

STRATEGY AND POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE
2 JUNE 2008 **POLICY AND PLANNING**

A5 **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
2008/09: RECOMMENDATION OF
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

LOCATION/ADDRESS:

RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: **GEOFF OULTON, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING**

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ARTS AND FESTIVALS**

FILE NO.: **40/05/58**

ATTACHMENTS: **LIST OF PROPOSED SUCCESSFUL
RECIPIENTS (CONFIDENTIAL)**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Cultural Development Fund provides funding for creative projects developed by organizations or individuals within the Port Phillip community.
- 1.2. This report provides the list of the successful projects for the Cultural Development Fund as recommended by the Cultural Development Fund Committee. The attachment is confidential until unsuccessful applicants have been contacted.
- 1.3. Following their discussions this year the committee has noted the following points:
 - 1.3.1. A continuing trend of fewer applications that are of higher quality in both ideas and application;
 - 1.3.2. Much more realistic and well constructed budgets;
 - 1.3.3. Once again a large proportion of applications requesting a larger amount of funding;
 - 1.3.4. A dominance of performing arts applicants;
 - 1.3.5. A pleasing emergence of venues such as the Butterfly Club to add to the popular Theatreworks and Gasworks;
 - 1.3.6. Emerging issues around constraints of the Fund; specifically:
 - Lack of recurrent funding opportunities for small companies where even a small amount would make a large difference; members agree that it is important to avoid 'locking-in' funds with a small number of groups but some flexibility is needed to support a successful program to grow over a specified period of time;
 - The amount of funding currently available under CDF.

- Lack of opportunity for serendipitous support for projects that do not fit into the current funding model;
- Inability to raise the amount above \$10,000 for projects in order maintain a wider share;

1.3.7. The committee has asked that these issues be considered as part of the development of the *Creative Futures Strategy*.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

2.1. Each year the applications to the fund are considered by members of the cultural development fund committee; this year the committee recommended funding 24 out of 44 applications;

2.2. The Fund operates within policy and guidelines; applicants can obtain information from staff and this year two information sessions were held;

3. RECOMMENDED OPTION

No alternative options are presented for this topic. It is proposed that council accept the recommendations made by the members of the Cultural Development Fund Committee as presented.

3.1. Criterion for recommendation

3.1.1. The committee's recommendations are based on a set of essential and desirable funding criteria that applicants must address.

3.1.2. The following essential criteria must be met:

- Projects must demonstrate creativity, artistic intention and innovation;
- Funded activities must be based in the City of Port Phillip;
- Applications should indicate the projects value to City of Port Phillip audiences, readers, viewers, users
- Applicants must live or work in the City of Port Phillip
- Project participants living or working in the City of Port Phillip are involved in the project;
- Project expenditure equals project income (applicant must demonstrate that the project can proceed if other funding applications are unsuccessful).

3.1.3. Projects also need to demonstrate that they meet three or more of the following desirable criteria:

- Support the development and presentation of new work
- Promote the City's cultural heritage;
- Enhance the profile of the City of Port Phillip as an outstanding, vibrant arts environment;
- Encourage participation in the arts;
- Explore the identity and diversity of the City and its residents
- Explore issues related to access and equity
- Demonstrate a high level of community involvement and interest
- Demonstrate an attempt to source other funding where applicable.

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- Support partnerships with other organizations.

3.1.4. The projects which best addressed these criteria were recommended for funding by the committee.

3.2. Sustainability assessment

Social Pillar	In line with the Community Plan aspirations the Cultural Development Fund seeks to build the capacity of our community members to be involved in interesting and attractive arts and cultural projects directly, as an audience or in association. Creative activity enables positive community engagement. Projects are of a non-commercial nature offering low cost inclusive activities for a wide audience.
Economic Pillar	Funding of the projects contributes to the development of financial and budgetary skills of those involved as well as the economic value in the wider community generated by the projects.
Environmental Pillar	Applications for funding of cultural projects are required to be environmentally responsible. Applicants seem to be increasingly aware of environmental concerns as a topic for project process and content.
Cultural Pillar	This funding seeks to develop cultural activities that allow our communities to participate in creative and diverse expression as well as professional development in the arts and wide audience access and enjoyment. This year the Committee noted that there is a continuing and pleasing trend toward a stronger creative focus with more of an emphasis on the value of artists. This year has seen a dominance by performing arts in applications with a greater variety of venues.

3.3. Policy and legislative implications

3.3.1. The Cultural Development Fund supports the objectives of the Community Plan and the Council Plan.

3.4. Risk implications

3.4.1. There are no identified risks associated with the recommendation.

3.5. Resource implications

3.5.1. The proposed funding is within the 08/09 budgeted amount of \$143,000.

4. PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Internal

4.1.1. The people who have been engaged with in relation to this issue are:

- Councillor Karen Sait (member of the committee)
- Community Development staff;
- Arts and Festivals staff;

4.1.2. Staff have given advice to the committee on the applicants proposed where relevant or appropriate.

4.2. External

4.2.1. The external people who have been engaged with in relation to this issue are the members of the Cultural Development fund Committee:

- Chair, Paul Clarkson
- Dr Helen Light
- Rosemary Joy

The committee meets annually to discuss the applications and make recommendations to Council.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) will be advised in writing of the outcome of their application and a list of successful projects will be available on Council's website;

5.2. Successful applicants will be invited to a presentation in early August to be presented with cheques; the evening is also a chance for networking.

5.3. Unsuccessful applicants will also be provided with support and advice from the Cultural Development Fund officer as part of building the skills and capacity within the community to prepare successful applications in the future.

6. COMMUNICATION

6.1. Highlights of this year's projects that reflect the scope and flavour of projects overall will be included in any communications;

6.2. An event will be conducted to present the successful applicants with their funding cheques; there will be additional publicity / media in the lead up to and following that event

7. RECOMMENDATION

That the Strategy and Policy Review Committee recommend that Council resolve to:

- 7.1. Endorse the recommendations of the Cultural Development Fund Committee for 2008/9 and provide funding for the successful applicants as detailed in Attachment1;
- 7.2. That in response to issues identified by the Cultural Development Fund Committee, Council directs officers to consider options for increasing funding to the Cultural Development Fund as part of the development of the 'Creative Futures Strategy' to be considered by Council in July 2008;
- 7.3. Thank the members of the Cultural Development Fund Committee for their voluntary work and consider the suggestions made by the Committee for the future.