

Management report to Council

Agenda item 6.5

Social Partnerships Program 2021-23 Panel Recommendations

Council

Presenter: Rushda Halith, Director Community Development

29 June 2021

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the recommendations of the external Assessment Panel (Panel) for the Social Partnerships Program (SPP) 2021–2023.
2. Council endorsed the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework in September 2018. The SPP is a stream within this framework. With a budget allocation of \$685,000 per year, the SPP provides two year project funding from \$20,000 to \$60,000 per year to support not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises and certified B Corporations to deliver projects that address City of Melbourne social priorities for social change. The SPP guideline overview (Attachment 2).

Key issues

3. The SPP opened on 3 February 2021 and closed on 9 March 2021. A total of 47 applications were received, with an annual funding request of \$2.15 million (\$4.3 million over two years). Of the applicants, 30 (64 per cent) had not previously applied for a community grant from Council.
4. Applications were assessed by the Panel comprising of experts in social enterprise, business and the not-for-profit and community sectors. The Panel has recommended 17 projects, 13 for full funding and four for partial funding with two applications on reserve should an endorsed application be unable to proceed, or decline the offer of the grant.
5. All proposed projects align to the *Council Plan 2021-2025* strategic objectives including *Safety and Wellbeing* and *Access and Affordability*, the *COVID-19 Reactivation and Recovery Plan* and United Nations Sustainability Development Goals. The projects align with through the SPP objectives including to empower communities, to identify and respond to local need and build community capacity along with key social priorities to advance social outcomes for a more inclusive city. Recommended applications (Attachment 2).
6. Assuming Council endorsement of the recommendations, tailored funding agreements will be negotiated with each recipient organisation. Agreements will include half yearly reporting with a measurement framework to ensure organisations demonstrate agreed positive change outcomes. Funding for the subsequent period will not be paid if an organisation is not able to achieve outcomes against the agreed measures.
7. Feedback will be provided to all applicants not recommended for funding.

Recommendation from management

8. That Council:
 - 8.1. Approves the 2021–2023 Social Partnerships grants as detailed in Attachment 2.
 - 8.2. Authorises the General Manager Community and City Services to approve funding for up to two reserve applications in the event that one or more of the recommended projects cannot proceed or declines funding.
 - 8.3. Authorises management to enter into negotiations with successful applicants and authorises the General Manager Community and City Services to execute final funding agreements with each organisation in accordance with this Council resolution and the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 6)
2. Program overview and recommended applications (Page 3 of 6)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management.

Finance

2. The Community Grants annual budget for the Social Partnerships Program (SPP) is \$685,000. A total of up to \$1,370,000 over two years may be recommended by the Panel for funding.

Conflict of interest

3. All assessment panel members were asked to complete an Assessment Panel Declaration – Conflict of Interest and Privacy and Confidentiality forms. This information is held on corporate files.
4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

5. In determining the management recommendations, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

Stakeholder consultation

6. Local communities were advised of the program through a number of communication channels including social media, newsletters, mail lists (including email) and via Council's professional networks. This approach reaches existing organisations Council already has relationships with and new and emerging organisations and communities.
7. An online information session was held on Thursday 11 February and representatives from 73 organisations registered to attend this session.

Relation to Council policy

8. The SPP is authorised under the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework, supports the Council Plan strategic objectives and aligns with the Health, Wellbeing and Belonging Portfolio.

Environmental sustainability

9. In developing proposals for application to the SPP, all applicants have been required to address environmental sustainability issues or opportunities as part of their project plan.

Attachment 2

Program overview and recommended applications

1. Objectives of the Social Partnerships Program

The Social Partnerships Program allow the City of Melbourne to:

- Empower communities to identify and respond to local need
- Partner with community organisations to deliver shared outcomes
- Activate community participation
- Build capacity within communities and in the community sector

2. Recommended application criteria

Each application is assessed by an independent external panel. Applications are assessed against the following criteria;

1. Addressing purpose, social priorities/issues, UN SDG's and priority local people and groups experiencing disadvantage
2. Impact
3. Organisational capacity and partners
4. Budget

3. Non-recommended applications

Applications that were not recommended generally did not strongly address the assessment criteria or the program's key objectives relative to the other applications.

The four most common elements demonstrated across the non-recommended applications were:

- Poor demonstration of community need
- Lack of alignment to the Social Partnerships objectives
- Lack of demonstration of appropriate project partners
- Duplication of existing services or business as usual

4. Recommended applications

The following applications are recommended for funding. These applications represent a diverse selection of community focussed projects.

Social Partnerships Program – Recommendations

The total budget allocated to Social Partnerships Program over two years is \$1,370,000

	Organisation Project Title Project description	Recommended amount total over two years
1	<p>Attitude Foundation Limited Emerging Voices, Amplifying Issues and Changing Attitudes</p> <p>The project will provide a mentoring program for 30 young people with disabilities supporting pathways to training/employment to build capacity and participation. The project will develop a suite of resources to support pathways for people with disabilities in the media industry.</p>	120,000
2	<p>Learning and Life Centre (The Huddle) Ltd Game Changers</p> <p>The project will supports local young people from multicultural backgrounds through intensive education and mentoring. Young people's capacity will be built through interpersonal, technical and enterprising skills will be developed through project-based learning to support career pathways. Young people will be paired and employed by local community sector organisations.</p>	120,000
3	<p>St Vincent de Paul Society Vinnies Kitchen</p> <p>The project will provide a unique opportunity to individuals who have experienced homelessness. Volunteers will be mentored by experienced volunteers who will provide skills and training towards work readiness building capacity and participation. The project will deliver fresh produce as well as other non-perishable items to people in the City of Melbourne experiencing food insecurity.</p>	120,000
4	<p>RMIT University Finding the words is easy-or is it?</p> <p>The project will work with the Australian Institute of Translators, RMIT with LGBTIQ+ people from diverse and CALD backgrounds in the City of Melbourne. Workshops will develop and advance language skills and develop a series of multilingual resources to be shared and continuously updated. The project builds capacity and connection and belonging and address loneliness and increase community participation.</p>	115,000
5	<p>iGen Foundation Ltd Keeping it in the family: business training for migrant families</p> <p>The project will work with 40 families in CoM over two years to provide skills and knowledge for business startup and growth through training sessions mentoring and business coaching. Migrant owned family businesses are very likely to be successful and create broad employment opportunities. The project will empower and build capacity and economic outcomes.</p>	114,720
6	<p>The PROJECT ROCKIT Foundation TOGETHER, WE ROCKIT: Building inclusive school communities</p> <p>The project will deliver an innovative program designed to address emerging challenges for young people and build digital literacy and social inclusion in a post-COVID world. Partnering with seven schools in the City of Melbourne with a participant base of students (Year 3-8), educators, parents and guardians.</p>	98,080
7	<p>Leadership Education Advancement & Development for Asian Australians Inc. By-women-for-women safety awareness project</p> <p>The project will work with young women to educate and support a safer experience in the city. Acknowledging violence against women and increased racism experienced by Asian communities during COVID-19. A series of sessions with young women and production of short films raising awareness and strategies for safety. The project empowers and builds capacity and connection.</p>	94,020

8	<p>Salamfest Incorporated Women's حكمة نساء wisdom circles</p> <p>The project will comprise of regular gatherings to create connection and belonging by enabling space women from diverse backgrounds in the Kensington and North Melbourne areas to share and make connections and build capacity and participation across cultures, stories and lived experiences.</p>	93,300
9	<p>Just Gold Digital Agency The Invisible Woman #stayvisible</p> <p>The project will connect women and raise awareness through a campaign and tools and resources to support women to reduce loneliness and isolation, engage and increase connection and community participation. The project recognises that women over 50 are a growing group of women more likely to experience disadvantage and reduced opportunities regardless of background, education or professional pathways and this risk has increased through COVID-19 impacts.</p>	74,000
10	<p>Eastern Domestic Violence Service HaiR-3Rs - Family violence training for salon professionals</p> <p>The project will work with salon professionals in the municipality to learn how to recognise signs of family violence, respond to disclosures and refer clients to family violence services for support. HaiR-3Rs is an internationally evidence informed training. The project builds capacity, connection and partnerships.</p>	60,000
11	<p>The Dax Centre Studio Dax: Art for Inclusion and Connection</p> <p>The project will engage people living with complex mental health issues in weekly arts activities to develop skills, reduce isolation and loneliness, increase community participation and capacity building.</p>	60,000
12	<p>Contemporary Music Victoria Inc. Live Music Venue Accessibility Program</p> <p>The project will deliver a Live Music Venues Accessibility program for venues within the municipality devised by Music Victoria and industry partners to support venues to improve accessibility and increase participation and inclusion.</p>	59,723
13	<p>River Nile School Educating Adult Refugee and Asylum Seeker Women</p> <p>The project will provide education to adult refugee and asylum seeker women. The program provides learning, skill development and capacity building for the women from diverse backgrounds to support self and families.</p>	56,000
14	<p>It's Not A Compliment Your Stories Matter</p> <p>The project will raise awareness around violence and harassment and empower young women through sharing experiences to build greater awareness, education and allyship in the broader community.</p>	54,832
15	<p>The Pinnacle Foundation Partnership for a City of Melbourne Scholarship</p> <p>The Pinnacle Foundation partnership will support an educational scholarship award which will match mentors to young adults who have experienced disadvantage in educational settings and enable them to realise their potential.</p>	50,000
16	<p>Marco Polo Project Becoming cosmopolitan Melburnians: collaborative translation for migrant place-making</p> <p>The project will deliver a series of events for CLAD migrants and international students to build language and connections with community and to the city, The project increases community participation, broadens connections and develops community.</p>	47,640
17	<p>Laneway Learning Laneway Learning & Unicorns presents Queer Social</p>	32,685

	The project will deliver an extensive workshop program in partnership bringing LGBTQIA+ people together to learn new skills, to reduce isolation, make connections, build capacity, be welcome and belong post COVID-19 in the city.	
		1,370,000

5. Social Priorities

The above recommended applications address the following key social priorities:

- Create pathways to employment and build capacity through education, training and other initiatives.
- Address loneliness and isolation
- Address digital literacy
- Address discrimination and improve access, equality and equity
- Uphold social justice and human rights
- Improve mental wellbeing
- Contribute to community safety
- Increase community participation
- Address homelessness

6. Sustainable Development Goals

The above recommended applications address the following sustainable development goals:

- Reduced inequalities
- Good health and wellbeing
- Gender equality
- Peace, justice and good institutions

7. Community Cohorts

Recommended applications target the following community cohorts:

- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- International students
- LGBTIQ+ communities
- Newly arrived migrants and refugees
- People with a disability
- People who are homeless or are at risk of homeless
- Women
- Young people (aged 12 to 25)