

## 6.2.6 2024 2025 Festival and Events Grant Program

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### Recommendation(s)

That Council approve 58 applications under the Festival and Events Grant Program to the value of \$254,971.00.

### Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL - 2024 2025 Festival and event grants summary of applications for Council [6.2.6.1 - 8 pages]

### Executive Summary

The Festival and Event Grant Program seeks 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.

Council officers recommend supporting 58 applications to the value of \$254,971.00, declining three applications due to ineligibility and 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.

Sixty two applications were received under the Festival and Event Grant program requesting \$339,459.87. Three ineligible application items were removed, one application was withdrawn during the assessment period by the applicant and application discrepancies identified which left \$254,971.00 applied for.

A multidisciplinary group of staff (refer consultation section for details) assessed each application indicating their support or otherwise and Officer recommendations were summarised. Due to the overwhelming response for funding, not all amounts could be met.

### 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 15 January 2024 and closed 29 March 2024.

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 2024 Council meeting, applicants will be advised of the outcome via a letter of offer through Smartygrants.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The proposed budget for 2024-2025 Festival and Events Grant is \$255,000. The total amount required to fully support the 58 grant applications is \$254,971.00

## **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 58 Festival and Event grant applications to the value of \$254,971.00 The approved grants fall within the current proposed program budget.