

2.4 2022/23 MONASH QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

Responsible Director: Russell Hopkins

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of successful applications to the Quick Response Grant program (QRG).

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Council is committed to supporting the local community groups and individual creative efforts that have arisen outside of the normal funding cycle of the Monash Community Grant Program (MCGP) to assist in strengthening community and building cohesion.

Five applications were assessed between the period of 1 July (when this new program opened) to 2 August. Funding of \$10,547.93 has been awarded to three successful applications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2022/23 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$111,587.66, of which \$10,547.93 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$10,547.93, with a remaining budget for the program of \$101,039.73.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Quick Response Grants successful recipients for the period 1 July to 2 August 2022 are presented to Council within the available budget.

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RECOMMENDATION

*That Council notes the successful applications that have been funded through the Quick Response Grant program during the period 1 July to 2 August 2022 to a total of **\$10,547.93**.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of successful applications to the Quick Response Grant program (QRG).

BACKGROUND

Monash Council has one of the largest community grant programs in Victoria and is proud of its commitment in supporting and valuing the dedicated community groups and organisations within our municipality.

At its meeting in June 2020 Council endorsed the establishment of a Quick Response Grant program (QRG). The basis for this grant program was to enable the Monash community and Council to remain adaptive and agile in response to COVID and ensure that groups could continue to meet and bring the community together. This program was proven to be extremely successful.

Council, at its meeting in May 2021, endorsed the QRG as a permanent open grant program, utilising the allocated funds each year.

The continuation of the Quick Response Grant Program has enabled Council to continue to support the local community groups and artists to remain agile and innovative.

As per the Guidelines that were endorsed at Council on 31 May 2022 the process is as follows:

- Applications will be submitted via SmartyGrants from 1 July 2022 until 12 May 2023, or until the allocation has been exhausted
- Applications will be assessed by an internal Council Officer Panel
- Applicants will receive a response from Council within six weeks of the application being received
- After receiving notification of a successful application, applicants must commence the project within four weeks and complete by 30 June 2023
- All successful applications will be formally acknowledged at the next applicable Council meeting

DISCUSSION

The QRG provides an opportunity for groups or individual artists whose idea, program, or issue falls outside of the normal grant round and previously had no opportunity to apply for funding through Council. By providing this source of funding it ensures that Council is continuing to

remain adaptive and agile to community needs. Community groups and artists can apply for up to \$5,000 in cash and/or in-kind hall hire, with the total budget allocation of \$111,587.66.

It is important to note that Quick Response Grants were developed for the community to provide innovative projects and are not to be a duplicate of an existing program, whether funded through MCGP or other avenues.

The QRG have been promoted through multiple Monash platforms, including:

- Monash Bulletin
- Monash social media – Facebook, Instagram and twitter
- As part of a mail out to current grant recipients
- Art & About e-newsletter

The grants opened on 1 July 2022 and will remain open until 12 May 2023 or until the allocations are exhausted.

Five applications were assessed between the period of 1 July to 2 August 2022.

The assessment criteria consists of the following:

1. Addresses an evidence-based community need or opportunity
2. Relevance to Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
3. The number of Monash residents that will benefit
4. The capacity of the organisation/community/individual to undertake the project
5. Budget expenditure

An evaluation matrix was developed, taking into consideration the guidelines, to ensure the applications were considered and assessed in an equitable and transparent way. The matrix provides the assessment process with rigour and consistency.

A total of **\$10,547.93** has been awarded to three successful applications, outlined in the table below. The amount awarded was determined by the project, amount and specific items requested in the application budget.

Applicant	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Wenxin Community Art Academy	Traditional Chinese painting & calligraphy class and exhibition	\$3,747.93
Chinese Association of Monash	Celebrating 2022 Mid-Autumn Festival and 2023 Spring Festival	\$2,800.00
Rajasthani Kutumb of Victoria	India Festival 2022	\$4,000.00
TOTAL		\$10,547.93

Details of the project as presented by the applicants are as follows:

Wenxin Community Art Academy (2223QRG0002) - \$3,747.93

Enabling current participants and additional participants to learn calligraphy as enhanced skill in Chinese painting.

- 1) Using bilingual teachers to teach Chinese calligraphy
- 2) Identify additional human resources to conduct Chinese calligraphy classes
- 3) Develop curriculum to enable development of calligraphy skill to add writing to paintings
- 4) Through which imparting the necessary cultural and traditional knowledge about Chinese calligraphy by reference to literatures and history.
- 5) As a phasing stage of introducing Chinese calligraphy, the painting class and calligraphy class will be conducted in alternate weeks or fit in to the two hour time frame if possible to have them carried out every week.
- 6) As the countermeasure for pandemic, both painting class and calligraphy class will be conducted with face to face and Zoom online simultaneously.

Chinese Association of Monash (2223QRG0009) - \$2,800.00

The Mid-Autumn Festival and the Spring Festival are two of the most important traditional festivals in China, during which Chinese people around the world reunite with their families and celebrate with relatives and friends in various forms. In September this year, we at Monash Chinese Association plan to hold singing, dancing, musical instruments, food, gardening, photography, calligraphy, guessing puzzles, chess and cards with the theme of the Mid-Autumn Festival and other series of activities, as well as the celebration of the Spring Festival and Lantern Festival in January-February next year. Through these activities, Chinese culture can be promoted, so that Chinese and local residents have the opportunity to celebrate the festival together, bring happiness to everyone, increase harmony between communities, promote healthy life, and more importantly, enhance the diversity of community culture and promote Multiculturalism.

The planned event dates for the series are listed below:

Day 1: Moon Festival Activities, Event Date: 13/09/2022, 10:00am to 1pm; setup starts 9:30pm, pack down finishes at 1pm.

Day 2: Spring Festival Activities, 31/01/2023, 10:00am to 1pm; setup starts 9:30pm, pack down finishes at 1pm.

Day 3: Spring Festival Activities, 07/02/2023, 10:00am to 1pm; setup starts 9:30pm, pack down finishes at 1pm

Rajasthani Kutumb of Victoria (2223QRG00014) - \$4,000.00

Spring is a special time for a lot of people in India. This is the time when nature is in full glory and its natural splendour. The spring season also marks the beginning of Festival season in India where people from across the country come together their various diversity, cultural harmony, food, colourful dresses among others.

Rajasthani Kutumb of Victoria (RAJKOV) is a cultural organisation comprising of migrants from the state of Rajasthan, India and settled in Victoria. As the climatic condition of Rajasthan is hot and dry, Spring and Rainy season is a great time for people to come together and celebrate the happiness with everyone. Women play a very important part in the culture and a lot of festivals are celebrated with the primary focus on women and children.

Teej, Diwali, Navratra, Durga Puja and some of the key festivals celebrated around this time of the year. In the spirit of togetherness Rajov intends to organise an India Festival to celebrate the uniqueness of Rajasthan and invite families from all neighbouring states of Rajasthan. The event will be mainly participated by married and unmarried women to perform many joys and rituals associated with these festivals and bring in joy and excitement.

The event will have performances showcasing and promoting Rajasthani culture including traditional singing, music, drama and dancing. There will be various workshops and stalls on traditional arts and crafts. For example, turban tying, rangoli painting, face painting, palm reading, etc. Rajasthani and Indian food will be catered from local restaurants. RAJKOV have been celebrating for years to promote diversity, multiculturalism and share our culture while upholding rights and responsibilities of being Victorian. The festival helps promote the fact that a strong society is built on mutual respect, tolerance and understanding thereby addressing social issues of isolation, exclusion for new overseas migrants and sends a message of belonging and inclusion throughout the neighbourhood and wider community. We as a community are trying to make sure unique Rajasthani traditions and values are nurtured. We are targeting to include local community in the celebrations, especially those around Clayton

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Monash Quick Response Grants program is a subset of the Monash Community Grants Program Policy that has been implemented with the intention of supporting the Council Plan as well as Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan and other relevant strategic documents.

The Program encourages community connectivity and participation, as well as focusing Council's support on community groups most in need. The MCGP Policy is reviewed annually to ensure that it meets the changing needs of both Council and the community.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Monash community sector has a rich history of innovation and promoting community participation. The QRG program enables Council to be adaptive to the community's needs and for many community groups to respond effectively and innovatively for their members and local community.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The 2022/23 Monash Quick Response Grants Program addresses the four key themes: freedom, respect, equality and dignity of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Quick Response Grants program is funded from the existing 2022/23 Monash Community Grants Program budget.

The Quick Response Grant program has an allocation of \$111,587.66, of which \$10,547.93 has been allocated in this period. Including these decisions the total allocations made to date are \$10,547.93, with a remaining budget for the program of \$101,039.73.

CONCLUSION

The activities funded through the Quick Response Grants for the period 1 July to 2 August 2022 will support a range of projects which will benefit and engage our community.