

7.1 MONASH COMMUNITY ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM ALLOCATION OF FUNDS 2008/09

(SF:ARTS19)

Submitted by Community Arts Grants Evaluation Committee

RECOMMENDATION*That Council:*

1. *Approves the recommended City of Monash Community Arts Grants Program allocations for 2008/09 round totalling \$61,300.*
2. *In recognition of the number of growing requests placed on this program and subsequent increasing program costs for agencies funded by Council, considers a 4% increase to the 2008/09 program allocation of \$60,000 to the Monash Community Arts Grant program in the 2009/10 year to increase the total program budget to \$62,400.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to formally recommend the funding allocations for the City of Monash Community Arts Grants Program for 2008/09.

BACKGROUND

Council encourages arts and cultural activity throughout the municipality and supports local community groups in delivering such activities through its Community Arts Grants Program. The aim of the Community Arts Grants Program is to encourage community groups to engage local community members to take part in arts and cultural activities within the City. The Community Arts Grants is an annual funding round each financial year. Each funding round has a total allocation amount of \$60,000. In the 2007/08 Monash Community Arts Grant round, funds of \$1,300 were allocated to a project that did not go ahead. The grant of \$1,300 has been allocated back in the Monash Community Arts Grant budget for 2008-09 making a total of \$61,300 for this funding round.

The 2008/09 Community Arts Grants round opened on Monday 2 June 2008 and closed at 5pm on Friday 5 September 2008.

The 2008/09 Community Arts Grants round was advertised in two local papers (Waverley Leader and Monash Journal) in the week beginning on Monday 7 July 2008 and the week beginning on Monday 14 July 2008. It was also advertised in the Monash Bulletin on Tuesday 22 July and on Council's website. To advise the community, a Community Arts Grant information card was sent out to members of the City of Monash Arts and Culture database, branches of Monash Library Public Service, Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses.

Information Session

On 15 July 2008, an information session was held at the Clayton Community Centre Auditorium by the Cultural Development Officer to inform potential applicants of the guidelines and process of the Community Arts Grants Program. Attended by over 12 potential applicants, this session provided the opportunity for applicants to be advised and to ask questions regarding the program.

Arts Grants Writing Workshop

On 24 July 2008, a writing workshop was held at the Monash Civic Centre by a professional arts grants facilitator to help first time applicants apply for the City of Monash Community Arts Grants program. Attended by 14 potential applicants, this gave applicants an opportunity to work one on one with the facilitator.

Events Workshop

A professional Event Manager was engaged to hold an events workshop at the Monash Civic Centre on 7 August 2008. The Event Manager provided advice to potential grant applicants on running a safe event. Topics included Risk Management, Safe Food Practices and effective Event Management tips. Over 16 potential applicants attended this workshop. This new initiative was introduced to ensure community event organisers are aware and well informed of the Risk Management processes when managing community events.

A further Events Workshop has been scheduled again for Thursday 13 November and will be compulsory for all grant recipients organising an event who were unable to attend the first workshop.

Event Checklist

All Community Arts Grant recipients who receive funding under the event category will receive an events checklist for their information; this checklist has been introduced as a guide only so community event organisers are aware of all the processes to consider when planning an event.

ANALYSIS

Applications were received from 43 individual organisations, lodging 50 separate applications. A list of recommended allocations is attached to this report.

These recommended allocations should provide the City with a number of noteworthy arts and cultural activities, as well as community concerts and events. The 2008/09 Community Arts Grants support has been given to the majority of projects in accordance with the Program's guidelines.

The Community Arts Grants Evaluation Committee consists of Councillors Klisaris, Banerji, Baines and Council officers supported the process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Allocation of the Monash Community Arts Grants 2007/2008 is in accordance with the Monash Arts & Cultural Development Strategy, adopted by Council in June 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total amount requested for 2008/09 round was \$120,560.30. The evaluation panel has recommended the total available funding of \$61,300 be allocated for the 2008/09 Community Arts Grants Round.

In recognition of the number of growing requests placed on this program and increasing project costs for community groups, it is recommended that a 4% increase be approved for the Community Arts Grant Program in the 2009/2010 year which will increase the total program budget to \$62,400.

CONCLUSION

Council has allocated \$61,300 for the 2008/09 Community Arts Grants round to be allocated according to the attached recommendations.