

6.2.3 2023-2024 Festival and Events Grant Program

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Recommendation(s)

That Council approve 51 applications under the Festival and Events Grant Program to the value of \$239,837.20.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2023 2024 Festival and event grants summary of applications for SLT Council [6.2.3.1 - 6 pages]
2. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Festival and Events Grant Guidelines [6.2.3.2 - 4 pages]

Executive Summary

The Festival and Event 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.

Each application was assessed against the programs guidelines which outlines what can be funded and what is not eligible. Funding amounts were determined based off these guidelines, which groups have been previously funded by council and if they have become sustainable over time.

Any events that may have listed ineligible items were consulted during the assessment process regarding the grant guidelines.

Council officers recommend supporting 51 applications to the value of \$239,837.20, declining four applications due to ineligibility and to noting that one application was better suited under the Community Wellbeing grants.

Background

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

Fifty-five applications were received under the Festival and Event Grant program requesting \$302,250.20. Four ineligible application items were removed, and application discrepancies identified which left \$239,837.20 applied for.

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

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 30 January 2023 and closed 31 March 2023.

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 2023 Council meeting, applicants will be advised of the outcome via a letter of offer through Smartygrants

Financial and Resource Implications

The proposed budget for 2023-2024 is \$245,000. The total amount required to fully support the 51 grant applications is \$239,837.20.

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 51 Festival and Event grant applications to the value of \$239,837.20. The approved grants fall within the current proposed program budget.