

**Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2009 Community  
Festivals and Special Events Allocation  
Recommendations**

<b>Date:</b>	May 19, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

**SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that the Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the 2009 approved operating budget for the Community Festivals and Special Events (CFSE) in the amount of \$102,100.00 be allocated to 35 organizations (\$95,190.13) with \$6,909.87 be held for appeals.

The Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP)'s 2009 approved Operating Budget for the CFSE program is \$142,900.00. This amount includes a 2% funding level adjustment over the 2008 approved Budget. The CFSE program also funds Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) under Economic Development. The Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the CFSE budget is \$102,100.00, of which \$95,190.13 is recommended for allocations, and \$6,909.87 for the appeals process. Applications for CFSE funding in Parks, Forestry and Recreation totalled \$390,460.93 in 2009, a 41% increase over 2008 applications reflecting the need for substantial initial funding in order to develop sustainable events. However, funds are not sufficient to support this level of demand.

A total of 48 applications were received for the 2009 CFSE Program and 35 are recommended for allocations. There were 23 new applicants. Of the 48 applicants reviewed, 1 withdrew and 12 were recommended for \$0 allocation, due to either missing information or not meeting the CFSE Program criteria.

Community festivals and special events organized by community groups foster a sense of pride and cohesion for the residents of the City of Toronto who are living in neighbourhoods that are becoming more varied and diverse.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. The Community Partnership and Investment Appeals Sub-Committee approve the allocations for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the 2009 Community Festival and Special Events Investment Program totalling \$95,190.13, as per Attachment 1; and \$6,909.87 be set aside for the appeals process;
2. this report be forwarded to the meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee; and,
3. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

This report recommends that the 2009 approved Operating Budget of \$102,100.00 for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation portion of the Community Festivals and Special Events (CFSE) Investment Program within CPIP be allocated as per Attachment 1: (\$95,190.13), with \$6,909.87 set aside for appeal purposes.

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

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The Community Festival and Special Events (CFSE) Investment Program is jointly administered by Parks, Forestry and Recreation (PFR) and Economic Development, Culture and Tourism. The 2009 approved Operating Budget for the program is \$142,900.00 of which \$102,100.00 is allocated to PFR in response to program demand measured by applications received. There are two separate committees receiving reports on the allocated recommendations for the CFSE program: Community Development and Recreation Committee for the PFR CFSE grants portion (\$102,100.00), and Economic Development Committee for the BIA grants portion (\$40,800.00).

The CFSE program is viewed as a strategic tool for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to facilitate community engagement and development at the neighbourhood level. This year 12 grants are provided for programs located directly in priority neighbourhoods. The rest of the grants are distributed across the City. Children, youth and adults can attend festivals and special events within their neighbourhoods or explore the diversity of neighbourhoods that offer other festivals and events. Visitors to the City of Toronto can experience the variety of cultural activities that make the City a vibrant and energetic place to visit.

## **COMMENTS**

The CFSE program provides developmental financial support to help small to medium-scale community festivals and special events grow, with the aim of encouraging self-sustainability. Festivals or special events are limited to receiving funding over a four-year period. Funding is allocated on a declining scale, with a 10% reduction each year. The 2009 returning grants were calculated at 90% of the previous year's funding. A 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was then added. For CFSE guidelines see Attachment 3.

The range of festivals and events recommended for funding in 2009 includes local and community celebrations, heritage and culture, art and music, and environmental stewardship. A summary of the applicants and their proposed events are described in Attachment 2. Organizations have been informed in writing of the recommended allocations and the appeals process.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Brenda Patterson  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - 2009 Summary of Recommendations - CFSE Program

Attachment 2 - 2009 Summary Sheets - CFSE Program

Attachment 3 - 2009 CFSE Guidelines