

6.3 PROPOSAL FOR INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL MELBOURNE 2018 AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Submitting Councillor: Paul Klisaris

MOTION

That Council:

- *Approves the proposal to present an Indian Film Festival Melbourne (IFFM) 2018 screening and an accompanying community celebration in partnership with community organisation Hindi Niketan as part of the IFFM in August 2018.*
- *Approves funding of \$28,000 to develop and deliver the community event, pending the success of a Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) Grant of \$20,000 currently under consideration.*

INTRODUCTION

I'm very pleased to present to Council a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the Indian community of Monash and seek approval to host a screening as part of the Indian Film Festival Melbourne (IFFM) in August 2018, in partnership with our community cultural organisation Hindi Niketan. This initiative encompasses an IFFM screening, preceded by a fantastic community celebration of dance and music, providing an opportunity to recognise the cultural influence of the Indian community and celebrate cinema, its major art form.

It's an exciting concept that extends its reach beyond the Indian community to be enjoyed by all of our citizens. Funding for the proposed event is being sought from two sources: from Council and from the Victorian Multicultural Commission Events and Festivals Grants Program to a total of \$48,000 pending the outcome of our grant submission to VMC.

DISCUSSION

The City of Monash is home to the fifth largest Indian born population in Victoria, with people of Indian heritage comprising the second largest migrant group in the city. The IFFM event provides an opportunity to recognise the escalating presence and influence of the Indian community in our city. Through the medium of film, one of the culture's most prominent art forms, participation in the IFFM will provide our residents in the City of Monash and Hindi Niketan with an engaging, vibrant avenue to celebrate and support the Indian community and celebrate this leading contemporary art form.

This is a special event that has such an opportunity to capture the spirit of inclusiveness and engagement that we know as an outstanding feature of our city. IFFM is an annual event that has grown in prominence since its inception seven years ago. The festival won the Melbourne Award for Best Contribution to Multiculturalism by a Corporation in November 2016 and earlier this year was awarded the Best Indian Film Festival outside of India by the Indian Government.

The festival has been building on expansion into suburban and regional areas of Victoria, in particular to those areas with large Indian and subcontinent migrant populations, in which we are a leader. IFFM has a national and international profile and has received coverage in the Indian media via CNN IBN and Colors Networks. It is a major opportunity for worldwide exposure for suburban and regional communities and councils.

As a partnership with Hindi Niketan, the event is proposed to feature sponsorship of the IFFM screening, with a community cultural celebration of dance and music to precede the screening and enhance the celebration and fun of the event. It's proposed to take place on Saturday 18 August at the Village Cinema in Glen Waverley. For maximum celebration and participation prior to film screening, we're planning to hold the event in the Glen Waverley Library courtyard adjacent to the Civic Centre.

To fund the IFFM sponsorship, Council is auspicing an application by Hindi Niketan for \$20,000 funding to the Victorian Multicultural Commission Festivals and Events Grants stream. Council will be advised of the outcome in June. To fund the community celebration event development and logistics, \$28,000 funding is sought from Council. A summary of the project budget is:

Income	\$	Expenditure	\$
VMC Grant <i>Currently under consideration by VMC</i>	20,000	Event logistics, safety, emergency planning	7000
Council	28,000	Venue hire	8000
		Catering	5000
		Cultural activity sponsorship	20,000
		Equipment and security	8000
Total income	\$48,000	Total expenditure	\$48,000

CONCLUSION

I urge my fellow councillors to support this exciting initiative by supporting participation in the Indian Film Festival Melbourne 2018 and our opportunity to celebrate the city's growing Indian community. By hosting an IFFM screening and a community cultural event in partnership with Hindi Niketan, Council highlights its growing and valued Indian community. We showcase our local dance and music scene that are intrinsic parts of Indian culture and part of community life in Monash and invite the whole community to the celebration.