

**3.1: 2012-13 COMMUNITY FUNDING RECOMMENDATION
ENDORSEMENT**

Attachments	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Funding Guidelines (Attachment 1)• Funding Recommendations (Attachment 2)
Appendices	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Funding Application Form (Appendix 1)• Community Funding Acquittal Form (Appendix 2)• Community Funding FAQ's (Appendix 3)• Community Funding Communications Schedule (Appendix 4)
Responsible Officer	:	Acting Executive Director Community Services (C Woods)

IN BRIEF

- Endorsement of Community Funding Recommendations
- Applications recommended for funding represent good value for Council, align with focus areas within the Strategic Plan and present a range of options for Council to visibly engage with the community and demonstrate support of community initiatives.
- It is recommended that Council endorse funding applications as recommended by the Funding Panel and outlined in Attachment 2.

**ITEM 3.1: RESOLUTION
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

**MOVED: COUNCILLOR BOWLES
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR CALLEJA**

THAT Council ENDORSE Community Funding recommendations as outlined in Attachment 2.

CARRIED 12-0

BACKGROUND

1. At the Ordinary Council Meeting 19 June 2012 Council endorsed the 2012-2013 City of Albany Budget that included an allocation of \$35,000 for Community Assistance Funding (Item 1.5, No 51 refers).
2. The 2012-2013 Budget Adoption Report noted:

Community Assistance Funding of \$35,000 will assist community groups and individuals deliver projects, initiatives and events that:
 - Enhance community engagement and participation;
 - Build community resilience and well being; and/or
 - Develop the vibrancy and liveability of Albany.
3. The Community Funding application period closed on 05 July 2012. Applications have been assessed and recommendations for funding are now presented to Council for endorsement.

DISCUSSION

Community Financial Assistance – Overview

4. Council has endorsed a package of community support initiatives for many years known as Community Financial Assistance. Community Financial Assistance included rate rebates, sundry donations, iconic events, community events, sporting events, tip passes, youth crisis services, minor grants, major grants and heritage conservation incentive grants. Community Financial Assistance was managed through the Corporate Services Directorate with oversight and delegated authority through the Community Financial Assistance Committee.
5. At the April 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting Council endorsed that a moratorium be placed on all the grant category allocations under the Community Financial Assistance program to the years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.
6. Rates rebates and iconic events were and have remained exempt from the moratorium. Rate rebates are managed through the Corporate Services Directorate and iconic events are managed through the Office of the CEO.
7. As part of 2012-2013 budget deliberations Council agreed that the moratorium on Community Financial Assistance would continue excepting rate rebates, iconic events and \$35,000 for Community Assistance Funding.
8. As noted in 1 and 2 Council endorsed a Community Assistance Funding program of \$35,000 for 2012-2013. This program has been developed and delivered by the Community Services Directorate.

Community Assistance Funding – Process

Development

9. Eligibility criteria, funding criteria, application documentation and assessment processes were developed for this Community Assistance Funding. The changes to previous criteria illustrate that this funding differed to funding programs in the past. See Attachment 1 for the revised Community Funding Guidelines. See Appendices 1 to 4 for the revised Application Form, Acquittal Form, Frequently Asked Questions and Communications Schedule.
10. The revised 'Community Funding' guidelines were broadened to be more inclusive and representative of the community than the previous funding model that restricted funding to 'Community Events' only.
11. Assessment of applications was conducted by a panel including:
 - Councillor Sarah Bowles;
 - Acting Executive Director of Community Services, Cameron Woods; and
 - Manager of Cultural and Community Development, Adam Cousins
12. The Panel used a matrix to assess each application against 13 criteria.
13. The Panel was required to submit a Disclosure of Interest form in instances where an Interest was declared.

Delivery

14. The Community Funding Program was promoted as per the Communications Schedule in Appendix 4.
15. Applications for funding were open from 07 June 2012 to 05 July 2012. Applicants could download all funding materials from the City website or request hard copy material.
16. Applicants could speak to City Officers to discuss their application but this was not a requirement for funding.
17. The Assessment Panel met on Thursday 12 July to determine recommendations for funding.

Outcomes

18. 28 applications were received requesting total funding of \$142,420 with a total project value of \$490,836.
19. Eight applications were ineligible. Ineligibility related to:
 - Request for funding of capital works;
 - Request for funding of recurrent sporting events or competitions; and
 - Applicant has an outstanding acquittal with the City.
20. Nine applications met the eligibility criteria but were not recommended for funding by the panel.
21. Eleven applications met the eligibility criteria and have been recommended for funding.

Community Funding Recommendations

22. An outline of all applications received highlighting applications recommended for funding is outlined in Attachment 2.
23. A summary of applications recommended for funding is outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Applications Recommended for 2012-2013 Community Funding.

Applicant	Project	Total Project \$	Funding Request \$	Funding Recommended \$
Artsouth WA	Southern Art and Craft Trail	28,944	5,000	4,000
Wellstead Community Resource Centre	Harvest Carnival	14,589	5,400	2,000
Albany Maritime Foundation	Festival of the Sea	19,300	7,000	3,500
Creative Albany	Arthouse Film Season – Town Hall	25,080	2,500	2,500
Creative Albany - Bookmark	'Poetry Clips' – Multi-media art project for youth at risk	30,152	6,000	4,000
Green Skills	Bike Festival	5,902	5,702	2,000
NewArts	Floating Sculpture Project	25,185	7,000	3,500
Albany Little Athletics	Country Championships	19,380	2,800	2,000
Southern Edge Arts	Commissioning of New Work - 'All in Good Time'	34,000	7,000	3,500
Little Grove Community Garden	Establishment of new Community Garden	14,700	6,392	4,000
Boatshed Markets	Night Market Series	11,632	5,800	4,000
	Total	228,864	60,594	35,000

24. In determining recommendations from eligible applications the Assessment Panel considered the following items as outlined in the funding guidelines:
- The capacity for the project, activity or event to provide high quality outcomes as measured against the funding priorities;
 - Has the applicant clearly demonstrated why the project, activity or event is needed by the community and how it will be provided?
 - The level of cash or in-kind contribution by the applicant and other funding committed to the project. The minimum financial contribution from the applicant (cash, in-kind, additional revenue or funding) must be on a dollar for dollar matching basis. The City will only provide up to a maximum of 50% of the total project, activity or event cost.
 - Does the applicant demonstrate they have made other attempts to seek funding, support and partnerships from other funding bodies and organisations?
 - Does the proposal demonstrate capacity for long-term viability?
 - Projects which replicate services already provided by the City of Albany are unlikely to be funded.
25. It is noted that Creative Albany is recommended for funding of two projects. This organisation acts as an auspicing body for projects and is not seeking funding directly.

Panel Comments

26. A summary of panel commentary for each application is noted in Attachment 2.
27. The panel also noted the following:
- The majority of grant applications were not of a high quality. Options for the facilitation of skill development for community groups in this area could be a valuable future project;
 - Sporting/recreation applications were under represented or ineligible. Future funding programs could consider options for categorised funding with specific or tailored criteria that may attract more applications. Categories could include:
 - Sport and recreation;
 - Culture and the arts;
 - Community development; and
 - Environment and sustainability.
 - Council should consider approving a Community Funding allocation at least six months prior to the financial year to allow enough time to promote the funding program and extend the application period. This may result in community groups developing stronger projects and higher quality applications.

- Artsouth WA's application for the Great Southern Art Trail could be considered as being funded through recurrent iconic event funding in the future. Given State Government acknowledgement of the status of this event through Events Corp funding it may be more appropriate to fund this event through recurrent funding should iconic event funding be reviewed.
- Recommendations for funding in 2012-2013 are more representative of broader community activity than previous 'Community Events' Funding.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

28. Not applicable.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

29. The 2012-2013 Community Funding Program was promoted widely including:

- Two advertisements in local newspapers;
- One media release reported in local newspapers;
- Posting on City of Albany website including link from the Home Page; and
- Two email's to community organisation databases (prior to and during application period). See appendix 4 for the project communications schedule.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

30. Nil.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

31. The City of Albany Strategic Plan 2011-2021 notes a number of items (both specific and non-specific) in relation to Community Funding. These are outlined in Table 2 Below.

Table 2: City of Albany Strategic Plan 2011-2021 – Items Related to Community Funding

Community Priority	Proposed Strategy	Timeframe
KEY FOCUS AREA: Community Focussed Organisation		
<i>Improved Communications</i>	<i>Promote City of Albany processes, procedures and project outcomes</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Continue to be proactive in updating the community through newspapers</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Communicate with residents and stakeholders clearly and concisely in a timely manner</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Regularly advertise programs and services through a variety of mediums including website, newspaper, radio and community noticeboards</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Support for Community Groups</i>	<i>Provide financial assistance grants to community organisations to assist and promote community projects and activities</i>	<i>Short</i>
	<i>Support community groups by identifying funding opportunities</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
KEY FOCUS AREA: Community Focussed Organisation		
<i>Tourism Development</i>	<i>Encourage Diversity in Tourism Product, including food and wine, indigenous tourism, heritage tourism, through partnerships with key tourism stakeholders</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Support large scale local events, festivals and markets to attract tourists</i>	<i>Medium</i>
KEY FOCUS AREA: Lifestyle and Environment		
<i>An Enhanced Central Business District</i>	<i>Consult with the community over the future use of the Town Hall to ensure it remains a 'community' facility (ie art gallery) and useable by multiple community groups</i>	<i>Short</i>
<i>Services for Youth</i>	<i>Facilitate and advocate for increased Services for young people</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
	<i>Encourage venues that cater for live music to establish legal protocols to enable under age young people to attend</i>	<i>Short</i>

32. The Strategic Plan also notes that key focus areas and strategic priorities were identified in part through community consultation. Items noted by the community relevant to the Community Funding Program include:

- *Create a more vibrant, active Central Business District;*
- *Maintain Albany’s uniqueness and preserve its heritage; and*
- *Further develop the creative arts industry.*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 33. Council has previously managed Community Financial Assistance through its Council Policy – ‘Community Financial Assistance and Events Funding Program’. This policy delegated authority to approve or decline funding applications to the Financial Assistance Committee.
- 34. The Financial Assistance Committee was disbanded as part of the establishment of the new committees of council in November 2011. The oversight and management of Community Funding is not within the terms of reference of any of the current Committees of Council. Authority to approve funding is not delegated to any of the current Committees of Council. As such, Council must approve funding recommendations. A panel of City staff and the Chair of the Cultural and Community Development Committee have made recommendations for funding for final Council endorsement.

RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION

- 35. The risk identification and categorisation relies on the City’s Risk Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
<i>Council do not endorse any funding recommendations</i>	<i>Unlikely</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Rigorous application and assessment processes ensure Council have confidence in funding recommendations</i>
<i>Negative customer and community feedback from applicants declined for funding</i>	<i>Possible</i>	<i>Minor</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Application and assessment processes clearly communicated - including eligibility guidelines. Communication regarding competitiveness of funding pre and post council approval.</i>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 36. Council has endorsed the 2012-2013 City of Albany Budget that includes an allocation of \$35,000 for Community Assistance Funding (Item 1.5, No 51 refers).
- 37. Recommendations for Funding are within budget from City of Albany 127120 Expenses - Community Financial Assistance.
- 38. Management and oversight of Community Funding is undertaken using existing staff resources within the Community Services Directorate within existing allocated budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 39. Nil.

ALTERNATE OPTIONS

40. Council could make alternate recommendations for funding. Only applicants that are eligible and meet the funding criteria should be considered. If Council determine to endorse funding for an applicant that is ineligible or their project does not align with the funding criteria many organisations, groups and individuals that did not submit applications due to the eligibility or funding criteria would have reasonable grounds for complaint. Eligibility and funding criteria relevant to the applications received include:
- Organisations with outstanding acquittals with the City are ineligible;
 - Capital purchases of any kind including restoration or conservation works are ineligible; and
 - Recurrent sporting events such as annual carnivals, meets or competitions are ineligible.
41. Council could make alternate recommendations for the dollar amount of funding recommended for each applicant. Many of the projects recommended for funding only recommend partial funding. The Panel considered the capacity of each project to be delivered if only partial funding was allocated. Council changes to this recommendation may impact project delivery.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

42. The revised Community Funding process inclusive of guidelines, application, assessment and acquittal is considered to represent a greater level of transparency and accountability for Council. In addition to this the revised 'Community Funding' guidelines are more inclusive and representative of the community than the previous funding model that restricted funding to 'Community Events'.
43. Applications recommended for funding represent a diverse mix of community initiatives and projects. These projects deliver quality outcomes against the identified funding criteria as follows:
- Enhance community engagement and participation;
 - Build community resilience and well being; and/or
 - Develop the vibrancy and liveability of Albany.
44. Funding recommendations represent a fiscally responsible approach balanced against the capacity for projects to be delivered.
45. Applications recommended for funding represent good value for Council, align with focus areas within the strategic plan and present a range of options for Council to visibly engage with the community and demonstrate support of community initiatives.
46. It is recommended that Council endorse funding applications as recommended by the Funding Panel and outlined in Attachment 2.

<i>Consulted References</i>	:	<i>Community Financial Assistance and Events Funding Program Synergy Ref: NP098841_4</i>
<i>File Number (Name of Ward)</i>	:	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Previous Reference</i>	:	<i>OCM 19/06/2012 – Item 1.5 OCM 20/09/2011 – Item 1.4.4</i>