

7.3 MONASH NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING GRANTS

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to fund two projects that have applied to the 2017/18 Neighbourhood Matching Grants program.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants support community driven projects that are planned, delivered and managed by and for a local community. The Neighbourhood Matching Grants are for small groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants program aims to support new projects that make a positive impact on our neighbourhoods and local communities by:

- improving the appearance or use of shared/neighbourhood spaces;
- building social connections;
- sharing resources and ideas;
- supporting neighbourhoods to undertake environmental projects; and
- facilitating opportunities for neighbours to share their different cultures.

The Monash Community Grant Evaluation Panel, comprising of Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and Zographos have reviewed the applications and provided a recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total allocation recommended for this application is \$3,300.00, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council supports the project as it strengthens community capacity and benefits the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council accepts the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel recommendations to fund a total of \$3,300 for a one-off cash allocation supporting two (2) Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant applications as follows:

- 1. African Australian Mothers of Preschoolers Project for \$2,000.*
- 2. OC Connections for \$1,300.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek support from Council to fund two projects who have applied for funding via the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program (MNMG).

BACKGROUND

The Monash Community Grants Program allocates approximately \$2.53M annually to a range of incorporated groups community organisations and groups. These allocations support seniors groups, emerging communities, arts groups and community organisations to deliver services and activities that benefit Monash residents. The nature of the program requires that these organisations be incorporated and have appropriate public liability insurance.

Consequently, informal neighbourhood groups who want to undertake a small local one-off project that could benefit their local area are ineligible to apply to the Monash Community Grants Program.

As a means to addressing this barrier, Council has designed a small, grass roots grant program that encourages applications from groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood. Many of these projects would not go ahead without some form of financial assistance, therefore this grant program allows these projects to come to fruition.

DISCUSSION

Neighbourhood Matching Grant Objectives

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants will support community driven projects that are planned, delivered and managed by and for a neighbourhood community. The Neighbourhood Matching Grants are for small groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood.

The Matching Grants program aims to support new projects that make a positive impact on our neighbourhoods and local communities by:

- improving the appearance or use of shared/neighbourhood spaces;
- building social connections;
- sharing resources and ideas;
- supporting neighbourhoods to undertake environmental projects; and

- facilitating opportunities for neighbours to share their different cultures.

These objectives are consistent with feedback from the community regarding a desire by individuals and families to be more closely connected with their community at their local neighbourhood level. The process of applying for a MNMG gives members of a local community another avenue to speak and engage with their neighbours.

Grant Recommendations

Two applications have been received in the last month.

The 'African Australian Mothers of Preschoolers Project' has been developed by a recognised community leader who has identified a need within her own community and has initiated connections in Ashwood through Power Neighbourhood House. Through this pilot project, women will gain greater access to local services and information relevant to them and their families. It will offer them opportunities to engage with the broader community to build greater understanding of each other's cultures. The applicant has identified that the project will match Council's funding with approximately \$11,500 in volunteer hours over the 12-month pilot period, which will consist of program coordination and delivery, guest presentations/ facilitation and administration. In addition, Power Neighbourhood House has provided initial in-kind support totalling \$1,500 for venue hire. This support may increase in value as the project continues to take shape.

The second project, 'Get to Know Your Neighbour Events' has been developed by residents who have moved out of the group accommodation at OC Connections and want to connect with their local neighbours now they have moved into smaller houses across Monash. They have planned to host four (4) barbeques, one at each of the new residences, to build lasting links with the community of residents in the neighbouring houses. Council funding will be matched through in-kind support provided by OC Connections staff, who will provide the residents with support to coordinate each of the events, as well as the voluntary time provided by the residents themselves. Lions Club members have also committed their voluntary support to provide BBQs at all four events. The total in-kind value of the support provided to match this grant request is approximately \$2,480.

These applications have been reviewed by the Monash Community Grants Evaluation panel Crs Klisaris, Little, Paterson and Zographos and are recommended for allocation;

Project Title	Project Summary	Location of Neighbourhood Group	\$ Allocation
African Australian Mothers of Preschoolers Project	This project provides a space for women, especially mothers to meet and discuss issues in an informal setting through an African-Australian Mothers of Pre-schoolers (AAMOPs) group. This project will involve regular gatherings to support African Australian mothers and their families. These will gatherings will include - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story telling • Creative art • Cooking 	Power Neighbourhood House – Ashwood	\$2,000.00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sessions – Health education and promotion Supervision of Children – to allow mothers to participate in activities and presentations. 		
Get to Know Your Neighbour Events	This project has been developed by a group of residents who used to live in group housing at OC Connections. Following on from the success of an event they organised for International Neighbours day in which they made lasting connections with members of the local community, they are seeking to run barbeques to get to know their new neighbours now they are living in 4 different smaller houses across Monash.	4 different residential locations across Monash	\$1,300.00
TOTAL			\$3,300.00

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants policy has been implemented such that it supports the Council Plan and other strategic Council documents. It supports community connectivity and participation as well as targeting those whom are socially isolated. As required, the policy will be reviewed to ensure that it meets the changing needs of both Council and the community.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program has the potential to generate a greater sense of community. This will be achieved by encouraging greater participation in civic life by residents in a local area.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total allocation recommended for these applications is \$3,300.00, which is within Council's budget for this program.

These grants are one off allocations and are not recurrent in nature.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program assists local residents to connect with their neighbours, come together and share ideas, foster a sense of belonging and increase community participation. This grant program builds on Council's commitment to create a greater sense of community in the City of Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant Guidelines