



REPORT

Report Date: November 1, 2022
Contact: Celine Mauboules
Contact No.: 604.873.7670
RTS No.: 14833
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 16, 2022
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: The General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: 2022 Supportive Housing Integration Grants

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve Supportive Housing Integration Grants totalling \$84,000 from the 2022 ACCS Operating Budget to eight organizations as outlined in Appendix A of this report.
- B. THAT all grants be subject to each approved recipient organization signing and returning a grant approval letter to the City agreeing in writing to its terms.
- C. THAT grant approval letters be on the terms generally outlined in the report and otherwise satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- D. THAT the General Manager of Arts, Culture, and Community Services be authorized to execute all grant approval letters on behalf of the City of Vancouver.
- E. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of Recommendation A unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Approval of Recommendation A requires an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of Council members, pursuant to Section 206(1) of the Vancouver Charter.

REPORT SUMMARY

2022 Supportive Housing Integration Grants are designed to support events and projects that foster engagement between supportive housing residents, operators and the broader community. This report seeks Council approval of eight grants totalling \$84,000 to support community integration.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Housing Vancouver Strategy 2018-2027 and Housing Vancouver 3 Year Action Plan 2018-2021: The Housing Vancouver Strategy (2018-2027), as well as the Housing Vancouver Three Year Action Plan (2018-2021), outline goals to demonstrate continued leadership and advocacy on addressing the causes and solutions to homelessness.

Equity Framework: On July 10, 2021, Council approved the Equity Framework to address systemic racism and to reduce barriers for those who have historically experienced the most exclusion, violence and harm in Vancouver.

Healthy City Strategy: On October 24, 2014, Council approved goals, targets and indicators of the Healthy City Strategy 2014-2025 Phase I. On July 8, 2015, Council approved the first four-year action plan for the Healthy City Strategy, which includes actions to address poverty in the city, foster social connectivity and inclusion, create a home for everyone, and ensure the right services and supports are in place where people need them most.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

Supportive Housing Integration Grants are designed to support projects that foster engagement between residents, operators and the broader community. Between 2019 and 2021, Supportive Housing Grants and Homelessness Action Week (HAW) grants were coordinated through one call for proposals and adjudicated by one panel. This year, the grant streams have been separated in order to allow each grant stream to focus more directly on their intended outcomes.

Supportive Housing integration grants aim to:

1. Support residents of Vancouver's Supportive Housing;
2. Support events or projects in order to foster connections between supportive housing providers, residents and the neighbouring community;
3. Build greater understanding of the role of supportive housing in Vancouver;
4. Elevate the voices and experiences of supportive housing residents;
5. Decrease the stigma associated with supportive housing and overcome barriers between supportive housing residents and the broader community.

These goals are aligned with the Housing Vancouver Strategy’s core values of diversity, connection and equity. They also support and advance the Better Together Pilot to improve a sense of safety and connection for all residents, reduce stigma, and enhance communication and collaboration between stakeholders to address community challenges. By creating and strengthening partnerships with a diverse range of supportive housing providers and the communities they serve, these grants contribute to the Strategy’s commitments to innovation, improvements in health and safety, and partnering opportunities for prevention and elimination of homelessness and creating pathways to housing stability.

Strategic Analysis

2022 Supportive Housing Integration Grants Proposals

A formal call for proposals for the Supportive Housing Integration Grants was issued on July 4, 2022. Grant applicants were able to apply for one of two grant streams: up to \$5,000 or up to \$15,000, depending on the scope of the proposal. Information about the grant program and the application forms were available online. An information session was held on July 14 to introduce the grant program and answer questions from prospective applicants, and the application period closed on August 5.

The call for proposals resulted in 14 submissions from 14 distinct non-profits. The total funding amount available is \$84,000 and the amount requested was \$184,868.

	Amount Requested	Number of Applicants	Funding Available	Recommended Recipients	Funding Recommended	Unfunded
Total Requested for \$5,000 Grant Stream	\$10,500	2	-	0	\$0	\$10,500
Total Requested for \$15,000 Grant Stream	\$174,368	12	-	8	\$84,000	\$90,368
Totals	\$184,868	14	\$80,000	8	\$84,000	\$100,868

The adjudication process involved the assembly of a panel of four adjudicators made up of three representatives from the Housing and Homelessness Services (HHS) division and one representative from the Social Policy and Projects division. The panel met for two three-hour sessions in which the strengths and merits of each application were reviewed and a decision was made regarding which projects would be recommended to Council for funding.

Staff are recommending funding for initiatives that support community integration through events and projects that foster engagement between supportive housing residents, operators and the broader community.

Examples of activities that the grant funding will support include:

- Meal programs and events that provide both nourishment and skills training for residents as well as social connections within their community;

- Excursions in and around Vancouver for supportive housing residents to engage with their city; and
- Indigenous cultural programs that bring together supportive housing residents, housing providers and other neighbourhood residents.

As is typical in granting calls, the amount of funding requested exceeded the budget. During the adjudication process, applications that were being recommended were reviewed to ensure the funding allocation would result in a successful event or project. Staff recommend the full funding amount for one application and partial funding for seven applications. In instances where staff are recommending partial funding, funds were prioritized to provide direct delivery of the project or event and not to cover administration expenses. Appendices A and B summarize the applications received and the recommended funding level of each. Staff will work with unsuccessful applicants to provide feedback on their applications and, where applicable, identify opportunities to support their project in other ways.

Financial

This report recommends Council approve \$84,000 in grants to eight non-profit organizations, to be funded through the 2022 ACCS Operating Budget.

CONCLUSION

Supportive Housing is an integral part of the City of Vancouver's response to the housing and homelessness crisis. Supportive Housing Integration Grants support community integration through events and projects that foster engagement between supportive housing residents, operators and the broader community. Better community integration not only benefits supportive housing providers and the residents they serve, but also promotes healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods that positively impact the quality of life of all Vancouver citizens.

* * * * *

Appendix A: Supportive Housing Grants Recommended for Funding				
Application	Project Title	Project Description	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
Connective Support Society	2075 Kingsway	The proposed project is to increase our engagement into the garden program and provide increased food security. We hope to obtain these matching funds to enhance services, connection, and sense of community. This will look like offering a weekly barbeque for three months to residents (May 11, 2023 - August 10, 2023) This will look like offering nutritious, cost-effective meals to 2075's residents. Once per month 2075 will invite relevant community partners to attend these barbeques. This will help strengthen the community's relationship with its new permanent residents. Bi-weekly 2075 will invite community agencies to showcase their supports and services to the residents.	\$14,994	\$7,500
The Little Mountain Neighbourhood House Society	Little Mountain Neighbourhood House	The main activities of the proposal are to break down stereotypes and reduce stigma associated with homelessness, poverty, and mental health and increase community engagement and leadership opportunities for youth to serve vulnerable populations. The project will also raise awareness for residents of community-based opportunities by providing information and resources, building community capacity and partnerships for local solutions to homelessness, and hosting social and art activities for residents of Burnham Place	\$15,000	\$7,500
The Kettle Friendship Society	Out and About in Vancouver!	The program would provide monthly social & cultural opportunities and experiences for our supported housing clients. Each month the society would offer an exclusive excursion across the city; to our world famous parks, galleries and museums; so that clients may experience what the communities of Vancouver have to offer. This program addresses the community gap for vulnerable supported housing clients who live on a very limited income and are unable to fully engage in the city they live in.	\$14,985	\$10,000
Lu'ma Native Housing	Passing the Feather - Sharing Indigenous Approaches to Supportive Housing.	Community members will be invited by social media, flyers, brochure, and prior community engagement weeks before the event. The Community members and residents who accept the invitation can learn about Indigenous Cultural programs, resources, organizations and meet service providers who work and operate the Social Housing Programs. The theme of the social engagement event is communication, sharing and healing using The Medicine Wheel, teachings of the Eagle Feather within a Talking Circles. A person who holds the eagle feather can share thoughts and questions without being interrupted.	\$15,000	\$10,000
A Better Life Foundation	Plenty of Pears - By Peers for Peers	Plenty of Plates is a weekly three-course dinner that we offer to 70+ residents of the neighbourhood each night. Over time, we received a lot of interest from our guests to take over the restaurant themselves and put together the meals for their fellow neighbours. To this end, we've taken on the initiative to organize and coordinate a Plenty of Plates event to respond to their wish, which we've named "Plenty of Plates - By Peers for Peers". Namely, we wish to plan and conduct six of these dinners for the residents of the neighbourhood. For each, we will invite 15 unique individuals living in local supportive housing to take	\$15,000	\$11,000

		over our kitchens for the night, and with our support, cook, and serve the 70+ guests and peers invited to enjoy the dinner.		
YWCA Metro Vancouver	YWCA Crabtree Corner Housing Community Dinner Series	This program is a Community Dinner Series at YWCA for pregnant and parenting new mothers in recovery in the Downtown Eastside. It would include a monthly workshop 2-4 hours in length and focus on sharing a unique recipe or cooking skill, with an emphasis on healthy, affordable ingredients and meals that can be prepared efficiently on small budgets.	\$15,000	\$11,000
Sanford Housing Society	Connecting Voices	The goal is to create 2 large murals/mosaics (197"x175" and 360"x110") within the common areas at Marguerite Ford Apartments that showcase the unique experiences and expression of all whom have contributed to MFA (tenants, staff, neighbours, service providers), by submitting photos, art, stories and poetry compiled into 2 large vinyl wall murals. This permanent installation will foster both community pride and collaboration by directly elevating and showcasing diverse voices and experiences.	\$12,623	\$12,000
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	2022 Supportive Housing Grant	The intended use for this project will be to enable residents in our building to participate in a ceremony with a respected Elder who will perform a traditional cleansing ceremony of the building and each participant. The positive impacts will be felt within the building as they have asked for this type of cleansing for themselves and the place they call home. This will be a two part project including the ceremonies and work needed to be completed by our Elder and ending with a feast with our community.	\$15,000	\$15,000
		Total:	\$117,602	\$84,000

Appendix B: Supportive Housing Grants Not Recommended for Funding				
Application	Project Title	Project Description	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount
First United Church Social Housing Society	Keep in Touch	To develop and deliver a Keep In Touch program that will provide connections to resources (free phones, reduced cell plans, free computers) and in-house training on basic use, informational sessions on safety communication devices and a resource manual for distribution to tenants.	\$5,000	\$0
Atira Women's Resource Society	Housing Starter Kits for Women	To assemble and distribute 30 kits for women moving into supportive housing who have experienced or have been at risk of homelessness and have been affected by violence/abuse. Making the space into a home becomes a new challenge for these women. The kits would contain basic homemaking necessities as well as emergency supplies.	\$5,500	\$0
Seniors Services Society of BC	HouseKEEPING for Seniors	The program proposes to provide cleaning services to seniors that will ensure that low-income senior renters will have easy and streamlined access to support services that meet their housing, mental wellness, and financial needs and enable them to age in the right place. Seniors who may have health, mental health and/or mobility challenges find themselves unable to clean their rental suites and are at a greater risk of losing their homes due to evictions.	\$11,760	\$0
Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House	Welcome to Cedar Cottage	This is a storytelling and dialogue project whose purpose is to build a community that includes and wraps compassion around the residents in the new supportive housing at the former Day's Inn. It will bring together organizations, newly arrived and long time residents, seniors, youth and children to have dialogue around building community that includes the new residents. This is a project where people will work together to shift the stereotypes, the fears and the life at Kingsway and Victoria.	\$15,000	\$0
The Bloom Group Community Services Society	Hug-It-Forward	Supportive Housing Residents will be encouraged to participate in Hug-It-Forward by, a program to acknowledge contributions to local community. Individuals will nominate their follow colleagues for Hugster Awards and be able to share a Hug-It-Forward card. The project concludes with an awards ceremony.	\$15,000	\$0
Three Links Care Society	Community Memorial Garden	Purpose of garden is to establish a space to honour the 23 beloved residents Three Links Care Society lost during our COVID-19 outbreaks and pay tribute to our hardworking healthcare heroes. The project will transform a very under-utilized corner of our property into a beautiful sitting garden space open to the neighbourhood. The supportive housing and long-term care senior residents will be able to reap the numerous physical and mental benefits that engaging with nature and community can provide.	\$15,000	\$0
		Totals:	\$67,260	\$0