



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Investment Funding Programs – 2016 Allocation Recommendations (Community Festivals and Special Events, and Community Recreation)

<b>Date:</b>	February 19, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Community Development and Recreation Committee
<b>From:</b>	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	22231

#### SUMMARY

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This report recommends funding for the following two 2016 Investment Funding programs:

- Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Program; and,
- Community Recreation Investment Funding Program (Community Recreation).

Of the 228 applications received for the two programs, 32 are recommended for funding in the amount of \$624,000.00. An additional \$56,000 has been held for appeals for the annual Community Festivals and Community Recreation Investment Funding programs.

Grants help the City of Toronto achieve its social, economic and cultural goals for its residents. The City's goals are better achieved by supporting the work of organizations that are closer to the communities they serve.

Community Investment programs provide time-limited funding to established and emerging not-for-profit groups in the City of Toronto to test new ideas or enhance existing models that lead to meaningful change in organizations and communities.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends:**

1. City Council approve allocations for the following two Investment Funding programs, as recommended in Appendices A, B and C:

- a) A total of \$134,000.00 to 16 organizations for the 2015 Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Program; and,
  - b) A total of \$490,000.00 to 16 organizations for the Community Recreation Investment Funding Program.
2. An amount of \$56,000.00 be held for appeals for the annual Community Festivals and Community Recreation Investment Programs.

### **Financial Impact**

The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been included in the 2016 Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration.

This report recommends allocations for 32 organizations totalling \$624,000.00 with an appeal fund of \$56,000 for the grant programs.

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

The City of Toronto provides support to the not-for-profit sector through funding programs under the general authority for making municipal grants provided in Section 83 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (S.O. 2006, c.11)

The 2016 Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration includes funding for the Community Festivals and Community Recreation Investment programs. The budget amount includes an economic factor increase.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX12.2>

On September 30, 2015 Council approved the review of the five Community Investment Funding programs prior to the 2017 funding cycle.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD6.2>

In December 2013, City Council approved delegated authority to Division heads to approve recommendations from Appeals Panels to ensure that appeals funds are expended in a timely manner.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX36.12>

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

Allocation recommendations for two Investment Funding grant programs for Community Development and Recreation Committee (CDR) approval are provided in this report: Community Festivals & Special Events, and Community Recreation.

### **Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Funding Program**

The Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Program (Community Festivals) is an annual program that provides start-up or early-stage funding for small not-for-profit festivals and community events held in the City of Toronto. These events encourage residents to have fun, participate in their community, connect with each other, and contribute to a community's strength. The investment supports community-based groups to undertake community-building activities that showcase local achievements, heritage, culture, and/or neighbourhoods.

### **Community Recreation Investment Funding Program**

Community Recreation Investment Funding Program (Community Recreation) is an annual grants program that supports Toronto not-for-profit groups to implement programs that will a) increase participation in recreation, b) engage diverse residents reflective of their neighbourhoods, c) build skills, and d) use recreation as a tool to develop the physical and social health of Toronto's residents.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Community Investment Funding Program Review Plan**

On September 30, 2015 City Council approved a comprehensive review of five grant programs, with the roll out of the new and/or revised grant programs in spring 2017. The purpose of the review is to:

- Ensure that Community Investment Funding programs are aligned with and advances the City's strategic priorities;
- Find ways to better support new and emerging community groups; and,
- Respond to the changing needs of the community sector.

Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) will be consulting with the community-based sector and Councillors over spring and summer, 2016. SDFA will seek approval from Council for any new or revised grant programs that may result from the review prior to the 2017 funding cycle.

The Community Festivals and Community Recreation grant programs are two of the five Investment Funding Programs under review.

### **Application Process**

Organizations applied for funding through the Corporate Grants Information System, the City's online funding database. The online funding system is part of the City's strategy to manage its funding program requests and grant recipient reporting more efficiently.

Guidelines and on-line registration for the programs were released on October 16, 2015 with two submission deadlines: December 2, 2015 (Community Festivals) and December 9, 2015 (Community Recreation).

SDFFA staff partnered with Events staff to promote and organize information sessions held at the 519 Church Street Community Centre on October 26 and North York Civic Centre on November 17. A total of 172 people representing not-for-profit organizations attended five information sessions.

Staff assisted applicants one-on-one to help them determine the funding programs best suited to the needs and priorities of their communities, talk about their project idea, answer questions about program criteria, or get help with their applications.

## **Application Assessment**

In order to be recommended for funding, applicants must meet eligibility requirements and demonstrate a strong fit with assessment criteria, described in the program guidelines<sup>1</sup>. Core eligibility requirements include: non-profit status, located in the City of Toronto and demonstrated financial accountability. Organizations not incorporated as a not-for-profit must partner with an incorporated trustee organization to provide the financial accountability.

The assessment process includes a review of the following information: project/event description and rationale, work plan, project/event budget, organization's documents (financial statements, budget), report on previously funded activities (for returning applicants), and the applicant's capacity to carry out the proposed project/event.

In the continuing efforts to decrease the administrative burden on applicants, organizations that were approved by Council for multi-year funding in 2015 were not required to complete a full proposal as required by new applicants. All returning grantees were required to submit a simplified Request for Renewal report that outlines their funded activities over the previous year and their plans for the use of 2016 funding.

Applicants who are not recommended for funding in the annual Investment Funding programs (Community Festivals and Community Recreation) will be provided with an option to appeal the allocations recommendation to an Appeals Panel, either in person or in writing. Appeals on funding recommendations will be held in April 2016.

## **2016 Allocation Recommendations**

For the Community Festivals grant program, the allocations recommendations are based on the extent to which proposed events will help build cohesion and inclusion across a community, encourage new partnerships, strengthen volunteerism, as well as contribute to a community's economic vitality. Festivals and events for residents living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas were considered one of the priorities for funding.

For the Community Recreation grant program, the recommendations include projects that effectively address a clearly identified recreation service gap or issue using a community

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<sup>1</sup> The 2016 grant program guidelines can be found at [Community Festivals](#) and [Community Recreation](#)

development approach. Recreation projects that address some of the key areas identified in City strategies were considered priorities: Senior Strategy's target of funding intergenerational programs, equity seeking groups identified in the Recreation Service Plan; and, recreation projects for residents living in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Eleven of the 32 organizations recommended for funding are considered new or emerging groups and would benefit from the City's funding support to help build their capacity. Staff support will be provided to monitor performance over the grant term.

### Funding Allocation Recommendation Statistics for Two Streams of Funding

	Community Festivals	Community Recreation
\$ requested	\$1,211,333	\$3,250,763
\$ approved funding available	\$ 150,000	\$530,000
\$ recommended for recommended applicants	\$134,000	\$490,000
\$ held for appeals	\$16,000	\$40,000
# applications received (% increase from last year)	105 (67% increase)	123 (48% increase)
# applications recommended	16	16
# previously approved for multi-year funding	8	7
\$ requested from recommended applicants	\$148,446	\$538,786
Average amount requested from recommended applicants	\$9,278	\$33,674
Average grant recommended for recommended applicants	\$8,375	\$30,625
Approval rate	15%	13%
Additional comments	17 of the 89 declines were assessed as high priority but could not be recommended due to budget constraints	17 of the 69 declines were assessed as high priority but could not be recommended due to budget constraints
Additional \$ required to support high priority projects that could not be recommended	\$188,659	\$657,289

### Community Impact:

The following are some of the anticipated benefits of the 32 projects recommended for funding:

1. Of the 32 projects recommended, 24 will take place in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (many serve multiple NIAs and neighbourhoods).
2. Through Community Recreation grants, over 12,000 people from across Toronto, including girls and young women, seniors, families and newcomers will be engaged in diverse, accessible recreational activities.
3. Through Community Festivals grants, approximately over 15,000 people are expected to attend festivals and events held across Toronto in 2016. Events will build bridges between

- cultures and neighbours, showcase local talent, encourage civic engagement, and animate public spaces such as local parks and neighbourhood streets.
4. The City's investment of \$624,000 across these programs will leverage an additional \$249,730 in in-kind support from project partners.
  5. The funded groups will directly employ people for a total of over 18,386 hours who will support a total of nearly 1,350 volunteers to implement events and projects across Toronto.

Detailed summaries of all recommended projects along with brief summaries of declined applications are provided in Appendix C.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director  
Social Development, Finance and Administration

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Appendix A: 2016 Allocation Recommendations: Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Program
- Appendix B: 2016 Allocation Recommendations: Community Recreation Investment Funding Program
- Appendix C: Detailed Summary Sheets and Summary of Declined Applications:  
2016 Community Festivals & Special Events Investment Program  
2016 Community Recreation Investment Funding Program

## Appendix A

### 2016 Allocation Recommendations: Community Festivals & Special Events Program

	<u>Applicant Group</u>	<u>Ward**</u>	<u>2015 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2016 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2016 Amount Recommended</u>
1	Amadeusz	01		10,000.00	8,500.00
2	Delta Family Resource Centre	07	9,000.00	10,000.00	9,000.00
3	East Danforth Creative Collective	29		4,250.00	4,250.00
4	FCJ Refugee Centre	17	9,000.00	10,000.00	9,000.00
5	Firgrove Learning & Innovation Community Centre	07	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
6	Greenest City Environmental	14		12,000.00	9,000.00
7	Neighbourhood Information Post	28	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
8	Ontario Pops Orchestra	14		8,000.00	7,000.00
9	Progress Place	27		9,999.00	8,500.00
10	South Asian Women's Rights Organization	35		10,000.00	9,500.00
11	SPUR Action for Change	26	9,000.00	9,500.00	9,000.00
12	Sunshine Centres for Seniors	27	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
13	The Laneway Project	15		9,696.50	8,500.00
14	The Three Sisters' House / Nswo Nshiimenhig Endaayaat	42		10,000.00	8,750.00
15	Young and Potential Fathers	11		10,000.00	9,000.00
16	YouthLink	35	9,000.00	10,000.00	9,000.00
<b>Grand Total:</b>				<b>\$ 148,445.50</b>	<b>\$ 134,000.00</b>
<b>Appeals Fund:</b>					<b>\$ 16,000.00</b>
<b>2016 Budget:</b>					<b>\$ 150,000.00</b>

\*\*Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably.

## Appendix B

### 2016 Allocation Recommendations: Community Recreation Investment Funding Program

<u>Applicant Group</u>	<u>Ward**</u>	<u>2015 Approved Allocation</u>	<u>2016 Amount Requested</u>	<u>2016 Amount Recommended</u>
1 Belka Enrichment Centre	08		35,000.00	30,000.00
2 Earth Day Canada	14	38,000.00	43,000.00	38,000.00
3 East Scarborough Storefront-Tides	43		36,500.00	36,500.00
4 Elspeth Heyworth Centre for Women (North York)	07		18,723.00	16,700.00
5 Everdale - Black Creek Community Farm	08	16,500.00	16,308.40	16,300.00
6 LEAF - Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests	21	34,500.00	34,500.00	34,500.00
7 Malvern Family Resource Centre	42	43,000.00	43,000.00	43,000.00
8 Native Child and Family Services of Toronto	27		50,000.00	41,000.00
9 New Canadian Community Centre	33		35,000.00	30,000.00
10 Ogaden Somali Community Association of Ontario	12		31,622.00	30,000.00
11 Rexdale Women's Centre	01	36,500.00	40,000.00	36,500.00
12 Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre	30	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
13 Scarborough Basketball Association	41		29,320.00	25,000.00
14 Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC	27		37,620.00	34,000.00
15 York-Fairbank Centre for Seniors	15		33,000.00	25,500.00
26 Youthlink	35	18,000.00	20,193.00	18,000.00
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>\$ 538,786.40</b>	<b>\$ 490,000.00</b>
<b>Appeals Fund:</b>				<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
<b>2016 Budget:</b>				<b>\$ 530,000.00</b>

\*\*Wards represent the mailing address of the applicant group. Project service locations vary considerably.