

7.3 MONASH NEIGHBOURHOOD MATCHING GRANTS

Responsible Committee: Monash Community Grants Evaluation Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council support to fund one project that has applied to the Neighbourhood Matching Grants program, for an allocation of funding from the 2018/19 grants budget.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants support community driven projects that are planned, delivered and managed by and for a local community. The Neighbourhood Matching Grants are for small groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants program aims to support new projects that make a positive impact on our neighbourhoods and local communities by:

- improving the appearance or use of shared / neighbourhood spaces;
- building social connections;
- sharing resources and ideas;
- supporting neighbourhoods to undertake environmental projects; and
- facilitating opportunities for neighbours to share their different cultures.

The Monash Community Grant Evaluation Panel, comprising of Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and Zographos have reviewed the application and provided a recommendation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total allocation recommended for this application is \$1,700, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council supports this project as it strengthens community capacity and benefits the health and wellbeing of the Monash community.

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RECOMMENDATION

- *That Council endorses the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel's recommendation to provide \$1,700 as a one-off cash grant allocation through the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant program to the Notting Hill Street Library project.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek support from Council to fund one project via the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program (MNMG).

BACKGROUND

The Monash Community Grants Program allocates approximately \$2.53M annually to a range of incorporated groups community organisations and groups. These allocations support seniors groups, emerging communities, arts groups and community organisations to deliver services and activities that benefit Monash residents. The nature of the program requires that these organisations be incorporated and have appropriate public liability insurance.

Consequently, informal neighbourhood groups who want to undertake a small local one-off project that could benefit their local area are ineligible to apply to the Monash Community Grants Program.

As a means to addressing this barrier, Council has designed a small, grass roots grant program that encourages applications from groups of neighbours who live in the City of Monash and come together with a good idea on how they can improve their neighbourhood. Many of these projects would not go ahead without some form of financial assistance; therefore this grant program allows these projects to come to fruition.

Grant Recommendations

An application has been submitted to Council for consideration under the Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants program. This application is seeking funding to support the creation of a Street Library, to be located outside Notting Hill Neighbourhood House.

The application has been considered by the Monash Community Grants Evaluation Panel, consisting of Crs Klisaris, Little, James, Paterson and

Zographos. This application is recommended to receive a cash allocation of \$1,700;

Project Title	Project Summary	Location of Neighbourhood Group	Recommended Allocation
Notting Hill Street Library	Local residents would like to set up a Street Library outside Notting Hill Neighbourhood House. They see the positive impact of sharing books as an opportunity to engage with other members of the local community. Another aspect of the project is that they want to encourage the newer residents to the area to engage with the local community by becoming actively involved. They will be sourcing books from local CALD communities as well as English texts to ensure they are including all members of the local community.	Notting Hill	\$1,700
TOTAL			\$1,700

The applicant group of residents are proposing to build the library themselves out of mainly recycled materials. The costs associated with the construction and installation of the library (approximately \$710) only accounts for a small portion of the recommended funding allocation. The remainder of the funding requested (\$990) will fund the coordination of several local community gatherings/activities focused around the library. These activities will aim to raise an awareness of the street library, as well as to bring local residents together. The opportunity to establish community connections in the neighbourhood of Notting Hill as a result of this project are as important as the construction of the library itself.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Neighbourhood Matching Grants policy has been implemented so that it supports the Council Plan and other strategic Council documents. It supports community connectivity and participation as well as targeting those whom are socially isolated.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program has the potential to generate a greater sense of community. This will be achieved by encouraging greater participation in civic life by residents in a local area.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching 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 total allocation recommended for this application is \$1,700, which is within Council's budget for this program.

CONCLUSION

The Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grants Program assists local residents to connect with their neighbours, come together and share ideas, foster a sense of belonging and increase community participation. This grant program builds on Council's commitment to create a greater sense of community in the City of Monash.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Monash Neighbourhood Matching Grant Guidelines