

2015-2016 Community Board Grants

TO	Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM	Kirstin Richmond - Community Coordinator, Mercury Bay
DATE	01 September 2015
SUBJECT	2015-2016 Community Board Grants

1 Purpose of Report

The Community Board to consider and decide the allocation of the \$60,000.00 Community Grant funding, included in the 2015/2016 Annual Plan, to organisations who have applied for funding assistance through the 2015-2016 Community Grant round.

2 Background

- Local community organisations are invited annually to apply for financial assistance to undertake projects of benefit to the community. Community Grants are budgeted for in the Ten Year Plan or Annual Plan each year and community groups must comply with the set criteria to be eligible.
- Each Community Board follows a procedure for assessing and allocating the Community Grant funds with a final decision determining the allocation at an Ordinary meeting of the Board.
- Staff assess each application on whether it meets the Community Grant criteria, has provided a budget for the 2015/2016 year and financial statements for the previous year.
- The Mercury Bay Community Board has a contestable general fund of \$40,000 and contestable events fund of \$20,000 available for allocation..
- Council has a responsibility of ensuring that all public money granted to third parties is used for its intended purpose. To help Council achieve this goal, organisations applying for funding will be required to meet certain criteria and provide proof of expenditure at the end of the financial year.

3 Issue

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4 Discussion

Community Grants are guided by Council's Community Grants Policy. This policy covers a broad range of funding mechanisms Council can use to support community groups. The policy informs the Community Grant guidelines and criteria used to assess applications received from community groups. The following is the Policy Statement from the Community Grants Policy:

Community Grants Policy Statement

The objectives for Community Board grants funding is to:

- encourage and support local community services, activities and events
- support not for profit community organisations which have a positive impact on the

community

- recognise, support and enhance volunteer effort in the community, and
- recognise, support and enhance community diversity and aspirations.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin the Council and Community Board's approach to grants:

Transparency

The criteria applied to funding decisions will be readily available and communicated to groups. The Council and Community Boards will also be clear about the decisions it has made and what it expects to achieve with the allocated resources. Recipients of funding must be willing to report publicly on how much support they received from the Council and/or Community Board and what they achieved with the support.

Equity

Funding opportunities will be notified as widely as possible. The organisational status of an agency (registered charity, unincorporated society, social enterprise etc.) will not be a barrier to funding, as long as the organisation can demonstrate that it is established and operating as a not-for-profit agency.

Accountability

The Council and Community Boards are accountable for its use of ratepayers' resources including the funding it makes available to not-for-profit organisations. The Council and Community Boards will develop and implement monitoring and reporting systems that allow it to fulfil its obligations to ratepayers. Recipients of funding must recognise that they are undertaking activities through use of ratepayer resources.

Respect

The relationship between the Council, Community Boards and funding recipients will be based on respect and will acknowledge the accountability, complementary roles and responsibilities of each of the parties.

Community Grants are part of the Social Development activity and Council believes that the support of sports, arts and life education is important to achieving healthy communities. The objective of the Social Development activity is:

"To promote the social wellbeing of our diverse communities".

Staff will work with the community groups to ensure the allocated funding is expended as per their Community Grant application in the required timeframe. Groups allocated a grant of \$5,000.00 or more will be required to sign a Contract For Community Service.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the report.
2. Confirms the allocation of community grant funding from the 2015/2016 Community Grant budget to organisations who have applied for financial assistance as below: