

Report to Council



Date: November 10, 2015
Rim No. 0610-53
To: City Manager
From: Louise Roberts, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager
Subject: Youth Development and Engagement Grant

Recommendation:

THAT COUNCIL receives, for information, the report from the Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager dated November 10, 2015, which outlines the development of a Youth Development and Engagement Grant;

AND THAT COUNCIL approves, in principle, the development of a Youth Development and Engagement Grant as outlined in the report dated November 10, 2015;

AND FURTHER THAT COUNCIL directs staff to prepare Youth Development and Engagement Grant Guidelines and report back to Council.

Purpose:

To provide Council with an overview of a Youth Development and Engagement Grant and seek endorsement for the development of grant guidelines.

Background:

During the September 28, 2015, Council meeting regarding the Active Living & Culture Grant Program Review, Council approved in principle, the action plans arising from the review. Furthermore Council directed staff to commence work on the action items outlined in the review and to report back to Council when more detailed plans and proposed changes were prepared.

One of the action items identified in the report was the development of a Youth Development and Engagement Grant.

The action item related to the development of a youth focused grant program which would enable youth to access mentoring and financial support for youth-led projects that would enhance the community at the neighbourhood level. Funding for this program would be through funds currently dedicated to the Mayor's Youth Forum.

Youth Advisory Committee

From 2006 through 2012 the Youth Advisory Committee, an Advisory Committee of Council, encouraged youth input into a cross section of issues which affected the municipality and community-at-large. Two members of Council were appointed to the Committee for a term concurrent with the Council term.

The Committee established two Youth Forums per year through collaboration with a host City department and the support of a workshop facilitator (external contractor). Key objectives of the Committee included:

- Obtain a youth perspective on various topics that provided an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and priority setting
- Develop leadership skills to strengthen and empower youth

Since the 2011 municipal election Council has not appointed members to the Youth Advisory Committee, which has resulted in the Committee being inactive since 2012.

Mayor's Youth Forum

The format for the forums entailed, a one-day workshop setting with pre-forum work completed by the participating students. On average 50-80 students participated in the one-day work-shop, but the pre-forum work included obtaining input from other students.

At the conclusion of each forum a report was generated with results and recommendations regarding the topic. This report was presented to City Council and provided to the host department for their consideration.

Examples of past topics included: Transit (2006), Social Issues and Youth Services (2007), Environmental Sustainability (2007), Water Conservation (2008), Arts and Culture (2008), Healthy Living (2009), Sustainable Communities (2009), Active Transportation (2010), Climate Change (2010), Safety and Policing (2011), Outdoor Event Planning (2012).

In 2012, the budget to support the program was reduced from \$25,000 to \$15,000, with the corresponding reduction of forums from two per year to one. Also in 2012 as a result of the teacher's union job action, the pre-forum work was completed but the one-day forum and presentation to Council did not occur.

The Youth Advisory Committee was inactivated in 2012; therefore there has not been a Youth Form since that time.

Background into the development of a new Youth Program

With the Youth Advisory Committee, and in turn the Mayor's Youth Forum inactive, staff began exploring the development of a new youth program that would connect youth with our community and support corporate objectives.

As staff considered the development of a new youth program, they undertook extensive research, consultation and stakeholder engagement. This included:

- Had the consultant, that delivered Mayor's Youth Forum, prepare a brief report on youth initiatives and engagement - key elements identified in the report included the importance of youth driven, adult supervision and a training component
- Reviewed current literature on youth development and engagement

- Examined a number of different youth leadership programs provided in the community by various organizations, including the YMCA of Okanagan, Okanagan Boys & Girls Club and School District #23
- Reviewed a variety of grant programs, including grants available through the Central Okanagan Foundation and the United Way
- Obtained input from both internal and community stakeholders on the topic
- Participated in the Canadian Student Leadership Conference, held in Kelowna September 2014, to obtain input from youth regarding youth leadership development and community involvement. Common themes emerged:
 - Youth wanted opportunities to; make a difference, have an impact and pursue things they were personal passionate about
 - Youth wanted meaningful experiences and the opportunity to gain valuable experience
 - Time element was as an influencing factor on level of community involvement; time frame and length of commitment
 - Mentorship and training was important to leadership development and transferable skill development

Youth Development and Engagement Grant Framework

Based on the research and stakeholder input, a framework for the Youth Development and Engagement Grant was developed. It is closely aligned with the Strong Neighbourhood Initiative because of its similar objective (fostering opportunities for connection and engagement) and because one of the best practices identified through that initiative was the establishment of grant programs that empower residents.

A key principle within this program is mentorship. Research indicated that mentoring youth has as much or more benefit than the monetary sum given through a grant. Though it is important that youth have ownership of the project, the support of a mentor helps ensure greater success in the delivery of the project and contributes to the development of the youth. The mentorship component also provides the opportunity for youth to develop transferable skills that will support their ability to continue to contribute to the community that they live in.

This grant is intended to foster the potential in youth by providing them with support in the development and delivery of youth-led projects that enhance their neighbourhood environment and contributes to its' vitality.

Grant Framework:

Program Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support small scale, youth-led projects that foster connection and engagement at the neighbourhood level • Empower youth to make their neighbourhoods even better places to live • Provide youth with mentoring
Desired Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase involvement by youth in enhancing the quality of life at a neighbourhood level • Youth are inspired, engaged and empowered to create the best city they can imagine • Increased youth engagement in civic philanthropy
Mentoring Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input and guidance throughout the project; formulating project idea, grant application and project delivery • Workshops that cover topics such as; project management, marketing and promotions, volunteer management, budgeting and project evaluations
Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5,000 available annually

Maximum Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$1,000 • Matching requirement (including in-kind contribution)
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth-led project • Commitment of a minimum of three youth (project team) • Youth 13-19 years of age • Resident of Kelowna - live in the area of the proposed project
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance one or more drivers of neighbourhood attachment: aesthetics, leadership, safety, social offerings or relationships • Foster neighbourhood participation • Participation in workshops
Uses of funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase or rental of equipment and materials • Contract services • Training
Approval Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal staff evaluation and approval based on criteria • Successful applicants would be required to sign a letter of agreement that outlines the terms and conditions of the grant
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful applicants would be required to complete a project evaluation form indicating what they gained from participating in the grant program and what impact their project had on their neighbourhood

The Youth Development and Engagement Grant would provide youth the opportunity to impact the community and the quality of life in our neighbourhoods, which supports Council priority of ensuring a healthy, safe, active and inclusive community through strong neighbourhoods.

Internal Circulation:

Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture; Communications Advisor, Communications & Information Services

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

There would be no financial impact to the City due to re-purposing base funding from the Mayor’s Youth Forum. The \$15,000 currently in base budget for the forum would be utilized to provide this program. Budget areas would include grant funds, staff support (mentoring), promotional material and celebration event.

Personnel Implications:

The Youth Development and Engagement Grant would be administrated by the Neighbourhood Development Coordinators. A Coordinator would be assigned to work with each of the applicants in order to provide support and mentoring as well as facilitate the delivery of the workshops.

Communications Comments:

A communication plan would be developed by Communications and the Neighbourhood Development Team to inform the public about the Youth Development & Engagement Grant.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- Legal/Statutory Authority
- Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
- Existing Policy
- External Agency/Public Comments

Alternate Recommendation

Submitted by:

L. Roberts, Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager

Approved for inclusion: J. Gabriel, Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Attachments:

Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Power Point Presentation

cc: Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture
Divisional Director, Communications & Information Services