

6.2.6 2022/2023 Festival and Events Grant Applications

Responsible GM: Debbie Tyson
Author: Bec Whiting

Recommendation(s)

That Council approve 48 applications under the Festival and Events Grant Program to the value of \$230,595.58.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - 2022-2023 Festival and event grants - summary of applications for Councillors [6.2.6.1 - 5 pages]

Executive Summary

The Festival and Events Grant Program seek to support Cardinia's Liveability Plan outcomes through a range of financial grants for community initiatives. All grant applications have been reviewed by an officer assessment panel.

Council officers recommend supporting 48 applications to the value of \$230,595.58. This includes 18 applications previously approved in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 grant programs but whose event was cancelled due to COVID-19. It was previously agreed these applications would be held over and only required to provide updated event details rather than complete a full application.

Background

Council's Festival and Events Program seek to support a diverse mix of events that bring the community together and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Forty-eight applications were received under the Festival and Events Grant program requesting \$250,095.58. Four ineligible application items were removed, and application discrepancies identified which left \$230,595.58.

A multidisciplinary group of staff assessed each application indicating their support or otherwise and Officer recommendations were summarised.

COVID-19 considerations

Council will include a condition that requiring grant recipients to comply with State Government COVID-19 requirements at all times.

For the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Festival and Events grants a commitment was made to cover event organiser's out of pocket expenses up to the value of the grant amount. In 2022-2023 it is proposed that this clause is again included in the letter of offer.

Policy Implications

Grant program aligns with Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan.

Relevance to Council Plan

1.1 We empower our communities to be healthy, connected and resilient

1.1.2 Enrich local identity and opportunities for the community to connect through art, history and cultural expression.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.1 Build trust through meaningful community engagement and transparent decision-making.

5.1.2 Manage our finances responsibly and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

5.1.3 Strive to be a customer focused organisation and be a great place to work.

Climate Emergency Consideration

There are no Climate Emergency Considerations as part of this process.

Consultation/Communication

A comprehensive communications plan was undertaken and widely promoted through various newsletters and distribution channels including community leaders, Council's Website and Facebook pages, Connect and through the Councillor Bulletin.

The grant round opened online via Smartygrants on the 8 February 2022 and closed 31 March 2022.

The staff who assessed the applications came from a variety of areas across Council including Actives Reserves, Arts and Culture, Passive Reserves, Traffic Management, Community Development, Cultural Diversity and Risk, Health and Safety.

Following final endorsement at the July 2022 Council meeting, applicants will be advised of the outcome via a letter of offer through Smartygrants

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed budget for 2022-2023 is \$245,000. The total amount required to fully support the 48 grant applications is \$230,595.58.

Conclusion

The grant program aligns to and add value to Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan and support community reconnection in a post-COVID environment.

It is recommended to fully support funding of 48 Festival and Events grant applications to the value of \$230,595.58. The approved grants fall within the current proposed program budget.