, 2005 Council adopted a definition of Social Sustainability that describes human capacity as the attributes and resources individuals can contribute to their own well-being and to the well-being of the community as a whole. Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Engineering Services recommends approval.

REPORT

Background/Context

To supplement the City's street cleaning services, for the past 15 years Council has approved annual grants to non-profit organizations that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services. Micro-cleaning involves daily collection of litter, on foot using brooms, shovels and wheeled garbage carts; work that is outside the scope of services provided by the City's forces. City micro-cleaning grants also complement other street cleaning services, such as programs coordinated by Business Improvement Associations (BIA's). Due to the variety of community based street cleaning initiatives, staff work with grant recipients throughout the year to ensure cleaning resources are allocated appropriately.

In 2013 the City provided grants totalling \$460,000 and these were from two sources. \$175 k was provided from the annual Street Cleaning Grants Program and \$285k was provided from the Provincially funded City managed Great Beginnings Program.

The Great Beginnings (GB) micro-cleaning program was established in 2008 and is focussed entirely in the Downtown Eastside (DTES). Ongoing funding to support the GB micro-cleaning program is limited, however staff feel that maintaining this service in the future provides broad based benefits to the City as a whole and particularly to the residents of the DTES.

Grants for work performed in 2013 were awarded as follows:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recipient Since	2013 Amount
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	1999	\$115,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	Downtown peninsula	2007	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive area	2009	\$25,000
Street Cleaning Grant - Total			\$175,000
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	2008	\$205,000
Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)	Downtown Eastside	2008	\$80,000
Great Beginning's Grants - Total			\$285,000
Grant Programs - Total			\$460,000

Grant funding provided by the City and Great Beginning's program for 2013 has resulted in the following measures of success:

- 700 City blocks cleaned;
- over 35,000 work hours provided to about 315 people with barriers to traditional employment; and
- over 10,000 bags of litter collected.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets, these grants support employment and life skills training for local community residents, and assist social enterprise organizations with leveraging other funding resulting in expansions of their programs. The grant program provides linkages with the following Council priorities and corporate strategies:

- Low threshold employment supports an inclusive city and helps marginalized individuals to become more self-reliant, contributing to the goal of ending homelessness; and
- Cleaner streets promote a safe and welcoming public realm, shows a commitment to protecting the environment and helps to convey "Greenest City".

Strategic Analysis

For 2014 staff recommend continuing with the same grants provided in 2013 as part of the annual Street Cleaning Grants program and Great Beginning's program:

Organization	Cleaning Area	Recommended 2014 Grant
Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)	Downtown Eastside	\$320,000
Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)	Downtown Eastside	\$80,000
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)	Downtown Peninsula	\$35,000
Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program (The Kettle)	Commercial Drive Area	\$25,000
Grant Programs Total		\$460,000

This will allow United We Can/SOLE and Coast to continue providing street cleaning services in the DTES, an area of the City where street cleaning demand is significant relative to other areas of the City. Both SOLE and Coast have consistently demonstrated they have the necessary resources and capabilities to provide a high standard of workmanship and good value to the City with respect to cleaning in DTES streets and lanes.

Grants recommended to SYJA and The Kettle are based on staff's assessment of:

- specific areas outside the DTES where street cleaning demand is particularly high;
- the additional level of service those areas would benefit from; and
- the experience and capacity demonstrated previously by those organizations to provide the level of service required.

All four organizations have demonstrated their abilities and have committed to use City funding to leverage additional funds.

Consistent with past practice, quarterly summary reports by SOLE, Coast, SYJA and The Kettle will be submitted to and monitored by Engineering Services. Required documentation will include the number of hours worked, people employed, blocks cleaned and the amount of litter collected. These reports assist City staff with measuring the success of the programs and determining priority areas for micro-cleaning services so that work can be adjusted as required. As in 2013, grant funding will be distributed quarterly, following the submission of summary reports.

Appendix A provides background information on each of the three organizations recommended for grant funding for 2014.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

This report recommends a total street cleaning grant in 2014 of \$460,000 consisting of \$320,000 to SOLE, \$80,000 to Coast, \$35,000 to SYJA and \$25,000 to The Kettle. The source of funding for 2014 includes \$450,000 from the 2014 Street Cleaning Operating Budget and \$10,000 from the 2014 Street Operations Maintenance Budget. Additional funding to cover the loss of Great Beginning's funding was requested and approved as part of the 2014 budget process which resulted in an increase to the 2014 Street Cleaning Operating Budget for this specific purpose.

Human Resources/Labour Relations

There are no personnel implications. The service provided under these grants (micro-cleaning) is outside the range of services provided by the City and CUPE 1004 has been supportive of this socially sustainable grant program since its inception in 1999.

CONCLUSION

Street cleaning grants to Save Our Living Environment - United We Can, Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program, Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action and Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program for supplemental street cleaning services will continue to benefit marginalized residents by providing job and life skills training and the City by improving the cleanliness of the public realm.

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Background Information on Recommended Street Cleaning Grant Recipients:

Save Our Living Environment - United We Can (SOLE)

SOLE is a non-profit urban environmental group active in the DTES. The Society sponsors several projects at 39 East Hastings Street, including the United We Can Bottle Depot. A primary objective of the Society is to create self-sustaining enterprises that focus on caring for the urban environment, while also creating income and job training for people of the inner city. The program employs residents from the local community with barriers to traditional employment, giving them valuable job-training, enhanced self-esteem and improved life skills.

SOLE has utilized City grant funding over the past 15 years to provide job training and employment to individuals by performing micro-cleaning of streets and lanes in the DTES. This funding has also allowed SOLE to leverage additional funding through Business Improvement Associations (BIA's) and through special events.

SOLE has approximately 55 stable employees with a range of assorted barriers that clean lanes and sidewalks. As a result of this opportunity, some of the SOLE staff no longer require income assistance. SOLE's total pool of active work participants is sustained at 150 people, many of whom participate in the lane cleaning program. During the past five years SOLE's cleaning activities have increased in frequency and area as a result of the Provincially funded Great Beginnings initiative administered by the City. Great Beginnings funding combined with City grant money is funding social enterprise micro-cleaning covering approximately 119 blocks per week and several parks in the DTES and surrounding areas.

Coast Mental Health Foundation - Employment Services Program (Coast)

Coast Mental Health is an accredited non-profit society that was created in 1972 in response to a growing need in the community for services to assist people recovering from a serious mental illness. Coast operates in the Lower Mainland and provides approximately 4000 people with supportive housing coupled with a drop in resource centre, a clubhouse, homeless outreach, clinical supports, leisure services, vocational skills training and employment programs.

Coast has operated employment services for people with a mental illness for 30 years with funding support from Government of B.C, Coastal Health and City of Vancouver. The employment program provides an opportunity for people with a mental illness, along a continuum of recovery, to build skills and self-esteem through pre-vocational skills training, transitional employment, basic education and placement in competitive employment.

The hub of the low barrier employment services for Coast is located out of the Coast Clubhouse which has over 300 active members. The Clubhouse operates Coast's Breaking Barriers Clean Team, a low barrier street cleaning service. Coast's employment service has long standing partnerships and service contracts with 14 Business Improvement Associations and the City of Vancouver to deliver micro-cleaning in the business districts of Vancouver and in the Downtown Eastside.

In 2012 the Great Beginnings grant allowed Coast's micro-cleaning team to recover 5,169 syringes and 2,200 bags of litter from 152 blocks in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The

clean team employs 30 clients with a mental illness who are residents of the area and take great pride in work they do by contributing to the beautification of their neighborhood. They are the eyes on the street for reporting refuse dumping in back alleys and vacant lots.

Family Services of Greater Vancouver - Street Youth Job Action (SYJA)

SYJA is a social enterprise committed to improving the lives of homeless or at risk youth, age 24 and under. They offer a range of services including prevention, counselling, pre-employment job training and employment opportunities. They take a unique approach with reaching out to youth, such as providing locker facilities and pet kennels in order to allow individuals to utilize their services.

Services provided by SYJA include temporary, casual or part-time employment to approximately 200 homeless or at risk youths per year on a work today, paid today basis. The program has proven to be successful in breaking down the barriers to employment and beginning the process of helping youth to acquire the confidence and skills they will need to become employable and bridge them back into the community. Long term success can be seen in staff members who were once themselves youths in the SYJA program and have now become SYJA peer counsellors.

SYJA has an established community enhancement program (micro-cleaning initiatives, needle sweeps, and graffiti removal) for its youth through partnerships with BIA's, Waste Management of Canada, and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA). With support from these organizations and businesses, they are able to receive matching funds which exceed the amount of funding provided by the City.

The 2013 grant of \$35,000 allowed SYJA to provide approximately 2500 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to about 40 youth per month through their street enhancement program. As a result, some of these youth have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 400 bags of litter being cleaned up from over 150 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the downtown peninsula. The City's street cleaning grant allows SYJA to sustain their current program and extend it to more youth in need.

The Kettle Friendship Society - SEED Employment Program

The Kettle Friendship Society is a Vancouver based organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals living with mental illness. The Kettle achieves this in a number of ways including provision of crisis support, advocacy, supported housing, employment and support services, a health clinic, drop-in lunch program, and recreational activities.

The Kettle runs numerous programs one of which is the SEED Employment Program. SEED (Skills, Esteem & Employment Development) assists individuals with chronic mental health issues to build the vocational skills, confidence and stamina necessary to make the transition from unemployment to satisfying work opportunities. SEED presently provides 35 various work opportunities to their clients with multiple barriers which include; landscapers, store clerks, kitchen prep workers and street cleaners to name a few. The SEED Program is also a major partner with Common Thread Co-operative, and is responsible for the sewing training so

participants can earn a wage producing various types of bags made from upcycled street banners.

The SEED Program is also part of a creative partnership with the Commercial Drive BIA. The SEED Clean Team has worked closely with the Commercial Drive BIA to conduct street cleaning services five days a week and has employed 78 people since 2003. The program gives participants an opportunity to learn new skills and to interact with the community while increasing their self-worth and benefiting the community. The service area is Commercial Drive from Adanac to 13th Ave. as well as two blocks on Broadway (beside the Skytrain station). The Clean Team also cleans a 'horseshoe' area: Venables (Clark to Commercial); Commercial (Venables to Hastings); Hastings (Commercial to Clark) five days per week.

The 2013 grant of \$25,000 allowed The Kettle to provide 2400 hours of life skills and job training, and employment opportunities to about 5 regular members through their SEED Employment Program. As a result, some of these participants have and will be able to find long term employment and housing. The program also resulted in approximately 650 bags of litter being cleaned up from an area covering 13 blocks of streets and sidewalks in the Commercial Drive area. The SEED Clean Team receives external funding from the Commercial Drive BIA. The City's street cleaning grant allows The Kettle to sustain their current program and extend it to more people in need.