



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**2007 Community Festivals and Special Events
Investment Program Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Allocation Recommendations**

Date:	April 30, 2007
To:	Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report presents the recommended allocations for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the 2007 Community Festivals and Special Events (CFSE) Investment Program. The CFSE program also funds the Business Improvement Area (BIA) under Economic Development. The 2007 Council Approved budget for the Community Partnership and Investment Program includes a budget allocation of \$140,060 for the CFSE Program. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of this program is \$100,060, of which \$93,710 is recommended for allocations, and \$6,350 for the appeals process.

A total of 48 applicants applied for CFSE funding through Parks, Forestry and Recreation. There were 20 new applicants. Of the 48 applicants reviewed, 8 applicants did not meet the CFSE program criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council approve the allocations for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the 2007 Community Festival and Special Events Investment Program totalling \$93,710 as per Attachment No. 1;

2. \$6,350 be set aside for the appeals process,
3. this report be forwarded to the meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, and;
4. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2007 Approved Operating Budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

CFSE Investment Program Administered Jointly

The Community Festival and Special Events (CFSE) Program is jointly administered by Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism. The 2007 Council Approved budget for the program is \$140,060, of which \$100,060 is allocated to PFR in response to program demand measured by applications received. In past years allocation recommendations for the entire CFSE program have been reported to the Economic Development and Parks Committee. As there are now two separate committees receiving the allocated recommendations for the CFSE Investment Program, two individual reports will be written addressing the respective allocations for Parks, Forestry & Recreation and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism.

CFSE Investment Program a Strategic Tool for PFR

The CFSE program provides developmental financial support to help festivals and events grow, with the aim of self-sustainability. The CFSE Investment Program is viewed as a strategic tool for PFR to facilitate community engagement and development at the neighbourhood level. Children, youth and adults can participate in various activities that are within their neighbourhoods or explore the diversity of neighbourhoods that make-up the City of Toronto by attending festivals and special events. The CFSE Investment Program aids in fostering civic pride in residents and encourages community engagement. Visitors to the City of Toronto can experience the variety of cultural activities that make the city a vibrant and energetic place to visit.

The CFSE Investment Program also fills a gap because the Toronto Street Festival no longer exists.

COMMENTS

Eligibility criteria (See Attachment 3) for the CSFE require that an organization have a Board of Directors or a Board of Management, be in existence for at least one year, produce a clearly defined community event, be open and accessible to the public, use

volunteers in all aspects of the organizations, have financial support from more than one source, and comply with the City of Toronto Grants Policy. Funding of up to \$10,000.00 per organization is available and the allocation cannot represent more than 49% of the event budget. Festivals or special events cannot receive funding more than four times, and each year of funding is allocated on a declining scale, with a 10% reduction.

The range of festivals and events include local and community celebrations, heritage and culture, art and music, and environmental stewardship. A summary of the applicants and the proposed events are described in Attachment 2. Organizations have been informed in writing of the recommended allocations and the appeals process.

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Summary of Recommendations – CFSE Investment Program
Attachment No. 2 – Applicant Summary Sheets – CFSE Investment Program
Attachment No. 3 – 2007 CFSE Program Guidelines