

Community Grants and Partnerships Framework

CONTEXT

Grant making is changing rapidly, particularly in Victoria where the majority of Australian philanthropic and other charities are historically headquartered. Grant makers are increasingly looking to adopt best practice: becoming more deliberate in their intent; recognising the need to be nimble and harness innovation; streamlining processes to improve responsiveness; and placing ever more value on partnerships and leveraged funds.

Whilst the community grant programs consistently achieve high quality outcomes, Council recognises the need to continuously improve.

PURPOSE

Council is committed to ensuring our communities thrive. Through the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework we provide funding, expertise and support to not-for-profit organisations that deliver outcomes aligned to Council Plans. The Community Grants and Partnerships Framework enables Council to:

- empower our communities to identify and respond to local areas of need
- partner with community organisations to deliver shared outcomes
- activate community participation amongst residents
- build capacity within the community sector

Council encourages our communities to take an active role in identifying and responding to social issues. The Community Grants and Partnerships Framework outlines how Council supports community activities and guides our decision making regarding which initiatives and priorities will receive this support.

To be eligible for funding under the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework, an organisation must be based in the City of Melbourne or provide services to the City of Melbourne community and be a:

- not-for-profit organisation (including sporting organisations);
- school;
- social enterprise or B Corporation (for Social Innovation Partnerships only); or
- body corporate (for community gardens only)

Annual program guidelines for all programs will detail: eligibility criteria, application processes, key dates, assessment criteria, and the assessment process.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

The following best practice principles and practices underpin the new Community Grants and Partnerships Framework and inform the priorities for funding:

PRINCIPLE	PRACTICE
IMPACT	We take a purposeful and strategic approach to funding projects that deliver meaningful social impact.
INCLUSION	Inclusion, access and participation are the hallmarks of healthy, thriving, prosperous, self-reliant, inclusive and resilient communities.
CONNECTION	We connect meaningfully with our communities and stakeholders and we foster more connected communities for our residents.
PARTNERSHIP	We know we can't solve tough problems alone. Through collaborative partnerships we work with others to deliver exceptional outcomes.
INNOVATION	Our communities experience constant change. We discover new solutions to changing needs and foster innovation in addressing our social challenges.
TRANSPARENCY	We are transparent in our funding priorities, processes and decisions. All of which are published on our website.

PROGRAM STREAMS

The Community Grants and Partnerships Framework supports community connection, social inclusion, and access and participation through the annual **Connected Communities** grant stream. This stream includes small grants, impact grants, the Community Use of Town Hall Scheme (CUTHS), Aboriginal grants, Inclusive Sport and Recreation grants and the Community Meals Subsidy programs. In order to improve community responsiveness and facilitate timely impact, this grant program balances access to low-scale community funding and stream-lined administrative processes, with clearer grant objectives and a focus on local residents.

The **Social Innovation Partnerships** program will direct funding to tackle Council's big social issues. Funding is provided for two years to support innovative projects and social enterprises that address Council's priority focus areas. Eligibility to apply for a second round of two year funding will be limited to projects that demonstrate outcomes and incorporate a growth or replication strategy. These measures will facilitate the piloting of well-developed program ideas and improve access to substantive Council support for more groups.

Neighbourhood Houses partner with Council to deliver critical lifelong learning, community development and social capital outcomes across the municipality. Neighbourhood Houses are a focal point for communities and are sophisticated operations, however funding streams available often do not consider the fixed costs of program delivery. **Community Funding Agreements** recognise the importance of Council's long term collaboration with our local Neighbourhood Houses and our ongoing commitment to their success.

The Community Grants and Partnerships Framework consolidates Council's commitment to **Partnerships** with and the **Professional Development** of stakeholders investing in our communities, including corporate and philanthropic Melbourne. Council's capacity building initiatives go beyond program funding and aim to build capability across the sector by being responsive and flexible to need. By showcasing what works and acting as an interlocker, Council is uniquely positioned to leverage funds and broker connection between social issues, community need, groups capable of responding, and those with means to provide support.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMS

Community Grants and Partnerships Program	Value	Annual Budget (2018-19)	Application Round	Focus area
Connected Communities Grants				
Grants to support community connection, social inclusion, access and participation.				
Connected Communities Small Grants (Includes Residents Groups Operational Funding)	Up to \$1,550	\$531,898	Annual	Funding may prioritise, but is not limited to supporting vulnerable or high need communities. Streamlined processes promote responsiveness and reduce the administrative burden on small groups focussed on participation. Improved accountability measures ensure substantive funding delivers outcomes and informs the work of Council and our partners. Resident Groups are eligible to apply for both Operational Funding and Impact Grants.
Connected Communities Impact Grants	\$1,551 - \$20,000			
Community Use of Town Hall Scheme (CUTHS)	Up to \$7,000	\$300,000	Monthly	Grants to enable community groups affordable access to civic spaces.
Aboriginal Melbourne Grants	Up to \$10,000	\$40,000	Monthly	Grants to support and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to engage, connect and take local action within City of Melbourne.
Community Meals Subsidy	Up to \$10,000	\$152,692	Annual	Community meal subsidies are available for groups and organisations based in the City of Melbourne providing services or activities for older people.

Community Grants and Partnerships Program	Value	Annual Budget (2018-19)	Application Round	Focus area
Inclusive Sport and Recreation Grants Category 1: Inclusion Support Grants (ISG) Category 2: Individual Participation Grants (IPG) (Program/budget managed by Libraries & Recreation)	ISG up to \$500 IPG: *up to \$300 individual for national competition; *up to \$500 *team for national competition up to \$500 individual for international competition; *up to \$700 *team for international competition.	\$20,000	Quarterly	Support for children and young people who reside in the City of Melbourne to participate in community sport (ISG) and for promising individuals to achieve their sporting goals (IPG).
Social Innovation Partnerships Project partnerships to tackle Melbourne’s social priorities through innovation grants and social enterprise.				
Round 1: 2019/20 and 2020/21 Round 2: 2021/22 and 2022/23	\$15,000 - \$80,000	\$660,000	2 years	Funding to tackle City of Melbourne’s social priorities and create sustained social change. Includes grants to support social enterprises and B Corporations to build capability and improve their business models. Annual guidelines will specify social priority areas.
Community Funding Agreements Collaborative partnerships with neighbourhood houses to deliver community development outcomes for our communities.				
Neighbourhood Houses	\$100,000	\$400,000	4 years	Long term collaborative partnerships to support the delivery of community development outcomes for our communities. Individual and flexible agreements will be negotiated with each Neighbourhood House.

Community Grants and Partnerships Program	Value	Annual Budget (2018-19)	Application Round	Focus area
Partnership & Professional Development Providing community organisations with opportunities to develop skills and knowledge to enhance community outcomes				
Corporate and Philanthropic Melbourne Partnerships				Brokering funding, expertise and relationships across sectors to enhance social outcomes for the City of Melbourne.
Community Education & Professional Development	Upon application	\$30,000	Monthly	Support for community groups to build organisational capacity through workshops or sector conferences.
City of Melbourne Networking and Learning Events		\$5,000	Annual	City of Melbourne will host an annual cross-sector networking and learning event, showcasing inspiring case studies and guest speakers, possibly with an award.
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET			\$2.14m	

