

COMMON COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2022-061
Report Date	March 01, 2022
Meeting Date	March 07, 2022
Service Area	Growth and Community Services

Her Worship Mayor Donna Noade Reardon and Members of Common Council

SUBJECT: Community Grants Program 2022

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Jennifer Kirchner</i>	<i>Jacqueline Hamilton</i>	<i>John Collin</i>

RECOMMENDATION

Your City Manager recommends Common Council:

Approve the recommendations of the Community Grants Committee for the granting of funding to the successful applicants for the 2022 Community Grants Program, as indicated in M&C Report 2022-061.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Grants Program was adopted by Common Council in 2014 for the purpose of providing financial support for the operational needs of community organizations, projects, and/or special events. A Community Grants Evaluation Committee was created and is now comprised of two community members, two members of Common Council, and two City of Saint John staff.

The evaluation process considers community needs, the social impact of the organization's service, project, or event, its history in serving the community, its alignment with Council Priorities, and its organizational strengths and financial responsibility.

There is a funding envelope of \$184,000 designated for the 2022 Community Grants Program, which is included in the approved 2022 General Fund Operating Budget. The Community Grants Evaluation Committee's primary task is to review, evaluate, and identify funding allocations according to adopted program guidelines and report back to Common Council with recommendations.

While the task of selecting the successful recipients of the grant is always a

challenging exercise, the Committee is very excited with the extensive and valuable programming and supports what the grant will unlock in the Saint John community over 2022.

REPORT

The 2022 Community Grants Evaluation Committee evaluated 38 grant applications for organizational support, community projects, and special events, totaling over \$479,747 in requests.

The City of Saint John's Community Grants Program aims to provide not a handout but a 'hand up' to the many organizations who give back to the community a hundredfold. Saint John is fortunate to benefit from a vibrant and diverse community sector, which provides valuable programming and supports to residents. The City's commitment to Community Grants is indicative of the vital role community groups play in Saint John and the broader value proposition we collectively offer to those who live in our City.

Upon the approval of Common Council, funds granted to the recommended applicants will translate into outstanding benefits for the Saint John community. To highlight just a few, the City of Saint John will support:

- Organizations, programs, and events that support diversity, equality, and inclusiveness.
- Advocacy and services for citizens and children living in poverty, including food security, shelter, and skill development.
- Community/Seniors Centres and other community spaces that offer a safe and affordable place to gather in our communities.
- Art, music, and entertainment to nurture performers and artists, as well as citizens.
- Celebrations that recognize cultural diversity.
- Resources and support for newcomers.
- Educational opportunities for youth.

The Committee is pleased to recommend grant funding for the following applications for 2022:

Application	Grant Allocation
You Can Ride Two	1,000
Hillcrest Church	1,500
NB Music Festival	2,000
West Side Trail	2,000
United Colours of Fashion	4,000
L'Arche	5,000
SJ Tool Library	5,000
CHROMA	6,000
Dennis Morris Community Centre	6,000
KBM	6,000
Lorneville Community Centre	6,000
Martinon Community Centre	6,000
Milford Community Centre	6,000
Seniors Resource Centre	6,000
Tucker Park Recreation	6,000
Sophia Recovery Centre	6,500
Saint John Trojans	7,000
Outflow Men's Shelter	10,000
Sistema	10,000
Elizabeth Fry Society	10,500
Bee Me Kidz	11,000
Shining Horizons	11,000
Human Development Council	15,000
PRUDE	15,000
SJ Newcomers Centre	19,500
TOTAL	\$184,000.00

The following applicants are not being recommended to receive funding from the 2022 Community Grants Program:

- Brilliant Labs
- Compassionate Grief Centre
- Elementary Literacy
- Family Plus
- Fort LaTour
- Gentle Path
- Junior Achievement
- Loch Lomond Villa
- Rides at Rockwood
- The Ecumenical Saturday Supper
Ministry of East Saint John
- We Believe

In addition, two other applications have not received funding through this program. The application for Third Shift has not been allocated funding under this Grant Program, as it better aligns with the funding opportunities offered by the Community Arts Board. Sculpture Saint John traditionally receives in-kind support from the City of Saint John and it is anticipated that this relationship will continue during 2022.

As mentioned earlier in this report, there are various criteria upon which all applications are scored. This evaluation, along with a review of the application's eligibility for the program, form the basis for the Evaluation Committee's funding recommendations. It must also be recognized that there is a finite envelope of funding available. As a result, applications may have significant merit and potential benefits to the community; however, they may not be approved based on the evaluation outcomes of all applications submitted in any given year.

Any successful applicants in 2022 will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding prior to receiving their funding, which will require a commitment to submit an end-of-year report and return any unused funding.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

March 8, 2021- RESOLVED that as recommended in the submitted report M&C 2021-057: *Community Grants 2021*, Common Council approve the successful applicants for the 2021 Community Grants Program, as follows:

- Human Development Council - \$15,000
- PRUDE - \$15,000
- Sistema - \$15,000
- Bee Me Kidz - \$10,000
- Outflow Ministries - \$10,000
- Saint John Newcomers Centre - \$10,000
- Shining Horizons - \$10,000
- Sophia Recovery Centre - \$10,000
- Seniors Resource Centre - \$9,625
- Loch Lomond Villa - \$7,500
- Denis Morris Community Centre - \$6,000
- KBM Community Centre - \$6,000
- Lorneville Community Centre - \$6,000
- Martinon Community Centre - \$6,000
- Milford Memorial Community Centre - \$6,000
- Brilliant Labs - \$5,000
- Greater SJ Community Garden - \$5,000
- Saint John Tool Library - \$5,000
- Fundy Seniors - \$4,875
- Balysto Steelband - \$4,000
- Third Shift - \$4,000
- Junior Achievement - \$3,000
- Carleton Community Garden - \$2,500
- We Believe - \$2,500
- Chroma - \$2,000
- Indo-Canadian Society - \$2,000
- NB Festival of Music - \$2,000

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Community Grants Program aligns with Common Council's Priorities to support opportunities for growth and prosperity, and to foster a vibrant city through investment in arts, culture, and recreation experiences that create a sense of community pride. Supporting a community-based model for the delivery of recreation opportunities is also a key principle of Play SJ.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The 2021 General Fund Operating Budget included a total envelope of \$184,000 for the Community Grants Program. Should the recommendations outlined in this report be approved by Common Council, the total envelope would be dispersed.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- The Community Grants Evaluation Committee provided the funding allocation recommendations indicated in this report. We wish to thank the committee members for their time and service in supporting this exercise. They include Amit Tamrakar, Graeme Stewart-Robertson, Councilor Barry Ogden, Councilor Greg Stewart, Lori Lambert and Jennifer Kirchner.
- The Community Grants Program is administered by the City of Saint John Growth and Community Services.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appendix - Summary Table of Applications Received for 2022 Community Grants Program
2. Power Point Presentation