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February 22, 2019

**To:** Chris Brillinger, Executive Director, Social Development, Administration and Finance

**From:** Carolyn Doyle, Agency Review Officer, Community Funding Unit

**C.C.:** Costanza Allevato, Director, Community Resources  
Barbara Powell, Manager, Community Funding  
John Smith, Manager, Community Development  
Mini Alakkatusery, Supervisor, Community Funding  
Matt Brubacher, Supervisor, Community Funding

**Re:** **Delegated Authority to Approve Grants for 2019 Neighbourhood Grants Program**

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Please find below the request for delegated approval for the 2019 Neighbourhood Grants Program:

- Approve grants to 71 resident-led groups recommended by the Neighbourhood Planning Tables and Neighbourhood Grant Resident Selection Panel (Appendix A);
- \$152,820 to Social Planning Toronto (SPT) to disburse to the 71 recommended resident-led groups;

Staff recommends the total disbursement be made from the staff recommended 2019 SDFA budget.

#### **Delegated Authority Approval by Council**

On March 28, 2017<sup>1</sup> City Council approved delegated authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to approve, issue and enter into agreements for neighbourhood -grants to selected proponents and report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on awards made to the selected grant recipients.

#### **Neighbourhood Grant Program & Process**

Neighbourhood Grants of \$1,000 - \$3,000 are for use by resident-led groups to support Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 (TSNS 2020) Actions in local communities.

A total of 116 complete applications were received for Neighbourhood Grants, 105 were eligible and 71 are recommended for funding. Of the 71 applications recommended, 7 were recommended by the Neighbourhood Grant Resident Selection Panel and 64 were recommended by the Neighbourhood Planning Tables. In the neighbourhoods where no official Neighbourhood Planning Tables (e.g. Emerging Neighbourhoods) exist, a central review process through the Neighbourhood Grant Resident Selection Panel took place. This panel was composed of two members recruited from the TSNS 2020 Resident Advisory Committee. Recommended project ideas include:

- Social gatherings to celebrate the uniqueness of people with disabilities
- Art, movie wall, puppet and music festivals to celebrate community cooperation and diversity
- Sporting, physical activity, dance and community wellness and self-care events
- Sewing, computer skills building and food handling certification for employment skills
- BBQs, waste reduction fairs, scavenger hunts and community festivals for community cohesion
- Gardening, cooking and nature walk learning events

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<sup>1</sup> <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.CD18.5>

A total of 29 of the 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs) and 7 of the 8 Emerging Neighbourhoods (ENs) have resident-led activities/events being recommended for funding. The following are the distribution of the 71 projects recommended for approval:

- 15% or 5 NIA/EN have three or more grant recipients recommended
- 46% or 18 NIAs/ENs have two grant recipients recommended
- 31% or 12 NIAs/ENs have one grant recipient recommended
- 8% or 3 NIAs/ENs does not have any grant recipients recommended

**Neighbourhood Grant Capacity Builder/Administrative Partner**

Social Planning Toronto is the Capacity Builder/Administrative Partner for Neighbourhood Grants. They conduct capacity building training workshops to support grant recipients, provide trusteeship services, provide reporting and administer grant funds.

**Refinements to the Program:**

Staff are committed to incorporating changes to ensure the grant program is meeting the needs of resident-led groups and ensuring deeper involvement of Neighbourhood Planning Tables. The following changes were made in this round:

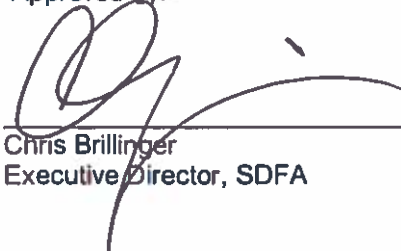
- Increasing the role of neighbourhoods in making grant recommendations by having the majority of recommendations happening locally and piloting a sub-committee and marketplace selection process held at Neighbourhood Planning Tables;
- Providing the opportunity for grant recipient group members to include honoraria as a budget item
- Reducing the number of required group members from 5 to 3

**Grant Recommendations for Approval:**

1. Neighbourhood Grants: 71 resident-led groups with grants of \$1,000 to \$3,000 each for a total of \$152,820. The list of recommended groups are provided in Appendix A. Social Planning Toronto will receive the entire envelope of funding and will disburse the approved grants to resident-led groups.

It is anticipated that these Grants will help resident-led groups inspire their neighbourhoods with events to be held between May and September, 2019.

Approved by:



Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director, SDFA

FEB 22 2019

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Date